

Kaipara Capability

A capability assessment of the Northland Civil Defence Group was carried out by the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management in 2010. The assessment identified that variability existed within the Group in training and professional development could impact on the ability of Emergency Operating Centres (EOC) to operate effectively for events longer than 48 hour duration. In response to the capability assessment the Northland CEG initiated a review of EOC operations across the region to determine any gaps in capability that may impact on the ability to respond to an emergency. An assessment of the Kaipara District Council EOC arrangements was carried out. The assessment found that a low level of capability and capacity existed within the Kaipara District Council to provide an effective Emergency Operations Centre.

A number of actions were recommended within the application to the resilience fund to improve the capability and capacity in the Kaipara. A summary of the actions undertaken include –

- A new Emergency Operations Centre has been established within the existing council building, including the installation of an alternate power supply, upgrade of communications networks that also includes integration of EMIS.
- Development of Local Standard Operating Procedure (LSOP) consistent with the group and local level plans of the Northland Emergency Management Group.
- Delivery of training at appropriate levels; CIMS Level 4, Welfare, EOC and EMIS. Culminating in two EOC exercises, included in the second exercise was input from emergency services and interaction with Community Response groups. Evaluation of the exercise has led to identification several new corrective actions which are being addressed.
- Additional controllers have been identified, selected and appointed and are awaiting appropriate national level professional development opportunities.
- That local level Welfare and Warning plans have been developed with Welfare Centre Resource Kits provided to strategically identified communities.
- Development of the new Community Response Plan (CRP) format has enabled a concise and readable document, which is providing communities with the knowledge to “*Get Ready & Get Thru*” and has increased awareness of evacuation routes, evacuation points and welfare facilities, local hazards and warning systems.
- Review of the existing tsunami siren network in Mangawhai resulting in re-distribution of sirens for improved coverage including installation of 2 new sirens. Review of the tsunami risk to Ruawai with a view to deploying tsunami sirens into the community. (Possibly 2 tsunami sirens).
- The key outcome of this project has been a significant improvement in the level of engagement with governance, management and communities across the Kaipara and additionally the Kaipara EMO position has increased from a .4 position to a .6 FTE over the past 12 months, which will continue.

Further information on this project can be obtained from Trevor Andrews, Kaipara District CDEM Officer trevora@nrc.govt.nz