



impact

Volume 43
December 2011



National exercise to test public earthquake preparedness

Cover image: School children in California practice drop, cover and hold as part of their Exercise Shakeout held last year. New Zealand has embraced the Shakeout concept which focuses civil defence exercising on the general public, rather than the CDEM sector.

In this issue: Christchurch honours its volunteers | Celebrating safe Napier | Exercise Pacific Wave 11 | Welfare review project | Southland media well briefed | FEMA visit to Christchurch | Stan a hit with Auckland Santa Parade

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:

www.civildefence.govt.nz

Items may be reproduced with acknowledgement

Emergency contacts

For information and media enquires, Duty Media 24/7 coverage:
Telephone: 04 494 6951
Email: pim@ncmc.govt.nz

Editorial enquiries

Adrian Prowse, 04 494 0554
adrian.prowse@dia.govt.nz

Contributors

Monique Jeffares
David Coetzee
Debbie de Geus
Michelle Poole
Jo Guard
Justin Kemp
Richard Smith
Rusty Ritchie
Ljubica Mamula-Seadon
Susan Wylie
Kiri Maxwell

Common acronyms

MCDEM Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management
CDEM Civil defence emergency management
NCMC National Crisis Management Centre
ECC Emergency Coordination Centre
EOC Emergency Operations Centre
EMO Emergency Management Officer

Visit us on the web

www.civildefence.govt.nz
www.getthru.govt.nz
www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz

Published by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management

PO Box 5010 Wellington
Level 9, 22 The Terrace
Telephone: 04 473 7363

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.

EDITORIAL

John Hamilton, Director Civil Defence



Time for reflection and learning

It has been an extraordinarily tough year for many, dominated by the disaster in Christchurch. As we head toward a well deserved break we should pause to remember those far less fortunate than us who have lost loved ones in Christchurch and who have had their lives and livelihoods disrupted.

Those of us not living in Christchurch during the earthquakes find it nearly impossible to comprehend the physical and psychological impacts.

Now is a time for reflection and learning from this year and this disaster. Let me share some thoughts and observations with you. First, I applaud the fortitude and tenacity of the people of Christchurch for the manner in which they endured the earthquakes and the conditions since. They have set an outstanding example of resilience, personal and community, which other New Zealand communities can only aspire to.

Second, various studies and reviews have commenced to identify just what makes those communities resilient with the aim of learning from this experience and finding ways to apply those factors elsewhere.

Third, the formal review of the response has now commenced and I welcome the experience and enthusiasm of Mr Ian MacLean and Mr David Oughton as they undertake this work. The terms of reference for the review are available on the Ministry's website.

We know there are aspects of the response that need to be investigated to ensure we improve our processes. I have identified to the review team aspects which deserve development. These include providing situational awareness and sharing views, planning, the delivery of welfare services, media management and the use of social media, community engagement and business continuity.

I am also sure the review will identify and reinforce what I know was a fantastic record of commitment and willingness in the contributions of so many people to the diverse activities that have made up the response and the beginnings of the recovery process. To all those that supported the effort, I thank them for their outstanding support and efforts.

The year 2011 has been dominated by response activities but there is more than can be done across all four Rs to help us achieve the objective of generating greater resilience.

The next year is unlikely to be easy going. The economic climate is likely to restrict activities in most sectors or at least force us to consider the value of the expenditure and CDEM is not going to be immune. But we have a very solid foundation as evidenced by the Christchurch response and I can see no need to modify significantly an approach that has worked well.

The year 2011 has been dominated by response activities but there is more than can be done across all four Rs to help us achieve the objective of generating greater resilience.

Take a well earned break if you are able and have a Merry Christmas! Be safe in whatever you do: communities need your skill and enthusiasm for CDEM to help tackle the challenges of 2012. ■

Christchurch honours its volunteers



Hagley/Ferrymead civil defence team receiving their certificate from the Mayor Bob Parker and Murray Sinclair.

On Friday evening November 25 more than 120 CDEM volunteers gathered at the Addington Events Centre to attend a special ‘Thank you Dinner’ in recognition of their efforts during the recent earthquakes.

This function was also attended by the Mayor, Bob Parker, along with other key Christchurch City Council Managers and Peter Cameron from the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management.

Welfare Centre volunteers and Rescue Teams selflessly carried out many tasks during these events, as reflected in the

wording of the the certificate that was presented to each of the teams:

“Despite personal and family issues and damage to their own homes, many of our Civil Defence volunteers put their own issues aside and and showed a true community spirit by the giving of their time in an unselfish manner to the benefit of the community. The ability to get the job done despite huge demands was a credit to all involved. Thank you, on behalf of Christchurch City Council for a job well done”.

During the evening, Michael Aitken who was one of the Christchurch City Council Controllers, spoke about his experiences as controller and the Mayor Bob Parker reflected on his role and thanked the volunteers for their efforts.

Murray Sinclair, Christchurch City Council CDEM Manager, acted as a roving reporter asking volunteers about their own experiences during the earthquakes which helped everyone get a different perspective on how some coped during the events. ■

Fonterra distributes 10,000 Get Ready Get Thru booklets to NZ staff

In November the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management donated 10,000 copies of their Get Ready Get Thru booklets and Household Emergency Plan and Checklists for Fonterra’s New Zealand-based staff. Fonterra is also making the resources available to its international staff as a PDF.

Fonterra Group GM of Health & Safety, Nicole Rosie, says Fonterra has a strong commitment to health, wellbeing and safety and, thanks to the Ministry, some of this can now be extended to include Fonterra families.

“The recent earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand have made everyone more aware of the need to be prepared, both at work and at home. We’ve used the opportunity to remind everyone to check their emergency contact details on the staff intranet so we can help if need be,” says Nicole.

The co-operative’s New Zealand-based staff will receive their own copy of the booklets and checklists before Christmas.

“Many people have time off and with most families together over the festive season it’s a good time to be thinking about being prepared in case of an emergency,” she says.

To encourage engagement, Fonterra’s Health & Safety Committee is also giving away a few spot prizes to staff including four-person 72-hour survival kits, if they send in their completed Household Emergency Plan and Checklist. ■



As part of the preparedness drive, staff have the chance to win a four-person 72-hour survival kit.

Family's emergency skills put to the test

They were billed as the region's "most prepared family" but the Rollston family of Nelson say there were still plenty of unexpected challenges during their Ecofest experience.

Pen and John Rollston, children Mya, 9, Morgan, 7 and George their Jack Russell accepted the challenge of camping out over Ecofest Expo weekend 20/21 August 2011, living from their emergency kit supplies. The challenge was sponsored by Classic Hits Nelson and Mondo Travel, which donated a prize of a family trip to Sydney.

Over the two days, the Rollstons camped in a tent next to the Trafalgar Centre and were faced with a number of tasks such as building a 'no-dig' garden, creating a shelter from scrap materials, doing without their cell phones and being winched on stretchers from the top of the Trafalgar Centre by the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team.

Nelson Emergency Management recently caught up with the Rollstons to find out what they had learned from their experience, and whether they had any tips to share. Pen Rollston says the challenge

was both easier and more difficult than the family had anticipated.

"We didn't expect the great assistance that we received from organisations like St John's, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the USAR team – they were all just wonderful. But what made it tough was that Nelson was hit by a polar blast that weekend! We knew it was going to be cold – but we didn't realise it would be that cold!" she says.

One of the biggest lessons for Pen during the whole experience was the challenge of finding and carrying drinking water.

"After the weekend we decided we were going to invest in a water filter because water is so heavy to carry and we found that you could really only carry enough for one person for a day," she says.

Pen says the children coped incredibly well with the challenge.

"I was completely amazed – the kids adapted so easily, way better than John and I did. They loved it and Morgan still says he'd love to go back and stay in the tent!

"The emergency services do an amazing job, but they will be super busy. Don't expect they'll be able to get to you straight away."



Pen and John Rollston, children Mya, 9, Morgan, 7 and George their Jack Russell.

Pen says the experience has given the family a greater appreciation for what people in Christchurch have gone through.

"We knew there was an end to our experience which made it bearable. I really take my hat off to the people of Christchurch," she says. ■

Some of the Rollston's top tips for getting prepared

- Have some anti-bacterial gel on hand. You might not be able to shower for several days and drinking water supplies will be limited.
- Don't share water bottles as this can increase the risk of water-borne illnesses, especially in an emergency situation when you are likely to be stressed and run down.
- Cardboard or paper is great for warmth – anything that gets you off the ground and stops the chill from the bare earth.
- Invest in a water filter (or have some chlorine bleach handy) so that you can make water safe for drinking.
- Baked beans are heavy! Have plenty of dehydrated food on hand. It's really tasty, nutritious and also light to carry. Nuts are also great for curbing hunger pangs.
- A hot cooked meal is great for morale, especially when it's cold.
- Make sure you have matches and a good light source. Playing games around a lamp can be fun, sitting in the dark is not!
- Make sure you have warm clothes as it can get very cold at night, especially if you're camping.
- Make sure you have some pet food in your emergency kit if you have animals.
- Stay positive and keep calm. Don't put your stress onto the kids. They'll be fine if you are.

New Manager for Hawke's Bay Civil Defence

The Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management office has a new Group Manager. **Ian Macdonald** took up this newly-created role in September and will also serve as the primary Group Controller in a regional scale event.

Hawke's Bay has been working towards strengthening its civil defence and emergency management group office this year, and this appointment is a major step forward.

Ian is currently based at Hawke's Bay Regional Council, but early next year will transfer to the dedicated emergency management centre located in Hastings which will house the regional civil defence group office.

Ian has been a manager at Hastings District Council for a number of years in land use planning and, more recently, for strategic

and community planning projects. During his time with the Hastings District Council, Ian was involved in the management of a number of emergencies. Most recently he spent two weeks as part of the response and recovery operations related to the heavy rain event that devastated the Hawke's Bay coast after Easter 2011.

Ian is also active as a member of the NZ Army Reserve (Territorial Force) and holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel being posted to Army General Staff, Wellington where he is responsible for the selection and career management of Army Reserve officers. As well as having a number of command appointments, he has attended and instructed at military staff colleges in New Zealand and Canada and has experience in training and exercise



development. He also deployed to the Middle East for 12 months where he served with the United Nations in Israel, Syria and South Lebanon.

Ian says he's looking forward to using both his local government experience and the skills he learnt through the Army to continue to move civil defence forward in Hawke's Bay. ■

New Emergency Management Officer in Central Hawke's Bay

Former police officer **Graham Howse** has been appointed as Central Hawke's Bay's new Emergency Management Officer.



The newly-created position is jointly funded by the Central Hawke's Bay and Hawke's Bay Regional Councils. While on a day to day basis Graeme is based in Waipawa, he is part of the Hawke's Bay CDEM Group office.

His role is to assist the Central Hawke's Bay community in being ready for a civil defence emergency; and in particular working with community groups to improve their ongoing resilience. He also provides advice to the Central Hawke's Bay local Controller during an emergency.

Graeme was with the New Zealand Police for 16 years, the last decade as a police education officer covering all Central Hawke's Bay schools. ■

AUT offers postgraduate diploma in emergency management

As from the first semester 2012, Auckland University of Technology (AUT) will be offering a Postgraduate Diploma in Emergency Management. The 120 point post graduate addition provides a range of options for those who wish to study emergency management at AUT University from undergraduate through to PhD.

Emergency management programmes on offer include Graduate Certificate in Emergency Management, Postgraduate Certificate in Emergency Management, Postgraduate Diploma in Emergency Management, Masters of Emergency Management and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

AUT commenced undergraduate education in emergency management in 2000 and began offering postgraduate programmes in 2008. Students come from a variety of fields where emergency management is undertaken including health, government departments, local government, emergency services, banking, and community development groups. The papers at all levels are delivered by way of online learning enhanced by face to face block courses of three to four days.

During the block courses, students benefit from sessions taken by experts in the field, and from group exercises that build an appreciation of the diverse nature of emergency management. At the postgraduate level international emergency management academics help deliver the block course which provides an important global dimension.

For further information please contact Deborah Spinetto (Faculty Programme Advisor) debra.spinetto@aut.ac.nz phone 09 9219999 ext: 9735.

CD joins community in celebrating 'Safer Napier'



Work that dog! Stan, from the What's the Plan Stan? civil defence school resource, with representatives from other emergency services, in this case, NZ Fire Service and the Coastguard.



Always looking for new and innovative ways of doing things, Napier Civil Defence spread the Get Ready Get Thru message a little differently this year.

A team of two, with the assistance of their loyal volunteers, joined forces with other Napier City Council departments and community organisations to host a "Celebrate Safer Napier" Open Day at Anderson Park on November 19.

The open day saw more than 20 organisations come together all in the name of safety. The New Zealand Police, Fire Service, St John, Red Cross, DHB, Surf Life Saving, Coast Guard, Water Safety NZ, Unison and SPCA to name a few, addressed everything from youth and home safety, to water, emergencies, first aid and general safety.

Napier Civil Defence Manager, Angela Reade, says Celebrate Safer Napier was a great way to push the Get Ready Get Thru message to a wider audience as well as an excellent opportunity to show a united front with other organisations with similar safety messages.

"Combining with other Council departments as well as other organisations was extremely worthwhile," Angela says. "This is the first time Napier Civil Defence has been part of a safety day on such a large scale. Not only did it show that we can

all work together effectively but it showed our community that we care for their safety and urged them to take it seriously."

Celebrate Safer Napier also doubled as a celebration of Napier City Council's International Safe Community accreditation, under the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre. The recently acquired status means the Council has a coordinated focus with key stakeholders involved in community safety, civil defence, crime reduction, injury prevention and healthy well-being across the city.

Feedback from the more than 400 people that attended the open day was positive as was feedback from participating organisations.

"The organisations appreciated the opportunity to get their respective messages across with the hype and buzz of a combined safety day as they may not have had as much impact if they were to go it alone," says Angela.

Celebrate Safer Napier is likely to go ahead next year, perhaps coinciding with the national Get Ready Week in September... Watch this space! ■

Earthquake simulator gets Clutha children ready

More than 200 Clutha children and their families are better prepared for the possibility of a natural disaster after a Clutha District Council public education exercise in early November.

The exercise involved the use of an earthquake simulator, on loan from Emergency Management Southland, to teach children what to do in the event of an earthquake. Clutha District Council Civil

Defence Emergency Management Officer Brendon Smith and Public Information Officer Jamie Shaw also demonstrated what type of items should be included in an emergency survival kit and all children took home checklists to fill out with mum and dad.

The earthquake simulator provided a memorable way for the children to learn about civil defence and what to do in

Clutha District Council Civil Defence Public Information Officer Jamie Shaw puts Rosebank Kindergarten children through the earthquake simulator.

an emergency, but just as importantly it was a useful exercise in getting teachers and parents on board and thinking about potential threats and school/household preparedness. ■



New rescue trailer for NZRT-7

Roger Cliffe, Team Leader of Response Team 7 (NZRT-7) based at Victoria University's Kelburn Campus in Wellington, recently took delivery of the team's new trailer, which was built to Roger's design.

The basic platform is a braked double axle trailer capable of carrying a payload of 1200kg, and is drawn by the University's existing 4WD. The trailer has the same volume capacity as the truck it was designed to replace, so there has been no compromise on the amount of rescue equipment that can be taken on deployments.

In addition, it can also be configured for different needs; for example, first-aid for a sports day, a mobile communications or information centre, or a mobile command centre. Power is provided through mobile

generators and drinking water is supplied by two food-grade 150 litre water tanks built into the chassis. It is therefore both multi-functional and multi-purpose.

Set up time for the trailer has been significantly reduced. Previously the truck took an hour and a half to load, while the new trailer only takes around 20 minutes. This is partly due to a portable 'skeleton shelving' framework which accommodates the team's standard size deployment bins.

NZRT-7, which draws its members from the Victoria Rescue General Team, undertakes various regional deployments for the community as well as further afield, such as in Christchurch earlier this year. It was



in Christchurch that the benefits of such a large equipment transporter became apparent. "If we'd had the trailer then, it would have made our lives a lot easier," said Roger. "As it was we needed three vehicles to carry all our equipment in." ■



Californian school children practice drop, cover and hold during last year's Exercise Shakeout.

New Zealand is gearing up for its biggest ever civil defence emergency management exercise – Exercise ShakeOut on 26 September 2012.



Exercise ShakeOut began in southern California in 2008 as a way of involving the general public in a large-scale emergency management exercise. While the 2008 California ShakeOut was initially conceived as a one-off event, participant demand convinced organisers to develop the ShakeOut into a statewide annual event.

Part of the appeal of ShakeOut is its simplicity. At a minimum, participants practice drop, cover, and hold, the recommended procedure for self-protection in an earthquake. Many schools and other organisations also practice additional aspects of their preparedness plans.

ShakeOut New Zealand will be based on the Southern California model and will consist of a series of events culminating in a nationwide drop, cover and hold drill on 26 September 2012.

The purpose of Exercise ShakeOut is to encourage people and organisations to plan for a major earthquake before it happens, and rehearse the right actions to take when they do. “Get Ready” for an earthquake so you can “Get Thru” safely and recover quickly.

The earthquake exercise is relevant for the whole country regardless of whether people live in a high or low earthquake risk region. With people

travelling for holiday or business it is important that everyone in New Zealand knows what to do during an earthquake, and how to be prepared.

The ShakeOut drop, cover and hold earthquake drill will be held nationwide on Wednesday, 26 September 2012 at 9.26am. Get Ready Week will be moved to coincide with the exercise activities and will be held over the week 23 to 29 September 2012. This will enable CDEM staff to undertake a range of activities at a national and local level to build awareness of the exercise and encourage individual and community participation.

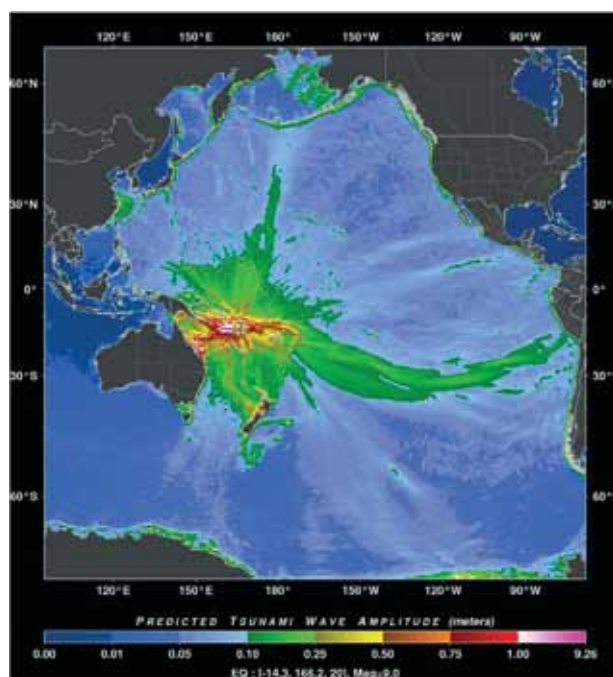
Exercise planning is now underway. A planning team comprising representatives from CDEM Groups and central government agencies have met to establish the aim, objectives and scope of the exercise. A webpage has been established on the MCDEM website to provide information about the exercise. The planning team will send out regular updates via a ShakeOut newsletter (starting next year), and posts on the website (Home > For the CDEM Sector > CDEM Exercises).

If you would like to receive information on how your agency can be involved, along with updates on Exercise ShakeOut planning, please email Anita. Komen@dia.govt.nz or Jo.Guard@dia.govt.nz. ■

Exercise Pacific Wave 11

Exercise Pacific Wave 11 was an international tsunami warning exercise with 36 Pacific Rim countries participating November 9/10, 2011. The exercise was run under the guidance of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

The aim of the exercise was to further improve countries' ability to respond to a tsunami alert and improve regional coordination in the event of a tsunami.



Ten different scenarios were offered to enable all countries to take maximum opportunity from the exercise. Simulated warnings were sent by the Northwest Pacific Tsunami Advisory Centre (Japan), the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (USA), and West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Centre (USA). As a member of the Pacific Tsunami Warning System, New Zealand's warnings originate from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC).

New Zealand participated on 10 November, exercising a scenario based upon an earthquake in the Vanuatu region resulting in a significant tsunami risk for New Zealand, especially our western coastlines. Being responsible for tsunami warnings, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) received the PTWC information, continually assessed it with assistance from tsunami advisors at GNS Science and issued National Tsunami Advisories and Warnings in accordance with these assessments. The advisories and warnings were sent by MCDEM, as per standard procedure, to the thirteen participating regional CDEM Groups and thirteen participating agencies. Communication with the media was simulated in this instance. The information was updated

regularly as better assessments were made, until late afternoon when the exercise ended with a cancellation of all warnings.

Local level CDEM in turn assessed the information provided to determine the need for evacuations and other appropriate response actions. National and local agencies determined their responses in cooperation with MCDEM and local level CDEM.

Under its Pacific Islands Programme (a Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade funded programme to enhance tsunami risk mitigation in five Pacific Island countries) MCDEM also supported Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands with conducting and evaluating the exercise in their own countries.

The PTWC also used the exercise as an opportunity to obtain feedback from member states on experimental products they intend using in the future to enhance the information currently offered. These included wave height and threat level forecasts for specific regions in the Pacific. MCDEM did not use these products in the exercise, however we evaluated them jointly with GNS Science after the exercise to provide our collective feedback to the PTWC. ■

Background

UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) established an International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific in 1965, following the major tsunami of 1960 that hit the coast of Chile and claimed close to 5,000 human lives. The purpose of the Group is to coordinate the ongoing development and enhancement of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Systems and to promote the establishment of national risk assessments, alert and response programmes. New Zealand is a member of this group. Most tsunamis occur in the Pacific Ocean and connected seas. Three catastrophic tsunamis have struck the region recently: Samoa (2009), Chile (2010) and Japan in 2011.

MCDEM in the Pacific

PacWave 11 and the Pacific Tsunami Risk Management Project

The Pacific Rim is the most at-risk part of the world for destructive tsunami. The tragic events that took place in Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga (2009) and Western Province, Solomon Islands (2007) demonstrate how vulnerable Pacific Island countries are to the tsunami threat.

The New Zealand Government, NGOs and the public played a prominent role in the response to and recovery from these events. However, as a responsible neighbour to Pacific Island countries and to complement response and recovery efforts, New Zealand should also support tsunami risk reduction and readiness in the region.

Under a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the



Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management is working alongside the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) of Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau on the Pacific Tsunami Risk Management Project. This project is targeted at reducing tsunami risk and strengthening tsunami readiness in these five countries.

MCDEM is implementing this project through a number of 'Pacific Focal Points'. Focal Points are existing staff who have been appointed to work with NDMOs and regional stakeholders on targeted activities that aim to ensure each country has an effective end-to-end tsunami warning and mitigation system.

Focal Points have recently visited Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands where they assisted in conducting and evaluating Exercise Pacific Wave 2011 (PacWave 11). PacWave 11 enabled Focal Points to do a hands-on assessment of tsunami warning systems and test communications, the receipt and dissemination of warnings and information, standard operating procedures and agency roles and responsibilities.

In Samoa, the exercise included the active



evacuation of a number of villages along the vulnerable south coast of Upolu and Savaii. Under the project MCDem is also currently working with the Samoan Disaster Management Office and the Samoa Fire Service on an automated siren system for at-risk areas that can be activated from Apia when a tsunami warning is received.

In the Cook Islands, where MCDem supported the installation of 40 tsunami evacuation signs in July 2011, tsunami sirens on Rarotonga were activated and communications with the outer islands tested.

For PacWave 11 Tonga selected two scenarios: a local source event from the Tonga Trench and a regional tsunami generated from near Vanuatu. Focal Points worked closely with staff from the Tongan National Emergency Management Office and utilised the exercise to test and evaluate arrangements under the Tonga National Tsunami Plan.

In Niue, which also participated in PacWave 11, MCDem's Focal Point visited post-exercise and conducted an assessment of Niue's warning system, identifying gaps and key priorities. Lessons from



Main picture: In Samoa, the exercise included the active evacuation of a number of villages along the vulnerable south coast of Upolu and Savaii. Villagers assemble at a designated tsunami safe area.

Above: New tsunami signage erected in Samoa.

Left: A memorial to those who lost their lives during the 2009 tsunami event.



PacWave 11 were instrumental in carrying out this assessment.

Findings and evaluations from PacWave 11 visits have provided a valuable contribution to MCDem's Pacific Tsunami Risk Management Project and will help to strengthen end-to-end tsunami warning and mitigation systems in the Pacific. ■

Pacific Wave channelled in different direction

Taranaki CDEM Group Controller David Lean addresses the media conference during the PIM exercise.



November's Exercise Pacific Wave took on a second life when it was adapted for a public information exercise in Taranaki involving journalism students as well as the CDEM Group's Public Information Management (PIM) team.

Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki (WITT) journalism students took on the role of reporters seeking information from the PIM team, which was being fed exercise injects based on Pacific Wave's scenario of a magnitude 8.4 subsea earthquake near Vanuatu.

This meant the PIM team had to cope not only with the internal information management requirements of a developing event, but with a media contingent hungry for news.

The exercise was based at the Taranaki Emergency Management Office (TEMO) in New Plymouth, where the PIM received phone calls and emails from the students and used a WordPress blogging site to post media releases, evacuation maps and other information.

There was also a press conference in front of TEMO featuring the CDEM Group Controller, David Lean, as himself, and Senior Emergency Management Officer Shane Briggs as "Mayor Shane". As well as taking notes during the press conference, the students made video and audio recordings.

Both the PIM team and the WITT journalism class rated the exercise as useful and successful.

"Having to deal with student journalists gave the

exercise a greater air of reality for us, particularly before and during the press conference," says the Taranaki CDEM Group's Public Information Manager, Rusty Ritchie. "For example, they picked up on an inadvertent ambiguity in one media release, which was a good lesson for us.

"After the exercise was completed, we had an opportunity to review the stories the students prepared, which was also valuable."

Feedback from WITT was positive and both sides are keen for regular repeats of such joint exercises, perhaps expanding them into social media channels in future.

Rusty says the exercise also highlighted mostly minor issues in the PIM team's procedures and equipment, all of which are being addressed.

The exercise took place on 16 November, the week after the international Exercise Pacific Wave on 10 November. "We had to delay it to fit in with the WITT timetable, but it was definitely worth the wait."

Taranaki CDEM Group's PIM team includes comms staff from Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth, Stratford and Taranaki District Councils, the Taranaki District Health Board, Powerco and Shell, and a volunteer from a publishing company. ■

Ministry announces welfare review project

Following the Canterbury earthquakes sequence, as well as other recent civil defence experiences such as the Rena grounding, the Napier siege and the Pike River disaster, the decision was made to evaluate existing national arrangements and policies for the delivery of welfare services.

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management is therefore undertaking a specific project aimed at evaluating the current national framework, including the arrangements for integration of welfare delivery with other emergency responses, in the light of the learning from recent events.

The project will result in a set of recommendations to the Director of Civil Defence. This may include adjustments to existing national welfare arrangements and practices if appropriate.

The project will also provide a clear picture of welfare service delivery arrangements following the Canterbury earthquakes as well as the roles, responsibilities and functions of service delivery agencies and the integration between these agencies and other functions in an Emergency Operations Centre.

Particular attention will be given to the arrangements following the February 2011 earthquake, established during a state of national emergency.

In addition, the project will provide comparison between existing national arrangements and those developed by Canterbury. It will also identify strengths and weakness of specific arrangements in the light of newly-gained experiences and their applicability at a national level.

The project will also be informed by a literature review of international welfare arrangements such as the Victorian bushfires and Queensland floods welfare response.

Other literature that will be considered includes all available Canterbury earthquake response debriefs; all relevant legislation that defines agency mandates, roles and responsibilities; current welfare arrangements in all CDEM groups; the MCDEM-commissioned review of the February



Staff undertaking a Welfare Centre training exercise in Thames Coromandel.

22 response; and interviews with identified stakeholders.

Validity of the draft recommendations will be tested in a simulated desk top exercise with a number of CDEM Groups. It is expected that the final report with recommendations will be produced in July 2012.

For all information on this project please contact Ljubica.Mamula-Seadon@dia.govt.nz ■

Southland media well briefed on emergencies



Emergency Management Southland Manager Neil Cruickshank helps Cue TV reporter Sarah Bedford and MoreFM Programme Director Bruce Stewart become familiar with how emergencies are managed in Southland.

Southland media representatives have a better understanding of what they can expect from Emergency Management Southland after receiving a briefing from CDEM personnel last month.

Manager Neil Cruickshank and members of his team met journalists and key station personnel from local radio stations, Cue TV and the regional newspaper.

Aside from providing a valuable chance to meet each other and reinforce existing good relationships, the briefing allowed Emergency Management Southland to update media on the latest research on tsunami risks to Southland.

As a result, the Southland PIM team has arranged to provide all local radio stations with a pre-recorded message from the Controller, to be played in the event of a strong earthquake in the south. It will reinforce the message that people on the coast who feel a very strong quake must move inland or uphill immediately, because a local source tsunami could reach Southland before official warnings can be issued.

A similar message will be broadcast on the local TV station as a ticker across the bottom of the screen.

Arrangements are in place to activate the pre-recorded messages rapidly, thanks to after-hours access protocols that have been agreed between Emergency Management Southland and the media. ■



In other Emergency Management Southland news, the Group is upping its visibility in the community with the first of three sign-written cars being delivered last month. Emergency Management Advisor, Gary Tong pictured in the driving seat, says he's taken a bit of a ribbing about the eye-catching paint job, but it's definitely increased public awareness of CDEM activity.

New water filtration unit put to immediate use

Last year the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group supported a project by a local community organisation, the Sustainable Endeavours Charitable Trust, to build a hydrohub. A hydrohub is a portable water filtration and dispensing unit with a capacity of 750 litres and can deliver 20 litres of filtered water per minute. The Group secured a grant from the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management Resilience Funding Programme and became a key partner in the development of the hydrohub.

It is intended that the unit will provide affordable, high quality drinking water at local events and civil defence emergencies while having minimal impact on the environment.

The official launch took place on Friday 14 October in Tauranga. Little did anyone know the unit would be put to immediate use in an emergency response. Initially deployed to provide drinking water for the volunteers involved in the beach clean-ups in response to the Rena grounding, it is now based at



The hydrohub water treatment trailer on site at the Oiled Wildlife Response Centre in Te Maunga where it is providing clear water for those assisting in the Rena grounding clean-up.

the Oiled Wildlife Response Centre in Te Maunga where it has been used by up to 150 volunteers and staff a day at its peak.

The benefits to the Group are plentiful. In addition to the provision of a mobile water supply in an emergency, the unit also

provides an opportunity to promote the 'Get Ready Get Thru' message, particularly around the need to store water, as well as having the ability to charge mobile phones and other electronic gadgets due to the unit being solar powered. ■

NZ and USA sharing lessons and experiences

In the week of 17-26 September 2011, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) was pleased to host a small delegation of specialists from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), visiting Wellington and Christchurch to learn from the Canterbury earthquakes. The delegation consisted of Doug Bausch, Region VIII Earthquake Specialist; Brooke Buchanan, Region VIII Engineer and Benefit Cost Specialist; Michael Pendergrass, Region VIII Response Planner; and Kimberly Hayward, International Relations Specialist, from FEMA head office.

The delegation spent the first two days

in Wellington learning more about the New Zealand disaster risk management framework, hearing overviews of the Canterbury earthquake sequence, and about the CDEM and community responses in 2010 and 2011. While in Wellington the delegation gave several presentations including catastrophic earthquake planning in Utah, and Exercise ShakeOut planned for Utah in April 2012.

In Christchurch for three days, the delegation were taken through the CBD and residential red zones to see examples of physical damage, and met with CERA officials and Christchurch City Council staff involved in the responses and ongoing

recovery. The Canterbury earthquake sequence is considered a close analogy for a M7.0 earthquake scenario in Utah, affecting Salt Lake City, including liquefaction susceptibility, and the high proportion of unreinforced masonry buildings. The FEMA delegation were particularly interested in the different types of building damage and other impacts to infrastructure in residential areas and the CBD, as well as the social consequences of those impacts. The delegation noted the important lessons to be learned for the international emergency management community from the Canterbury experiences, in response, as well as the ongoing recovery. ■



Stan a hit in the Auckland Santa Parade

On November 27 the Auckland CDEM department participated in the Farmers Santa Parade which was held in Auckland's CBD. A post-parade Santa's Party was held in Aotea Square (just off Queen Street), at which Auckland CDEM personnel and volunteers staffed a display tent and handed out goodie bags to children.

Stan attended the post-parade Santa's Party and was enthusiastically greeted by children, many of whom took a photo opportunity with him.

This was one of five Santa parades the department was involved with in 2011, and

Auckland Civil Defence's 'What's The Plan Stan?' float on Queen Street, during the 2011 Farmers Santa Parade. On the vehicle tray are (left to right) Peter Elliott ('Get Ready Get Thru' TV celebrity), Clive Manley (Manager Auckland CDEM) and Jim Stephens (Central Zone Manager Auckland CDEM).

is one initiative being used in Auckland to promote 'What's The Plan Stan?' to children.

Clive Manley, Auckland CDEM Manager said that we need to use all possible avenues to promote the 'What's the Plan Stan?' programme and educate our children.

"This was a huge team effort for everyone involved," said Clive. "The logistics for events like this are very demanding. At the conclusion of the five parades, the

department will have handed out 20,000 goodie bags, containing an activity book, a balloon and stickers for the children based on 'What's The Plan Stan?' and a 'Get Ready Get Thru' brochure for adults".

The Stan float will be used for school education and other display initiatives during the year. Following the success of 2011, a programme for the participation in 2012 Santa Parades is under way. ■

Hawke's Bay's "Shortest Ever Disaster Movie"

Hawke's Bay Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group have taken a novel approach to helping teach students how to prepare for an emergency. Students were asked to create a film for the "Shortest Ever Disaster Movie" competition, highlighting how to respond in a civil defence emergency. Seven groups from a range of primary and secondary schools took up the challenge, winning prizes ranging from a barbecue to a camera and emergency flash lights.

Hawke's Bay CDEM Co-ordinator Nigel Simpson says the movie making skills of the students were impressive, as was the level of understanding of the hazards present in the region.

"The students showed incredible knowledge of how to prepare for an emergency and what to do if disaster strikes," says Nigel.

The Hawke's Bay CDEM team hopes to build on that knowledge and skill next year and encourage more schools to take part.

"It's a fun way for young people to learn more about the essential skills needed to be prepared when a disaster may strike." ■



Pictured from left to right: Raureka School Principal Greg Riceman; HBRC CD Group Coordinator, Nigel Simpson; winning students' teacher Emma Crawford, winning students Greer Lawson, Olivia Bell, Isabella Jenkins, Lennon Chenery, Henry Hosford; HBRC Chairman, Fenton Wilson; HBRC Community Engagement Co-ordinator, Philippa Green.