

Northland Resilience Project – Community Response Plans

Working together to create resilient communities in Northland is the aim of the Northland CDEM Group. Effective preparedness and response activities help save lives, reduce injuries, limit property damage and minimise all sorts of disruptions that disasters cause. In the 2013 year resilience continued to be the priority focus for the Northland CDEM sector. Community engagement through development and review of Community Response plans was seen as integral to the on-going resilience programme.

The **project aim was to enhance and strengthen Community Resilience** both at a local and regional level, which in turn contributes to national resilience.

The Northland CDEM Group has committed significant resources to develop community response plans over several years with over 50 communities having plans in place. CRP's are developed on an all hazards basis and have been integral to tsunami readiness; as a basis for installation of tsunami sirens and to facilitate tsunami evacuation planning.

The programme has contributed to enhancing readiness, response and recovery capability in communities across the region. Recent emergency events have clearly demonstrated the value of having in place plans that are well developed, understood and practised.

CRP's add value and build on existing response orientated arrangements to include mechanisms to recover from emergencies more quickly and for communities to better understand risk and thereby develop mechanisms to reduce risk within communities. This piece of work can be directly linked to recommendations made in the Christchurch review whereby it was recommended "that a systematic approach to using volunteers, particularly for gathering information about the needs of individuals in affected areas and to ensure communities receive needed information."

During the 2013-14 year CRP reviews, updates and revisions for 12 communities were identified. The programme of revising and updating plans was identified as being critical to ensure that community response plans were current and contain up to date information.

The group has successfully developed a new format of a Community Response Plan referred to as an e CRP which is a simple format that is internet and tablet friendly, but foremost is consistent with the "Get Ready Get Thru" branding.

This project has enabled the -

- Development of an e CRP format plan consistent with "Get Ready Get Thru" branding.
- Review of 15 plans completed, with a 4 reviews currently underway
- Put in place arrangements to enable plans to be more readily accessible to communities through technology
- Commencement of a pilot to use similar processes and plan format across marae and vulnerable groups planning

The following link is to a CRP that has been implemented in a community

[http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Download/?file=/upload/15593/Dargaville%20CD%20CRP%20\(May%202014\).pdf](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/Download/?file=/upload/15593/Dargaville%20CD%20CRP%20(May%202014).pdf)

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