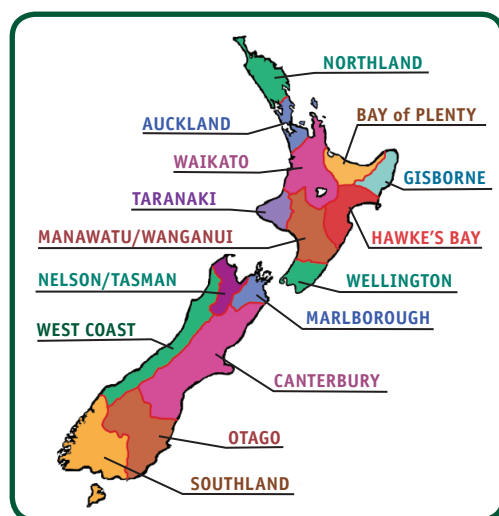


New Regional CDEM Groups Established



New Zealand will be better placed to deal with civil defence emergencies now that 15 new regional Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups have been established.

"Instead of 86 different councils working on their own, we now have them working together in the 15 regional Groups. That will allow for much better coordination in terms of dealing with risk reduction, response and readiness," says Minister of Civil Defence, Hon George Hawkins. "It'll also provide a more formalised recovery process."

He says the CDEM Groups are key components in the implementation of the new CDEM Act, which aims to actively improve our resilience over the long term.

"This calls us to fulfil a number of responsibilities, including understanding all our hazards and proactively addressing them. Planning for disasters is about managing being overwhelmed. This is only achieved by coordinating resources across all agencies," he says.

"The new CDEM environment brings a real focus and a real opportunity to reduce risks and vulnerability to disasters."

The Groups formed under the CDEM Act 2002 which came into force in December 2002. The Act required CDEM Groups to be established by 1 June 2003, and Group Plans to be written within two years of the Group formation.

While this will mean an interim period where some regions' Plans will still be based on the old 1983 Act, having the 15 regional Groups will immediately allow for better coordination and effective use of resources in the event of an emergency.

Each of the CDEM Groups have a Coordinating Executive Group (CEG), comprising the chief executive or representative of each member council, and representatives from emergency services – police, fire, health and ambulance. (See Page 3).

Wellington Kids Prepare for Disaster

The Wellington City Council's Emergency Management Office has produced a resource pack to help Wellington school children cope in an emergency.

The resource pack, *Are you prepared for an emergency?*, includes a teacher's guide, a set of specially designed plastic bags for children to start their own emergency kit, and a fun card game designed by a local student.

Sandra Pedersen, from the WCC Emergency Management Office, says the resource pack reinforces the message that every school and home needs an emergency plan and kit.

"In Wellington we need to face the fact that we will have to deal with an emergency situation at some point in the future. The better prepared we are, the better we will be able to recover."

She says if children learn about being prepared, they might take a leading role in making sure their families are better equipped.

The resource ties in with the health, physical education and social studies curriculum, and takes two to three weeks to complete.

For more information contact Sandra Pedersen, (04) 460 0650 or (027) 445 1388.



L-r: Rebecca Bishop, Jayna Parsot, Hayden Boslem and Jordyn Gastmeier from Seatoun School try out the *Survival* card game from the new emergency resource pack.



Looking to 2003/2004

The first milestone of the CDEM Act 2002 has passed and it is with great satisfaction that I acknowledge the formation of all the CDEM Groups around New Zealand. I would like to acknowledge the energy and commitment of everyone involved in making this happen. It provides a major and necessary platform for launching the hazard risk management approach to disaster management.

So what does this new arrangement for CDEM represent?

It represents a commitment to dealing with some hard issues within an ordered and practical framework.

- Reducing risk over time so the impacts of disasters are reduced
- Coordinating planning and resources across agencies so that communities can manage when disaster strikes.

It represents a partnership between agencies – particularly at the Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) level between Group's local authorities and their Police, Fire Service and Health representatives.

It represents a new era for Councils coordinating their planning for CDEM, infrastructure management, land use and community priorities.

Our objectives are that in five years we demonstrably improve the ability of New Zealand to manage disasters when they occur and in 15 years we demonstrably reduce the vulnerability of our communities to hazards.

New Funding

Government has acknowledged the importance of this new environment by committing funding of \$1.08 million per year for the next three years to assist its implementation.

The components of this are:

- \$180,000 for the management and operation of the National Crisis Management Centre in the Beehive basement. This funding is ongoing and follows

a \$266,000 upgrade of the existing National Emergency Operations Centre this year.

- \$400,000 for three years for supporting the development of sector cluster groups to promote and improve coordination and planning within the sector and for supporting the development of volunteer capacity for community response during emergencies.
- \$500,000 for 03/04 and \$410,000 ongoing for development and support of the USAR Task Forces. This includes development of the Third Task Force in Auckland and supporting the existing teams in Palmerston North and Christchurch.

Finally it's good to be getting on with the job. We recognise that there is a lot of work ahead for the sector in the next 18 months, and we look forward to working with you on that.

Lifeline Utility Update

A best practice guide to assist interaction between lifeline utilities, CDEM Groups and Lifelines Groups is nearing completion.

Under the management of the National Lifelines Coordinating Committee, the guide will document how cooperative planning is being carried out, and will complement the Director's Guideline issued by the Ministry last December.

The guide is expected to be distributed in early July 2003 and will also be available on the Ministry's website. For more information contact Hans Brounts, (04) 495 6849.

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New Regional CDEM Groups Established

Fifteen regional Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups were established throughout the country by 1 June 2003. In this article we feature comments from some of the Groups.

Auckland

The Auckland region's CDEM Group was established on 23 May, along with the appointment of its political representatives and its Coordinating Executive Group.

A working draft of its CDEM Plan is expected to be prepared by the end of June 2003, with consultation and review by the Ministry completed by the end of the year.

The Group's Deputy Chair, Cr Dianne Glenn from Auckland Regional Council, says an enormous effort had gone into identifying mutual risks and benefits that exist across the Auckland region's territorial boundaries.

"While it hasn't been easy, the joint effort of the CDEM Group Plan has been an important process to undertake. A significant incident in any one of our council boundaries would have an effect on the whole region, so our collective work in reducing risks, being prepared and having effective response and recovery plans is absolutely vital."

Gisborne

The official signing of the Gisborne CDEM Group constitution took place on 23 May.

Civil Defence Controller for the Gisborne District, Jon Davies, said the progress in developing the new plan and forming the frameworks required by the Act had been both timely and appropriate for the district, which was exposed to a variety of hazards.

"Gisborne District has always been very aware of its natural hazard threats and has maintained a robust emergency management system to meet the particularities of the district," he said.

The Gisborne District Council is a unitary authority that combines its territorial responsibilities with the regional functions.



Minister of Civil Defence Hon George Hawkins (front left) and Gisborne Mayor Meng Foon sign Gisborne's CDEM Group constitution. East Coast MP Janet Mackey, Tairāwhiti District Health representative Dr Bruce Duncan, Gisborne Police Area Controller Inspector Waata Shepherd and NZ Fire Service Acting Regional Commander Chris Nicoll look on.



Cr Dianne Glenn

Manawatu-Wanganui

The Manawatu-Wanganui region formed a CDEM Group even before the Act was passed in December 2002.

By March 2003, the group had an approved plan in place which meant responses to civil defence emergencies in the region would be based on the new CDEM Act 2002.

"We got to this stage through a lot of hard work and commitment by representatives of many organisations with a key stake in emergency management," said Ged Shirley, Manager of horizons.mw Emergency Management Office at the time.

The organisations included local authorities, Police, NZ Fire Service, NZ Rural Fire Authority, St Johns Ambulance, and the two District Health Boards.

"The Group members agreed that a cooperative and integrated approach to emergency management makes good sense and represents best practice. The challenge now is to implement the key objectives in the Plan, and use it as a basis for continual improvement," said Ged.

"The Plan outlines a joint approach, minimising potential duplication and coordinating the strengths and resources of the many agencies involved."



Back row l-r: Keith Evans, Emergency Management Planner, MCDEM; Bernie Rush, Emergency Management Advisor, MCDEM; Michael McCartney, Chairperson Coordinating Executive Group; Ged Shirley, horizons.mw Emergency Management Manager; Chris Lester, horizons.mw Chairman; Bob Buchanan, Mayor Rangitikei District Council; Ian McKelvie, Mayor Manawatu District Council.

Front row l-r: Chas Poynter, Mayor Wanganui District Council; Bobby Vine, Ruapehu District Councillor; Maureen Reynolds, Mayor Tararua District Council.

Wellington

Chair of Wellington's new CDEM Group, Upper Hutt Mayor Wayne Guppy, says establishment of the Group marked a significant milestone in improving the region's resilience to major emergencies.

"Our challenge is to build on the significant emergency management capabilities that already exist, through greater partnership and coordination between member organisations across the four 'R's: reduction, readiness, response, and recovery."

He said 12 regional projects have been identified for completion in the next two years to feed into the region's CDEM Plan. These include transport/access restoration plans, medical logistics, emergency fuel supply, and emergency water supply.



Mayor Wayne Guppy



Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups

Details of CDEM Group chairpersons, Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) chairpersons, and Emergency Management Office (EMO) managers, as at June 2003, are listed below. Contact numbers for EMO managers have also been included.

Northland

Northland RC, Far North DC, Kaipara DC, Whangarei DC

Chairperson: Peter Jenson, NRC (Councillor)

CEG Chairperson: Clive Manley, Far North DC (CEO)

EMO Manager: Graeme McDonald 09 438 4639

Auckland

Auckland RC, Auckland CC, Franklin DC, Manukau CC, North Shore CC, Papakura DC, Rodney DC, Waitakere CC

Chairperson: Neil Morrison, Manukau CC (Councillor)

CEG Chairperson: Craig Shearer (ARC)

EMO Manager: David Allen 09 366 2000

Waikato

Waikato RC, Hamilton CC, Hauraki DC, Matamata-Piako DC, Otorohanga DC, South Waikato DC, Taupo DC, Thames-Coromandel DC, Waikato DC, Waipa DC, Waitomo DC

Chairperson: Eric Tait, Otorohanga DC (Mayor)

CEG Chairperson: TBC

EMO Manager: Brendan Morris 07 856 7184

Bay of Plenty

Environment BoP RC, Kawerau DC, Opotiki DC, Rotorua DC, Tauranga DC, Western BoP DC, Whakatane DC

Chairperson: Graeme Weld, Western BoP DC (Mayor)

Graham Hall, Rotorua DC (Mayor)

CEG Chairperson: Peter Guerin, RDC (CEO)

EMO Manager: TBC

Gisborne

Gisborne DC

Chairperson: Meng Foon, Gisborne DC (Mayor)

CEG Chairperson: Bob Elliot, GDC (CEO)

EMO Manager: Richard Steele 06 867 2049

Taranaki

Taranaki RC, New Plymouth CC, Stratford DC, South Taranaki DC

Chairperson: Claire Stewart, TRC

CEG Chairperson: Anne Knox, NZ Police (Insp)

EMO Manager: Bev Raine 06 758 1110

Manawatu-Wanganui

Horizons.mw RC, Horowhenua DC, Manawatu DC, Palmerston North CC, Rangitikei DC, Ruapehu DC, Tararua DC, Wanganui DC

Chairperson: Chris Lester, Horizons

CEG Chairperson: Mike McCartney, Horizons (Grp Mgr)

EMO Manager: Mark Harrison 06 952 2800

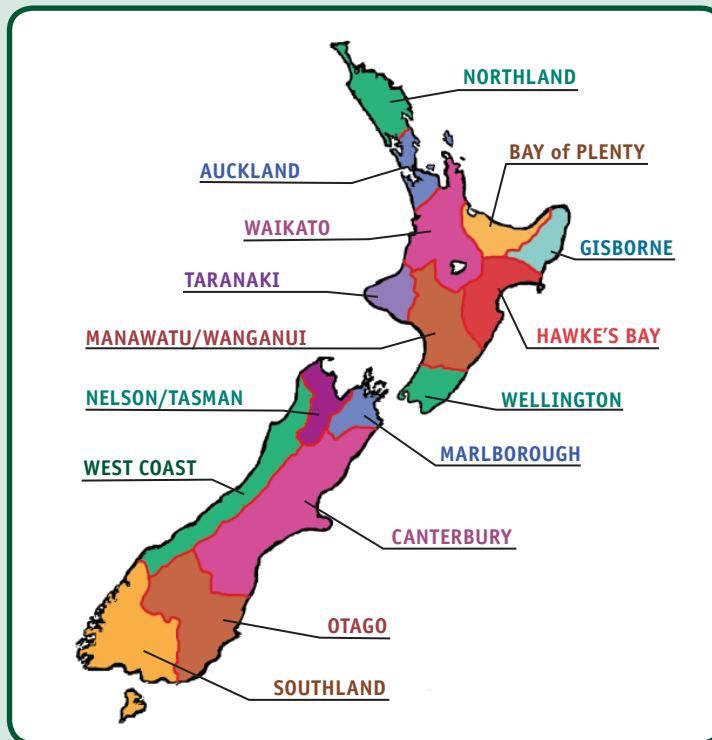
Hawkes Bay

Hawke's Bay RC, Central Hawkes Bay DC, Hastings DC, Napier CC, Wairoa DC

Chairperson: Jeremy Dwyer, HBRC (Councillor)

CEG Chairperson: Mike Adye, HBRC (Grp Mgr)

EMO Manager: Lisa Pearse 06 835 9200



Wellington

Greater Wellington RC, Carterton DC, Kapiti Coast DC, Lower Hutt CC, Masterton DC, Porirua CC, South Wairarapa DC, Upper Hutt CC, Wellington CC

Chairperson: Wayne Guppy, Upper Hutt CC (Mayor)

CEG Chairperson: Roger Blakely, PCC (CEO)

EMO Manager: Rian Van Schalkwyk 04 802 0336

Nelson/Tasman

Nelson CC, Tasman DC

Chairperson: Paul Mathieson, NCC (Mayor)

CEG Chairperson: TBC

EMO Manager: Jim Burrows 03 546 9950

Marlborough

Marlborough DC

Chairperson: Tom Harrison, MDC (Mayor)

CEG Chairperson: TBC

EMO Manager: Ross Hamilton 03 577 9287

West Coast

West Coast RC, Buller DC, Grey DC, Westland DC

Chairperson: John Clayton WCRC

CEG Chairperson: TBC

EMO Manager: Vijay Narayan 03 768 0466

Canterbury

Environment Canterbury RC, Ashburton DC, Banks Peninsula DC, Christchurch CC, Hurunui DC, Kaikoura DC, McKenzie DC, Selwyn DC, Timaru DC, Waimakariri DC, Waimate DC

Chairperson: Tony Arps, Hurunui DC (Mayor)

CEG Chairperson: Paddy Clifford, HDC (CEO)

EMO Manager: John Fisher 03 366 2359

Otago

Otago RC, Central Otago DC, Clutha DC, Dunedin CC, Queenstown Lakes DC, Waitaki DC

Chairperson: Duncan Butcher, ORC

CEG Chairperson: TBC

EMO Manager: TBC.

Southland

Environment Southland RC, Invercargill CC, Southland DC

Chairperson: Ted Loose, Environment Southland

CEG Chairperson: Lindsay McKenzie, Environment Southland RC (CEO)

EMO Manager: Dallas Bradley 03 215 6197



continued from Page 3

Canterbury

Establishment of the Canterbury CDEM Group signalled the start of a new era of cooperation for emergency management in the region, said the Group's Chair, Tony Arps, at the inaugural meeting in April.

"Ultimately, it's about ensuring that we've taken the necessary steps to reduce the impact of major emergency events so that we can respond better, and be in a better position to recover afterwards," says Mr Arps, who is also Hurunui District's Mayor.

"This is really about the local authorities, the 111 agencies and a large number of related groups coming together with a high degree of cooperation to achieve a common purpose. This is one area where we can all see considerable benefit from working together."

He said it was good to be in a position where the Group could formally get underway, having had a trial group running for the past three years.

Greater emphasis is being placed on the ability of lifelines utilities, such as electricity, water and sewerage systems, so they can continue to function to the fullest possible extent after an emergency.



Canterbury CDEM Group, l-r: Jim Abernathy, Mayor Kaikoura DC; Michael McEvedy, Mayor Selwyn DC; David Owen, Mayor Waimate DC; Tony Arps, Mayor Hurunui DC; Richard Johnson, Chairman Environment Canterbury; Wynne Raymond, Mayor Timaru DC; Cr Sue Wells, Christchurch City; Stan Scorrings, Mayor Mackenzie DC; Cr Darryl Nelson, Ashburton DC; Cr Doug Couch, Banks Peninsula DC; and Jim Gerard, Mayor Waimakariri DC.

West Coast

The West Coast CDEM Group tackled some hard questions during its inaugural meeting on 15 May.

As well as adopting its constituting agreement and work programme, it addressed the funding issue around establishing a new regional CDEM Plan.

"For the Plan to take any particular shape and form, extra monies need to be found locally," said interim Chair of the Group,

Councillor Peter Ewen from the West Coast Regional Council.

"For this purpose a new Special Regional Emergency Management rate will be established for a sum of \$37,500 per annum for the coming two years by the West Coast Regional Council."

He said the Plan heralds a new approach to dealing with emergencies in an integrated and coordinated manner, and would embody in it the philosophy of community resilience and collaboration.

Otago

The inaugural meeting of the Otago CDEM Group was held on 29 May 2003, with each representative signing a document marking the Group's formation.

Among the items considered at the meeting were the terms of reference for the Group, the appointment and terms of office for the Chair and Deputy Chair and identifying the items that the Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) needs to consider and make recommendations on.

Dunedin City Council Manager, Civil Defence and Rural Fires, Neil Brown, says the inaugural meeting may have been slightly unusual in that a member of public was sufficiently interested to be in attendance (along with members of the CEG and Civil Defence Emergency Management staff).

It was agreed that future Otago CDEM Group meetings should rotate around the members' areas.

Southland

A 'shared services forum' established by Southland's local authorities in 2000 made for a smooth running process in the formation of the region's CDEM Group.

"A good, cooperative relationship already existed at both political and staff levels, and the proposed CDEM arrangements were totally consistent with the forum's objectives," says Dallas Bradley, Civil Defence Officer for Environment Southland.

"Both politicians and staff have already established the levels of trust and goodwill that will ensure the CDEM Group and Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) work well."

While the main business of the inaugural CDEM Group meeting was consideration of the constitution, it also set the direction of CEG activities for months to come. The CDEM Group asked the CEG to report on, amongst other things, arrangements for an Emergency Management Office, preparation of the CDEM Group Plan, and the appointment of Group and Local Controllers.

"The CEG has now had two meetings, and after having sorted out its own administrative arrangements, is establishing the direction of the CDEM Group operations. There has been plenty of discussion and canvassing of the options that will no doubt result in very robust recommendations to the CDEM Group," says Dallas.

Meanwhile, at a staff level, work has started on the CDEM Group Plan.

"The challenge is to build on the momentum generated by the management and elected representative governance groups. Exciting times, and exciting processes – undoubtedly the two years we have to prepare the Plan will fly!"

Dutch on NZ Study Trip

A team of Dutch emergency managers visited New Zealand in June to study New Zealand's emergency, crisis and disaster control systems.

The team won the Dutch National Crisis and Disaster Management Exercise Award 2002, with first prize being a study trip to a destination of their choice. After 'careful consideration', the team chose New Zealand.

"We were looking for a place or region with around one million inhabitants, situated on a shoreline, with possible or effectuated crises comparable to ours," said training expert Lex Vroling.

The team of five, including a fire fighter commander, emergency medicine coordinator, inspector of police (operation affairs), scenario writer and training expert, were from the Haaglanden region – an area made up of nine cities and communities, including The Hague, with a total population of 960,000 people.

"Having had very few major disasters in recent years, mayors and disaster teams in the region have had little experience in managing disasters – hence the need for a training team to learn from the experience of others," said Lex.

For instance, while there were similarities with the Auckland region in terms of population and coastal location, Lex said there were also many differences. Much of the Haaglanden region lies below sea level and relies on electric pumps to maintain drainage



The delegation of Dutch emergency managers in Wellington in June (l-r): Peter Spijk, Inspector of Police (Operational Affairs), Lex Vroling, Training Expert, Peter Glerum, Fire Fighter Commander, Jan Zandbergen, Emergency Medicine Coordinator and Henk van Blerk, Scenario Writer.

– just 100mm of rain in 24 hours is enough to challenge pump capacity!

The team's visit was organised by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, and included meetings with local authorities and emergency services in Auckland and Wellington.

Post-Disaster Financial Assistance

By Fi Coster, Senior Policy Analyst

There will be changes to the way in which Government provides financial assistance to councils for response following a disaster. The changes which take effect on 1 July 2003 are a result of a recent review by Government on the most appropriate way to assist councils to meet response costs.

Responding to, and recovering from, an event is primarily a local responsibility. However, the National Civil Defence Plan under Chapter 1- Response (Annex C) and Chapter 2 - Recovery both provide for Government assistance in particular circumstances.

Up until 1 July, the Government has:

- fully reimbursed councils for the costs of caring for displaced people (known as Category A – response assistance)
- reimbursed councils for 2/3 of their "other response" costs (Category B – response assistance) above a threshold calculated as 0.01% of the net rateable capital value of the area within the council's jurisdiction
- reimbursed councils for 60% of the cost of repairing essential council infrastructure above a threshold. The threshold is 0.0075% of a district's net capital value and 0.002% of a region's. (known as Recovery - Section19(e))

The Government has agreed that from 1 July 2003:

- Government will continue to fully reimburse the costs of caring for displaced people under the Category A assistance
- councils can include "other response costs" Category B in their recovery claims and will only have to meet the single "recovery" threshold. The subsidy rate above the threshold will be 60% as is currently the case for recovery.

Aside from the above, recovery assistance continues unchanged.

Guidelines will soon be issued, which amongst other things, will provide more detailed information on making recovery claims. Annex C of the current National Civil Defence Plan continues to apply in respect of Category A response costs and in respect of the definition of "other response costs". In the interim any questions should be addressed to the Ministry's Emergency Management Advisor for your CDEM Group and council, or to fiona.coster@dia.govt.nz.

It should be noted that the threshold for assistance will continue to be based on capital value. Councils which cease collecting this data will be assessed on the council's last known ratio of land to capital value.

New Appointments

Chris Webb – Manager, Business Support/ Professional Development

Chris Webb has been appointed to the Ministry's senior management team, taking the position of Manager, Business Support/Professional Development.

Chris joined the Ministry as Professional Development Manager in September 2001 and has played a vital role in the development of a professional development strategy and framework, the development of competency profiles for key CDEM personnel, the progression of a multi-agency professional development framework and the development of emergency management modules for Auckland University of Technology programmes.

In his new role, Chris is responsible for all support functions including Finance, Human Resources and Strategic Planning. Chris also has responsibility for Professional Development to ensure that capability within the emergency management sector is improved through ongoing professional and skills development.

Chris has an education background with experience in teaching and business management at the tertiary level. This experience has been supported with more recent roles in the human resources area in government departments.



Peter Wood – Emergency Management Planner (National Plan)

Peter Wood has been appointed Emergency Management Planner (National Plan) with the Ministry and takes up his new position in mid-July. His primary area of responsibility will be the development of the new National CDEM Plan.

Peter has been a scientist with the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, dating back to 1973 when it was the DSIR. He has more than 30 years' experience in research and consulting on natural hazard mitigation work, with particular emphasis on earthquake and landslide damage.

In addition, Peter brings a wealth of experience in the area of exercise writing, business continuity planning and event response planning. He also has experience in the area of loss modelling for earthquake, fire, landslide and flood, and lifeline engineering and risk management.

Peter is a member of the NZ National Society of Earthquake Engineering, the Geological Society of NZ, the NZ Geophysical Society and the American Geophysical Union. He is also co-chair of the Natural Hazards New Zealand Business Cluster.

Born and bred in northern Canterbury, Peter considers himself a Mainlander – despite having lived in the North Island for more than 30 years. He enjoys tramping and climbing and six years ago climbed to the summit ridge of Mt Cook. He also has an appreciation of the sea, and recently sailed from Whangamata to Northland via Great Barrier Island.

Peter and his wife Judy live in Silverstream, Upper Hutt, and have two daughters who are currently studying at university.



International tsunami workshop for Wellington

Organisers of the two-day international workshop on tsunami being held in Wellington in September hope the workshop will develop regional tsunami mitigation programmes in the South West and Central Pacific region.

"Tsunami in the South Pacific – research towards preparedness and mitigation" will be held in the Wellington Convention Centre on 25-26 September. The workshop will be followed by an international conference for the signatory countries involved in the Pacific Tsunami Warning System.

An optional field trip to Wellington's south coast to examine the aftermath of the 1855 magnitude 8-plus earthquake that triggered a tsunami in Wellington Harbour is also on offer.

To date, more than 50 preliminary workshop registrations have been received from researchers, emergency managers, decision makers and others involved in the assessment and mitigation of tsunami hazard, with indications of at least 25 papers.

Details of the workshop and final call for registration, papers and submission of abstracts is available on the Natural Hazards Centre web site: www.naturalhazards.net.nz.

Papers can still be submitted on the following topics:

- Present status of the tsunami observation, warning and response network in the South West and Central Pacific
- The completeness and reliability of regional and national tsunami catalogues

- Features of the tsunami generation mechanism - relative importance of tectonic, landslide and volcano generation mechanisms
- Regional features of wave propagation and run-up from local and remote sources
- Regional features of the geology of tsunami and paleotsunami research
- Review of tsunami hazard and risk assessment and mitigation
- Tsunami education and public awareness, national and regional programs
- Socio-economic and Lifelines issues

For more information on the workshop, contact Gaye Downes, email g.downes@gns.cri.nz

Ministry Offers Grants

The Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management is offering five grants to New Zealand post-graduate students in relevant fields in an effort to attract the next generation of researchers to the workshop. The grant covers the registration and field trip fees, plus a moderate amount towards other expenses. Application forms are available on the workshop web site: www.naturalhazards.net.nz

Few Prepared for Big Quake

One of the biggest challenges in reducing risk of damage from earthquakes is convincing people it's worth being prepared, says Victoria University psychology graduate, Dr Matt Spittal.

"Most people are aware that a big earthquake is likely, but this does not motivate people to prepare for it," says Dr Spittal, who recently completed a four-year Ph.D comparing earthquake awareness with preparedness.

His research found that awareness had no relation to preparedness. However, there were clear demographic and psychological distinctions between people who were prepared, and those who weren't.

"Young people, those in rented accommodation and people who frequently change residence are least likely to be prepared," he says.

"By contrast, those who own their own home and have lived there for some time are more likely to be prepared".

According to Dr Spittal, psychological factors are also important.

"People who are unwary of risks, or who believe that major events are beyond their control are unlikely to prepare for earthquakes or other natural disasters".

He says interventions designed to increase preparedness should

therefore focus on decreasing peoples' unrealistic beliefs regarding their own safety – not on raising awareness of the probability of earthquakes.

"Many of the respondents tended to be over optimistic about their safety – thinking 'others will be harmed before I will'. That's a major psychological driver that stops people from heeding the warnings to get ready for a major earthquake."

Dr Spittal hopes his research will be used for education campaigns to tackle the attitudes and behaviour of groups who really need to be targeted.

"Campaigns aimed at landlords, tenants, and people who have only lived at their current address for a short while would be useful. In the long term, perhaps landlords could be made legally responsible for ensuring a dwelling is resistant to earthquake damage."

For more information, contact Dr Matt Spittal on (04) 916 3816



Dr Matt Spittal

National CDEM Strategy

By Blair Robertson, Policy Analyst

The development of the National CDEM Strategy continued in earnest during April and May. The overall feedback on the draft document has been very positive. Guided by the vision statement of Resilient New Zealand, the strategy is an expression of the Crown's priorities for CDEM in New Zealand for the next 10 years. The Ministry, in consultation with the sector, has identified four goals that express these strategic priorities:

- To increase community awareness and public participation to reduce vulnerability to hazards
- To reduce the risks from hazards to New Zealand
- To enhance New Zealand's capability to manage emergencies
- To enhance New Zealand's capability to recover from disasters.

A targeted consultation phase has been initiated by the Ministry to further develop specific actions and commitments from organisations that will work toward achieving the goals and objectives of the strategy.

As part of the consultation, the Ministry has been in contact with a number of stakeholders, including representatives from central and local government, lifeline utilities and the emergency services. So far, the consultation has been very successful

with a number of key agencies agreeing to some major strategic commitments.

The Ministry is now in the process of negotiating and refining the actions, and plans to submit the revised draft strategy to Cabinet in July before its release for broad public consultation.

Any new developments on the National Strategy will be posted on the Ministry's website: www.civildefence.govt.nz. For more information contact Blair Robertson, blair.robertson@dia.govt.nz

CDEM Regulations 2003

The CDEM Regulations 2003 which came into effect on 1 June 2003 give effect to certain provisions of the CDEM Act 2002. They cover:

- the form and use of the civil defence logo
- the form for search warrants
- the forms for declaring, extending and terminating local or national states of emergency.

The Regulations are on the Ministry's website: www.civildefence.govt.nz. For more information contact Shilinka Smith on (04) 495 6808 or email shilinka.smith@dia.govt.nz

Urban Search and Rescue Update

Additional funding secured by Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) in the 2003/2004 budget will enable the establishment of Task Force 3 in Auckland, and will continue to support USAR's ongoing activities.

Task Forces (TF)

NZ-TF1 (Palmerston North) and NZ-TF2 (Christchurch) now have their own response vehicles and continue developing their cache and capability. NZ-TF1 recently undertook a general rescue refresher course which enabled TF-1 technicians to qualify for their Orange Card which had not been previously available. NZ-TF3 (Auckland) is being further developed, and their CAT2 technician course is scheduled for November 2003. Task Force members now have a secure section on the USAR website for their training and operational manuals.

Response Teams

The National Steering Committee approved the best practice guideline for registered response teams in March. This sets a new standard for teams wishing to seek recognition for their operating and training systems and in doing so, become nationally registered to provide initial response and support at major structural collapse incidents. More than five CDEM Groups currently have plans to develop such a capacity. Environment Canterbury's Rescue and Technical Support (RATS) Team became the first nationally registered team and was designated NZ-RT1 on May 26.

Canine Search

New Zealand now has three operational USAR canine search specialists, with another five due for certification or re-assessment by the end of the year. Operational handlers will then be able to undertake a tertiary education programme covering aspects of veterinary first aid, dog care, legislation, ethics, and transportation to prepare them for their advanced evaluation.

A new Fact Sheet (#8) about canine search specialists, which gives information on training requirements, was also launched on the website and a new email for search dog queries established (searchdogs@usar.govt.nz).

A National USAR Search Dog Association is under formation to coordinate disaster dog training in New Zealand. Further developments will be emailed to stakeholders and posted on the USAR website.

Two National Canine Readiness Evaluations (CREP) have also been held recently.



Linda Pike and Mij locate Rowan Buxton in a pile of rubble in Christchurch, April 2003.

Training

The Training & Standards Working Group continues to progress the National Certificate in USAR, along with many other projects. Additionally, USAR is now represented on the Fire & Rescue Services Industry Training Organisation.

A new guideline for providers of the national training programme is being developed, and national training events are now on the website's training schedule. These include Basic Instructional Technique Courses, General Rescue Trainer Assessments and USAR Awareness Trainer Courses.

A guideline for Trainer Certification, which includes re-certification criteria, is now available on the website. An exemplar video is also being developed to assist those intending to undergo the General Rescue Trainer Assessment, which should be available from the NZ Police Library (CDEM Collection) by July 2003.

www.usar.govt.nz

The website continues to be a critical part of informing our stakeholders. All approved Best Practice Guidelines and Fact Sheets are available for download.

A new USAR Directory has been added which lists registered response teams, canine search specialists and other teams involved in USAR (un-registered).

Stakeholder updates are also emailed out regularly. To receive these updates, send an email to join@usar.govt.nz. For more information visit www.usar.govt.nz



RATS team members bring home 'casualties' after succumbing to an odourless gas at an exercise in Nelson. L-R: Ross Knauer (obscured), Rowan Buxton, Andrea Murphy, Milo and Brenda Woolley, Shailer Hart, Janelle Mackie, Ron Christmas.

National Courses

By Tom Roche,
Emergency Management Advisor (Education)

Since the last edition of IMPACT, the Ministry has delivered a further three courses as part of the nationally directed professional development programme for 2002-2003.

Controllers Initial

A two-day course for new controllers was held in March at Wellington's Capital House Conference Centre.

The introductory programme covers the function and likely responsibilities of group and local controllers in the CDEM environment. Central presentations, discussions and workgroup activities centred on the:

- role of the controller in comprehensive emergency management
- statutory powers of the controller
- functions, powers that can be delegated by CDEM Groups,
- CDEM structures, systems and processes
- central co-ordination arrangements in declared emergencies.

Particular highlights in the course programme were:

- Dr Bryan Bang's overview of the new legislation, in which he pointed out similarities in the wording and focus of the new legislation and that of the RMA. He also discussed the key responsibilities of CDEM Groups and appointed Group Controllers.
- 'Exercise Storm' – a simulated storm event in Wellington, which emphasised the need for the controller to be conversant with the processes for activating a response organisation and knowing the emergency declaration procedures.
- Address by Alex Shaw, Controller South Waikato District, who spoke about the lessons learnt from the 'Weather Bomb' event in June 2002.

Crisis Management Course

The Westpac Trust Stadium was the venue for the Crisis Management and Decision Making Course in mid-April.

As well as providing underpinning knowledge of crisis management and decision making, the three-day course is designed to encourage participants to focus on their own leadership and communication styles and the nature of decision-making procedures they employ in emergency or crisis situations.

A number of presentations by key speakers were interspersed throughout the three days, but the real focus was on practical activities aimed at providing individual participants with opportunities to assess themselves – their competencies and skills – in a non-threatening environment.

Particular highlights in the three days included:

- The Pre-course Assignment. Believe it or not, individuals put a lot of effort into the readings and video reviews. The report back sessions were tremendous. Some valuable insights into leadership and management were raised
- Pat Helm, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, provided a glimpse into the New Zealand crisis management arrangements in the central government context. Pat delivered

an interesting presentation relating to real events, like Chernobyl, Exxon Valdez, Ruapehu '96 and September 11. He also reinforced the importance of Crisis Management Teams adopting agreed processes for evaluating information and making decisions.

- John Hathaway, Media Specialist, provided tips and hints on dealing with the media. The follow-up practical session, which gave all participants the opportunity to be interviewed on camera, provided a 'real test'. Great experience!
- Exercise 'Snow Drift' was based on an 'adverse event' in the Canterbury region. A small group activity designed to encourage effective teamwork within a district EOC. Being put in charge with responsibility for focusing the team proved a valuable experience for some.

The Crisis Management Course was rated 'very successful' by the majority of participants because it had a practical focus, and also professional input from keynote speakers. The directing staff managed the programme effectively.

Recovery Managers' Course

A three-day Recovery Managers' Course was held in mid-May, again at the Westpac Stadium. The purpose of the current programme is to examine the principles and processes of community recovery after a major emergency.

Highlights of the programme included:

- Presentation from Clive Manley, General Manager of the Far North District Council. Clive was involved in planning the response to the Auckland Water Crisis in 1993 and was heavily involved in the economic recovery programme following the Auckland Power Crisis in 1998. He was also deployed to assist communities affected by flooding in Wairoa in 1997 and in the Far North in 1999.
- Presentation from Ian McLean. Now an Emergency Risk Consultant, but in earlier days a Member of Parliament and one time CEO of the Earthquake and War Damage Commission. Ian spoke on Lessons for New Zealand from the Northridge, Kobe and Taiwan 'Earthquake Events'.
- Exercise 'Recovery'. Scenario based on an earthquake in the lower North Island. The series of small workgroup activities focused on identifying issues and actions necessary to restore the community to normality.

Feedback indicates that the course met the expectations of the majority of the participants.

The expectation is that in the next two years the Ministry will provide leadership in the development of a new focus on recovery. This will result in a new course and programme content.



Pat Helm, DPMC

CDEM Position Descriptions

By Chris Webb, Professional Development

The Ministry has recently developed a number of position descriptions for key CDEM positions. These position descriptions outline the key accountabilities and critical competencies (skills, knowledge and attributes) for the various roles. Establishing position descriptions will enable us to:

- Get some consistency and standardisation across the sector
- Provide a basis for new appointments
- Better target associated professional development activities

Controllers

This position description was developed through a series of focus groups made up of representatives from across the CDEM sector, and has now been endorsed by the Ministry. It is available on www.civildefence.govt.nz, and can be downloaded and used as a template for appointment purposes.

Individual development sheets have also been developed to assist with the ongoing professional development of controllers. These are also available on the Ministry's website.

The existing Controllers Manual has been reviewed and rewritten and a final focus group met recently to critique the technical information and provide feedback on the final format of the proposed manual. The manual is now in its final stages of development.

Recovery Managers

This position description, written initially for the "Preparing a Recovery Plan" information booklet, has been reformatted to be consistent with the Controller's position description. We are now seeking final feedback from the consultative group comprising appointed Recovery Managers, Controllers and CDEM Managers, before endorsing this position description and making it available on the website.

Public Information Managers

This position description has been drafted and sent to appointed Communications Managers from the TLAs for feedback. Once this process is completed then it too will be endorsed and put on the website.

Welfare Managers' Workshop

The Ministry's professional development team is looking to improve services for welfare managers.

On 19 May, 14 people from throughout New Zealand met to discuss ideas on how to best provide for the welfare manager's ongoing professional development and came up with a number of workable ideas. The professional development team is now looking at how best to make them happen.

The workshop group was made up of welfare managers and others who have a sound understanding of the role.

Positive progress with CIMS

Significant progress is being made in consolidating the knowledge and application of Coordinated Incident Management Systems (CIMS) in the CDEM sector. This has been achieved through:

- Active promotion and delivery of CIMS 'Introductory' and 'Apply CIMS' course activities.
- An increasing number of success stories from operational staff who have adopted CIMS at real incidents and have discovered that the system works.
- The operational experience that a significant number of individuals have gained working as members of response teams in both Australia and the United States.



At the Level 4 CIMS course held at the Royal NZ Police College in February were (back l-r): S/Sgt Gerard Prins, Sgt Mike Chapman, and John Boyd from Ministry of Health.

Front l-r: S/Sgt Kevin Riordan, Insp Murray Lewis, and Vern Greenham from Devereaux-Blum.

These positive developments are expected to continue in the next couple of years. The CDEM Act 2002 has seen the establishment of 15 CDEM Groups across the country (see article page 3). The principles and key concepts of CIMS will be integral to the organisational structures set up by the CDEM Groups for operational response and coordination.

In the next couple of months, several working groups will be focused on reviewing, amending and developing training resources. These include:

- Publishing a second edition of the 'Blue' Manual. A reprint of the original was due this year, so the opportunity is being taken to make relevant amendments to selected sections. For example, there is a requirement to include comment on the 'National Colour Identification'. The manual is recognised as an excellent introduction to CIMS. Any changes are likely to be minimal.
- The Level 4 'Apply CIMS' course will be reviewed. A number of recommendations from the training teams who have delivered the package in the last two years need to be considered and appropriate action taken.

Chris Webb, Manager, Professional Development, is to lead a multi-agency team to further develop the Level 6 CIMS assessment brief. This also needs to be aligned to the professional development programmes within the primary agencies, such as Police, NZ Fire Service and others.

USAR Teams in Upper Hutt 'Cyclone'

By Esther Griffiths, Upper Hutt City Council

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) workers from Invercargill to the North Shore responded to Upper Hutt City Council's Emergency Operations Centre activation request on Friday, 30th May 2003. The responding teams participated in a 54-hour simulated USAR exercise focusing on a cyclonic storm event.

The aim of the exercise was to increase the preparedness of the USAR system for a disaster affecting the greater Wellington region.

The scenario and deployment was made as realistic as possible, with considerable research on the region's hazards and previous similar events, carried out prior to the event. While most participants knew the dates of the exercise in advance, deployment times and locations were not identified until participants were contacted by the Incident Management Team.

The exercise provided the first opportunity to test interactions between Taskforce and Responder personnel in a multi-incident event. Because of the USAR awareness programme, everybody was aware of their respective skill levels. Teams were tasked accordingly and found they were able to support each other more efficiently.

The four major scenarios developed were a train derailment, a flooded network of service tunnels, a stranded workforce on the roof of an eight-story building and an industrial incident. However the lasting memory for many participants will be the happy hours spent sandbagging the riverbank below Silverstream Bridge and Birchville.

The value of support personnel was quickly recognised by teams that didn't have individuals dedicated to team welfare. Food was the primary motivator, with cuisine differing dramatically between camps.



USAR responders from Tawa Rescue prepare to remove a casualty from the disaster site.

Volunteer casualties from the Upper Hutt community added considerable value to the exercise. International students from the New Zealand International College challenged Taskforce 1 as they struggled to communicate, and extract them from the college's network of service tunnels. Following the exercise, two enthusiastic participants visited the local service station in full casualty simulation make-up.

The exercise generated considerable local media coverage. These reports were followed by promotion of emergency management awareness.

Official minutes of the exercise debrief are available upon request. Contact Esther Griffiths, email esther.griffiths@uhcc.govt.nz.

ARU to the Rescue

Wellington's Animal Rescue Unit (ARU) – the only one of its kind in Australasia – also took part in Upper Hutt City Council's emergency exercise in May.

Set up in 1997, ARU is a volunteer organisation run in conjunction with the Wellington SPCA to provide technical rescue service for trapped animals.

The unit specialises in high angle rescue with an emphasis on animal welfare. The crew are trained to rescue animals on cliffs, in trees, and in restricted spaces like under a house or in the gap between office buildings.

The ARU pioneered High Angle Rapid Intervention Systems and the Rapid Intervention Crew in New Zealand, co-developed the High Angle Light Stick Protocol, and lead development of FRSITO Industry Certificate in Technical Rope Rescue.

The unit potentially has a role to play in any civil defence emergency and all of the crew must complete USAR Cat 1A, Level 2 CIMS, Health and Safety and a range of other related unit standards.

The ARU can be called out via the NZ Fire Service or police communications centres or by phoning 04 389 8044, available for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

For more information on the ARU, visit www.aru.org.nz or email info@aru.org.nz



ARU Rescue Technician Chris Schraders rescues a patient off the roof of Wellington's CIT building. As well as rescuing animals, ARU crew members are trained in rapid intervention so they can rescue their own people if required.