

# Let's get prepared

## Better support for growers in times of emergency

Lisa Gibbison - Kiwifruit Vine Health

A new Emergency Response Management (ERM) framework for the kiwifruit industry has been developed, with KVH at the helm, ensuring a more co-ordinated and cohesive approach to supporting growers in times of need.



During a biosecurity response, the industry comes together - led by KVH - to develop and implement various activities quickly and effectively that limit impacts on growers and orchards, and support continuing production. Now, the same response model, and way of working, has been adopted for use during other types of responses to significant adverse events.

Why? Because with industry backing, KVH has very recently expanded its strategic mandate to also coordinate responses to emergencies of significant scale and impact (other than biosecurity) to the kiwifruit industry, through development of an ERM framework.

Many different kiwifruit organisations

provide support to growers during such events; however, by putting in place dedicated co-ordination of that support from one organisation, we can ensure that everything we do as an industry to help growers is efficient and effective, and limits further impacts.

This is a significant enhancement to KVH's role and adds huge value to growers. KVH has been successfully managing biosecurity and readiness and response activities for over a decade - we have proven internal readiness and response capability and strong relationships with others who also have a key role in emergency response management - such as the Ministry for Primary Industries.

The ERM framework has been developed

by a dedicated group of leaders from across the industry, including KVH's chief executive and board chair, Zespri, NZKGI and post harvest representation. It includes industry-wide agreed trigger points for activation.

Combined with a 'peacetime planning' approach to readiness and response, the framework aims to provide growers with dedicated co-ordination leadership so that when we respond as an industry, we can hit the ground running straight away, with clear, concise, and effective support from one trusted industry source.

Importantly, through this type of peacetime planning and undertaking effective and efficient coordination of ERM during an emergency, the industry will be more



resilient and able to absorb shocks from future events.

### Background to creation of the framework

The framework has been developed following significant weather events that have impacted the industry, and the need for better preparation for when the next event occurs.

At the June 2023 Industry Advice Council (IAC) meeting - where financial; tax; and government matters are managed by industry leaders - KVH presented the concept for the development of such a framework to inform the coordination of emergencies that cause significant impact to growers and vine health. The feedback from conversations with industry leaders during engagement of the concept was

to develop a framework that can not only be used for vine health emergencies but could also be applied to other significant emergency events the industry faces - such as flooding, and other severe climatic events, as well as natural events such as earthquakes.

KVH, together with members from NZKGI, Zespri and post harvest, formed a working group to develop an outcome based ERM

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framework, building on existing kiwifruit industry systems, processes, and capability.

To ensure KVH has ongoing mandate to undertake ERM coordination and development of this framework a resolution was put to industry at the August 2023 KVH AGM and passed with a high level of support.

## Overview of the framework

The framework itself is a living document, updated as readiness work progresses over the coming months. Its purpose is to facilitate KVH coordination of governance and operational activities during an emergency response, so that efficient and effective support is provided to growers and wider industry.

There are a range of triggers that would be considered to activate the ERM framework. In some instances when an emergency is extreme, it will be obvious that activation is necessary, in other instances there may need to be an assessment of criteria before any recommendation to activate a response is made. A key factor in the assessment of the criteria is whether the industry would receive more efficient and effective support for industry good outcomes if the framework is activated or whether existing industry organisations can provide the required support through business-as-usual activities.

As a general rule of thumb, we are essentially talking about an event that causes significant impact to kiwifruit growers at a given location(s), and of a scale and severity that results in the industry not being able to cope.

## What happens next?

We are now in a readiness phase where groups are planning and developing resources and activities that build our industry-wide response capabilities. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Developing response plans that identify regional risks
- Creating and agreeing to communications/information sharing plans
- Developing generic templates and resources for use by all, across a range of types of responses
- Developing generic recovery plans
- Identifying operational capability across the industry
- Running exercises to test plans and develop capability
- Identifying key agencies to meet and engage with regularly
- Identifying key regional representatives from across industry organisations
- Identifying impacts from different past emergencies and any innovation needs
- Ensuring practicalities are in place for response headquarters, tools and technologies needed.

The KVH team will be talking more about ERM at grower roadshows, and we look forward to sharing latest information with you there. If you have any questions about the framework and how readiness plans are progressing, please feel free to get in touch with KVH at [info@kvh.org.nz](mailto:info@kvh.org.nz). ■



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