Director's Message - John Hamilton

Pandemic planning takes precedence in the civil defence and emergency management sector during May as we participate in Exercise Cruickshank. As you will be aware, this exercise is led by the Ministry of Health and is based on the New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Action Plan (NZIPAP). The exercise aims to consider how best to manage a pandemic in the four operational phases of “Keep it Out”, “Stamp it Out”, “Manage it” and “Recover from It”. For many of us, this will be the first major exercise in which civil defence and emergency management has not been the agency leading the response and recovery activities. It is important therefore to consider the implications for CDEM personnel.

If we have learned anything from our experience in managing other civil defence emergencies, it is the value of planning. Our approach to supporting the Ministry of Health in managing a pandemic in New Zealand should be no different and to me, the start point quickly becomes the NZIPAP. I encourage you to read it cover to cover. It is the result of considerable research and expertise and articulates possible scenarios and responses. It incorporates the best information available to the Ministry of Health and it is the basis for the responses that would be made by the District Health Boards, the Ministry of Health and Government agencies. The NZIPAP forms the basis of New Zealand’s strategic response. In support of the NZIPAP, the CDEM sector’s response is based on the National CDEM Plan, Group Plans and any contingency plans. Our plans to support Health in managing the pandemic have to be based on the approach taken in the NZIPAP in order to prevent our sector from developing concepts and ideas from incorrect assumptions, which could lead to misalignment and in the worst case, a less than adequate response.

The second lesson that we can draw from emergency management is the value of relationships, co-operation and co-ordination. These factors will be just as critical to the successful management of a pandemic and Exercise Cruickshank, perhaps even more so given that we are going into largely unfamiliar territory. We will need to communicate with others supporting the responses activities; ask the dumb questions to ensure understanding and to gain better alignment; and, co-operate to ensure plans and actions are co-ordinated and focused on the same goal.

Exercise Cruickshank is important to New Zealand and our people. It deserves the same level of attention, involvement and commitment from the CDEM sector as we would give to our own exercises, and as we would expect others to give us in support.

John Hamilton
Director

Special Tsunami Medal Awarded

On May 9 Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management Director John Hamilton presented a New Zealand Special Service Medal Tsunami to Shane Bayley for services following the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami in Indonesia.

Shane, then Taranaki Regional Council Emergency Management Officer, was deployed to Banda Aceh, in Sumatra, as part of the multi-national United Nations Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination (UNDAC) team on December 29, 2004.
“I signed my contract on Christmas Eve and got the call from the UN on December 29. I didn’t even have my mission kit yet.

“Our role was to support the national government by co-ordinating incoming international aid and making assessments so information could be compared,” says Shane.

The New Zealand Special Service Medal Tsunami was instituted in December 2005 to recognise New Zealanders who were involved in rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts in areas devastated by the December 26 2004 earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the resulting tsunami.

“It especially recognises the extreme and hazardous circumstances associated with the environmental, biological, physical and psychological circumstances encountered in the wake of this event,” says John Hamilton.

“Shane’s deployment to Banda Aceh has been recognised by the United Nations and some of the work he did has led to revised policies in a number of areas.

“Shane continues to be an active member of the NZ UNDAC Team and we thank him and his employer, Horizons Regional Council, for the service Shane provides.”

To find out more information about tsunami and what to do in the event of a tsunami please go to www.getthru.govt.nz.

Copies of Impact still available

Due to the popularity of the revised Impact we have commissioned another print run so let us know how many copies you would like.

In this issue:
   Messages Getting Through
   Sth Island Minister's Forum
   Police Praise for Taupo Response Team
   Lahar
   MCDEM Specialist Services
   National CDEM Strategy 2007 Update
   and much more!

The next issue is set down for July and contributions are welcome. Send to jo.seddon@dia.govt.nz

Reinforcing Emergency Preparedness Messages

The Minister of Civil Defence, the Hon Rick Barker and Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM) staff visited the Kapiti Coast on May 1 to reinforce the emergency preparedness messages.

The Minister visited a teacher training workshop at the Kapiti Coast Council Chambers, which is part of MCDEM’s What’s the Plan Stan? initiative. The workshop is one of several being run around the country.
Last year workshops were run in 15 main centres and this year additional workshops have been held in Kapiti, Wanganui, Masterton, Rotorua and Whakatane. Further workshops will be run in Gisborne, Auckland, Blenheim this week and Timaru on Tuesday.

“This is a valuable opportunity for teachers to support and facilitate the application of this wonderful resource in schools,” Rick Barker said.

The resource ties in closely with MCDEM’s public education campaign, “Get Ready Get Thru”.

“The ‘Get Ready Get Thru’ campaign urges every New Zealander to take the steps to be better prepared,” he said.

“The message is simple – all individuals and communities have a responsibility to look after themselves and their loved ones for at least three days or more until help can get to them.”

MCDEM public education manager Chandrika Kumaran said, “The Ministry would like to acknowledge the support we have had from civil defence staff to help us organise the workshops.

“Their presence at the workshops has been invaluable and the participants have appreciated the opportunity to meet their local civil defence staff and discuss local arrangements.”

Rick Barker also visited the construction site for the Kapiti Coast Council’s new Emergency Management Office in Paraparaumu. He was impressed by the scale and sustainability of the new premises, which incorporates state of the art building materials, is built to withstand earthquake and tsunami, but is also environmentally friendly in reusing wastewater. The building is set to open next month.

CDEM Professional Development

Controller Survey

We want to know our Controllers better! As a target audience analysis exercise, the survey form attached below is a vehicle for the Professional Development team to capture data on the Controller community. This will ultimately help us to help you.

Anyone holding the position of Group or Local Controller (or alternate Group/Local Controller) is invited to complete the form and send it back to us by 30 June 2007. This information will only be used to assist us in developing a profile of current Controllers and the identification and design of professional development opportunities for Controllers.

You can complete the form electronically (ie: save a copy to your computer and type in the fields) and email it back, or you can print the form off and fax or post it back. Details of where to send it back to are provided on the form.

Controller Survey

Printable Controller Survey

Controller Professional Development Workshop

On 28 & 29 June the Professional Development team and Operations Manager Mike O'Leary will facilitate a needs analysis workshop with a small group of representatives from the Controller community. The aim of this workshop is to take a look at what good performance looks like in the role of Controller and discuss suitable training interventions
and necessary workplace support for effective operation in this role. The re-development of the Controller's manual will also be discussed. If you have any comments on the Controllers Manual and would like to submit them for consideration please email them to alex.tait@dia.govt.nz

Vacancy to become a New Zealand member of the United Nations Disaster Assessment & Coordination (UNDAC) Team

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management on behalf of the New Zealand Government, is seeking to strengthen its international disaster contribution to United Nations by appointing a new United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Team member. The selected candidate will undertake UNDAC Induction training in October 2007.

NOTE: Application forms and information about the selection process will be available on the 'situations vacant' page of the MCDEM website www.civildefence.govt.nz until 5pm 28 May 2007.

NZ Response Teams

The annual team conference is now six weeks away and has been confirmed for 30 June/1 July at Victoria University of Wellington. The weekend will be a fantastic opportunity for all organisations to meet, build relationships and discuss issues. A draft agenda will be sent out closer to the time.

Travel and accommodation costs will not be supported by the Ministry this year. This year’s conference is expected to be the largest yet so this has meant costs have increased to a point where we are no longer able to provide the same level of relative support as previous years.

Please fill in the attached form and send to Ian Wilson Ian.Wilson@dia.govt.nz by 1 June to confirm your attendance.

Nomination Form (doc 76kB)

SMART Close to Registration

The Southland Multi-Agency Response Team (SMART) is very close to registration and is looking to get things under way in June. The team is made up of both CDEM and ambulance staff and will be the first registration south of Christchurch. Development of the team has been methodical and has created a committed team that wish to join their peers as an NZ-RT.

As the third CDEM Group in the South Island to have registered a team, Southland has been able to leverage off the skills and experience of Canterbury and Nelson-Tasman. The CDEM Group is to be congratulated in taking the system and adapting it for its situation.

NZ Red Cross ERUs continue to strengthen

The New Zealand Red Cross Emergency Response Units (ERUs) are teams that are established in a similar manner to registered response teams. They are focused at supporting their communities through the delivery of first aid, community welfare and other functions during emergencies. All of the ERUs also aim to receive their USAR Orange Cards, which provides their members with the skills to respond competency in emergencies.
The East West Region (which spans Taranaki, Manawatu, Wanganui and Hawke's Bay) have been particularly successful in developing their ERUs. The region now has three teams that are preparing to register.

**Search Dog CREP**

The NZ USAR Search Dog Association held New Zealand’s 7th Canine Readiness Evaluation Process (CREP) in Christchurch during April. Dog teams Brenda Wooley/Milo and Linda Pike/Easy have passed Basic level.

Thanks to Graham Joseph and Brenda Woolley for coordinating the weekend for the handlers that attended.

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And finally, a bit of light relief….

**Be world famous… in the NCMC**

Anyone that's ever been in the national crisis management centre will know - with all due respect - that it can be a bit of a depressing place, and has some fairly questionable 'art' on the walls. A redecoration is planned for later in the year, but in the meantime we're going to update some of the display areas and wall space to make the place a bit brighter.

The idea is to get photographs of you, the sector, in interesting places around the country. These would be blown up to a decent size and framed or mounted, with a caption explaining who/where. It's more interesting, relevant... and potentially amusing. And it should remind everyone why we're here and what we're doing - much better than a generic 'landscape' poster.

The style we're thinking of is those 'iconic New Zealand' photographs you see – Mildred standing in front of her dairy, Bruce standing in front of his tractor, etc, very much 'people pictures', but with landmarks or events of local significance. And of course, you, rather than Mildred or Bruce.

So we would like to invite you all to submit photos! There must be lots of great photos out there, from past events, courses or field trips… and if not, if you’re out and about in the next 4 weeks, maybe you could take one for us? Don’t be shy!

We would like to get coverage from all over the country, and from lots of different organisations. This would be for the wider sector - from the EMO to local government to health to emergency services to lifelines – anyone and everyone.

Format – electronic or film. The only requirement is that they have to be fairly high resolution so we can get them blown up.

Please send any submissions (or questions) to jo.horrocks@dia.govt.nz by Friday 1st June

If you have anything to add to next month’s E-Bulletin contact Jo Seddon with your submissions.