



impact

Volume 31 ▲ September 2008

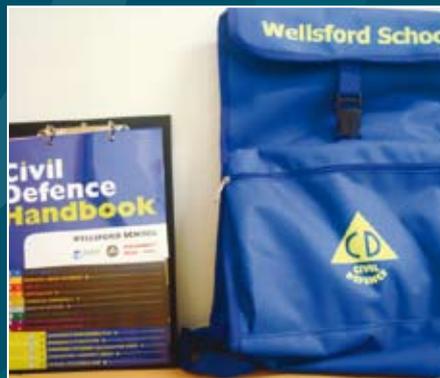


Weather wreaks havoc on infrastructure P6

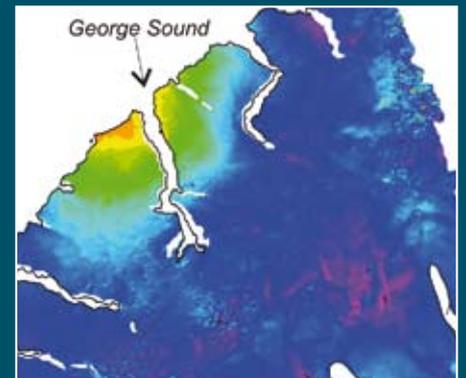
In this Issue

STAKEHOLDER SURVEY 2008

Director's comments - P3



CDEM school initiatives - P4



Keeping an eye on hazards - P9



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

Published by

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

Enquiries

Adrian Prowse
emergency.management@dia.govt.nz

Contributors

Sarah Stuart-Black
Kiri Maxwell
Colleen Sheldon
Brennan Wiremu
Naomi Woodham
Donna Roberts
Chris Schraders
Annie Petersen
Chandrika Kumaran
Jo Horrocks
Ljubica Mamula-Seadon

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

www.getthru.govt.nz

www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz



MESSAGE FROM John Hamilton



No room for complacency

We live in uncertain times and have no way of forecasting accurately when a disaster or emergency might strike one of our communities; hence our strategy of generating greater resilience.

It is an effective way of ensuring communities of all shapes and sizes understand what confronts them, how they might be better prepared and better able to cope with what nature throws at them.

In the last few months I have had the opportunity to attend international gatherings of emergency managers in both Peru and Australia. While I am not ever going to advocate complacency, it is reassuring to use these gatherings to compare our progress with that of others and to find that we in New Zealand have made great progress.

It goes without saying that we can never stop preparing or improving and there are many initiatives that deserve our attention. I applaud the work that is being done in generating resilient communities, in delving into vulnerabilities in some critical infrastructure, and in generating greater public awareness and better preparation.

I have found that our four Rs philosophy is not always replicated in other jurisdictions. Too many, I think, are forced to concentrate on the response element and struggle to make progress in risk reduction and readiness, which if neglected, will result in the need for far greater effort and investment in response and recovery. Again, there is no room for complacency. We too need to make sure we continue to work and invest in risk reduction and readiness.

In this issue the results of the latest survey of preparedness are explained. While I am pleased that the campaign is resulting in improved levels of preparedness, the survey also indicates areas that need addressing.

The results show that we need to apply more educational effort to

We too need to make sure we continue to work and invest in risk reduction and readiness

migrant communities and those in the less wealthy areas to ensure they understand the risks their communities face and to encourage them to do something about being better prepared. I feel this task will not be accomplished through the national programme alone. But it will work through the direct engagement at community level, a task which is going to fall on the shoulders of council staff.

At the operational level, work continues to develop the competency framework through which I can be assured that staff involved in CDEM have access to training and qualifications that match their responsibilities. In a similar vein, good progress is being made on developing the monitoring and evaluation system; another assurance mechanism through which I can assure the Government that members of CDEM Groups have the right processes and capacities in place to meet their CDEM responsibilities.

I do not see these projects as sticks. I see them as essential enablers helping us to back up the intuitive feeling that we are doing well with hard facts and figures. The results will remind us that we serve our communities and have their interests at heart. We could all rest if we could confidently say that our communities are resilient and ready. But we know they are not...yet. ▲

STAKEHOLDER SURVEY 2008: the good, the bad and the ugly

Ministry Director, John Hamilton, comments on results from the recent MCDEM stakeholder survey.

One of the Ministry's key objectives is supporting the civil defence emergency management (CDEM) sector in meeting its responsibilities under the Act and facilitating the introduction of initiatives that reduce risk, and improve readiness, response and recovery.

This process is extensive and changes from year to year. We are therefore keen to understand what the sector perceives we are doing well (the good), where we could improve (the bad) and the areas that might be regarded as misfits (the ugly). So each year we conduct a stakeholders survey.

Previous surveys were limited to local authority representatives. The 2008 survey, which was conducted in the first two weeks of June, was widened in its scope to include 156 stakeholders from all parts of the CDEM sector, including local and central government, emergency services and lifeline utilities. The survey was also re-designed to improve its sample selection, to make it available online and to make the information more useful.

Of the 156 approached to take part in the survey, 82 responded to at least some of the questions. The results are comprehensive and I am aware that my summary below risks over simplification.

Around 64% of stakeholders surveyed said they were "satisfied" with MCDEM's performance over the past year. A further 11% said they were "very satisfied" – so a total of 75% of stakeholders were satisfied with the Ministry's performance. Absolutely no one said our performance over the past year was worse than the previous year. Half of respondents said the Ministry's performance was "better" than last year, and a further 13% said it was "much better."

Engagement is a critical part of working successfully in the sector. A total of 78% said they were either "very satisfied" (26%) or "satisfied" (53%) with how often MCDEM had engaged with them.

Nevertheless, communication (43%) and networking (29%) were identified as the most common areas for improvement followed by service quality. Interestingly though, 24% of all survey respondents said there was no improvement necessary.

In addition, two of the thirteen comments received noted that performance around engagement could have been better, or that they had not yet seen true benefits from increased engagement:

"There is a recognition that they need to do better in their overall relationship with the sector and there appears to be a genuine effort to do something about this but it is not always successful."

"Some good staff. Much engagement. But not yet resulting in cohesive good performance."

Some respondents want MCDEM to work on its public visibility, consult with "practitioners," be aware of the role of groups outside the government sector and closely monitor the CDEM Groups.

Respondents were asked if they agreed that "MCDEM has successfully identified weaknesses or gaps in the CDEM sector." Around 44% of question respondents "agreed" with this statement, some 28% were neutral/non-committal to this statement and 21% "disagreed". This shows general support for MCDEM's present direction but not strong support. MCDEM still has much work to do in this area.

While stakeholders from territorial authorities are generally satisfied, they also indicated they are not as satisfied with support for professional development (average score 56%), and the clarity of criteria for financial support (average 50%).

Two professional development comments related to updating the RAPID package and two exhorted MCDEM to continue to improve professional development. One respondent wanted us to increase consultation to find out what training recipients actually wanted. I hope the current round of workshops go some way to addressing this.

Thirteen comments related to MCDEM's support of the CDEM sector. Seven had something to say about the criteria for financial support. Comments tended to focus on the fact that funding criteria were difficult to understand:

"This is the one area that I believe needs to be improved. Funding support is very important yet the criteria for funding applications are unclear."

[government financial support] "is

being worked through by our corporate accountant as we speak and he is finding it a tad difficult to follow. Would be good if there was some kind of education package on this issue."

There was also comment on the amount of financial support available:

"The pro rata of available funding hurts a council of our size."

"Emergencies cause severe distress to impacted community. Government should be prepared to pay more on the private costs which LAs traditionally do not cover."

And there was also comment on the complexity of funding issues:

"financial support - always problematic - while some things are very clear there are always unique circumstances that require judgement/recommendations e.g. special policy. I think one of the failings is the collection of information by the councils so that claims can be processed more easily."

Response and recovery costs will always be an issue as politicians apply political pressure to obtain central government funding. Operational staff are clear on the cost recovery; those that have little to do with it have at times poor understanding that leads to bad assumptions.

Although 13 of the local government respondents were "satisfied" with the clarity of criteria for government financial support, ten were outright negative and another eight were "neither satisfied nor unsatisfied". Although this survey sample is small, it does suggest that improving funding clarity would benefit MCDEM's relationships.

Now what?

The survey has given me a very good impression of the areas that need to be addressed. I intend to work with staff to formulate strategies for better supporting the CDEM sector with its responsibilities. I expect the answers will involve a combination of "soft" and "hard" measures. The soft elements will be critical and include our attitudes and our willingness to engage, listen and collaborate. But make no mistake; we are all in the same team with the same focus. We just need to work better together to improve things for New Zealand communities. ▲



Auckland region Emergency Management Office grand opening

The Auckland region Emergency Management Office recently celebrated its grand opening.

Many attended the launch of the new facility and to pay tribute to the late Councillor Neil Morrison who was instrumental in initiating the work on the facility in 2006. The conference room was named after Mr Morrison acknowledging his passion for emergency management in the Auckland region.

Many people have been involved in creating the facility, which allows the region to better respond to the risks posed by Auckland's hazards. Minister of Civil Defence, Rick Barker, commended the work done by the Auckland Group in setting innovative benchmarks for the rest of the country.

Left to right: Harry O'Rourke (Group Controller), Russell Croker, Ben Stallworthy, Minister Rick Barker, Gabrielle Morrison, Greg Morrison, Cr. Derek Battersby (Chair Auckland CDEMG)

"We should all be committed to making our citizens and communities safer. Our aim is to build a resilient and safer New Zealand with communities understanding and managing their hazards and risks," he said.

"This vision can only be achieved if we have participation and commitment at all levels. This GEOC is testament to the Auckland CDEM Group's commitment to this vision, as was the long-term leadership of Neil Morrison as chair. It is fitting that the new conference room be named after him. Congratulations to all involved." ▲

EQC WINS AD AWARD

This eye-catching community newspaper advertisement recently won the 2008 Newspaper Advertising Bureau advertisement of the year.

Created by advertising agency M&C Saatchi for the Earthquake Commission (EQC), the ad was designed to draw attention to New Zealand's vulnerability to natural disasters, highlight the role of EQC and encourage people to check that they have adequate insurance.



Evacuation reporting centres established in Rodney District schools

Using the Ministry of Education's Worksafe at Schools programme as a starting point, Rodney District Council worked with 34 local primary schools to develop civil defence evacuation reporting centres.

The Worksafe at Schools programme seeks to ensure the safety of students and staff at school during a civil defence emergency and to help the wider local community during a civil defence emergency as part of a response coordinated by the local authority. The work was completed by Rodney District Council's Emergency Management and Volunteers Support Officer, Donna Roberts.

Schools have been provided with information packs outlining the partnership between themselves and Rodney District Council civil defence in the event of an emergency requiring residents to evacuate their homes. As all communities have a



primary school with good facilities and resources, they were considered the best option for the development of evacuation reporting centres.

The purpose of each evacuation reporting centre is to provide a secure facility for evacuees to report to when evacuating. Radio communication links between each school and the Rodney Emergency Operations Centre have been established. Families can be reunited at the school and registered prior to permanent accommodation



arrangements being made if needed.

Rodney primary schools have strongly supported this project and have been reassured and encouraged in knowing that their school can function as normal during an emergency situation with assistance from civil defence.

Resources supplied by Rodney District Council civil defence to each of the schools included emergency CD handbook flip charts and grab bags (pictured above) and radio equipment. The flip charts

Research shows Auckland's not Ready to Get Thru

The Auckland CDEM Group has seized upon recent research to drive home the need for Aucklanders to be prepared for disaster. The results, from a Colmar Brunton report into the effectiveness of the national Get Ready, Get Thru advertising campaign, showed Auckland was below the national average in all eight measures used to detect how ready a region is for an emergency.

The report found that nearly 60% of Aucklanders were not sufficiently prepared for a natural disaster and only 35% of people in Auckland had an emergency plan in place for their household compared with the national average of 50%.

Harry O'Rourke, Group Controller for Auckland Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group said that a resilient community meant people taking responsibility.

"Many people think that we are never going to face an emergency situation in Auckland," said Mr O'Rourke. "Yet this winter we have seen flooding and extreme weather hit the entire country.

"The Auckland Region Civil Defence

Emergency Management staff have been actively involved in assisting over 100 people to evacuate 50 homes across the region because of landslips. Emergencies come in all shapes and sizes, from the simple power off for a limited time, to the large scale evacuation incidents which necessitate major community disruption.

"The possibility of an emergency, whether that be caused by the weather, a volcanic eruption or man made disaster should never be dismissed."

The survey also revealed that Aucklanders, who say that being prepared is important, but who are not ready themselves, are more likely to attribute this is to laziness or complacency than elsewhere in the country.

"In Auckland we have some world class resources including the provision of emergency operation centres with the ability to communicate during major power outages.

"We also have experienced and trained emergency management personnel available 24/7 to help manage emergency situations, but we do not have a secret army at our disposal. Aucklanders need to ensure that they have some preparation put in place."

For more information, visit www.getthru.govt.nz ▲



are supplied for every classroom and are personalised for each school. They provide quick reference information on how to manage any emergency situation including trauma at school.

Civil defence grab bags have likewise been supplied for each classroom for use in fire drills and to take on camps. Bags contain basic survival items for each class. Each school has a radio pack which includes a base unit and two hand held radios. Schools are encouraged to use the radios for in-house communication purposes and to assist with practical communication studies.

Signs are fixed to the school hall to advise members of the public where to assemble and road signs are placed on posts at the entrance of each school or on road corners to direct public to the school. For more information on this initiative, contact Donna Roberts on 09 4265169. ▲

WHAT TO DO WHEN DISASTER STRIKES?

Students at Turaki Primary School in Taumarunui tried to answer this question when they held a civil defence exercise based upon how we react to the effects of an earthquake.

Students were thrust into the roles of police, St Johns ambulance, fire service and incident co-ordination. They showed tremendous leadership under trying circumstances and were a credit to themselves and the school.

Working through the scenario demonstrated that school processes would support the health and safety of the staff and pupils during an emergency, with only a little tweaking required.

The school enjoyed support from the NZ Fire Service, NZ Police and St Johns Ambulance Service – all co-ordinated by Ruapehu DC Emergency Management Coordinator, Annie Petersen.

Pupils were pleased with the outcome and would like to thank all who supported Mrs Simpson and Mrs Petersen to make the exercise a success. ▲

DISASTER AWARENESS WEEK '08 5-11 October 2008

Every year the UN organises a World Disaster Reduction Campaign culminating with International Disaster Reduction Day, second Wednesday of October. In New Zealand, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, working in collaboration with Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups around the country, promotes Disaster Awareness Week; a week of activities aimed at raising awareness of hazards and the need to be prepared.

In addition to an intensive national television and radio advertising campaign, messages will be further emphasized by the screening of a docu-drama, *Aftershock* during primetime viewing on TV3. We have also worked with The Warehouse with an ad encouraging people to "get your emergency survival items now" appearing in their weekly mailer. Details on the activities planned at national and regional level can be viewed on the Public Education page at www.civildefence.govt.nz ▲



Weather bombs roads

Two deluges, just three weeks apart, resulted in Hurunui District Council activating its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) – not once, but twice!

The first activation occurred July 30 – August 1. There were widespread road and bridge closures halting traffic across many parts of the Hurunui and along SH1 between the Hurunui's southern borders through to Blenheim. Numerous residents in the southern part of the district began self-evacuating as water started seeping into their homes.

Amberley is the “capital” of the Hurunui District and is the location of the Council’s main office and EOC. Surface flooding surrounded the EOC. Most of the council’s Christchurch-based staff were not able to join in the response for the first 24 hours due to flood waters closing road access from the south. Nearby coastal settlements of Amberley Beach and Leithfield Beach were severely affected by flooding and a precautionary evacuation of Amberley Beach was necessary as high tide loomed. Luckily the stop banks held...just.

On termination of the response, news began to filter in that there

was significant damage to farms in the northern township of Cheviot. In the 12 months prior to the storm weather, Hurunui district had been suffering a severe drought. Too much rain ironically created a most unwelcome contrast in conditions. Ongoing drought relief efforts by North Canterbury Rural Support Trust meant they were quickly on the ground assessing farm damage and needs resulting from the weather bomb. It was estimated that at least two to three months of intensive labour would be required to repair damage caused by the rains and that was on top of drought problems, nassella tussock management and the imminent lambing and calving season. The outlook was very gloomy for many farmers.

In a further cruel twist of nature, a second weather bomb brought another deluge of rain on the district August 25-26. Evacuation action plans were developed but thankfully not initiated. Self-evacuation did occur in some areas as homes were flooded – some for a second time.

Drinking water supply networks were disrupted during the July deluge and in the second down-pour the entire Cheviot town supply

Speed limit, 100 km/hr... yeah right! Garty's Road, south of Amberley, one of many roads badly flooded during recent severe weather.

was halted as part of the main line was washed away by a swollen river. Implementing an emergency drinking water supply plan resulted in the delivery of water courtesy of charitable support from Fonterra and Springfresh NZ Ltd.

The surface flooding is now evaporating although some areas are still under water. Insurance companies, government agencies and voluntary organisations continue to assist those whose homes were ravaged by flood waters. The council’s utilities staff are continuing repair work on damaged roads, bridges and water schemes. The efforts of a rural support team also dominate the council’s recovery phase - operations which are expected to last until the end of the year. This work includes the coordination of volunteers, periodic detention groups, and Enhanced Task Force Green workers to assist with clean-up of flood damaged farms.

Meanwhile it’s business as usual for Hurunui District Council. ▲



Engineers survey the damage on what used to be Cathedral Road near Gore Bay. The road will almost certainly need to be re-routed.



Significant structural damage to the Leamington Fitz Bridge on the Leamington Road near Cheviot. This occurred during the first flood and it still remains closed.



A culvert blow-out that also took out the road (a common sight around the district unfortunately) on Motunau Beach Road. Residents of the small fishing village experienced a double whammy losing water as well as access for several days.



An aerial shot of the State Highway 1 over bridge and adjacent rail bridge spanning the Waipara River in flood.

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS IN CANTERBURY

July and August were exciting and exhausting months for Emergency Management in Canterbury, as a series of record-breaking storms affected parts of the region.

The first storm struck hard across the country, especially the North Canterbury districts of Kaikoura, Hurunui, Waimakariri and Selwyn. The storm brought heavy rains to coastal hills and plains, and huge swells to exposed coastal areas. State Highway 1, the inland scenic route and the main trunk railway line were all closed for a considerable period.

“The first storm tested our response systems and capabilities. North Canterbury local authorities and emergency services did an exceptional job responding to the emergency with support from elsewhere in the region being coordinated by regional-level agency managers” Jon Mitchell, Canterbury Regional Emergency Management Office Manager, said.

“Lessons learnt from the event at the regional-level include the need to further enhance coordination across agencies through the Group ECC, and to ensure that relief resources made available during response are taken into account in local action planning to ensure that local volunteers are not overcommitted.”

In August, just as North Canterbury districts were drying out and gearing up for the annual Emergency Management Exercise, Exercise Pandora, another storm brought almost 500 mm of rain in two days.

“By the time that second storm hit, we were at a higher state of readiness. Most involved felt more confident, connected and supported in their roles during the August event,” Jon said. “The major gains in responding to the second storm were improved understandings of the respective roles and responsibilities of local authorities in emergency management mode, use of the Group ECC and the functioning of the newly-formed New Zealand Transport Agency outside of a declared state of emergency.” ▲

Prevention is better than cure

Recent bad weather caught many Horowhenua residents unprepared prompting a major maildrop.

When a severe storm hit the Horowhenua District in late August, many residents were left unprepared to spend up to six days without power. Residents were warned to stay at home as winds gusted at 120km per hour and power was out as trees and power poles were blown over.

Supermarkets ran out of torches and batteries, and stocks of bottled water ran low. Some farmers frantically scrambled trying to obtain a generator so they could milk their cows, and many residents were without telephone access as newer phones only work when power is on.

Horowhenua District Council's Emergency Management Officer Brent Fanning said educating the public was high on his list of priorities in his everyday work.

"It's great to see the public being prepared. It's like insurance. You might not have a disaster but if it happens, at least you've got a means to get through it and back on your feet."

Two weeks after the storm, the Council took the opportunity to have more than 13,000 Get Ready Get Thru brochures delivered to every letterbox throughout the District.

"We wanted to strike while the iron was hot. Quite a few people had been caught out and we are keen to see our community safe, particularly when our towns are separated by long stretches of road and are quite remote in times of emergency."

The information supplied by the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management advises people to have at least three days supply of important items. In rural areas of Horowhenua, a five to six day supply was encouraged as it isn't just power failures that play havoc. In January, flood waters isolated several communities and in one area the approach to a bridge was washed away.



Cole Hawkings assists with the delivery of more than 13,000 Get Ready, Get Thru brochures to Horowhenua residents reminding them of the need to prepare for natural disasters like severe weather.

The Council learned that leaving messages on answer phones did not necessarily mean the message was getting through as phone lines, power and cell phone towers were down. A radio telephone was dropped into the area and members of the community kept in touch with each other and advised the Council regularly of any changes to the situation.

With food storage issues, boil-water notices and lack of access to the website during an emergency, the Council has started collating a list of mobile phone numbers. These have included managers of food outlets and school principals.

The District's libraries have up-to-date display stands with fire and civil defence information. The Horowhenua Neighbourhood Support coordinator, with a group network of more than 3000 members and growing, has civil defence brochures in their information packs. Mr Fanning said the link with Neighbourhood Support and its involvement in the community had opened up a vital information-sharing network. He has continued to educate groups and organisations on the necessity of being prepared.

"In some cases, they really need to wake up and realise that it's going to happen. We had a couple of warnings. People think they don't need to be prepared because the emergency services will save them. We keep plugging away at the message and hope that some of them take it on board."

Joining neighbourhood support, having a survival kit and having an old telephone are a good start, he said. ▲

Keeping an eye on hazards

Karen Joyce, Sergey Samsonov and Phil Glassey, GNS Science

In the event of a natural hazard or disaster, some of the most important questions asked by emergency management specialists relate to the location and extent of affected areas. For example, following an earthquake emergency managers may require information about ground deformation, either uplift or subsidence, as this can influence response decisions.

This type of information can be extracted from analysis of satellite or airborne imagery of land and sea targets displaying physical changes over time. Both satellite and airborne imagery have provided valuable information about natural hazards in the past, and are relied upon internationally for mapping the effects of flooding, volcanic eruptions, cyclones and bushfires.

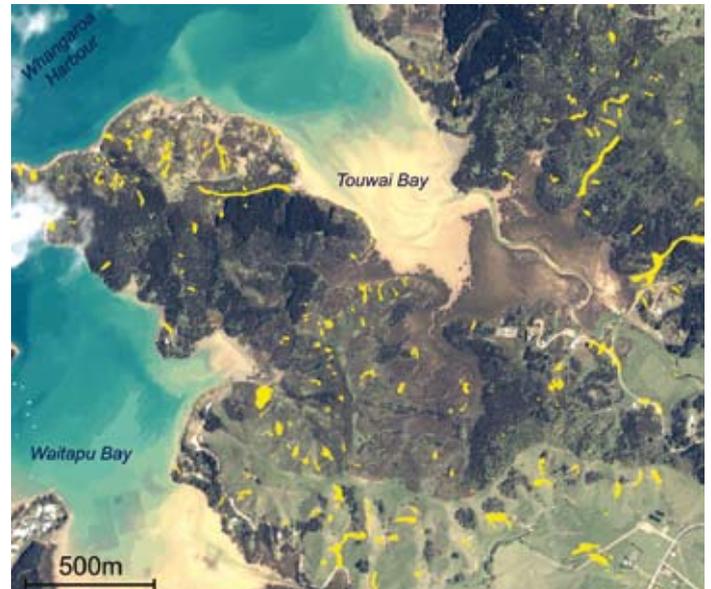
GNS Science is currently developing procedures for the rapid acquisition and analysis of satellite data in order to provide timely intelligence to emergency managers during a natural disaster. Already, data has been acquired and processed to map thousands of landslides over an extensive area near Kaeo in Northland (2007); the Mt Ruapehu lahar (2007); and the Manawatu floods (2004). In addition, satellite thermal imagery has been used to observe temperature fluctuations in the Mt Ruapehu crater lake pre and post eruption (September 2007).

Specialised imagery has also been used to detect surface deformations associated with the George Sound and Gisborne earthquakes (2007), Mt Ruapehu eruption (2007) and the deformations occurring at the geothermal fields of the Taupo Volcanic Zone. Data was also used to detect ground deformations occurring around Auckland city.

GNS is continuing to acquire baseline image data over New Zealand to be used in post-disaster damage assessments, and is poised to collect imagery of any significant hazard event in the future. Assisting with this, the Ministry of Environment has made available to government organisations satellite imagery of the whole country. In addition, the Kiwimage initiative is an agreement between many government organisations and educational institutions in New Zealand intending to capture very high resolution imagery for all of the country and has a contingency fund to acquire new imagery following a disaster.

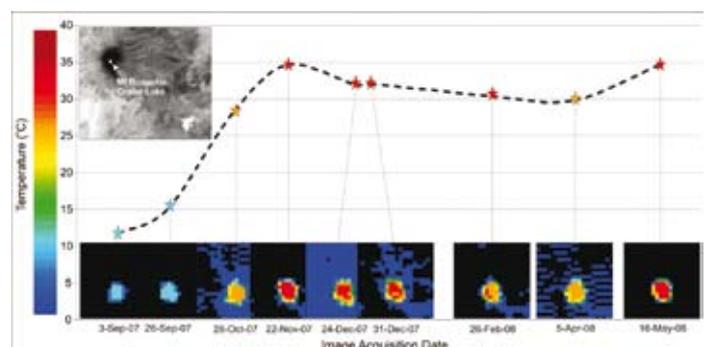
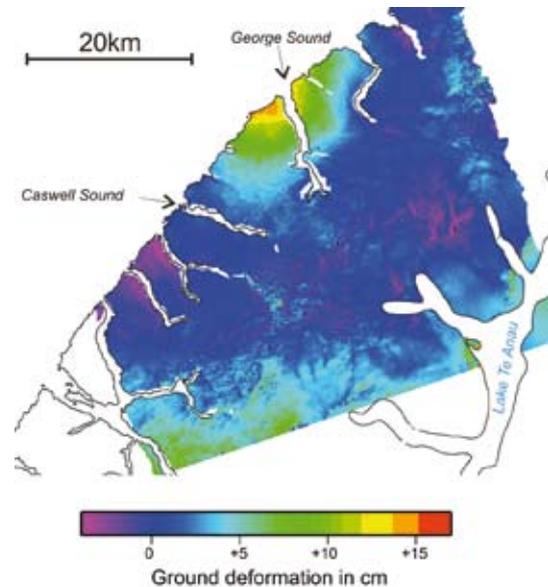
Work still needs to be done to ensure timely capture and analysis of data to provide information useful in an emergency situation. GNS is interested in continuing to develop collaborations with CDEM stakeholders and geospatial specialists both nationally and internationally to make this happen. Please feel free to contact Karen Joyce (k.joyce@gns.cri.nz) to discuss current and future hazard assessment initiatives. ▲

Right: Time series of Mt Ruapehu crater lake temperatures derived from the ASTER satellite sensor. Subset images of the crater lake are shown at the base of the figure. The background thermal image was acquired on 31 Dec 2007 (imagery provided courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech, 2007/08)



Above: Landslides in Northland mapped using IKONOS satellite imagery acquired 20 Oct 2007 (imagery © GeoEye 2007)

Below: Ground surface deformations associated with the George Sound earthquake (2007) show significant uplift in the affected area. (Derived from ALOS-PALSAR imagery that was used with the permission of JAXA/METI and Geoscience Australia)



Exercise Ruaumoko: final report released



The final report on Exercise Ruaumoko was signed off by the Officials' Committee for Domestic and External Security Coordination (ODESC) and Cabinet, and released 1 September by the Minister of Civil Defence.

The report highlights the key lessons learned as a result of the exercise and makes a number of recommendations to address areas of vulnerability. An action plan will be developed to implement the recommendations of the report, but a wide range of work is already underway both in Auckland and nationally as a direct result of the exercise.

Exercise Ruaumoko was a valuable learning experience for all concerned. There were major achievements in the preparatory phase that would not have occurred without the context of the exercise. In some respects the exercise scenario took CDEM into new territory as it called for planning and preparedness rather than response, and planning in uncertain conditions and across many new and varied aspects.

It successfully tested extant all-of-nation arrangements for responding to an emergency by practising the roles, responsibilities and procedures that are included in the National CDEM Plan. It enabled staff at all levels to practise and develop planning and the management of response activities using the connections and procedures that are in place, and it highlighted areas for future improvement.

The Ministry Director, John Hamilton, commented that "Ruaumoko would not have been possible without the huge commitment of organisations and the individual leadership of key people within organisations to assist with the delivery of the exercise – a huge thank you to all involved."

The report can be downloaded from the MCDEM's website: www.civildefence.govt.nz

KEY OBSERVATIONS OF THE RUAUMOKO REPORT

- The exercise illustrated that Auckland is critical to the New Zealand economy, but also the vulnerability of key elements of its infrastructure.
- We now have a much better understanding of the issues involved in the mass evacuation of an urban area, in a New Zealand context. These issues now need to be addressed in effective operational plans.
- In planning for large-scale events it is critical to ensure that assumptions, sequencing and co-ordinating factors are understood and worked through by all agencies involved.
- The health, welfare and transport sectors demonstrated increased levels of capability, having benefited from the cumulative effect of recent planning efforts and previous exercises.
- The exercise provided another powerful indication

- of the value of understanding the hazards and risks faced by communities, and ensuring communities are prepared for the consequences of them.
- The Auckland CDEM Group has made significant progress in terms of operational preparedness through the various exercises and work of the Group Emergency Management Office over the past three years.
- The NCMC performed well overall, with the efforts and outputs being generally viewed as a significant improvement on Exercise Capital Quake.
- The understanding and performance of the individual elements within a major CDEM operation has typically improved significantly through previous events, exercises and the preparation for Exercise Ruaumoko. The ability to co-ordinate the various elements into a cohesive response now requires further work. ▲

CONSULTATION ON THE REVISED GUIDE TO THE NATIONAL CDEM PLAN

The Guide to the National CDEM Plan outlines New Zealand's arrangements for the national management or support for local management of civil defence emergencies. The Guide is intended to be a 'living document', and is to be updated and republished as operational arrangements, policy and planning are further developed. A review of the Guide commenced in late 2007, with the aim of improving documentation of current arrangements. The review involved consultation with relevant agencies to develop proposed amendments.

Consultation on the draft revised Guide is scheduled to take place from 22 September to 14 November 2008. The document will be posted on the MCDEM website in full and by section, allowing readers to provide comment on the document as a whole or to focus on their areas of interest.

To view the draft revised Guide during the consultation period visit the MCDEM website www.civildefence.govt.nz or email NationalCDEM.Plan@dia.govt.nz ▲



RODNEY DISTRICT COUNCIL CELEBRATES SUCCESS

ABOVE from left: Therese McDonald, Janice Haferkamp, Maree MacGregor, Steve Glassey (CEO - EMANZ), Donna Roberts, Parul Sood, Janif Mohammed, Marian Kidd, Angela Reeves, absent: Jacqueline Dawson.

Donna Roberts – Rodney District Council Emergency Management and Volunteers Support Officer – was winner of the EMANZ 2008 special awards category "2008 Training Coordinator of the Year".

The EMANZ Emergency Management Graduation awards took place at Rodney District Council on Wednesday August 27, 2008. The structured training programme completed under the direction and training of EMANZ, resulted in seven Rodney District staff graduating in Emergency Management Level 2. Tai Poutini Polytechnic Certificates in Emergency Management Level 2 were presented to graduates by Steve Glassey, and Rodney District Mayor, Penny Webster. Two staff members who have nearly completed the course also received special recommendation awards.

International engagement in the Pacific

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management works in partnership with NZAID to build resilience in the Pacific through developing emergency management capability and capacity. MCDEM's Northern Regional Coordinator, John Titmus, and CDEM Specialist Services Manager, Sarah Stuart-Black, recently attended a series of meetings in Fiji with NZAID to further work on this programme.



Regional Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Workshop for Humanitarian Assistance in the Pacific

Following the Indian Ocean Tsunami, the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) agreed on a process of humanitarian reform. Reforms seek to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response by ensuring greater predictability, accountability and partnership. Improved inter-agency coordination and emergency preparedness are an important part of this effort. This process is similar to the cluster approach to emergency management in New Zealand whereby local and central government agencies, lifeline utilities and other organisations meet regularly to ensure effective communication and understanding.

Participants included representatives from UN-agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, regional organisations, international non-government organisations and government representatives. New Zealand organisations were well represented at the workshop and in a number of cases, are leading the actions from the meeting.

The aim of this regional workshop was to discuss and agree on a contingency planning process for humanitarian assistance in the Pacific along with a regional coordina-

tion mechanism for disaster response. Given the diversity of agencies involved with humanitarian work in the Pacific, priority was given to identifying related clusters for disaster preparedness planning, lead agencies for these priority areas/clusters and country-level inter-agency contingency planning.

The meeting revealed a genuine willingness from all agencies to work together to develop an efficient response structure. An action plan was agreed to address current weaknesses and is now being implemented.

Other disaster risk management meetings

The South Pacific Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC) hosts a series of annual disaster risk management meetings. For the first time these three were undertaken as a series of back-to-back meetings in Fiji.

14th Regional Disaster Managers Meeting held for the sixteen National Disaster Management Officers (NDMOs) from across the Pacific. The meeting is the one opportunity each year for NDMOs to get together, share experiences and lessons identified and to be able to discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead. New Zealand is a participant of these meetings represented by MCDEM and supported by NZAID. The meeting affirmed much of the work currently undertaken in the Pacific. It also encouraged Pacific island countries to continue to incorporate disaster risk management into national planning and budgetary processes. To facilitate this, an agreement to provide assistance in prioritising needs was made along with training.

3rd Annual Pacific Disaster Risk Management Partnership Network Meeting for aid donors, non governmental organisations, NDMOs and United Nations representatives from across the Pacific. The meeting was attended by at least forty organisations and provided an opportunity to discuss current and planned activities in the Pacific and to examine opportunities for improved strategic alliances and engagement at regional and national levels within Pacific countries. Key outcomes included: supporting Pacific island governments in conducting public education, training and advocacy work and the incorporation of disaster risk management to educational curricular; and continued support to enhance Pacific island country technical capacity in disaster risk management such as in conducting risk assessments and sharing scientific data.

Inaugural Meeting of Chief Executive Officers for Disaster Risk Management and Chief Executive Officers for Finance & Planning. This meeting focused on the theme of Sustainable Development in Pacific Island Countries: investing in disaster risk management/climate change adaptation to protect our future. The meeting sought: to create an understanding of the disaster risk management support structure in the Pacific; to develop greater understanding for the global and regional commitments towards disaster risk management climate change adaptation; and to highlight the linkages between disasters and national/social/economic development. ▲

2008 Tai Poutini Polytechnic graduation

During August the second annual Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP) Emergency Management Graduation ceremony was held in Palmerston North. This year more than 40 students graduated with either Level 2 or Level 4 Certificates in Emergency Management. The graduation was officially opened by Simon Power, the MP for Rangitikei District who spoke of his involvement with Civil Defence and Emergency Management during the 2004 flood event which caused significant damage to the region.

In addition to awarding graduates with their certificates, the TPP Emergency Management Graduation is also a forum for the presentation of a series of awards to recognise excellence in emergency management and emergency management education and training.

Director of the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, John Hamilton, was keynote speaker for the event. John spoke of the need for people to be competently trained and commented that he was pleased to see so many people graduating with emergency management qualifications. ▲

CDEM Specialist Services

The CDEM Specialist Services Unit has been working on a range of projects and initiatives.

Regional Hazard Management Group meeting

The Regional Hazard Management Group, comprising hazard and risk analysts and planners from regional and central government, met on July 28 in Wellington, ahead of the Australasian Hazard Management Conference. Sixteen representatives from local government and four representatives from MCDEM and Ministry for the Environment took part. Updates on work programmes were shared and key priorities were examined such as climate change adaptation guidance and the opportunities for closer integration of CDEM and RMA planning processes. For further information on this group please contact peter.wood@dia.govt.nz, or helen.grant@ecan.govt.nz

Launch of the EM Library collection

The New Zealand Emergency Management Collection is a specialist collection of books, reports and research journals, provided by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, and available to registered users. The collection is intended as a national research and education resource for those studying and working in emergency management. Registered users can receive email alerts for new resources and journal articles, borrow books and reports and receive requested copies of journal articles. Soon you will be able to search the collection resources through a holdings list on the MCDEM website. To register for access, please download and fill in the form available on the MCDEM website (on the 'CDEM Research' page), or by emailing your details to information@dia.govt.nz

International Engagement

In July, Graeme MacDonald from the Northland Regional Council attended the United Nations Disaster Assessment & Coordination (UNDAC) Induction course in Singapore. Graeme was nominated by New Zealand in 2007 but was not selected for an Induction course until this year. New Zealand now has nine UNDAC members.

Competency Framework

In July, the CDEM Competency Reference Group met for

the first time. The Project Reference Group is an interagency group whose role is to represent sector interests and provide advice to MCDEM in the development of the CDEM Competency Framework.

During August and September, a series of nine focus groups was held across the country to identify the functions and tasks of Emergency Management Officers and those staff who interact with them. Focus groups are essential to ensure the competency framework accurately reflects tasks associated with specific roles.

Education and training providers were invited to a meeting at MCDEM in August to discuss the development of the competency project and explore options for future liaison and interaction with MCDEM.

The next steps are examination and refinement of the outputs from the focus groups by role-specific working groups, and development of an online survey informed by this work and international peer review. The online survey will be open to stakeholders for eight weeks from early 2009.

MCDEM courses

Places for the November 2008 Recovery Manager and Public Information Manager courses are still available but the Controllers course is full. If you're interested in being nominated to attend any of these courses please contact your MCDEM Regional EMA. The courses will also be run on the following days in March/April 2009 in Auckland at the Eilerslie Events Centre:

Recovery Managers 30 & 31 March
Public Information Management.... 2 April
Controllers Course 1, 2 and 3 April

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

National CDEM reference document mini discs

In case you haven't heard, Version 2 of the National CDEM Reference Document Mini Disc has arrived. For those in the CDEM sector please contact your MCDEM Regional EMA and for others interested, email cdemprofdeve@dia.govt.nz ▲

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DESIGN ACTION PLAN

It is essential that risks from hazards be taken into consideration when planning the long-term development of our towns and cities. MCDEM is a signatory to the Urban Design Protocol and an action plan has been developed to influence urban design practice as it relates to management of risks from natural hazards. It will also identify the constraints that hazard reduction measures pose for quality urban design as well as the approaches and initiatives that could be used to address them.

The work will be done through collaboration with central and local government and interested groups such as the Urban Design Forum and the newly formed Sustainable Urban Development Unit (SUDU), an intergovernmental group hosted by The Department of Internal Affairs. This is an opportunity for the CDEM sector to influence policy development at an early stage.

Currently, MCDEM is engaged in consultation on the proposed National Urban Design Policy Statement and the

Discussion Document on Sustainable Urban Development (SUDU). The aim of the discussion document, produced by SUDU, is to generate ideas to help design a sustainable approach to urban development from a range of New Zealanders. You can view the discussion document at www.dia.govt.nz/sudu. Copies are also available at public libraries and local authorities, can be ordered from sudu@dia.govt.nz or by calling 0800 824 824.

The Ministry for the Environment is seeking views on the scope of a National Policy Statement on Urban Design. The intention is to provide national guidance to improve the quality of urban design in New Zealand that will complement existing voluntary, non-statutory initiatives like the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol. You can view the discussion material at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/nps/urban-design/index.html>.

For more information on MCDEM urban planning contact Ljubica.mamula-seadon@dia.govt.nz. ▲