



impact

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Disability Assist Dogs in Ministry spotlight

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Emergency contacts

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

Editorial enquiries

Vince Cholewa, 04 495 6835
vince.cholewa@dia.govt.nz

Contributors

David Coetzee
Anita Fleming
Roddy Henderson
Duncan Henry
Martin Herbert
Pauline Hitchcock
Hon Nikki Kaye
Kerry McSavney
Kiri Maxwell
Matt Palmer
Michelle Poole
Victoria Randall
Helen Shea
Craig Sinclair
Andrea Taylor
Allan Wilson

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

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

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EDITORIAL

Hon Nikki Kaye, Minister of Civil Defence



We have a good story to tell

Christmas and the end of 2013 are rapidly approaching and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions that have been made by so many to civil defence emergency management and community resilience this year.

It has been a busy year as Civil Defence Minister with a number of events, including floods, minor volcanic eruptions and the Seddon and Lake Grassmere earthquakes. These events remind us of the importance and relevance of the jobs that we all do to ensure New Zealanders are prepared for a major emergency.

The opportunities to talk to ministerial colleagues from other countries, senior leaders in the United Nations and international audiences about our arrangements for civil defence emergency management has been invaluable. They are all extremely interested in how those arrangements worked in the Canterbury earthquake response and the lessons we learned from that. They also appreciate the work we do with our Pacific neighbours to assist them be better prepared and able to cope with an emergency.

I am proud to say we have a good story to tell. Our civil defence system is world-leading. While we plan for New Zealand's settings, there are aspects of our civil defence emergency management that are transferable to other places. That doesn't mean we can be complacent – there will always be changes and improvements to be made as we learn and develop enhancements.

I want to acknowledge two blocks of work that are refinements to our CDEM arrangements and which will improve our capability throughout the country.

The first is providing training and professional development for people who work in CDEM in their communities. When I have visited CDEM groups around the country, they have all raised this with me and expressed their desire to have formalised training.

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) has now approved funding to the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) for development of a Controllers' course. I have asked the Director

to get this underway as soon as possible.

In a similar vein, changes to the way in which the Tertiary Education Commission funds courses related to civil defence emergency management will be beneficial to volunteers. For example, they will enable volunteers enrolled in individual courses to have that training funded by the Government without having to enrol in a complete diploma course. This means more choice for people to match their training to personal circumstances. I expect these adjustments to be implemented during 2015.

In late November, I was pleased to announce the Government had agreed to transfer the MCDEM from DIA to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). I believe this will strengthen MCDEM. The role and responsibilities of MCDEM are more closely aligned to the national security, intelligence and resilience mandate of DPMC than the ICT focus that is a growing role for DIA. The transfer will take place on 1 April 2014. It will not impact my responsibilities as the Minister of Civil Defence. I also expect the transfer will result in better co-ordination of departments and agencies and MCDEM playing a greater role in considering all-of-government resilience issues, such as building more resilient infrastructure.

We have had a very successful year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts. 2014 promises to be exciting as we develop CDEM even further. In the meantime I hope you can take some time out to share Christmas and the holiday period with your family and loved ones and that you return in the New Year re-invigorated and ready to tackle the challenges ahead. ■

Scientists update flood river information

New information on how rivers will flood during extreme weather will soon be available to help communities become safer and reduce the costs of natural disasters.



Waiwhetu Stream, Lower Hutt, August 2007. Photo by Alan Blacklock, NIWA

A new project being carried out by scientists at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) will see more than two decades of new data incorporated into New Zealand's flood frequency estimation system. This system seeks to include data collected by about 650 river flow recorders monitored by NIWA and regional councils along New Zealand's rivers. Information from another 250 recorders that are no longer operational will also be used.

NIWA hydrologists, in collaboration with regional council staff involved in river and hazard management, are updating the system with 25 years of new data. The system was last updated in 1989 using data available up to 1987. Data requests have been sent to councils, who will provide information about which flow records are suitable for the study.

The information will improve understanding of flood risks across the country and help New Zealand become more resilient to extreme weather. It will also underpin a nationally consistent assessment of flooding risk recently called for by the Insurance Council of NZ.

NIWA hydrologist Roddy Henderson says since the previous study the amount of data available for analysis has more than doubled.

"This is because there are now longer records at flow sites used in the last study, and there are newer sites that will now have sufficient data to be included," he said.

The data is particularly useful for regional

councils which use the information to learn how people living near a river may be affected by severe flooding and to help make decisions on projects such as where and how high to build new bridges.

The project has been supported by councils because flood estimation is a critical part of their responsibilities.

Tasman District Council hydrologist Martin Doyle, regional council liaison for the project, said the system was particularly important to councils.

"Flooding is the natural hazard which occurs most frequently in New Zealand, and is one of the most costly to the nation. The information from this study will be used extensively by all councils for design and planning purposes on behalf of the communities they serve.

"We also have a strong interest in ensuring that other organisations correctly identify the risks associated with flooding. The extra data which is now available, combined with NIWA's work to develop an authoritative analysis methodology will greatly help to provide consistent and accurate data about flood significance for all regions in New Zealand."

Mr Henderson said the results of the project would be available on NIWA's website through an existing system for providing other important information about rivers to planners and engineers.

"The last time this was done the results were published in a book, so this represents a step forward in making the information as up-to-date and user-friendly as possible.

"We also expect to expose a number of questions in the process that we will then seek to answer. One example is the need for complete flood volume information rather than just a peak flow. This is important when considering the potential extent of flood inundation when rivers exceed the flow for which stopbanks have been designed."

The project is being funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's EnviroLink Fund and NIWA core funding and is expected to take two years to complete.

NIWA is also undertaking other research programmes looking at how climate change may affect flood risk.

For more information contact:
roddy.henderson@niwa.co.nz ■

State Highway 1 with Waipara River in flood, October 2008



Grey District business learns about resilience

More than 50 people turned up for the Grey District day-long West Coast Recovery and Resilience workshop. It was very well attended with more turning up than were invited.



Dr John Chang opens the West Coast Recovery and Resilience workshop

The workshop was aimed at business and community leaders and the purpose was to allow the attendees to discover what they can do for themselves, and how to prepare for any adverse event. As Grey District Recovery Manager, Dr John Chang said, "This workshop is not about what can civil defence can do for you this workshop was about what can you do for yourself."

The stated objectives were to:

- Allow communities and business to become better prepared to deal with any adverse event
- Understand the process of recovery and who is involved
- Identify how your organisation can contribute to the recovery process
- Learn from the experiences of those people and agencies involved in recent events.

The day was split into four sessions:

- Session one - The West Coast and civil defence emergency management.
- Session two - Capability assessment.
- Session three - Building resilience before an event.
- Session Four - Restoring confidence and rebuilding after an event.

Dr Chang opened the workshop and introduced the first speaker, Grey District CDEMO, Allan Wilson, who spoke about the risks we face by choosing to live on the West Coast. MCDEM Regional Advisor, Simon Chambers delivered a session on the recovery process. This was followed by a breakout session where delegates were faced with a brainstorming session on "What are the needs of the community after a disaster"? This was followed by the first keynote speaker, Recovery Manager for Tasman District Council, Adrian Humphries. Adrian gave a very interesting and humorous recount of the aftermath of

the Nelson/Tasman floods. His session was very well received. This was followed by the second breakout session where each group had to choose one business or organisation and look at its long term capability following a disaster. The results of this session were very enlightening for all and prompted a lively discussion of what assumptions can be made and the risks associated with any assumptions.

After lunch the second keynote speaker, Associate Professor Sarb Johal, from the Joint Centre of Disaster Research at Massey University, looked at how we might react after a disaster. This was a fascinating presentation that looked at an historical guide to helping people through an emergency event. Again the presentation was very well received. There then followed a session on building resilience and the recovery needs. This was followed by the last breakout session on the recovery needs of selected business and organisations.

The final session, following afternoon tea, was taken by West Coast welfare advisory group Chair, Claire Brown, who looked at the lesson learned from the Pike River Coal Mine disaster.

The feedback has been very positive and most stated that they learned something new. One comment on the feedback form was "where to from here?" The workshop looked at various tools for assessing how resilient an organisation is and how to build on what already exists. Now it is up to the participants to look at their organisations and to use the tools. ■



How weather works

Auckland Council Civil Defence and Emergency Management have developed a new YouTube clip describing 'How Weather Works'. It describes a usually difficult subject in plain English. Check it out by visiting YouTube and searching Auckland Civil Defence. ■

Keen response to tsunami seminars

A series of regional tsunami seminars concluded on December 3 with a seminar in Whangarei. Seminars were also held in Balclutha, Christchurch, Nelson, Wellington, Hastings, Tauranga and Auckland.

The primary purpose of the seminars was to offer CDEM Groups an opportunity to hear first-hand from the compiler of the recently published Review of Tsunami Hazard in New Zealand (2013 Update), Dr William Power (GNS Science) about the changes in relation to the understanding of earthquake and tsunami hazard since the 2005 assessment, and how the tsunami hazard assessment for New Zealand was adjusted accordingly. Having Dr. Power explain the report in person afforded CDEM Groups the opportunity to discuss the findings with him and to seek clarification on the information presented.

Dr Power's presentation was followed by a discussion on the tsunami warning process in New Zealand, presented by MCDEM Capability & Operations Manager, David Coetzee, and GNS Science's Director of GeoNet, Dr. Ken Gledhill, also explained the changes in the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) products that will take effect in 2014.

The seminars were also used as an opportunity to update CDEM Groups on the work being done to develop a standard for the use of sirens in tsunami warnings. This topic was led by Brendan Morris Consulting, which is conducting the work on behalf of MCDEM. The draft standard will be made available to CDEM Groups for consultation in December 2013.

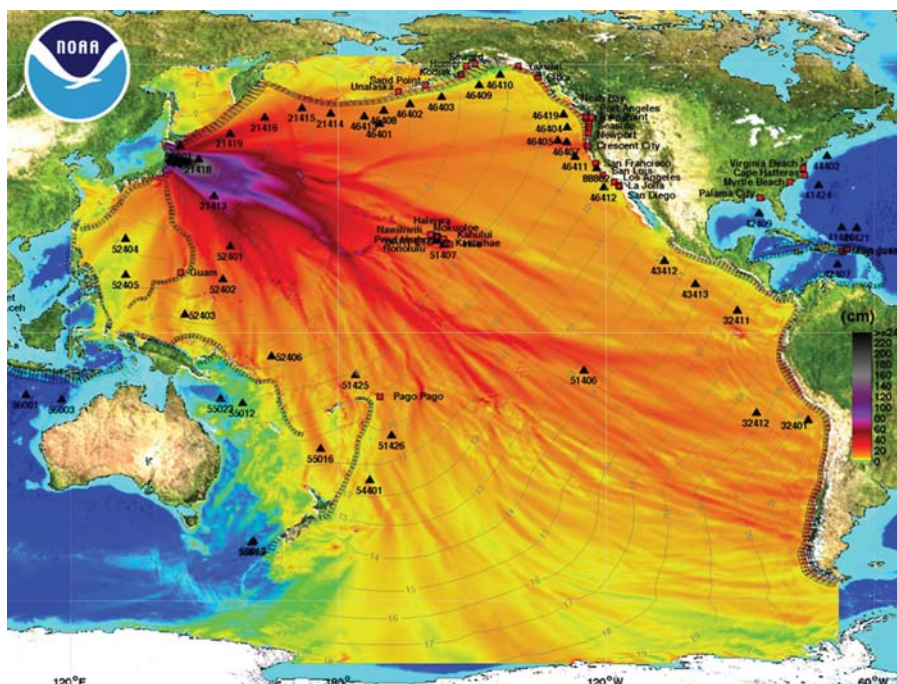
Following on from the sirens topic, the seminars were concluded by an update of other public alerting initiatives currently underway.

All the seminars were well attended and positive feedback was received from attendees. The seminars facilitated an opportunity for a holistic discussion about tsunami warnings - including research and assessment, the process of detection and issuing official warnings as well as public alerting.

The presentations that were used at the seminars are available at: http://www.civildefence.govt.nz/memwebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/For-the-CDEM-Sector-Publications-Tsunami-Seminars-2013 ■



Above, L-R: David Coetzee, Brendan Morris, Dr Ken Glenhill, Dr William Power



Above and below: Tohoku tsunami, Japan 2011



Governor's Bay, Banks Peninsula, after the Chile tsunami in 2010



Community response groups join in exercise

Two neighbouring Civil Defence Community Response Groups from the Whangarei District joined for a table top exercise to look at their community response plans and response procedures.

The groups from Ruakaka and Waipu / Langs Beach came together the evening of October 30 at the Bream Bay Community Trust Hall. Whangarei District CDO, Victoria Randall, held a table top exercise for the groups. The scenario was a severe weather event, which included widespread flooding and severe gales.

“This is a scenario we have to deal with in Northland quite often, so it’s a great opportunity for the community response groups to look at their pre-event arrangements, their plan activation and their response procedures,” Victoria said.

The exercise allowed the groups to consider how they would use the communication tools they have set up, including community telephone trees and Facebook page, the communication procedures between council and group coordinators, and

gave new group members a clearer understanding. Time was given for the groups to share ideas.

Over the last five years community response groups and plans across Northland have increased and there are now 51 groups and plans in place. The community response groups and plans are a key component of the civil defence arrangements across



Ruakaka Community Response Group

Northland and is valuable in ensuring communities remain engaged and continue to build community resilience in Northland’s isolated and vulnerable communities. ■



Waipu / Langs Beach Community Response Group

Determining Volcanic Risk in Auckland (DeVoRA)

On September 27, Auckland Council Civil Defence and Emergency Management held their annual forum.

This year the forum was held jointly with the Determining Volcanic Risk in Auckland (DeVoRA) project to showcase challenges and preparations for the next eruption in the Auckland Volcanic Field (AVF).

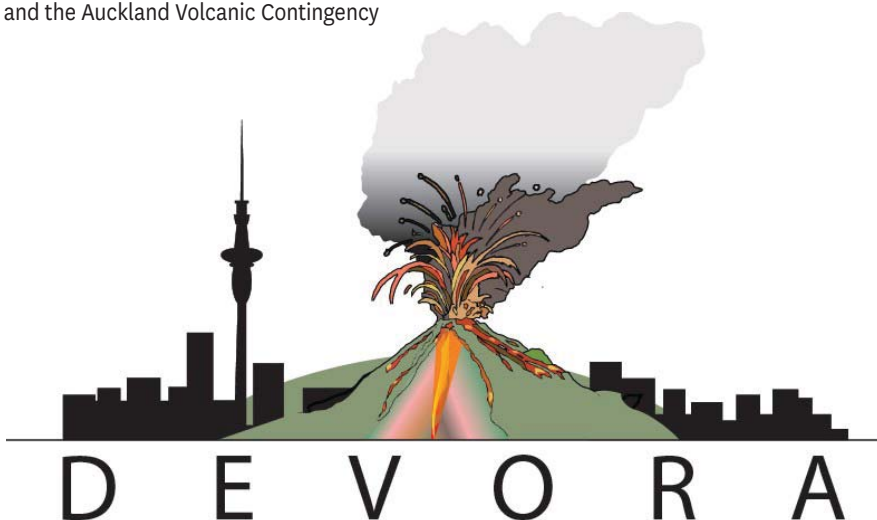
The AVF is the most densely populated field of its type in the world. To date, 56 volcanoes have been identified in the field, each having their own unique characteristics formed by a range of volcanic processes. With the last eruption occurring only 550 years ago, at Rangitoto Island, a future eruption could occur at any time.

Being located on an isthmus, entirely contained within the AVF, Auckland has many unique challenges. The forum highlighted how collaborative relationships between Auckland Council, national and regional stakeholders and the wider civil defence and emergency management sector are building resilience and planning for the next eruption.

Hon Nikki Kaye, Minister of Civil Defence, provided the opening address and highlighted the importance of research, monitoring and preparedness.

Topics covered in the forum included recent research highlights from the DeVoRA project, Auckland’s evacuation challenges and the Auckland Volcanic Contingency

Plan. A large amount of media interest was received and the feedback from a broad range of the 250-plus attendees was very favourable. ■



Preventing power cuts with regular pruning

Murray Matheson, General Manager, Treescape

Guidelines for keeping your trees away from power lines, preventing outages, and saving money in the process.

Trees and power lines are a bad combination. In high winds and in stormy conditions, branches are prone to breaking and trees often fall across power lines.

On average, trees cause a quarter of all power cuts on New Zealand networks each year. That results in thousands of homes losing power simply because of poor tree maintenance. It's a big problem right across New Zealand, and something we all need to do our part to prevent.

It doesn't matter what species of plant or tree you choose. What's important is that it's trimmed regularly to keep it more than four metres away from the power lines. This is to reduce the likelihood of branches contacting the live conductors and minimises the

possibility of people receiving an electric shock.

It is wise to plant tall or spreading trees well away from power lines, especially shelter belts that will require ongoing maintenance when they reach a certain height. Smaller trees and shrubs are suitable for planting near overhead lines and still provide good shelter, as long as they won't grow to within four metres of the power lines. Tree roots also need to be considered, as they can become a nuisance by becoming entangled in buried power cables and gas pipes.

Unless it is otherwise agreed, the person who owns the property with the trees, also owns the trees. It is the property owner's responsibility to ensure that trees are



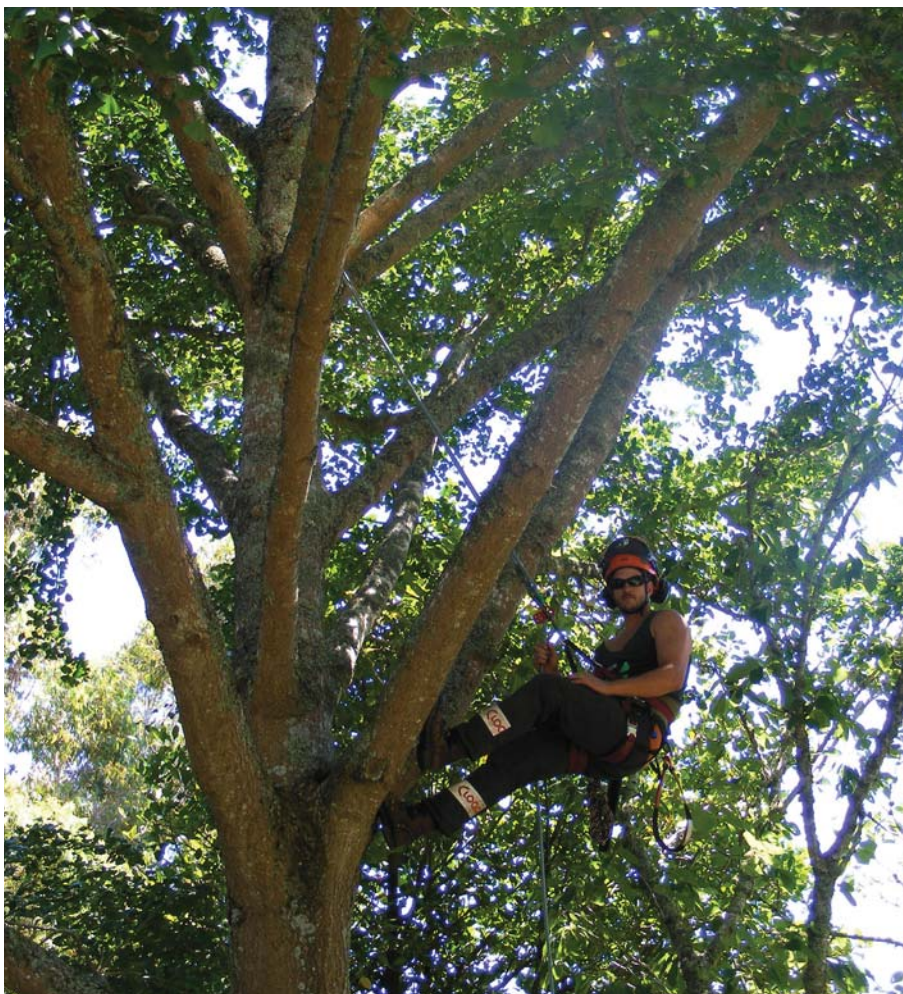
maintained to avoid damaging power lines. People are reminded that they should never take pruning a tree that is near a power line into their own hands, as it can be extremely dangerous. This work should only be carried out by people who are specially trained to do so.

Electricity regulations set minimum encroachment distances which vary depending on the power line type.

These regulations say that if a tree is within four metres of the overhead lines, you must use an approved contractor to have it trimmed, which includes all trees or shrubs.

With good will on all sides electricity companies are able to manage the problem more effectively, which is the best way to protect the network and the safety of people and animals, at the lowest possible cost.

You can help your community by having trees removed or trimmed if they are near power lines. If you see a tree or branch touching power lines, call your local power provider for guidance on how to fix the issue. ■



Disability Assist Dogs in Ministry spotlight

Minister of Civil Defence, Hon Nikki Kaye, presented the first civil defence identification tags for Disability Assist Dogs at a special occasion marking International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3.



Director CDEM John Hamilton addresses all species at the Beehive presentation ceremony

Dogs of all shapes and sizes filled the aisles of the west foyer of the Beehive, accompanied by their owners, trainers and handlers.

“In an emergency, the tags will make it easy for certified disability assist dogs to be identified and remain with their owners or, if they become separated, to be quickly reunited,” Ms Kaye said.

The standardised and easily recognisable identification tag, will assist in emergency response and recovery.

“One of the lessons from the Christchurch earthquakes was that there was uncertainty about the status of dogs at civil defence centres. Now they will be certified disability assist dogs and able to remain with their owners.

“Civil defence emergency situations can be

frightening and disorientating. So we want to make sure people have all the resources they need to get through. I can imagine being separated from your disability assist dog would be very stressful in such a situation, so clear identification of these dogs should prevent that from happening.”

Disability assist dogs provide vital assistance with seeing and hearing, autism

spectrum disorder, neurological disabilities; psychiatric disabilities, seizure alert, and seizure response.

The tags will be nationally recognised and entered on the National Dog Database. The tags provide unique identification for each disability assist dog, linking it to its owner/handler and the organisation that certified the dog. The dogs are also micro-chipped.

The organisations involved in this initiative are the Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, Ministry of Social Development, Office for Disability Issues, ACC, New Zealand Veterinary Association, Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind – Guide Dog Services, and the New Zealand Institute of Animal Control Officers.

To find out more about getting a Disability Assist Dog identification tag, contact an authorised Disability Assist Dog organisation (*see inset next page*). ■



The identification tag for disability assist dogs

Seven organisations are authorised under the Dog Control Act 1996 to train and certify disability assist dogs:

- Hearing Dogs for Deaf People New Zealand
- Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust
- New Zealand Epilepsy Assist Dogs Trust
- Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind
- Top Dog Companion Trust *(not operating at this time)*
- Assistance Dogs New Zealand Trust
- Perfect Partners Assistance Dogs Trust.



Above: Jack russell, Heidi, and poodle, Topsy (both Hearing Dogs), with owners Christel Mills and Lorraine Copp

Right: Civil Defence Minister Nikki Kaye presents 12 week-old guidedog-in-training Vera, and Head of Guide Dog Services, Paul Metcalf, with one of the first identification tags

Left: Mobility Assistance Dogs, Dougal and Hugo, at the event

Below: Vera, with Amy Prebble, Kerry with Julia Mosen, and Tana, Belinda Simpson's dog



Emergency response planning in Wellington

Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO) recognises that while communities may be isolated from the official emergency response for several days, we can all hit the ground running with an efficient, effective and integrated response if the community has its plan to deal with its immediate needs.

People aren't on their own after an emergency - they are with their families, their neighbours and their wider community. As a CDEM Resilience Fund project, WREMO has developed a model and facilitation guide for assisting communities in small and large urban areas to create their own response plan.

Community-driven emergency response planning uses asset-based community development principles to encourage communities to come up with their own solutions to the challenges they may face in the immediate aftermath of a large-scale emergency, without having to rely on emergency services, or official government response.

The community is represented in the process by leaders from community organisations, agencies, schools and businesses within the geographical area. They set the goals of what they would like to achieve in the first 72 hours or so, and then each organisation or individual taking part in the planning process offers the assets, in terms of capable people, or physical resources - facilities, buildings, equipment etc., that they have available to them that can help achieve those goals. There are no

presumptions of what is available in the community - if no one offers it, or a resource is not available, it's not included in the plan until it is offered or obtained, and the community gains a realistic view of the level of support available to them.

The strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the geographical area are identified by the community, and a programme of work is developed to build on those strengths, mitigate the weaknesses and threats, and enhance the community's resilience by taking advantage of the opportunities for improvement available, or creating new opportunities. The plan is a living document, reviewed annually and altered to reflect any changes within the community. It builds on the work which has been done before, and grows along with the community's capabilities.

Community-driven emergency response plans have been created, or are currently in progress, in several areas of the Wellington region already, including the Hutt Valley, Kapiti, Porirua and Wellington, with a goal to have around 40 plans for large urban areas across the region created over the next two years.

Otaki, one of the first communities to complete the process, recently exercised its response plan, and had over 40 participants from a range of organisations. The exercise was well received, and highlighted the value of the response planning process in bringing community organisations and agencies together to work constructively on preparing their community before an event, as well as creating a coordinated effort during a response. Otaki leaders are now working on their identified opportunities for enhancing community resilience ahead for next year's plan review.

These community response plans fit in with our community resilience strategy of having tools for households, neighbourhoods, businesses and communities to connect, work together and be prepared. The facilitation guide is available to be shared, contact us at wremo.resilience@gw.govt.nz for further information.

Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te iwi

With your basket and my basket the people will thrive ■



Posters aid volcanic ash response and recovery

Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group have produced a series of posters providing concise best practice information for critical infrastructure managers to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from ash-producing volcanic eruptions. You can download the posters from the GNS website: <http://www.gns.cri.nz/Home/Learning/Science-Topics/Volcanoes/Eruption-What-to-do/Ash-Impact-Posters>

Stan joins the Farmers Santa Parade

For 80 years the Farmers Santa Parade has brought joy to the children of Auckland, and this year was no exception.



The start of the parade, all hands on deck! The start of the parade, all hands on deck!

The Santa Parade celebrated its 80th year this year, and again Auckland Council Civil Defence and volunteers enjoyed the festivities of the start of the Christmas season.

The 'What's the Plan Stan?' float joined in the procession around the city centre, flanked by members of NZRT 3 and 5.

Stan made an appearance at Santa's Party in Aotea Square, even though it was a scorching 26 degrees.

Auckland Council Civil Defence and Emergency Management Director, Clive Manley, said we always need to find fun and innovative ways to engage our children.

"It's great when kids learn about disasters at school, and then they come to something like the Santa Parade and Stan is brought to life," said Clive.

"You see their eyes light up and they know exactly who he is, he's pretty unmistakable with the large Civil Defence tag on his collar!" ■



Stan's a hit with the kids: "It's a fantastic way to get the kids interested. This was a huge team effort for everyone involved," says Auckland Council Civil Defence and Emergency Management Director, Clive Manley

MOTAT fire & rescue day



Members of NZRT 3 and 5 carrying out a 4 point lower at the MOTAT Fire & Rescue Day

Auckland Council Civil Defence and Emergency Management were on hand with NZRT 3 and 5 for a fun and informative family day on the at the Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT) last month.

More than 3,000 visitors attended this fantastic day out enjoying an extravaganza of all things fire and rescue.

The kids enjoyed getting in amidst the action with fun activities including fire hose squirting, wearing a fireman's uniform and learning how to get out of a fire in the NZ Fire Wendy House. ■

Short disaster movies big on creativity

Hawke's Bay school pupils have shown their creativity in this year's Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group's Shortest Ever Disaster Movie Competition.



Winning students from Takapau School – From left to right - Trisha Dave, Jacob Irons, Sarah Taylor and Michael Oakly

This year's competition encouraged students to create a short movie promoting the civil defence message of "preparedness"

Seventeen movies were entered - well up on the seven entries received in 2011. Central Hawke's Bay's Takapau School was placed first and third. 'Drop, Cover, Hold' was the winning

entry from Takapau Primary School, with 'Swallowed by the Sea' winning third place for the talented school. 'Tsunami Rap' from Havelock North Intermediate, took second place.

Hawke's Bay CDEM Group Manager, Ian Macdonald, was impressed with the quality and variety of this year's entries.

"It's a good reflection on the schools that enter. These movies show off the creative talent of the students and staff, sometimes involving the whole school and community," says Mr Macdonald.

"This is a fun way for school children to learn about and promote the "preparedness" message, not forgetting the work which goes into writing, planning, filming and editing a movie."

Other schools that took part this year were Taradale High School, Napier Girls' High School, Tamatea Intermediate, Waipawa Primary School and Omakere School. ■

The winning movies are available on YouTube:

- Takapau School **Drop, Cover, Hold**
- Havelock Intermediate **Tsunami Rap**
- Takapau School **Swallowed by the Sea**

Mystery Creek Event Centre shows great corporate citizenship

Mystery Creek Event Centre approached the Waikato Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) Group during 2012 to make their facility available as an alternative Group Emergency Coordination Centre (GECC) for the Waikato CDEM Group.

As a result of discussions prior to construction, the new building incorporates such facilities as additional wireless internet capacity and external electrical hook-ups to support the potential for portable office containers or mobile command vehicles parked outside. The incorporation of civil defence emergency response requirements into a new Mystery Creek Events Centre HQ is a great example of good corporate citizenship.

The advantages of the initiative for Waikato CDEM Group is that the Group has an alternative GECC available when the GECC located within Hamilton City is inaccessible due to damage, or the event requires more people than that can be accommodated in the current location.

The extent the Mystery Creek Event Centre will be utilised as an alternative GECC will depend on the event and the space

required. The expansion of the centre will escalate in three phases: Phase 1 utilising their conference facilities; Phase 2 the whole of their building; and Phase 3 expanding into their car park.

The Mystery Creek Event Centre's core business is event management and employs a number of staff that specialises in this. CDEM Foundational training will be delivered to staff of Mystery Creek Event Centre to better prepare them to support CDEM on logistical aspects. The training of Mystery Creek Event Centre staff will also support the development of their business contingency planning to make their Centre more prepared to cope with an event. Mystery Creek Event Centre will also participate in CDEM exercises to enhance preparedness to cope with an event.

A memorandum of understanding between the board of directors of the Mystery Creek



Waikato CDEM Joint Committee and staff from Red Cross at the signing of the MoU

Event Centre and the Waikato CDEM Group joint committee was signed on 18 November at a Waikato CDEM Group joint committee meeting held at Mystery Creek. As part of the signing of the agreement, Red Cross and the New Zealand Fire Service were in attendance to showcase their command vehicle capabilities that would be used as part of the expansion of the GECC. ■

Emergency Management & Business Resilience Summit, Wellington, 25-26 February 2014

New Zealand Emergency Management & Business Resilience Summit will take place at Te Papa, Wellington, on 25-26 February 2014.

This time, Conferenz, in partnership with the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management is running two conferences side-by-side, as a New Zealand Emergency Management Summit. The annual New Zealand Emergency Management Conference and a Business Resilience Conference will be joined each day by plenary sessions.

The summit connects the public and the private sector to build stronger and

more resilient communities. To withstand natural disasters and successfully cope with emergencies, it is essential that the Government, communities and businesses work together to anticipate threats, limit their effects and successfully recover after a crisis.

The Emergency Management Conference focuses on the topics for the public sector: civil defence groups, first responders, NGOs and others.

The Resilience & Emergency Planning for Business Conference is designed for risk managers and business continuity professionals in corporate organisations.

The Ministry is hosting both conferences. For further details and to register please visit: www.conferenz.co.nz/emergency. ■

Conference key topics:

- The meaning of community resilience and how to improve it
- The use of social media in case of emergencies
- Managing apathy
- Different ethnic communities point of view on disasters
- The importance of volunteers

Southland businesses keen to build resilience

Business owners came from across Southland to participate in the region's first business continuity planning workshop held in Invercargill recently.



Cheryl Foley from Gen-i Southland and Craig Sinclair from Emergency Management Southland discuss the 'Business Ready' booklet

Cheryl Foley from Gen-i Southland attended the workshop and found it inspiring. "I really needed a kick-start to do this, as it is quite a big task. I feel we now have some tools to start all the planning work."

Participant feedback from the first workshop was very positive, and spurred on by the workshop's success, Craig has planned a series of three subsequent workshops for Southland businesses in 2014. "Hopefully it's onward and upward from here."

Emergency Management Southland (EMS) is a jointly funded initiative by Environment Southland, the Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council and Gore District Council, and has led and co-ordinated the region's emergency planning, training and response capability since May 2010. ■

The workshop was a joint initiative between Emergency Management Southland, the New Zealand Fire Service and the Otago Southland Employers Association. Organiser, Emergency Management Southland Advisor, Craig Sinclair, says business continuity planning is an extension of the 'Get Ready Get Thru' campaign that we have been promoting to householders.

"After the Canterbury earthquakes, a lot of smaller and medium-size businesses failed because they couldn't adapt well enough as they didn't have a plan to get up and running again. The aim of this workshop is to improve business resilience during the next civil defence emergency."

In partnership with Southland Fire Risk Management Officer, Paul Glanville, from the Invercargill Fire Station, Craig prepared a presentation that focuses on making business owners aware of the natural hazards in Southland.

"Part of the workshop is to give business owners some background information on the events that can happen, and to identify the things that can trip them up on day to day business and get them to plan to mitigate these risks."

The presentation is specific to Southland and includes real life examples of hazards that have affected local businesses such as the fires at the Aparima Tavern in Riverton and Land South Apparel in Invercargill.

Craig says while the workshop is new to Southland, the idea for it originated in Northland where they have held similar workshops.

"The Northland CDEM Group found that their civil defence work fitted really well with what the Fire Service tried to get businesses to do around fire prevention, and thought it would be a good idea to work together and attack from two angles."

Following Northland's lead, Emergency Management Southland successfully applied for funding from the CDEM resilience fund to run several business continuity workshops.

"The basis of the workshop was supplied to us by Kim Abbott of the Northland CDEM Group, and we also prepared a 'Business Ready' booklet – a booklet that each person attending the workshop gets and which includes a self-help plan for business owners," Craig says.

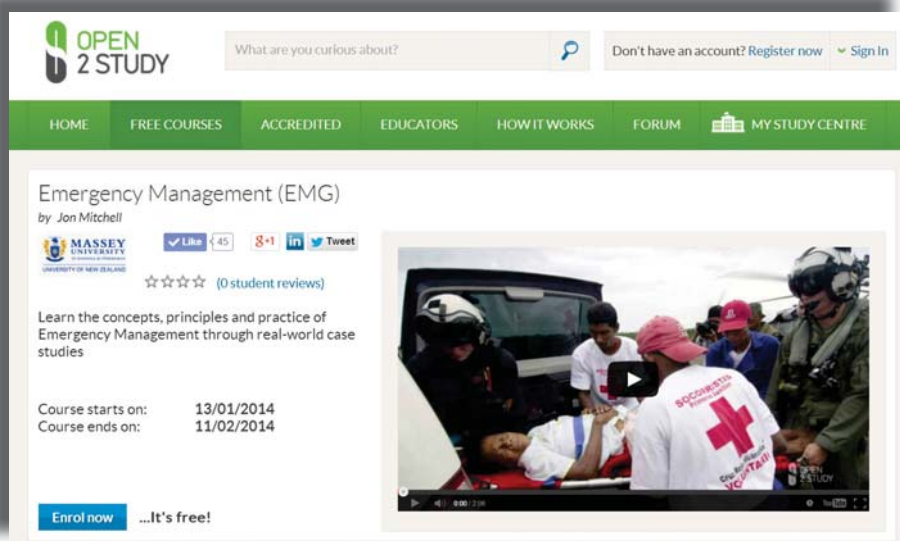
What's the plan Rotorua Stan?



Stan put in an appearance at Rotorua's annual Christmas parade as part of a joint 'Safe Communities' float, that combined messages about water and road safety along with civil defence and emergency preparedness messages.

Emergency management free online course

Massey University has recently teamed up with the free online learning platform Open2Study, led by Open Universities Australia (OUA), to offer a suite of free Mass Online Open Courses (MOOCs).



The Joint Centre for Disaster Research (JCDR) has developed and launched an Emergency Management introductory course on the Open2Study platform, as one of the first three MOOCs offered by Massey University. The new MOOC programme is one of the numerous international collaborative initiatives that Massey and JCDR are involved.

This emergency management course is considered to be the first MOOC based emergency management course in New Zealand and one of the very few of its kind internationally. Supported by national and international case studies, this emergency management course will take students on a journey through the origins of risk management in the ancient world to new hazards and risk management approaches of the industrial era, command and control models introduced in the Cold War era to recently introduced “all-hazards” models and more contemporary “risk” based approaches.

Students will explore the rapidly growing and increasingly influential discipline through a study of real-world risk understanding, reduction, readiness, and response and recovery examples. Student learning is supported by real-time discussion forums and assessments, enabling students to extend what they learn

through interaction with other students and build and test their growing knowledge through readily accessible tests. This course is expected to deliver students:

- 1) an understanding of the history of emergency management, including recent trends and changes
- 2) the essentials of contemporary emergency management
- 3) fundamentals of risk analysis, reduction and mitigation
- 4) basics of emergency response coordination
- 5) theory, structure, processes and challenges of disaster recovery
- 6) the critical role of communities, of all sorts, in building resilience, readiness, response and recovery, and
- 7) an insight into actual emergency management experiences.

After successful completion of the course students are expected to understand the concepts and principles of emergency management, and have an appreciation of real-world application of emergency management.

One of New Zealand’s well-established emergency managers and educators, Jon

Mitchell, is the course presenter, bringing his extensive experience and depth of study to add value to the course. Several subject matter experts from central and local government agencies make cameo appearances, contributing to the practice-to-research-to-teaching-to-practice cycle that JCDR specialises in. The course was put together by the team of Jon Mitchell, Dr Raj Prasanna and Associate Prof. Sarb Johal at JCDR and produced by Open2Study in Australia.

The course is now open for its first enrolment cycle and will start its content delivery in mid-January 2014. Similar to other Open2Study courses, the emergency management course consists of four modules, with each module comprising of 10 contemporary emergency management topics with approximately 6-8 minutes of online content. At the end of the four week course, students who achieve an overall average of at least 60% for their assessments will receive a certificate of achievement. While this certificate isn’t a formal educational qualification, students may use it to demonstrate their interest and passion for the course to potential employers, universities, and other educational institutions.

After its first cycle, as with other MOOCs, this course will be repeatedly offered throughout the year, providing flexibility opportunities for students to enrol when it is most convenient for them. JCDR recommends this course not only for the students who are looking for careers in the emergency management sector but for those who are already engaged in emergency management as volunteers, professionals, managers, or in governance roles who want to taste a much broader and holistic flavour of emergency management theory and practice.

For course enrolment please visit: <https://www.open2study.com/courses/emergency-management>. ■



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