



impact

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Red Cross exercises and 2014 appeal

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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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www.getthru.govt.nz
www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz

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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.

EDITORIAL

John Hamilton, Director Civil Defence



MCDEM has moved to DPMC

On April 1, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management moved from its home of 55 years, the Department of Internal Affairs, to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC).

On April 1, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management moved from its home of 55 years, the Department of Internal Affairs, to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC).

The change is evolutionary rather than revolutionary. The expectations are the civil defence emergency management (CDEM) sector will be contributing more to our national arrangements for all emergencies, we will not change how we do our work with our communities, and we will have better access to national support when it is needed.

As Director of CDEM I now report to DPMC Chief Executive Andrew Kibblewhite. One of his responsibilities is to chair the Officials' Committee for Domestic and External Security Coordination (ODESC), which develops our national security plans.

As part of new arrangements ODESC recently created a Readiness and Review Board. The Board's role is to give assurance that lead agencies are prepared to lead, and supporting agencies know their role and how they contribute to preparedness for and management of emergencies.

CDEM already works that way. A CDEM Group, led by its Joint Committee of that area's mayors, is the lead agency for civil defence emergencies. Its Coordinating Executive Group of council chief executives and other agencies' senior regional managers coordinates the partner agencies.

In our new role within DPMC we are expected to contribute our experience in leading and coordinating across the four R's (risk reduction, readiness, response, and recovery) to national crises management arrangements.

The Minister of Civil Defence, Hon Nikki Kaye said about the relocation of the Ministry: "DPMC leads national security planning. Having the Ministry within DPMC will benefit that planning and will give the Ministry a greater role in working across all of government to strengthen national emergency management arrangements.

"New Zealand's civil defence emergency management system is world-leading in involving communities and local government in emergency management. This focus will not change.

"Our approach of local responsibility, regional coordination, and national support has been tested many times since 1959 by floods, storms, landslides, volcanoes and earthquakes. It remains our philosophy because it works.

"The move to DPMC will strengthen the coordination of national support that can be provided when it is needed." ■

Auckland Council sends firefighters to support in Australian fires

Two teams of volunteer rural firefighters led by Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officers Rory Renwick and Lance Dixon headed across to Australia as part of a larger contingent to help the embattled Victorian state.

Two teams of volunteer rural firefighters led by Deputy Principal Rural Fire Officers Rory Renwick and Lance Dixon headed across to Australia as part of a larger contingent to help the embattled Victorian state.

Auckland Council Rural Fire Authority's responsibility is to prevent, control and suppress all fires within rural districts. They maintain a close working relationship with the New Zealand Fire Service who covers urban areas.

Principal Rural Fire Officer Bryan Cartelle says that this was a great opportunity to help our Australian neighbours.

"The teams were passionate about serving their communities and knew they could not only help across the ditch, but also gain valuable experience in working on larger campaign fires in New Zealand.

"It is a reflection of the quality of New Zealand rural fire personnel that a team can be sent to meet that request for assistance and it was an incredible experience for the fire fighters personally and for Auckland Rural Fire collectively."

The first team was sent over on 30 January and returned home on the 19 February. The second team went over on 14 February and returned on 8 March. This team overlap allowed a bit of transition time between the deployments. Both teams were stationed about five hours drive east of Melbourne and spent most of their time on the one fire complex.

Team One: Rory Renwick, DPRFO South, Denis Cooper Waitakere VRFF, Stephen Bishop Waitakere VRFF, William Torpey Awhitu VRFF, Mike Donovan (Puhoi VRFF).

Team Two: Lance Dixon DPRFO Great Barrier Island and the Crew from the Great Barrier VRFF and all members of the National Rural Fire Response Team, Wayne Anderson Jeremy Warden, Benny Bellerby, Malcolm Zuppich. ■



(Above) Back burning in Australia



Team Renwick L-R: Denis Cooper, Stephen Bishop, Rory Renwick, Billy Torpey, Mike Donovan



Team Dixon L-R: (Bryan Cartelle Principal Rural Fire Officer) Lance Dixon, Benny Bellerby, Malcolm Zuppich, Wayne Anderson and Jeremy Warden

Electronic upgrade for Northland community response plans

The Northland region currently has 51 operational Community Response Plans (CRPs) and as part of the review process, a new electronic version has been designed and implemented.



Trevor Andrews, Kaipara District CDEM Officer

CDEM Officer for the Kaipara District Trevor Andrews led the development of the “eCRP” as it has come to be known. With the help of a graphic designer and some input from the Northland CDEM team, the new version has been given the go ahead to be introduced to all Community Response Groups throughout Northland.

The new eCRP version uses consistent branding and messaging while still being tailored to the relevant hazards identified for each community. It has more public information than the previous template and is much more visually

appealing, while also allowing access to the document via laptops, tablets and smart phones, much easier. The look and feel of the plan has changed and is more aligned with the Get Ready Get Thru theme including information about tsunami inundation zones and survival kits.

Mr Andrews introduced the plan to the Mangawhai Community Response Group initially and the new format will be rolled out to the remaining groups in the near future.

The Mangawhai eCRP can be viewed at www.nrc.govt.nz/civildefence/Community-Response-Plans/ ■

Resources for improving organisational resilience in your region

Are you concerned about how well organisations in your region are prepared for a disaster?

Resilient ORGANISATIONS

Resilient Organisations has developed several guides on how organisations can improve their resilience. The brochures contain simple, action-oriented advice that organisations can work through to steer their organisations to increased crisis preparedness and resilience. So far, two brochures have been produced:

- ‘Shut Happens’ – suited to small businesses
- ‘Resilience Within’ – suited for NGOs

You can download both these brochures for free from our website www.resorgs.org.nz/Resources/booklets-guides.html. More brochures will be coming over the next few months.

Several CDEM groups are already distributing Shut Happens to businesses in their regions. The brochures are cost effective to print at just \$1.30 each (or less if you print more than 500). Resilient Organisations are also happy to add CDEM logos to the brochure at no cost, to show who provided the brochure. If you are interested in using these brochures, just contact Charlotte at Resilient Organisations: charlotte.brown@cpit.ac.nz.

For more resources on organisational resilience, or to sign up to our regular newsletter, see the Resilient Organisations website www.resorgs.org.nz. ■



Clutha District training exercises succeed

Clutha District Council recently hosted a very successful three days of Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training for the Otago Group.

Run by the Emergency Management Training Centre, the EOC 3 Training course was held at the Council offices in Balclutha from March 3-5.

The training was delivered by Jon Mitchell who put around 47 personnel from Police, Otago Regional, Dunedin City and Clutha and Waitaki District councils through their paces. Each day focused a different function of the EOC – Planning and Intelligence, Operations, and Logistics – which gave participants the opportunity to better familiarise themselves with their role and with those who they might be working most closely with in an event.

The sessions were a follow on from the EOC 2 course which Clutha hosted last year.

The training was again incredibly useful, particularly for those with little experience



of the processes of the EOC environment, and for those who hadn't been involved in an event for some time. It was also a chance for participants to get up to speed with

new policies and procedures in relation to Emergency Management. ■

Southern farmers 'off the grid' at field days

Under the theme 'Off the Grid', Emergency Management Southland (EMS) and the Southland Rural Support Trust partnered up for the Southern Field Days at Waimumu in February. The combination saw farmers gain many benefits from visiting one tent.

Emergency Management Advisor Sandra Miller said the Southland Rural Support Trust was a key partner in their preparation and response work. "If an emergency event predominantly affects the rural community, the trust usually takes the lead and we back them up with administration, and likewise, they support us when urban populations are predominately affected."

Sandra said that this year EMS's focus was on encouraging businesses to have continuity plans. "The question we wanted them to think about was 'How would I keep my business running and viable during an emergency event?' Preparedness is also a key topic for the Trust, so the partnership was quite a nice fit for this year's field days," she said.

Being resilient out on the farm is critical from a business continuity point of view. Sandra recounts the story of one young Southland farmer: "He told us about how he'd lost power and couldn't get his

cows milked, and that had a knock-on effect on his whole year's income. It just demonstrates why you should be prepared for these sorts of events because it can have longer term effects that impact on your livelihood," she said.

A back-up generator was one of the items farmers were encouraged to look at getting, and they had the chance to win one thanks to the generosity of Farmlands and Mitre 10 Mega. Over 600 people visited the tent to go in the draw, and it was won by a contractor in Gore.

The combined tent featured information materials and demonstrations of alternative power sources. Pikelets were cooked on a gas-powered barbecue, while solar powered lights glowed in the canopy.

"When people came into the tent many stopped and talked," Sandra said.

"It was great to familiarise them with the Trust, which also supports farmers when

they experience hardship. That's something which can happen outside of emergency events, and it was good to let people know there is someone to talk to when they need it." ■



Emergency Management Advisor Sandra Miller cooks up pikelets on a barbecue 'off the grid' for farmers at the Southern Field Days.

Preparing for the Big One

Designing multi-agency exercises helps ensure that the right people are in the right place, doing the right thing at the right time in the case of a mass emergency.

To this end, Carl van der Meulen and Phil Burgess from the NZSAR Secretariat, along with Paul Craven from RCCNZ, recently attended the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management's (MCDEM) Exercise Writing & Management course. This course is designed for people who will be involved in writing and managing multi-agency exercises, which will be useful as we develop our exercise programme for mass rescue operations (MROs).

MROs are large and complex by nature, requiring a well coordinated multi-incident, multi-agency response. Search and rescue will form only one part of the overall response to any MRO incident – albeit a very important part.

There has been a concerted effort over the last year by NZSAR, RCCNZ, and NZ Police, to develop MRO readiness plans. The focus is now on checking that these plans will provide an effective, efficient, and well-coordinated response to any MRO. A number of table top discussion exercises across the Police Districts, involving agencies and personnel that don't typically work with the SAR sector, are presently being planned.

Carl says that this is why they participated in this course. "There are so many strands to an MRO response: the SAR component, mass welfare needs of survivors and possible mass casualties. Our readiness plans need to ensure that all these strands of activity will



(L-R): Marcus Hayes-Jones (Napier CDEM), Paul Craven (RCCNZ), course facilitator Jo Guard (MCDEM), Carl van der Meulen (NZSAR)

be well-coordinated in an MRO response. So we need to develop our exercises accordingly – to focus on the higher level coordination of an MRO – and to do that we need to exercise with other agencies like CDEM."

An important part of exercise development is the documentation. The MRO exercises will be developed using the series of exercise templates recently developed for the National Exercise Programme. Phil says that these templates will help all agencies get the best benefit from the exercises. For example: "making sure our exercise goals,

objectives and KPIs are well documented and known to all agencies involved."

Paul agrees: "The temptation with writing an exercise is to dive right into the scenario before considering things like the real purpose of what you are trying to achieve. There's also a danger of assuming that what you consider to be the purpose of the exercise may not necessarily be what others think. The course highlighted to me the importance of the initial planning phases of an exercise, to ensure your ducks are all in a row before starting with the scenario." ■

How do we enhance community resilience?

A new international online database, The Resilience Toolbox (www.resiliencetoolbox.org) is now available for organisations with a role in building resilience.

This database has been developed as a way to share ideas and resources, so that the public sector, private organisations and community groups that are thinking and working on resilience issues can build on each other's work. Participants can load their contact details and a brief description of their projects, and they can make updates on progress.

All the tools on the database are free for others to use and adapt as they require.

Some of the great ideas and resources already available include Resilientville (City & County of San Francisco), Pre Disaster Recovery - Coastal County Frameworks (Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience - University of Oregon), Earthquake Resiliency (District of North Vancouver) and It's Easy - Prepared Neighbours (Wellington Region Emergency Management Office).

The Resilience Toolbox is an extension of Integrated Research on Disaster Risk



(IRDR) programme *International Centre of Excellence in Community Resilience*, stewarded by GNS Science/Massey University's Joint Centre for Disaster Research and the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office.

So let's collaborate to advance the CDEM sector and enhance community resilience! ■

UNESCO 'Blue Shield' – Preserving our heritage in the Christchurch disaster zone

Winston Roberts (Blue Shield Working Group, LIANZA representative)

It has been described as the "cultural equivalent of the Red Cross". The International Committee of the Blue Shield was founded in 1996 to work to protect cultural heritage threatened by wars and natural disasters.

The Blue Shield's website www.ancbs.org describes its function as "Working for the protection of the world's cultural heritage by coordinating preparations to meet and respond to emergency situations". The 'blue shield' is the symbol used to identify cultural sites protected by the Hague Convention of 1954.

Blue Shield is a joint initiative of four international professional bodies (known as the "four Pillars") which are the peak bodies in the areas of libraries, archives, museums and heritage sites. They are:

- ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)
- ICOM (International Council of Museums)
- ICA (International Council on Archives)
- IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)

The work of Blue Shield is supported by UNESCO and other international organisations, and the various national Blue Shield committees also work closely with strategic partners in their own countries.

Blue Shield is very much geared towards physical tangible heritage, and management and projection of that heritage in emergency situations.

Representatives from the 'four pillars' in New Zealand have been meeting as a working group over the last 18 months, to consider the establishment of a Blue Shield committee in New Zealand. They undertook a gap analysis, which indicated that the specific tasks and scope of a Blue Shield committee are not already undertaken by other agencies in NZ, so it would therefore fill a gap. A paper outlining a proposal for endorsement and summarising this gap analysis has been prepared.

The working group is now working on completion of the formal documentation required to establish a Blue Shield Committee for New Zealand. ■



Christchurch Cathedral
in December 2011

NZ Red Cross exercise builds agency relationships in Rotorua

The scene that greets the Civil Defence response teams is one of utter carnage. A car is wedged under a train barrier arm, and there's a woman on the ground with two legs missing. Inside the wrecked car is a distressed family – the father's intestines are showing, the mother has an exposed compound femoral fracture and the teenage girls in the back seat are crying and pleading for help.



Civil Defence emergency management group's NZRT 3 and 5 attend to victims of a train/car accident
(Photo: Graeme Murray)

It's just one of the realistic scenarios emergency response teams from several agencies had to deal with on the weekend of 7-9 March at New Zealand Red Cross' Exercise Edgecombe in Rotorua.

Held at the New Zealand Fire Service national training centre, and nearby venues, the exercise was based on a scenario of a 6.5 magnitude earthquake of 8km depth near Rotorua.

Seventy-five volunteers came from all over New Zealand, including members of the Red Cross national disaster response team (NDRT), Civil Defence response teams from Auckland and Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Fire Service USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) team, Christchurch City Council, and representatives from St John and Rotorua International Airport.

Thirty role players from Red Cross and local schools acted as the "victims", including two real amputees, which put extra stress on responders and tested their ability to keep calm.

Red Cross NDRT member Steve King of Nelson came across amputee Christine Windle during an exercise in Henderson Quarry.

... having real amputees involved was extremely valuable for the volunteers' learning experience...

"I could see it was a crush injury and as I approached her I thought 'blimey that looks quite bad'. I thought her leg was under the rock but as I got closer I realised it wasn't. My mind was going 'there's a leg somewhere but I can't see it'. I was a bit confused there for a minute."

Steve says having real amputees involved was extremely valuable for the volunteers' learning experience and will definitely stand him in good stead for future emergencies.

The earthquake exercise was the first time New Zealand Red Cross and New Zealand Fire Service USAR staff have practised together and Red Cross Emergency

Management Officer, Graeme Langford, says it went very well.

"It was about cementing skills learnt to date and creating opportunities for team members to apply those skills in a complex multi-agency disaster event. We were fortunate to have the full backing of the New Zealand Fire Service who not only made their national training centre available to us, but supplied four of their top Urban Search and Rescue Task Force leaders to provide incident control for the exercise.

"It was all about building relationships and showing how all agencies can work together to support USAR operations in New Zealand, because in a large disaster that's who NDRT members will be working with."

Fire Service USAR Manager, Gavin Travers, says not only did everyone gain useful experience from the exercise but the relationships developed between people and agencies will be invaluable in a real disaster.

"We saw it as a compliment that Red Cross invited us to provide staff for the

incident management role. Disasters such as Typhoon Haiyan have taught us that inundating the affected country with aid and people can make the situation worse unless robust coordination is in place. If local infrastructure can't handle the influx we must be able to set up our own so we are not a burden when we arrive. Red Cross is very good at doing this so it makes sense to draw on their experience."

St John Lakes Territory manager Hilary Morrish-Allen says the more all agencies can practise together the better.

"It was a good opportunity for us to iron out any issues and see how Red Cross medical

New Zealand Red Cross launches its appeal

New Zealand Red Cross launched its 2014 annual appeal at Parliament with one of its highly skilled aid workers, nurse Guru Dev Singh on hand to give passers-by a refresher in CPR. Civil Defence Minister Nikki Kaye stopped by to talk with Guru Dev and refreshed her CPR skills while there.

(Photo: Neil Mackenzie)



processes work. It was also interesting to see all the different terminology of Red Cross and to get an understanding of incident management processes. We already work with Fire Service a lot so for us to integrate with Red Cross is of major benefit to us."

Graeme Langford says New Zealand Red Cross is currently evaluating the exercise and is committed to continuing this valuable multi-agency approach in the future. ■



Above Left: A member of CDEMG's response team comforts one of the car's occupants

Above Right: Members of NZRT 3 and 5 stretch out one of the car's occupants

Left: Red Cross NDRT members evacuating a patient at Henderson Quarry

(Photos: Graeme Murray)

Snap the coast, see the future

Auckland King Tides initiative is an exciting community initiative, sponsored by Auckland Council, that encourages people from around the Auckland region to visit and photograph the highest tides that naturally occur along the coastline each year.

Joining the global King Tides movement, people are working together to share information on sea level change and the potential impact.

In Auckland, proximity to the coast means that many favourite places to play and relax are near the water. Some of these locations are strongly impacted by king tides. Capturing evidence of king tides in these places when they occur provides a chance to see how they might look in 40 years' time. Using online tools, the public are encouraged to upload images of the coast during king tide events. These images present an opportunity to capture a living record of the changing coastlines and provide a glimpse into the future of what Auckland's coast may look like as global sea levels continue to rise.

During the first weekend of February 2014 Auckland saw some of the highest tides for the year, which provided the perfect launch pad for the initiative and website. Since then, the community has been continuously engaged with opportunities to take photos of high and low tides, to use as comparison photos.



This image depicts the height of a King Tide in 50 years (2064)

The first weekend of March saw the start of Auckland Museum 'Sea Week', which also coincided with another king tide event. This was the perfect opportunity to again engage with the public through a display at

Silo Park, of photos taken in February and community education on sea level rise.

<http://auckland.kingtides.org.nz/> ■

2014 Chinese New Year Festival & Market Day



2014 Chinese New Year Festival & Market Day

The 2014 Chinese New Year Festival & Market Day was held on 18 January at the ASB Showgrounds in Greenlane.

The Auckland Chinese Community Centre Inc. has been organising this annual Chinese New Year celebration for the more than 20 years. The festival has grown in popularity over these years, and has now become a highlight of the Auckland summer events calendar with attendance by more than 20,000 people.

Auckland Civil Defence and Emergency Management attended with a team comprising staff and volunteers, which included six Chinese speaking volunteers.

Jamie Richards, Senior Advisor Public Education described the day as 'hectic', with large volumes of foot traffic and a long queues of people.

"From previous attendance at the event we knew the day would be challenging, but the team worked well together to deliver a great result!

"At the height of the day we had ten staff and volunteers engaging with the community. I was heartened to see the team spirit, and the level of commitment by our volunteers, days like these cannot be run without staff and volunteer involvement," says Jamie. ■

Looking back at the NZ Emergency Management & Business Resilience Summit

The New Zealand Emergency Management & Business Resilience Summit that was held on 25-26 February 2014 in Wellington, was again a success.

Two conferences, The Emergency Management Conference and The Resilience & Emergency Planning for Business Conference were incorporated in one summit, with the aim of connecting the public with the private sector.

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 crisis. By connecting the public and private sector, we can spread the awareness, promote the preparedness for disasters and build more resilient communities.

The summit offered a good range of speakers and some good insights into emergency management and business resilience in New Zealand. Among the local highlights of the summit were:

Hon. Nikki Kaye, the Minister of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, who opened the summit by emphasising the importance of collaboration between the public and private sector.

Prof. Ilan Noy from Victoria University of Wellington, who explained the economic impact of disasters and why communities should invest in resilience.

Peter Townsend, the Chief Executive of the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce elaborated on the compelling interdependencies between sustainable profitable business and community wellbeing.

Paul Lonsdale, the Manager of Restart the Heart Trust, stressed the importance of strong leadership in disastrous events.

Mayor of Christchurch, Lianne Dalziel, promoted the importance of community resilience and how it manifested itself in Christchurch after the devastating earthquakes.

This year the Summit hosted three keynote speakers from the United States. Richard Serino, former Deputy Administrator from US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Desiree Matel-Anderson, former Chief Innovations Advisor, also from FEMA, introduced a new approach to achieving the community resilience – to manage emergencies in an innovative way, even if this means the possibility of failure.

Craig Colten, Professor from Louisiana State University, emphasised the need to sustain resilience in the intervals between disasters.

In order to successfully prepare for disasters and effectively cope with them when they occur, the community needs to step together and work as one. Once again the need for a tighter collaboration between public and private sectors has been stressed.

The summit offered plenty of opportunities for speakers, delegates and sponsors to exchange ideas, knowledge and experiences, and to form, or refresh existing, business relationships.

The first day of the event finished at Parliament Buildings with another address from the Minister and a presentation of Ministerial Awards for CDEM (*see back page*). The special venue helped create a friendly and relaxed atmosphere after a long but successful day.

The New Zealand Emergency Management & Business Resilience Summit emphasised the importance of community engagement and public-private partnerships in emergency events. Much has been done in the past, but there is still a lot to do, to achieve awareness, preparedness and resilience in the community. The key message – to be innovative and not to be afraid of failure – was spread and embraced by the audience who left the event with great enthusiasm for future work.

Stan moves



Woof... woof..

Master's got me a new kennel and all my MCDem Wellington buddies and I are moving in really soon. It's no April Fool's joke, but on 1 April we'll all be in a place called Bowen House. Master's building some new rooms and getting all our toys together so we don't get too stressed. We'll have really nice men guarding us too so watch out strays... you have to go through the scanners when you visit us.

I've dug a really cool tunnel so I can get from my new kennel into that place where we run round and round in circles... it'll be really awesome. I just hope they get some plants coz it's a long way to the nearest tree. Little Miss tells me that some of our numbers are changing... I don't know what that means but I'm excited anyway. I do know our 'Doggie Direct Ins' (DDIs) are changing too, so I think you need to know this!

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The Global Katrina Effect: An International Research Symposium – Call for papers

Center for Disaster Research & Education, Millersville University of Pennsylvania, USA, October 1 – 3, 2014

On the eve of Hurricane Katrina's tenth anniversary, an International Research Symposium in Pennsylvania is calling for papers.

August 2015 will mark the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, considered to be one of the defining historic events within the emergency management field in the United States. Accordingly, this anniversary will prompt numerous reflective academic assessments of how this disaster, which struck the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coasts, changed the US emergency management landscape thereafter. However, less is known about the impact that Hurricane Katrina had on disaster management systems in other countries, in relation to a variety of subject areas ranging from emergency preparedness to coastal management, to vulnerable populations, to companion animals. To highlight the global lessons drawn from Hurricane Katrina, Millersville University will host an International Research Symposium on October 1-3, 2014 which will bring together policymakers, practitioners and academics from around the world. This interdisciplinary gathering will take place over a three-day period during which juried scholarly papers will address how other countries modified their disaster response institutions, practices or policies after the initial American mismanagement of the Katrina crisis came to light.

Millersville University's Center for Disaster Research and Education invites academic specialists, practitioners and policymakers to submit proposals addressing the symposium theme. Since the goal of the symposium is to advance new ways of understanding the impact of Hurricane Katrina through a cross-national comparative examination of case studies, proposals should adhere to the following structure: 1) highlighting what happened during Hurricane Katrina regarding a specific subject area; 2) reviewing changes in institutions, procedures or law in the

United States as a result of lessons learned from Katrina in this sector and 3) identifying how other countries adapted their emergency management systems/policies post-Katrina and whether these innovative changes might be utilized by the US and other countries. (Interdisciplinary studies are particularly encouraged.)

Submissions to take part in this research symposium should include a paper proposal between 300-500 words specifically addressing the three areas noted above, along with the applicant's curriculum vitae. This proposal should be based on original research and not cover work the author has previously published. The symposium's organizers intend to invite selected symposium papers for inclusion in an edited volume entitled: *The Global Katrina Effect, 2005-2015: Hurricane Katrina's Impact on Disaster Management Systems Worldwide*. The deadline for submission of symposium proposals is May 1, 2014. Submissions should be sent to BOTH symposium organizers: robert.bookmiller@millersville.edu AND kirsten.bookmiller@millersville.edu.

Participants will be notified of selection for the symposium by mid-June 2014. More details concerning the format for each

paper will be provided at that time. A full copy of the accepted participant's paper is due by September 1, 2014 and will be made available to other symposium contributors. It is the goal of the symposium organizers to provide sufficient time for each participant to present their findings and allow time for comments and questions. The symposium will be a public event open to university and community members, however emergency management practitioners are especially welcome.

Contingent upon grant funding, hotel accommodations for the symposium participants will be covered. All symposium meals will be covered. More information regarding funding will be provided during notification of the paper's inclusion in the research symposium programme in mid-June.

Millersville University is part of the Pennsylvania State System of Universities and is located in Lancaster County, PA (which is serviced by both Amtrak and a regional airport). The university offers a Master's of Science Degree in Emergency Management (MSEM) and houses the Center for Disaster Research and Education (www.millersville.edu/cdre/). ■

National Volunteer Week 2014 theme announced

This year's theme for National Volunteer Week (NVW) is inspired by the following whakatauki (Maori proverb): "Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ait e tangata" which VNZ has translated as, "With your contribution and my contribution the people will live." This year, NVW 2014 falls on the week of 15-21 of June.

VNZ annually co-ordinates NVW to help recognize the invaluable contribution



made by volunteers in Aotearoa. The week consists of celebrations and events around the country and it is New Zealand's largest acknowledgement of civic participation.

More information on the VNZ website: <http://www.volunteeringnz.org.nz/> ■

One stop shop for CDEM information in the Wellington Region

In November 2013 WREMO launched their new website: www.getprepared.org.nz.

This new website reflects WREMO's regional approach to Civil Defence and Emergency Management in the Wellington region. This single website replaces information held on over nine websites maintained by the councils in the Wellington region, and in an emergency is easy to access and update.

The default status of the website is that of promoting emergency preparedness, providing readers with information on hazards, household and business preparedness as well as working to connect neighbourhoods and communities.

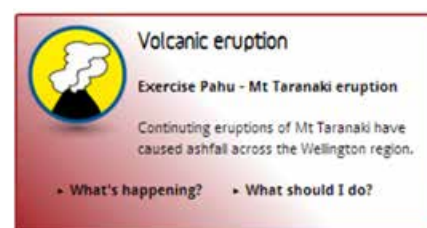


When an emergency occurs the emergency sections of the website can be activated by our Public Information Managers (PIMs), from any location with internet access.

Each PIM has full access to the emergency section of the website. Usually a PIM would only add information about their district or city. However, if needed they can post information for other cities or districts on behalf of that area's PIM.

All the PIMs in the Wellington region have been trained in the use of the website in an emergency. Additionally, a clear and simple user guide has been published and is available at all Emergency Operation Centres in the region.

Left: The WREMO website in its default state – focusing on preparedness and resilience.



Above: The emergency panel which links through to the two key emergency sections (*What's happening?* and *What should I do?*)

Where possible, information has been pre-loaded into the website, particularly advice on what to do, should an event such as a flood be escalating. This makes it faster and easier for information to be published during an emergency.

All nine of the councils in the region will direct their websites to getprepared.org.nz, making it a one stop shop for emergency information should you work, play and live in different cities in the Wellington region. ■

What would you do?

The working title for this September's Get Ready Week was nailed as: *What would you do?* at the National Public Education Reference Group's annual meeting in Wellington this month.

This concept builds on last year's theme which was neighbourliness and can be applied to the home, the street/apartment where people live, place of work or business they run.

The question: What would you do?, can be applied to all manner of disasters and invites people to think about what they

would do if, for example, the power was cut-off for several days or their home and/or business was flooded or a tsunami was headed their way.

Discussing with people their emergency plan is a natural follow-on to the question, as is checking with people to see what they have already done towards the plan.

This provides the opportunity to reassure people that they probably have done more than they think to prepare for a disaster

and provide them with the opportunity to discuss the plan with family, friends, workmates and neighbours.

Get Ready Week is again timed for the last week in September. ■



Inaugural Disaster Communications Conference is shaping up to be a 'sell-out'

New Zealand's first dedicated disaster communications conference, presented by Emergency Media & Public Affairs (EMPA), is approaching its capacity of 120 delegates.

"We'd based our initial estimates on attracting 60 or 70 delegates for a first time event," said Conference Chair, Michele Poole of Queenstown Lakes District Council. "But we're already ahead of that with 10 weeks to go. The line-up of international and local speakers is proving to be very attractive – in fact we've had to turn down some offers of speakers because the programme is jam packed. It's going to be a fabulous conference."

The Speaker Programme for the Emergency Media & Public Affairs Conference (EMPA) has been released and is on the EMPA website www.emergencymedia.org

EMPA's major sponsor is the Auckland Council. The conference will be held at the Heritage Auckland Hotel on Thursday, 22 and Friday, 23 May 2014.

The conference features a programme of high profile international and local speakers:

- Bob Jensen, Department of Homeland Security, Washington DC.
- Denis McClean, Chief, Communications Branch, UNISDR, Geneva.
- Mark Crossweller, Director-General, Emergency Management Australia.
- John Hamilton, Director of Civil Defence Emergency Management.
- Sir Bob Parker, former Mayor of Christchurch.

FAST FIVES

A highlight of the programme is the 'Fast Fives series'. We've assembled a panel of experts in their fields to each give delegates a high-compression, five minute burst on a list of hot topics. It will be a fast paced and diverse session that taps in to the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of around 10 subject experts.

TOP SPEAKERS

Other top speakers include Capt David Morgan, Chief Pilot at Air New Zealand on how Air NZ prepares for the unexpected, and Dr Mark Quigley from Canterbury Uni talking about communicating science to a lay audience.

Other features:

- Interactive panels
- Two full days of sessions
- Conference dinner

VISIT: www.emergencymedia.org.au ■



Come and hear some of the world's leading disaster communications professionals discuss their experiences and give advice and tips on how to lead your community through a disaster.

Keynote speakers:



Bob Jensen,
Principal Dep. Asst Sec. for Public Affairs,
Department of Homeland Security,
Washington DC



Mark Crossweller,
Director-General,
Emergency Management Australia



Bob Parker,
Former Christchurch Mayor



John Hamilton,
Director of the Ministry of Civil
Defence & Emergency Management

And other international and local speakers.

Who should attend?

- Communications and emergency services professionals
- Response and recovery agencies
- Public information and emergency managers
- Editors and journalists
- Researchers
- Social media practitioners

Conference fees	Earlybird (before 28 February 2014)	Full (after 28 February 2014)
Individual	NZ\$750	NZ\$850
Group (3 or more)	NZ\$700	NZ\$700

Registration includes:

- two days of regular sessions
- coffee breaks and lunch
- conference dinner and entertainment

Presented by Emergency Media and Public Affairs

Sponsored by Auckland Council

Research Sponsor: Christchurch City Council

Supported by Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management

Organised by High Profile Events

The full programme will be confirmed shortly. For further information, bookings and registration forms:

Visit: www.emergencymedia.org or email: events@hpe.com.au



Buller's New Emergency Management Officer

The Buller District Council has recently appointed Kerri-Ann Rakena to the position of Emergency Management Officer for the district, and she's been getting around!

Kerri-Ann grew up in Westport and is involved in various volunteer organisations such as Search and Rescue and St John. She has a great knowledge of the Buller District and an amazing passion for it.

"In recent years it has become more apparent that we need all our communities to be aware and prepared for emergency situations," Kerri-Ann says.

Throughout 2014 she will be supplying information and tips from Civil Defence to the *Buller District Council Community Newsletter*. She is encouraging everyone to be ready and have an emergency plan.

In emergency situations communities need to unite to help each other out, and Kerri-Ann is asking residents to be aware of anyone with disabilities or special needs in their immediate neighbourhood.

"Another key lesson from the Canterbury earthquakes is that people should ensure they have adequate insurance cover and that their cover is up-to-date," Kerri-Ann says.

She is publicising the frequencies for radio stations in the Buller District (see below). "In the event of an emergency, information will be on the radio. It is a key item in your survival kit," Kerri-Ann says.



Above: Kerri-Ann, Emergency Management Officer with the Civil Defence display at the Westport A&P Show in early January 2014.

Left: Kerri-Ann again, at the Inangahua A&P Show in Reefton held in early February 2014.



Station Name	Westport	Karamea	Reefton	Inangahua
Classic Hits	90.9FM		97.5FM	90.9FM
CoastFM	96.5FM	99.3FM	90.3FM	
LiveSPORT	93.3FM			93.3FM
Newstalk ZB	1287AM	1287AM		1287AM
Radio Live	90.1FM			90.1FM
Radio NZ Concert	98.9FM			98.9FM
Radio NZ National	1458AM	1458AM		1458AM
Rhema	9.9FM			
The Sound	92.5FM			

Minister presents civil defence awards

Civil Defence Minister Nikki Kaye has presented the second round of Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) gold and silver awards at an event at Parliament.

"Recipients of these awards deserve recognition at the national level," Ms Kaye says.

"Through their efforts they have made a vital contribution to our wellbeing as a nation and they are the backbone of New Zealand communities when there is a crisis.

"They have been there to serve their communities with practical assistance at times of great need. I am delighted to present these gold and silver awards."

Gold awards

Orion New Zealand Limited, which owns and operates the electricity distribution network covering central Canterbury. Orion has set the benchmark for resilience for all providers and operators of lifeline utilities in New Zealand. Strengthened sub-stations, resilient communications and network information systems, a well led and highly motivated work team, and planned staff supplementation enable Orion to quickly understand impacts and outages. The 2010-11 Canterbury earthquakes and the strong winds and snow of 2013 proved the value of Orion's investment to Canterbury's communities and businesses, and to New Zealand's economy.

Simon Markham, Recovery Manager for the Waimakariri District Council. Following the earthquakes of 2010-11, Simon delivered a resoundingly successful community-focussed recovery operation that has been recognised in Waimakariri, Canterbury, nationally and increasingly, internationally. Simon shouldered the responsibility without hesitation. He devised the recovery plan and oversaw its implementation. His brilliant thinking, tenacity, leadership, quiet confidence and co-operative spirit produced a recovery plan focussed singularly on the well-being of the people. His work has greatly assisted the physical rebuild of Waimakariri communities and also their morale, confidence and psychological well-being.

Silver awards

Jennifer Rowan, recent Chair of the Wellington CDEM Group and Mayor of Kapiti, for her outstanding public leadership and significant personal courage in advocating for reform in the Wellington CDEM Group.

Jim Frater, Nelson-Tasman CDEM Group Controller, for his outstanding leadership and ability as a controller in managing numerous responses.

Basil Morrison, Chair of Local Government Commission, for outstanding leadership in the Waikato region at times of crisis, and many years' service as a local controller and elected official.

Kim Manahi, Emergency Preparedness Co-ordinator for the Ngai Tahu Runaka, for outstanding initiative and commitment to helping local communities be better prepared for a civil defence emergency, and ensuring marae are well-prepared to look after whanau, the community, response workers, and manuhiri that might need assistance in an emergency.

Jonathan Davies, Gisborne CDEM Group Controller, through outstanding leadership and management has developed strong and collaborative relationships with response partners, emergency services, and local businesses that have significantly enhanced CDEM in the Gisborne District.

The seven gold and silver award winners at Parliament with Minister Kaye. From left: Jim Frater, Kim Manahi, Basil Morrison, Simon Markham, Hon Nikki Kaye, Jennifer Rowan, Jon Davies and Rob Jamieson, CE of Orion New Zealand Ltd (gold award winner).

