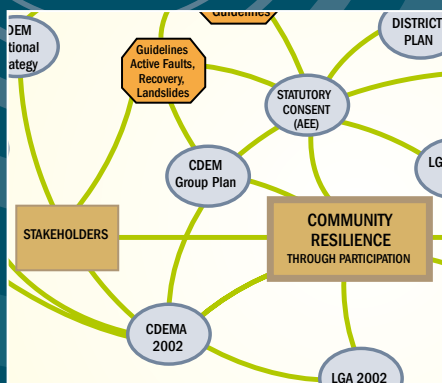


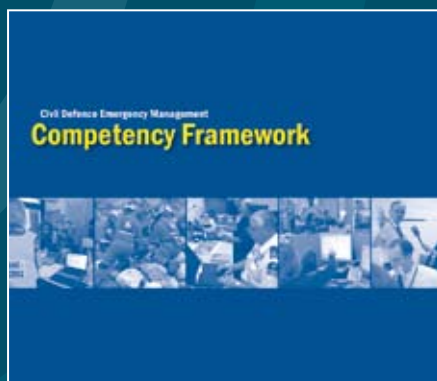
## Towards digital radio communications



### In this issue



Integrating legislation workshops - P8



Upcoming Ministry publications - P5



Public education update - P12



Ministry of Civil Defence  
& Emergency Management

Impact is a quarterly magazine for the Civil Defence sector published, March, June, September and December. Previous issues can be found on the Ministry's website

<http://www.civildefence.govt.nz>

Items may be reproduced with acknowledgement

## Emergency contacts

Public information and media enquires during activation of the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) should be directed to:

Telephone: 04 494 6951

Email: [pim@ncmc.govt.nz](mailto:pim@ncmc.govt.nz)

## Published by

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM)  
PO Box 5010 Wellington  
Level 9, 22 The Terrace  
Telephone: 04 473 7363  
Facsimile: 04 473 7369

## Enquiries

Adrian Prowse  
[emergency.management@dia.govt.nz](mailto:emergency.management@dia.govt.nz)

## Contributors

Brandon Guttery  
John Lovell  
Adrian Prowse  
Chris Raine  
Richard Smith  
Narelle Watts  
Sarah Stuart-Black  
Ljubica Mamula-Seadon  
Chandrika Kumaran  
Colin Feslier  
Iain MacLean

### Disclaimer

Impact may publish articles of interest to the CDEM sector that are not written by the Ministry. Such articles are the opinion of the author. They do not necessarily reflect Ministry policy and their publication is not an endorsement by the Ministry of the views expressed.

### Visit us on the web

[www.civildefence.govt.nz](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz)

[www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz)

[www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz](http://www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz)



## EDITORIAL

# The Auckland Council: an opportunity for Auckland CDEM



John Carter, Minister of  
Civil Defence

**The changes to Auckland governance provide an opportunity to give civil defence emergency management (CDEM) the high priority focus it needs in New Zealand's biggest city. A robust CDEM structure in Auckland is critical. Expectations of the public in the face of an emergency will be uncompromising, and the planning and readiness must be up to the challenge.**

The changes that are underway for Auckland governance are a key focus for the Government at the moment. As Associate Minister of Local Government, I have been involved in this issue since the Royal Commission for Auckland Governance presented its report to the Government. As the Minister for Civil Defence, I am committed to making sure that CDEM in Auckland benefits from the changes.

Auckland has nearly one third of New Zealand's population, 1.3 million people at last count, and is New Zealand's most ethnically diverse region. It has heavy reliance on critical infrastructure and utilities, and large interdependencies with other regions of New Zealand. Auckland's physical setting and large metropolitan area also mean that it is exposed to a wide range of natural and non-natural hazards.

The diversity and complexity of agencies and infrastructure contributing towards Auckland's safety presents challenges for those who must plan for emergencies. Co-operation and collaboration are essential for managing this complex CDEM environment.

The complexity of CDEM in Auckland also highlights the importance of everyone involved in CDEM being aware of their roles and responsibilities so that clear leadership can be applied at local, regional and national levels. In particular, the involvement and leadership from senior officials and the resources they allocate to CDEM are essential for CDEM Groups to meet their

responsibilities to their communities.

The final structure of CDEM within the Auckland Council will be determined by the Auckland Transition Agency, which was appointed on May 21 2009. Nothing is pre-determined, but there are a few general comments that can be made.

CDEM arrangements in the new Auckland Council have to be, and will be, in accordance with the requirements for CDEM Groups under the CDEM Act 2002.

A single unitary council can provide the environment for the objectives of the Act to be realised effectively.

The structure of CDEM functions within the Auckland Council is likely to be based around the concept of centralised planning and co-ordination and de-centralised implementation through geographic zones.

I appreciate the great effort that the many people involved have applied to CDEM in the wider Auckland region over the years.

Working as one city, rather than eight separate councils, will give them opportunity they have never had before. It will allow better co-ordination across the city's whole region and simplify how they work with utility companies, health providers, emergency services and other agencies involved in emergency planning, response and recovery.

Having a full-time controller reporting directly to the chief executive will put emergency management and planning at a senior level in the Council. That, coupled with the ability to operate locally, will give the city great flexibility to deploy its considerable resources to best prepare and respond to, and recover from, an emergency.

I am confident that when the revised CDEM arrangements are developed and implemented, they will not only work well for communities across all four Rs, but will also strengthen co-ordination and improve effectiveness. ▲



# Waitaki district water woes

The Waitaki District Council Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was partially activated May 16 and 17 after reports that the Omarama Stream and Ahuriri River were reaching high levels after heavy northwesterly spillover rain in the McKenzie Basin. Communication was established with a number of people in the Omarama area following concerns that the camping ground, which had over 30 people staying in it, was at risk of flooding from the Omarama Stream.

By 5:30am Sunday May 17 water levels had reached a critical point and the public warning alarms were activated to evacuate the Omarama camping ground. Preparation ahead of time on Saturday evening by Waitaki CDEM ensured there was a plan in place for the safe and orderly evacuation of these people to the Omarama Country Time Inn, which had not been affected by water.

The EOC in Oamaru was operated by EOC staff, police, and a local controller. The decision was made to set up an incident control point at Omarama Police Station with New Zealand Police acting as lead agency. Throughout the day there were reports of sewage overspill, flood waters into a business area, closed roads leading to Lake Ohau, Twizel and the Lindis Pass and a group of school children trapped at Huxley Gorge, North West of Omarama. Priority was given to establishing the school group's exact whereabouts and ensuring that they were safe and intending to stay put.



Waitaki Bridge settlement protected from flood waters by inflatable barriers

Heavy rainfall required Meridian Energy to release water into the Waitaki River. The flow-on effect meant the Kurow Bridge needed to be closed during the evening for safety reasons. The Waitaki River reached flows of over 1500 cubic meters per second and began to affect a number of properties at Waitaki Bridge township south of the Waitaki River on SH1 during Monday 18.

After advising the Otago CDEM Group and the Ministry of the community flooding and weighing up local options for sandbagging including the time and resources needed to carry out the task, it was agreed that Geodesign barriers from Hydro Response Ltd would be transported from Christchurch to protect homes in the township. The barriers took three hours to

erect with a number of rural fire fighters and volunteers pumping the water away from the affected homes and back into the flooded paddock during this period. With water levels still at a high, it was anticipated that the barricade would be there for at least a week. Daily monitoring of the barrier and removal of residual seepage occurred during this period.

This low-level pre-declaration incident once again proves that with good knowledge and planning, an efficient and effective response to an emergency situation is achievable between the emergency services and CDEM. Communities can also begin to appreciate their own requirement to be prepared for an emergency. ▲

## Waikato's pandemic business continuity exercise

**During May 2009, Waikato District Council undertook a pandemic business continuity exercise. This beneficial exercise highlighted the complexities of a pandemic and the implications on Council and its communities.**

The Council already had a Business Continuity Plan containing a pandemic module in place. The plan aims to satisfy key community needs through Council's timely delivery of core services and supporting functions. The opportunity to exercise the pandemic module though had never arisen, until the H1N1 Swineflu virus emerged.

Council's Bill Radford and consultant David Dunsheath of Business Continuance Planning Ltd, designed

a pandemic exercise based directly on realistic projections of the H1N1 Swineflu data. Three, two-hour sessions were held over two days. Each session stepped four days ahead as the virus spread within New Zealand.

Twenty-four staff comprising the Crisis Management Team, the Business Continuity Team and the Clinical Health Team were given an overview of business continuity planning principles, before following Code Yellow background information, and then a declaration of Code Red.

Several participants were sceptical at first, but soon became aware of the pandemic's implications to Council and the need for adequate planning and preparation.

Participants were relieved when ways could be found to manage critical problems presented in the exercise. Initially, the issues appeared daunting but by applying lateral thinking to 'why and how we do what we do', teams found new solutions and made real progress. At the same time, important issues were highlighted including key resourcing, dependencies, and how the teams worked together.

The exercise enhanced the participants' awareness of the complexities of a pandemic. While some issues remain, Council is confident that because it 'got ready', it can now better help its communities to 'get thru'. ▲

## VOLUNTEERS INCREASE RESPONSE CAPABILITY

Waitakere City volunteers, with support from the Waitakere and Portage licencing trusts, recently purchased a Mitsubishi Canter 4x4 wide cab truck (pictured below) and modified it for civil defence use.

Modifications included adding an onboard drinking water tank, radios, emergency lighting rigs and storage for response equipment.

In May the Waitakere City civil defence initial response unit truck was finally commissioned. The truck was the concept of the Initial Response Unit (NZ-RT3) and has taken a few years to get to an operational level.

The truck can transport 6-7 team members, with the balance of the team following in a support vehicle. This greatly reduces the response time and increases the capability of the team to respond to any situation.

“The volunteers have done all the hard work in making this truck the asset it now is to Waitakere’s civil defence,” said Brandon Guttery, Team Manager. “From an Emergency Management Officer’s perspective the ability to be able to respond in one vehicle quickly and effectively to any situation is simply outstanding.” ▲



## CLOSER CDEM LINKS BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

A formal administrative arrangement between the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management and the Attorney-General’s Department of Australia (emergency management is one of the functions carried out by the Attorney-General’s Department) has helped create better links between New Zealand’s and Australia’s national emergency management agencies.

Australia is our nearest neighbour and we have always offered each other assistance whenever it has been needed. The arrangement formalises the ad-hoc processes that have been previously used between our two countries. The key is having a strong, working relationship and specified processes so that if we do need to contact each other at any time of day or night we can. We can also immediately share information about an emergency and, if necessary, start arrangements to provide staff or resources.

The Arrangement is part of the Ministry’s priority of having strong international links for civil defence emergency management in New Zealand. The Ministry also works closely with other nations through a variety of international forums, including the United Nations, South Pacific Forum, APEC and ASEAN. ▲

## Wellington restructure prompts public response



Wellington’s Civil Defence Controller, Mike Mendonca outside the Wellington Emergency Management Office.

**Emergency preparedness has been a talking point in the capital city in recent weeks – prompted by controversy over a reorganisation of Wellington City Council’s Emergency Management Office. And the City Council has taken the opportunity to use the controversy to raise the profile of civil defence volunteering.**

Earlier this month (June) Mayor Kerry Prendergast hosted a meeting of civil-defence volunteers, local MPs, city councillors and MCDEM and council staff. They discussed the restructure of the emergency management office and concerns about the state of civil defence in the city.

Mayor Prendergast said it was important to raise the profile of civil defence “and make it a bit more sexy”.

Wellington’s Civil Defence Controller, Mike Mendonca, who is overseeing the restructure, was at the time of writing in the final stages of hiring a new emergency preparedness manager.

Mike says one of the principal roles of the new manager will be to strengthen the city’s volunteer network – and raise the profile of civil-defence. “We want to get far more people involved as volunteers and far more families aware of the need to be prepared for a major earthquake or some other large-scale emergency.”

Exercise Phoenix, this year’s regional civil defence exercise scheduled for November, will fully involve the city’s civil defence volunteers and will be followed by a formal debriefing process that will allow volunteers to make their views known.

Mike also intends to make the maximum possible use of Disaster Awareness Week, in October. “We’ll be coming up with a few nice ideas for publicity. The opportunity is too good to miss.”

Mike is confident that a review of the city’s civil defence centre network – and the new emergency preparedness manager’s role – will enable initiatives to improve the support of the volunteer networks.

“We can introduce training programmes, events and resources that will help make civil defence volunteering more meaningful and interesting.”

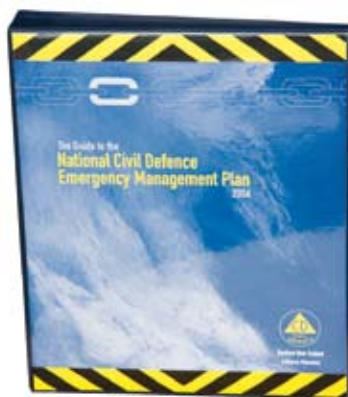
Issues like the significant increase in apartments in the central business district and the resulting surge in the central city population pose challenges for emergency preparedness, Mike says. “We now have thousands of people, a quite-transient population, who might not know what to do or where to go in the event of a big quake or other emergency. We’re going to have to do some creative thinking about how to help these people to help themselves get prepared and survive a major emergency.” ▲



# Upcoming Ministry publications

## The Guide

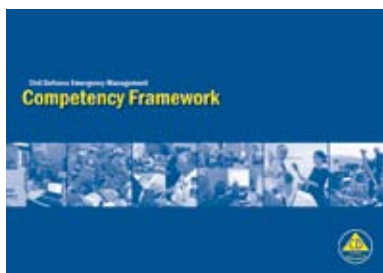
The purpose of the Guide is to assist and support New Zealand agencies to implement the National CDEM Plan. Where the Plan states the principles, arrangements, commitments and frameworks that apply to the management of emergencies the detail and deliverance of these are set out in the Guide.



The Guide documents existing arrangements for national management of, or national support for, local management of civil defence emergencies. As planning and operational arrangements develop in the sector, they will be updated and reflected in the Guide, which is intended to be a 'living document'. As this issue of Impact goes to press, version 1.2 of the Guide is at its final stage prior to production. Version 1.2 represents a comprehensive review of the Guide resulting in all sections and appendices being reprinted. Version 1.2 will be uploaded on to the Ministry website and copies will be distributed in July.

## Competency Framework

The CDEM Competency Framework has been developed as a strategic-level framework of key competencies required to successfully perform the functions of CDEM in New Zealand. This Framework is relevant to all people who perform a role in CDEM in New Zealand, including full time, part time, paid and unpaid personnel at all levels of operation, locally, regionally and nationally. It promotes emergency management as a profession by recognising the professional and personal development needs of those that perform a role in CDEM. The CDEM Competency Framework document contains:



- an overview of the background and purpose of the Framework.
- the eight key areas of CDEM competency
- the competencies and indicators within each key area, and
- the levels of relevance and proficiency of competencies across a number of CDEM roles.

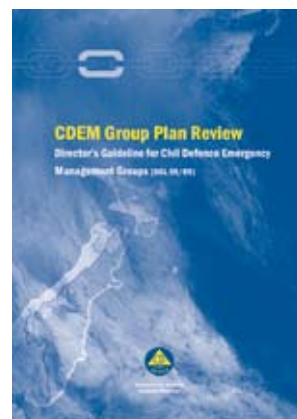
The Competency Framework document will be available on the Ministry website and a small number printed for distribution to key stakeholders.

## CDEM Group Plan Review

The purpose of this Director's Guideline is to provide a nationally consistent approach to the review of CDEM Group Plans. It is a planning guideline for CDEM Groups to promote comprehensive emergency management through reduction, readiness, response and recovery (the 4 Rs). This guideline

supports information from other Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management publications, including the Guide to the National CDEM Plan, and the Response Management, Recovery Management and Declaration guidelines.

The guideline is set out in sections reflecting the suggested structure for CDEM Group Plans. Each section provides a number of examples for which objectives could be developed to assist in the development of that section of the CDEM Group Plan. CDEM Group Plan Review will be available on the Ministry website and a small number printed for distribution to key stakeholders.

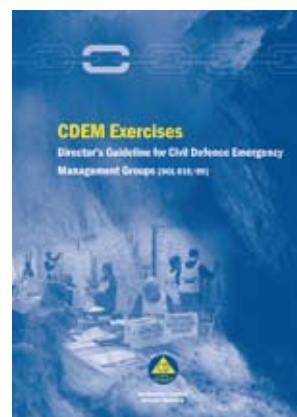


## CDEM Exercises

This Director's Guideline provides guidance for the development and management of civil defence emergency management exercises and to assist in meeting the requirements of the National CDEM Plan 2005 and the Guide to the National Plan. It may also be of use to those performing similar roles and functions within other agencies.

This guideline provides a range of practical advice and templates for exercise developers to: analyse the need for an exercise; design an exercise; conduct an exercise; and evaluate an exercise. This document provides general advice and must be read in conjunction with CDEM Group and local authority plans, policies and procedures.

CDEM Exercises will be available on the Ministry website and a small number printed for distribution to key stakeholders.



## Tephra

Tephra is the Ministry's occasional publication. Each edition focuses on one CDEM theme in some detail drawing upon scientific and specialist advice. The 2009 edition will highlight the relationships between research and policy development, and their application in planning and developing resilience. This edition aims to encourage scientific support for the CDEM sector and to foster links between the wider scientific community, the sector and local authority planners.

It is intended to be a resource for scientists and planners in academic and operational roles (including those in universities, science agencies and local authorities), professional organisations, and the CDEM sector. It is expected this issue will be published in July. ▲





# Towards digital radio communications

**Frontline public protection and disaster relief (PPDR) agencies, which includes emergency and CDEM agencies as well as voluntary organisations, need to be able to communicate effectively by radio and respond in real-time to emergencies. A compatible and versatile radio network is essential to achieving these objectives.**

Like other government agencies, CDEM currently uses analogue radio equipment to communicate on the emergency services band via established base stations and repeater sites. Whilst analogue equipment has generally served the emergency services and CDEM well, it is prone to significant variation in quality depending upon signal strength and data transmission capability is limited.

The New Zealand Police are in the process of migrating their analogue UHF radio network to a digital system based upon the APCO 25 standard. This is in response to a directive from Cabinet for the development of a robust public safety framework for emergency telecommunications services. Police are also to provide leadership for the wider use and governance of the digital network to support an enhanced PPDR communications capability.

Submissions were invited during the development of a radio communications strategy, and several were submitted by CDEM sector representatives. These comments have been factored into the ongoing work.

A secure, encrypted digital network covering the Wellington police district is on schedule for launch by the end of June as the first phase of a larger national roll-out by NZ Police over the medium term.

The new digital network will provide superior radio service and allow voice and later, data transmission. Most significantly, the system will allow other PPDR agencies to access and

benefit from the improved service. The new system also allows the continued use of analogue equipment and to transition gradually to digital.

A co-ordinated approach to communications standards and interoperability is necessary to ensure efficient future use of government resources and reliable communications under adverse conditions.

*Interoperability* is the ability of public safety personnel to communicate by radio with users from other agencies or departments.

PPDR agencies need to interoperate in the following ways:

**Day-to-day interoperability** involves coordination during routine public safety operations, for example:

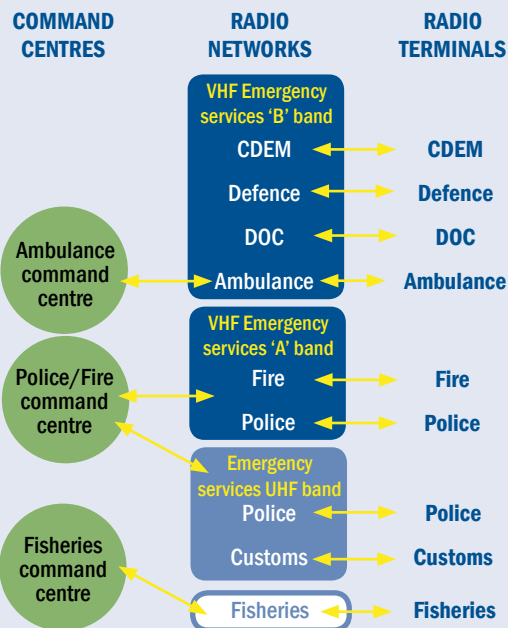
- fire fighters from various departments join forces to battle a structural fire
- neighbouring law enforcement agencies must work together during a pursuit

**Mutual-aid interoperability** involves a joint and immediate response to a catastrophic accident or natural disaster and requires tactical communications among numerous groups of public safety personnel. For example:

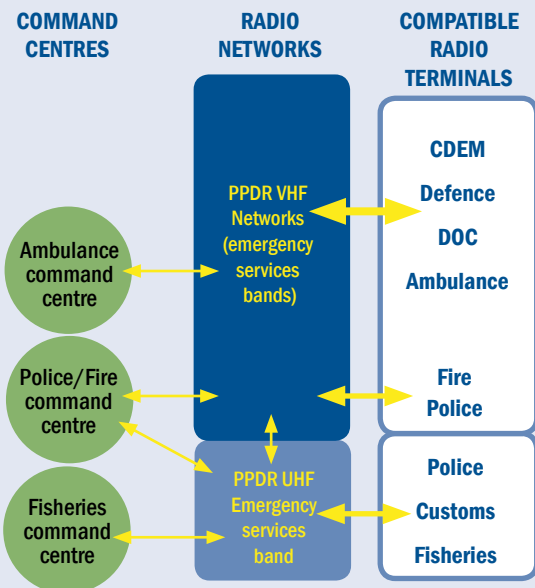
- airplane crashes
- bombings
- forest fires
- earthquakes and other natural events

**Task force interoperability** involves local, regional and national agencies coming together for an extended period of time to address an ongoing public safety concern. For example:

- leading the extended recovery operations for major disasters



Current radio interoperability between public protection disaster relief agencies



Full radio interoperability between public protection disaster relief agencies within an APCO 25 radio network.

- providing security for major events
- conducting operations in prolonged criminal investigations

Therefore a whole-of-government approach is needed to ensure that the technological and organisational benefits possible by working collaboratively are realised by all PPDR agencies.

Whilst existing CDEM analogue equipment can continue to be used the long-term objective is for all PPDR agencies (including CDEM) to progressively replace their analogue radio equipment with digital units.

Regional Emergency Management Advisor, John Lovell from Christchurch has taken over from David Coetzee as the CDEM representative on the PPDR Radio Communications Strategy Working Group. This working group has several objectives including the development of a strategy to enhance the integration, performance and reliability of PPDR radio communications and researching the short, medium and long-term requirements for whole of government PPDR.

John will be specifically involved with the development of standard operating procedures and is available to respond to general questions from the CDEM sector about this work.

Some CDEM staff have already received presentations on PPDR communications and its implications for CDEM. It is proposed that the digital network will evolve progressively and that PPDR agencies, including CDEM, will be able to migrate to it over time and with full consultation.

For CDEM this will enhance operability across agencies and provide resource benefits and opportunities for flexible funding arrangements across capital and operating budgets. Further detail and information will be available to CDEM via Impact and e-bulletin.

For additional information email [john.lovell@dia.govt.nz](mailto:john.lovell@dia.govt.nz) ▲

In 1989, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International (APCO), together with other US governmental organizations, established a steering committee 'Project 25' and gave it the task of selecting appropriate standards for digital public safety mobile radio communications. The resulting standards, APCO 25, are now used internationally.

#### APCO 25 digital network advantages

- One nationwide integrated system
- Regional autonomy (10 autonomous but interconnected areas)
- Overlapping coverage (major cities)
- Common operating standards, protocols and training
- Ability to transition gradually from existing analogue equipment
- APCO 25 compliant radio equipment can be used anywhere in the country
- Police provide on-going support (including field support) 24/7
- Centralised management centre
- Partnership model with main supplier to achieve economies of scale (Tait Communications)
- Quality, trunking (the ability of many people to carry many conversations over only a few distinct frequencies), wideband/broadband capability



# Integrating CDEM, RMA and LTCCP planning workshops

**The Ministry of Civil defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) is holding a series of workshops in support of second generation CDEM Group plan development.**

Workshops are run in conjunction with the Department of Internal Affairs, Local Government New Zealand and the Ministry for the Environment.

CDEM Group plans are the cornerstone of CDEM planning at the local level providing management arrangements for the hazards and risks in the region. One of the most commonly identified issues when developing effective policies is the lack of strategic alignment of planning processes between legislative instruments such as the Local Government Act 2002, CDEM Act 2002, and the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991.

The diagram below illustrating links between CDEM, RMA and LGA.

Working together with CDEM Groups, these workshops seek to explore the ways

in which planning processes under these legislative instruments can be better integrated to build resilience. These workshops are very much 'hand's on' aimed at assisting local planning based on local issues. Therefore each workshop is tailored to suit local needs.

Workshops target emergency management officers and planners, council LTCCP and RMA policy managers and planners, infrastructure and asset planners and all those working directly with the LGA 2002, RMA 1991 and CDEM 2002 Acts.

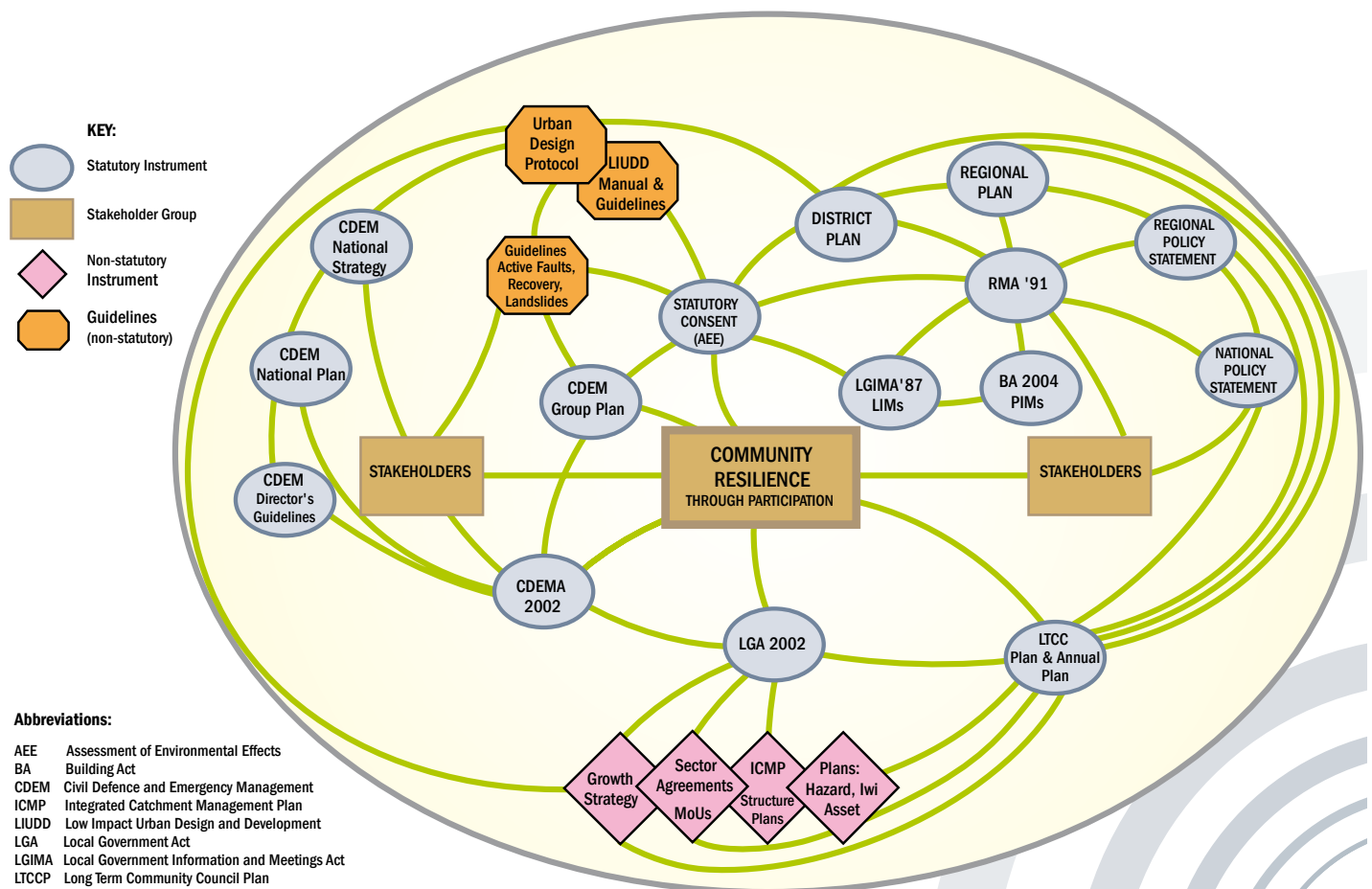
A pilot workshop was held in Gisborne on May 11 2009, organised by the Gisborne Emergency Management Office and MCDEM. Gisborne is a unitary authority and its CDEM Group has already well advanced its second generation CDEM Group plan. The convenience of a unitary authority and the initiative and drive of the local emergency management team successfully combined to generate substantial interest for the workshop across the whole council.

More than thirty council staff comprising policy managers, policy planners (both RMA and LTCCP), resource consent planners, resource managers, asset managers and engineers, finance managers, building inspectors, infrastructure engineers, as well as local emergency management officers were in attendance. The workshop was also visited by the city Mayor.

The central government team introduced a number of guidelines and tools for integration of planning for natural and other major hazards. The local team talked about their current CDEM Group Plan, LTCCP and RMA planning programmes. Local presenters identified a number of issues and consequences related to the lack of integration of these programmes. Some of the issues were:

- lack of coordination and collation of hazard-related information, research and knowledge across the council and the ensuing issues with adequacy of current risk mitigation measures;

*Natural hazards risk management – an integrated CDEM, RMA and LGA planning framework*





# CDEM Professional Development update

- difficulties with inclusion of CDEM-relevant information and CDEM officers in Council's development - particularly land use planning activities (e.g. Regional Policy Statement and District Plan, consent process);
- difficulties ensuring the 4Rs are reflected in council plans;
- difficulties engaging the community including economic, insurance and business sectors in decision making about risks (e.g. acceptable risk level, risk priorities, risk mitigation);
- difficulties adapting to government policies.

Local solutions to these issues were sought in small-group workshops. Specific action points were identified and workshop participants have already committed to implementing some of these.

Actions high on the agenda of the cross-council team included:

- development of 'whole of council' hazards research strategy, IT platform (Hazards Register on council web site) and communication protocols;
- formation of inter-departmental teams to address risks from major hazards, 'all-of-council' communication of planning initiatives, regular inter-departmental resource consent meetings, inclusion of hazard information in LIMs and PIMs;
- consideration of CDEM and LTCCP in District Plan change process, involvement of CDEM in Policy Statement review, integration of planning for LTCCP prior to work on Asset Management and Level of Service plans, consideration of 4Rs in project decisions, alignment of CDEM Plan with LTCCP, revision of performance measures in AMPS to align with 4Rs.

Participants agreed that a comprehensive, integrated approach is needed and workshops like this are useful in facilitating this. The local Emergency Management Office was encouraged to maintain momentum, champion CDEM across the council and wider stakeholders and to provide more opportunities for similar inter-departmental meetings. If you are interested in holding a workshop in your area, email [Ljubica.Mamula-Seadon@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Ljubica.Mamula-Seadon@dia.govt.nz).

## CDEM Competency Framework

In March-April the Ministry conducted the online survey component of the project and received 385 responses. This essential data enabled us to start analysis of the New Zealand CDEM sector and the roles and functions within it.

A brief preliminary summary of statistical results from the demographic and organisational sections of the online survey was provided in the May E-bulletin and is still available on the CDEM Competency Framework page of the Ministry's website.

During May, work progressed on analysing the results from the competency sections of the survey and we have been developing the CDEM Competency Framework document ready for release on the web at the end of June.

We have had useful feedback on a range of aspects of the project, and would like to thank those who have been in contact. If you have any further feedback, please email [CDEMPProfDev@dia.govt.nz](mailto:CDEMPProfDev@dia.govt.nz).

## Introducing Anneke Pinker

The Professional Development team is now fully staffed with the arrival of Anneke Pinker who has joined the Ministry as a Professional Development Advisor and comes with a strong background in learning and development. While Anneke will be supporting the professional development work programme as a whole, she will be specifically responsible for the Public Information Managers' course and for scoping opportunities for continuing education.



## MCDEM COURSES

If you're a Recovery Manager, Public Information Manager or Controller, and you have not attended a MCDEM course yet, the next courses are in Wellington in October 2009 at the Abel Tasman Hotel.

**Controllers Course:** A two-day exercise-based course facilitated by MCDEM.

Throughout the course an experienced panel and guest speakers will review decisions made by participants and provide feedback. Content covers trainable competencies identified and incorporated into Response Management: Director's Guideline for CDEM Group and Local Controllers. Limited to 35 people.

**Date:** 1 & 2 October 2009

**Times:** Starts at 8:30 am on the 1 October and finishes at 4:30 pm on the 2 October.

**Recovery Managers Course:** This two-day course for Group, Local and alternate recovery managers will be facilitated by MCDEM. Content is based on Recovery Management: Directors Guidelines for CDEM Groups and covers the technical process as well as theoretical knowledge. It also includes a mix of scenario-based practical exercises and an experienced recovery panel and guest speakers. Limited to 35 people.

**Date:** 5 & 6 October 2009

**Times:** Starts at 9:00 am on the 5 October and finishes at 4:00 pm on the 6 October.

## Public Information Managers Course:

This one-day course is designed for those required to perform core public information management (PIM) during an emergency. It will focus on developing PIM skills detailed in Public Information Management: Information for the CDEM Sector through a mix of practical exercises, guest presentations and discussions. Prerequisite: Previous experience in basic communications functions (e.g. writing media releases, media liaison). Limited to 30 people.

**Date:** 7 October 2009

**Times:** 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

**Costs:** There is no cost to attend these courses, however it is the responsibility of the participants to fund their own transport, accommodation, and any other meals and incidentals incurred.

**Nominations:** If you wish to nominate yourself for any of these courses, please contact your MCDEM Regional Emergency Management Advisor.

# Risk, reduction and research news

## Global Assessment Report on disaster risk reduction

This Report (available at [www.preventionweb.net](http://www.preventionweb.net)) is the first biennial global assessment of disaster risk reduction prepared in the context of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The ISDR, launched in 2000, provides a framework with a focus on developing countries, to coordinate actions to address disaster risks at the local, national, regional and international levels. The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), endorsed by 168 UN member states at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan in 2005, urges all countries to make major efforts to reduce their disaster risk by 2015.



It is expected that this report will help focus international attention on the problem of disaster risk especially in developing countries, and to consolidate global political and economic support and commitment to disaster risk reduction.

The report identifies disaster risk, analyses its causes and effects, shows that these causes can be addressed and recommends means to do so. The central message of the Report is that reducing disaster risk can provide a vehicle to reduce poverty, safeguard development and adapt to climate change, with beneficial effects on broader global stability and sustainability.

The main body of the Report is structured around seven chapters and provides technical information for disaster risk reduction policy makers, practitioners and researchers.

Chapter 1: The global challenge

Chapter 2: Global disaster risk

Chapter 3: Deconstructing disaster

Chapter 4: The heart of the matter: underlying risk drivers

Chapter 5: Review of progress in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

Chapter 6: Addressing the underlying risk drivers

Chapter 7: Investing today for a safer tomorrow

## Hyogo Framework for Action: New Zealand interim progress report

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) is a global blueprint for disaster risk reduction efforts. The HFA is a ten-year plan and was adopted in January 2005 by 168 governments at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction. Governments committed to take action to reduce disaster risk have adopted a guideline to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards, and to engage in a determined, results-based plan of action over the decade: 2005-2015.

A requirement of the Hyogo Framework is that progress on its implementation is monitored and reported on by each signatory nation. To facilitate this, an online self-assessment tool to monitor, review and report on progress and challenges in the implementation of disaster risk reduction and recovery actions at the national level, has been developed in accordance with the Hyogo Framework's priorities.

Recent reporting using the online tool will lead to the generation of comprehensive National Progress Reviews for the period 2007-09, and will give countries easy access to its disaster risk information and monitoring trends in progress nationally, regionally and globally over the years.

The Ministry has compiled the first national progress report, according to the requirements of the ISDR. This was completed in 2008 as a NZ government report and is now available at <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/oceania/nzl/>.

The report outlines New Zealand's risk reduction actions and ranks them against HFA qualitative indicators. In the future reporting will draw upon outputs of the CDEM Capability Assessment Tool of the CDEM monitoring & evaluation programme.

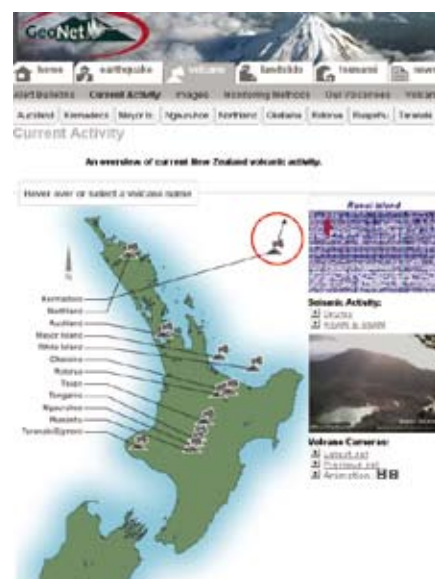
## Raoul Island Volcano comes online [from the GeoNet website]

The GeoNet team have just returned from Raoul Island where they installed two tsunami gauges, two seismograph sites, a GPS receiver and various volcano monitoring instruments, including a volcano webcam and remote lake level and temperature sensors.

Raoul Island is part of the Kermadec Islands, located approximately 800km north-north-east of New Zealand, and is volcanic in origin. The Kermadec's are uninhabited except for Raoul Island where a team of Department of Conservation staff carry out weed control work and make meteorological observations. There are also many submarine volcanoes in this chain.

The last eruption on Raoul was on March 17, 2006 at about 8:20am, when without warning rocks and mud were ejected from the Green Lake area. Equipment on the island at the time showed the eruption continued for around 30 minutes. Satellite images taken after the eruption confirmed that the volcano belched around 200 tonnes of sulphur dioxide during the eruption and in the following 5 hours. Tragically, a Department of Conservation employee was killed by this eruption.

The volcano monitoring equipment will improve the safety



of personnel on the island as well as building up a long-term history of the characteristics of this volcano. Of most interest will be the webcam on Mount Moumoukai, showing a view towards the north-west encompassing Green and Blue Lakes. Unlike the more well-known New Zealand volcanoes, this will be a new sight for most people.

Raoul Island also adds a vital location into the global network of seismographs and GPS receivers, as well as its tsunami gauges confirming whether or not a tsunami may be en route to the New Zealand mainland.

### Keeping up to date with the latest CDEM research: Online Resources

*Natural Hazards 2008* is a review produced jointly by NIWA and GNS Science (available at [http://www.naturalhazards.net.nz/publications/natural\\_hazards\\_2008](http://www.naturalhazards.net.nz/publications/natural_hazards_2008)).

It provides an informative summary of natural hazard events and the activities of major organisations involved in natural hazards work during 2008.

*The Australian Journal of Emergency Management* is another resource freely available online or as a subscription ([www.ema.gov.au/ajem](http://www.ema.gov.au/ajem)). The journal provides access to information and knowledge for an active emergency management research community and practitioners of emergency management.

The **Natural Hazards Centre** at the University of Colorado at Boulder produces a number of publications communicating knowledge on hazards mitigation and disaster preparedness, response and recovery. These publications are available at <http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/publications/> and include,

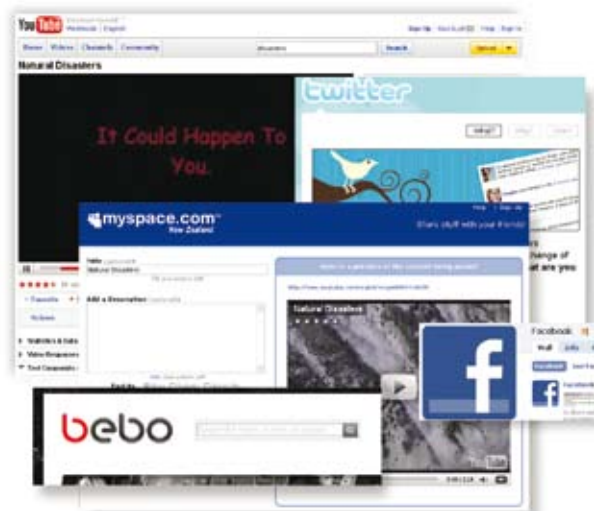
*The Natural Hazards Observer*, a bimonthly periodical, which covers current disaster issues; new international, national, and local disaster management, mitigation, and education programs; hazards research; political and policy developments; new information sources and Web sites; upcoming conferences; and recent publications.

*Disaster Research*, a biweekly e-mail newsletter distributed to creators and users of information regarding hazards and disasters. The newsletter includes timely articles about new developments, policies, conference announcements, job vacancies, resources, and information sources in the field of hazards management. Subscriptions to this newsletter are free.

*Research Digest*, a quarterly online publication that compiles recent research into an easily accessible format for the hazards and disasters community. ▲



## One message, many voices



Media, messages and management were the central themes of speakers at the Emergency Media and Public Affairs conference in Melbourne last month. New Zealand's Department of Internal Affairs Strategic Communication Manager Colin Feslier was one of the speakers at the conference. He shared his analysis of the nature of news and news processes, and how understanding them can help emergency managers.

Colin says it was particularly interesting to hear key note speaker, Robert Jensen of the US Federal Emergency management Agency, FEMA, which is part of the Homeland Security Department.

"Bob Jensen has been reflecting on the importance of changing media technology and the new media – social networking, Youtube, Twitter and so on. He stressed that there was a shift in the way people get information, and that this requires a strategic response from emergency managers. He believes we need to be proactive, rather than reactive, and need to learn to see the news release as of secondary importance in communication.

"One of my take home points was Robert Jensen's idea that in emergency management we need 'one message, many voices'. He was thinking of federal, state and local communications, but I realised this was a key way of viewing the communications in New Zealand from emergency services, CDEM, and utilities. I realised, also, that we have some way to go to achieve this!"

Colin was also impressed with the efforts by some conference participants to bring an empirical and evidence-based approach to communication. Barbara Ryan of the University of South Queensland and Dr Almalia Matheson of the University of the Sunshine Coast analysed reports on 12 disasters, and found that 79 recommendations (19%) related to communications.

"The really interesting observation was that about a third of the recommendations were about warnings and pre-disaster education. Media recommendations were less than half that number, and came behind recommendations on inter-agency communications and community engagement.

"The point I took from that is that media, while important, is only part of the communications mix, which goes to make up what Robert Jensen called the "tapestry of stories" about disasters and their management".

The conference was sponsored by the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner, Victoria. ▲



# Public education update



## Get Ready Get Thru: Gearing up for Disaster Awareness Week

11-17 October 2009

Every year since the early nineties the United Nations organises a World Disaster Reduction Campaign. The campaign culminates on International Disaster Reduction Day, the second Wednesday of October. In New Zealand the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, working in collaboration with Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups around the country, promotes Disaster Awareness Week, a week of activities aimed at raising awareness of hazards and the need to be prepared.

The purpose of Disaster Awareness Week is to have a heightened period of activity to get across to the general public key CDEM messages. The strategy is to continue a national mass media advertising campaign promoting key messages, with CDEM Groups encouraged to undertake local and regional activities for their communities. The focus during the week is on encouraging individuals to take action to be better prepared to deal with disasters when they happen.

### Planned national activities

The national theme will continue to be the generic message of 'Get Ready, Get Thru.' CDEM Groups can focus on specific preparedness issues such as water and food storage, being prepared at school, in businesses etc. Details of initiatives can be viewed on the [www.civildefence.govt.nz](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz) website.

A number of resources are offered on the website in the Public Education Toolbox section for CDEM Groups to use as needed. These include: a media kit with suggestions on promotional activities councils can carry out during the week; a range of advertisements and posters; as well as media release templates that can be customised for local use.

In May the Ministry sought interest from councils for the purchase of **recyclable shopping bags**. The bags are a great way to promote the key Get Ready Get Thru messages. The bright yellow bags will have a strong Get Ready Get Thru



branding. On one side of the bag messages will remind people to have a plan and emergency survival items. Printed on the other side will be a shopping list of emergency survival items. The bags can be used as promotional giveaways or be offered for sale at council offices and libraries.

To date, the response from the councils has been very positive and sufficient orders have been received to reduce production costs to under \$1 per bag. This now allows other local authorities to order smaller quantities at this reduced rate. The bags will be delivered by early September so that they can be used during Disaster Awareness Week.

### Sharing ideas

We are also encouraging CDEM Groups to send in information on planned activities during the week so that ideas can be shared. For example the Wellington CDEM Group has shared information on what they are planning this year that may be of interest to others.

According to Wellington Group's Emergency Management Advisor Craig Hamilton, they will be focusing on encouraging personal preparedness throughout the month of October by encouraging retailers to promote specific survival items in each week:

- Week 1 Storing water/water containers;
- Week 2 Storing food (including caring for pets)
- Week 3 Emergency supplies (radio/torch/batteries/light sticks)
- Week 4 Emergency supplies (first-aid/baby products/hygiene products)

An information pack is being developed to support councils in their approach to

retail outlets such as supermarkets/food stores, hardware stores, service stations and pharmacies. The pack includes posters, a letter to gauge retailer interest and advertisement templates.

### What's The Plan Stan? revised edition

What's The Plan Stan? – the CDEM education resource aimed at primary and intermediate



children – has been updated to align with the revised New Zealand curriculum. It will be distributed to all primary and intermediate schools in August 2009.

What's the Plan Stan? seeks to improve awareness and understanding of the hazards we face in New Zealand. Students' increased awareness and understanding may also prompt their parents, families and communities to be better prepared.

What's the Plan Stan is aimed at:

- teachers, providing a range of resources to enable them to incorporate disaster awareness and preparedness into teaching and learning programmes.
- school management, assisting with the school's civil defence emergency management planning processes.
- Students and their families, providing relevant information in a format that is interesting, easy to understand and accessible on a dedicated website.

The release of the revised edition provides an invaluable opportunity to undertake a series of activities at a national, regional and local level to ensure teachers and students are aware of the new resource. MCDEM has developed a communications strategy with input from the CDEM sector. The aim is to: maximise opportunities to raise awareness of the resource at the time of the launch in August 2009 when all schools will receive their new resource; and ensure that strategies are put in place both nationally and by CDEM Groups to encourage and support the ongoing use of the resource in all schools.

Details of the strategy and suggested activities can be viewed in the public education section at [www.civildefence.govt.nz](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz). For further information please email [chandrika.kumaran@dia.govt.nz](mailto:chandrika.kumaran@dia.govt.nz).