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Te Rakau Whakamarumaru
Ministry for Emergency Management
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IF A TSUNAMI HITS...

Public information managers plan their presentation on how they would cope if a tsunami hits Greymouth.

The managers were attending a course at the Royal NZ Police College in November. From left, are: Garrick Laing (Waipa District Council), Rian van Schalkwyk (Wellington Regional Council), Bob Day (Palmerston North CC), Philip Burton (Hamilton CC), Joanne Gibbs (Auckland CC) and Shona Howatson (Napier CC).

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CDEM Bill introduced

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The Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill was introduced in Parliament on 9 November 2000.

The proposed Bill will repeal and replace the Civil Defence Act 1983. The Bill is intended to update and redefine the duties, functions and powers of central government, local government, emergency services, and lifeline utilities.

Minister of Civil Defence Hon. George Hawkins said the Bill will ensure New Zealand is capable of managing an emergency of national and local significance.

"Since 1983, the government and economic structures have changed in ways that make the current Civil Defence Act impractical.

"At the same time more effective ways to manage hazards through a comprehensive risk management approach are now recognised as best practice, but are outside the concep-



Minister of Civil Defence
Hon. George Hawkins

tual and organisational framework of the current Act.

"As a consequence of these changes, New Zealand's capability to deal with a large scale emergency event is barely adequate," George Hawkins said.

The Bill requires local authorities to join with emergency services to form civil defence emergency management

(CDEM) groups. These groups will be based on regional boundaries.

George Hawkins said: "Mayors will retain the right to declare a local state of emergency. The Bill encourages Civil Defence Emergency Management Group members to agree to a planned response and to share resources.

"The Bill also describes what is to be done by whom but allows discretion on how," he said.

FROM THE EDITOR

There is at the Ministry a sense of urgency and excitement with all the projects that are underway, and never enough time it seems to fit in all that needs to be done before the Christmas holidays.

I spent my second week on the job in October with the team from the Ministry who were doing the CDEM Formation and Planning workshops in Invercargill, Dunedin and Christchurch. It was an invaluable insight into the issues important to everyone involved with emergency management. It also gave me the opportunity to meet with several civil defence and communication staff at the councils to discuss public education programmes.

And in November, the Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill was introduced in Parliament, the culmination of many years of work, especially by the Ministry's Policy Unit. Planning work has already begun for a series of meetings with businesses, utilities and local authorities.

I was also fortunate to be involved with the Public Information Managers course that was held in Wellington. The superb presentations and the enthusiasm of those on the course certainly gave me plenty to think about.

MORE DOLLARS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

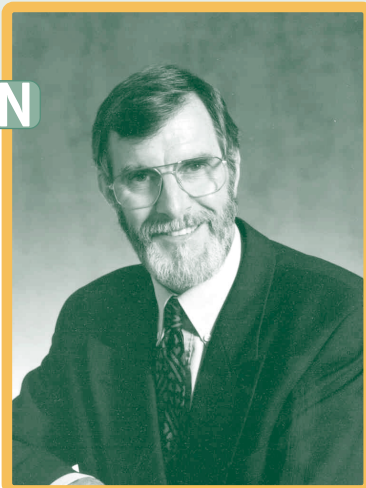
This year the Minister has made a special allocation of \$106,000 for public education programmes. The challenge for the Ministry is to maximise the returns from this investment. Early in the new year I will be in touch with those involved in developing public education programmes to discuss the best way to achieve this. The focus will be on looking at what is best done at a central coordinated level that will benefit everyone. A good place to start is probably the advertising content at the back of the Yellow Pages. And obviously the development of generic public education brochures. You will also start to see more public education resources posted on the Ministry's website. More to come on this. In the meantime, if you would like to share your ideas on public education initiatives, please email me.

CHANDRIKA MARTINEZ

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MESSAGE FROM

JOHN NORTON



A milestone achieved

The new Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) legislation has been tabled in Parliament and is currently awaiting its first reading. It is expected to go to a Select Committee early in the new year and the target date for enactment is 1 July 2001. This is a milestone for the industry and follows a decade of review and consultation. During this time organisational structures within New Zealand have continued to change and the assumptions which once supported the local and national capability are no longer valid. We need this new legislation.

At an operational level, the Bill provides for a risk based approach to emergency management with planning based on potential consequences of hazards and with a focus on reducing risk over time. The Bill provides for the amalgamation of local authorities into regional groupings for civil defence planning and it is explicit about the roles of local government, the emergency services, government agencies, and utilities. At an organisational level, the Bill will influence land use planning and the management and maintenance of infrastructure. The Bill promotes the creation of resilient communities and will allow New Zealand to maintain its international credibility in times of disaster.

The Ministry has just completed a series of workshops on CDEM Group formation and planning. The guidelines were developed with significant input from local government focus groups and this input has been extremely useful in developing practical frameworks. The workshops also provided valuable input as we were finalising clauses for the draft Bill. A number of issues were raised and discussed and we look forward to further input on these to the Select Committee. We were pleased and encouraged by the widespread positive response from the roadshow workshops - and also with the range of people who attended from the emergency services and utilities, as well as from local government. I would like to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed to the process.

Our challenge over the next six months is to convert all the background work and thinking into a workable piece of legislation.

Our focus now moves to developing the National Strategy. We will be consulting on this over the coming months and we will be looking to work with wider sector groups (utilities, health, and welfare) to develop the guidelines. When the Select Committee process starts we will follow up with a series of workshops specifically aimed at providing details on the Bill as needed.

I also take this opportunity to welcome Lynda Angus (Manager, Sector Support) and Chandrika Martinez (Public Affairs Manager) to the Wellington management team. They have both had to hit the ground running and have a full programme ahead.

On behalf of everyone at the Ministry I wish you all a safe, happy (and disaster free!) Christmas break.

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A MODEL FOR COOPERATION

Otago/Southland emergency planning group

Develop an integrated response amongst all emergency management agencies in Otago and Southland.

That was the aim that a group of emergency management professionals set for themselves in 1999. Discussions with those closely involved with the project indicate that the formula that they have adopted is working well.

Formed in 1999, the group comprises representatives from all the emergency services: Fire, Police, Ambulance, the Health Funding Authority, Defence Forces, and the Civil Defence Officers from Dunedin City, Invercargill City, Southland District and Gore District Councils. The Ministry for Emergency Management's Advisor for the region, Wilson Brown, is the facilitator for the meetings. The Ministry's Policy Analyst, Gerard Clark, was also involved in the early meetings.

Wilson sees this as an excellent working model of cooperation between the emergency services and civil defence. Simply by meeting together and discussing issues a number of strong links have been formed.

"Although very good working relationships already existed in Southland and Otago this group has enhanced and worked on what is already there. As a group its main focus was to look at the planning aspects of being able to respond to a large event which would require an overarching plan for all agencies to work to," says Wilson.

The outcome of this process is a greater awareness of the hazards within the regions, the current plans available and the gaps. The group also provides a forum to foster awareness of the way each of the agencies work.

By early 2000 the planning group had created two substantial working parties that had grown out of the initial working parties. The two parties comprise the entire Emergency Service Response Agencies (ESRA) - Police, Fire and Ambulance; and the Community Support Agencies (CSA) - Civil Defence and the Defence Forces. Each group has representation from the other group to allow for continuity in planning processes.

The ESRA group is working on finalising the current contingent capability of all the emergency response agencies in stations, vehicles and personnel resources in Otago and Southland, along with the Civil Defence response capability of each area as well. Integrated into their database will be mapping information that will interact with the resource database. The CSA group has issued a request for broad-brush information on the risks and hazards in and around communities throughout Southland and Otago. Presently this information is being returned in a steady manner for



At the ESRA meeting in Balclutha on 17 Nov 2000 (l-r): Leigh Downer (Ambulance), Alistair Dickie (Police), Brian Copley (Ambulance), Chris Raine (Ambulance), Tom Shaw (CD), Rodger Smith (Fire Service), Terry Richardson (Police), Bob Cooper (Ambulance), Graham Harvey (Ambulance).

incorporation into a hazard database.

Dallas Bradley, Hazard Mitigation Planner - Environment Southland, Chair of the CSA Group, suggests that "agencies will determine how they will utilise this information for their own purposes. Some uses could be in the preparation of plans, undertaking of exercises, purchase of specialist equipment, undertaking of specific training in relation to the risk or hazards identified in a particular area, or the reorganisation and relocation of resources."

The main planning group continues to meet 3-monthly and receives the reports from the two working parties.

Upcoming tasks include the development of an overarching District and Regional Disaster Plan as a generic linking document to other Civil Defence and agency emergency plans.

St John Ambulance Coastal Southland's District Manager Chris Raine says that the Group is "tasking agencies to think about sharing resources and integrating planning processes for providing a joint response prior to a Civil Defence declaration, essentially a response plan for adverse events".

There is goodwill in sharing information at little cost as was proven at the 1999 train crash at Waipahi in Eastern Southland. The emergency managers running the incident were involved in the planning work being undertaken. The key benefits were that these managers knew and trusted each other, and had discussed ways they manage an incident, and the expectations 'of' and 'from' the other responding agencies. They were able to apply their emergency planning principles and practices in reality. The Co-ordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) was used at this incident to good effect.

One spinoff from the current planning work will more than likely see the Civil Defence agencies being involved in a support function to the Emergency Services more frequently prior to a declaration. Bill Obers, Principal Officer, Emergency Services for the Invercargill City Council, believes this will be done by the provision of resources, information, and assistance if required, either onsite or back at an Emergency Operations Centre.

\$21 million compensation package for Clutha

There's nothing like a really large flood to focus community and national attention on issues surrounding flood awareness. A groundbreaking compensation package announced by the Government on 14 September 2000 incorporates for the first time funding for protection from future flood risks as well as restoration of community facilities lost in the flooding.

For the people of the central Otago town of Alexandra, the November 1999 flood finally brought action. The third in five years, the flood topped river level records set in 1878. What is so unusual about these inundations is that man-made rather than natural causes have been identified as key factors.

The Clutha catchment is New Zealand's largest, with a long history of development that includes mining and hydroelectric power schemes. Following the construction in the 1950s of the Roxburgh Dam, some sedimentation in Lake Roxburgh was expected but its effect was underestimated, as was the predicted frequency of floods, according to Clutha Solutions Co-ordinator Alex Adams, whose report to Government resulted in the compensation package totalling over \$21 million.

Commenting on the compensation package facilitated by the Ministry for Emergency Management, Civil Defence Minister Hon. George Hawkins said that it was because of the special circumstances surrounding the flooding that Government was prepared to play its part. "The Alex Adams report made it extremely clear to everyone in Cabinet that something had to be done to protect the citizens of Alexandra," he says. "Seeing it wasn't a natural disaster - the silting up had caused all the problems - Government did what it could and Contact were prepared to play their part." Contact Energy, who now own the resources of the Electricity Department which commissioned the dam, contributed half the \$13.6 million tagged for purchasing flood prone properties and building a floodwall to protect the town against future flooding.

But this sort of package, which has not been done before, is not a precedent, he says. "It doesn't mean that every time there's a flood Government will come up with the money. The factors are specific to the dam, the Alex Adams report made that very clear," the Minister said.

As well as the floodwall funding, the Government is covering contingency risks and other costs totalling over \$2.5 million and will contribute \$4 million towards amenity enhancement, landscaping, roading and restoration of facilities like the local swimming pool, which was inundated to the height of the high diving board.

Alex Adams, previously chief executive of the now defunct Central Electric Ltd power company, worked as a volunteer during the floods, liaising with the business community. The Otago Regional Council, Queenstown Lakes District Council, Central Otago District Council, and Clutha District Council contributed to the project and were from the outset closely involved in its progress. When funding became available for what is now known as the Clutha Solutions Coordinator, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) identified the Ministry for Emergency Management as the most appropriate agency for Adams to work with. His goal was to coordinate key parties to find a good practical solution, "in particular for Alexandra, solutions which would get the community back on its feet".

"I was essentially working through existing community groups, both geographical and political - Chambers of Commerce, the Alexandra Flood Action Group and various other interest and residents' groups. It was complicated because it's a river system, and you can't do anything on a river system without affecting what's upriver and what's downriver," says Adams. He says it's particularly satisfying that the Crown provided for restitution in a way that responds to what the community wants and needs. "They will be making the decisions about what is done with the money."

Central Otago District Council Mayor Bill McIntosh is delighted with the package. "It's an exciting result from a very effective and thorough process. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Ministry for Emergency Management for their support - they charted a way forward." He acknowledges the support of the Minister, the DPMC and Energy Minister Pete Hodgson. "It was a very positive process to be involved in."

Mayor McIntosh says they're still working on the fine detail. Along with the chief executive of the Otago Regional Council and Brian Usherwood of Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), Mr McIntosh will oversee the work.

APPOINTMENT

Manager, Sector Support

Lynda Angus was appointed to the role of Sector Support Manager with the Ministry for Emergency Management in November.

The Sector Support Unit develops local capability through facilitation, advice and monitoring, liaises with the emergency services, utilities and local authorities and coordinates the activities of agencies involved in national hazard monitoring. Sector Support staff are based in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington.



Lynda has been fulfilling the role on a contract position with the Ministry since April 2000. She has spent about 15 years in general human resources and operations management. She started her career in child protective services in Melbourne, Australia. On returning to New Zealand she moved into social work management, and then later into Human Resource Management in the health sector.

Prior to joining the Ministry Lynda was a National Manager with ACC, managing centralised special claims units for five years, and was ACC's National Operations Manager (Corporate Services) for a year. Lynda holds a Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) from Monash University, Australia, and has also completed a Diploma of Business Studies.

Lynda says her key goals for the coming year are supporting and encouraging the development of CDEM Groups and ensuring that a number of key Ministry projects are progressed. "We have a full year ahead of us and I'm looking forward to working with the Sector Support team to expand our working relationships, and continue to provide support for the range of stakeholders involved in emergency management, both at the local and national level."

Key projects for Lynda and her team include:

- reviewing and defining National Capability;
- continuing to update the current National Plan and working on the new National Plan;
- producing further practical guidelines for the sector arising from the forthcoming CDEM Act;
- further development of our Urban Search and Rescue capability with the NZ Fire Service and promoting ongoing work on local rescue and reception of international rescue teams
- preparing for the 2001 Director's Forum (9-10 May)

Outside of work, Lynda's family (she has three kids) keep her fully occupied and she plays an active role on the School Board of Trustees, and in community activities.

'THE BUNKER'

It's widely known as "The Bunker". Its official title is the National Emergency Operations Centre or NEOC and it lies deep in the bowels of the Beehive, several flights of stairs below the Bowen Street entrance. As an integral part of the Beehive, it is designed to withstand a major earthquake of intensity MMX (ten on the Modified Mercalli scale – see below). Across the road from the Ministry for Emergency Management, NEOC is in a state of perpetual readiness, waiting to operate as the nerve centre in the case of a national disaster.

This is Tom Finnimore's territory. As National Operations Manager for the Ministry for Emergency Management, the ex-army officer oversees Ministry operations room staff, police, fire, and defence liaison officers in a national emergency. Nearby is an enclosed booth for radio broadcasts. Desks in the next room are reserved for the Met. Service, utilities, social welfare and other agencies. "We depend a lot on scientific advice from organisations like the Met Service, IGNS (Institute for Geological and Nuclear Sciences) and NIWA (National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research) and the universities – University of Waikato's earth sciences and Massey's geology departments." On the walls are large laminated maps. Used together with situation reports, these will eventually be computer generated.

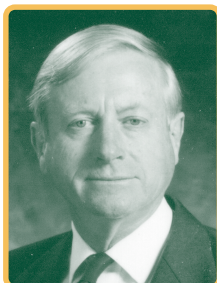
Around the Beehive's perimeter, other rooms are ready to accommodate large numbers of workers as needed – meeting rooms for officials, bunkrooms for exhausted workers, shower facilities, even a basement branch of Bellamy's, equipped to cater for up to 100 people.

Last used extensively during the Ruapehu eruptions of 1995/6, the control room is at the core of emergency service management in a disaster. For two weeks in 1988, the Cyclone Bola recovery was managed from here. "We begin managing recovery efforts within a day," says Tom. "As soon as the effects are felt, authorities can declare [an emergency] in anticipation, so emergency services can be focused to deal with the response – evacuations, closure of roads and so on."

NEOC is equipped to bypass normal systems when operating under extreme conditions, when most masonry and frame structures would be destroyed. Buried beneath the seat of power, the Centre operates independently of the rest of the building. It has its own systems for air-conditioning, water, alternative power, emergency lighting, a backup computer system and an automatic telephone exchange.

Though the primary means of communication is by phone (public telephone and cellphone), if those lines are down the latest radio and computer communications technology kicks in. The Ministry's alternate

system is both flexible and robust, using a high-frequency, single side band Barrett 923 system offering voice and data (E-mail and fax) transmission. Communication between Ministry staff in Auckland and Christchurch, regional and local authorities, and Ministry vehicles out on the ground is by voice only.



National Operations Manager Tom Finnimore, who is responsible for overseeing operations room staff in an emergency.

From NEOC the signal goes out to transmitters on Wellington's Mt Crawford and Mt Albert (south of Mt Victoria tunnel) and from there to Auckland, Christchurch, the regions and Civil Defence cars.

The Modified Mercalli Scale

The Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale uses Roman numerals to indicate the effects of an earthquake on people, objects, buildings and other structures and the physical environment. Unlike the Richter Scale, which refers to the seismic record of a quake (it is derived from the amplitude of the biggest wave and the time taken for the waves to reach the measuring instruments) Mercalli takes into account topographic, geologic and soil conditions. The Napier earthquake for instance measured 7.9 on the Richter scale and X (ten) on the Mercalli.

Public Information Managers Course

Preparing communities for an emergency

Eighteen public information managers from councils around the country learned how to prepare communities for emergencies, and how to keep people informed when an emergency occurs.

The three-day course at the Police College was organised by the Ministry for Emergency Management and covered all aspects of risk communication necessary to reduce the impact, and to help people to prepare for, respond to and recover from a disaster. Course facilitators were Tom Roche (MEM), Frances Hollenbach (Wanganui District Council), Heather Smith (Waitakere City Council), and Barry Wallace (Manukau City Council).

The course comprised a series of presentations and workshops on the conduct of community education and awareness campaigns, roles and responsibilities of key communications people, dealing with the media, and how to get information to the public quickly and accurately during an emergency.

Presenters at the course included Shane Bayley, CDO, Taranaki Regional Council; Associate Professor Douglas Paton, School of Psychology, Massey University; Margaret Comrie, Senior Communications Lecturer, Massey University; David Schnellenberg, Maxim Design Group; Bryan Bang, Consultant in Law, Hamilton; Chandrika Martinez, Public Affairs Manager, MEM; and Kevin O' Kane, Emergency Management Advisor, MEM.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS schools and the wider community

By Antoinette Mitchell,
Emergency Management Advisor, Auckland City Council

SCHOOL SURVEY

The Auckland City Council recently undertook a survey of the 150 schools which fall within its boundaries. The aim of the survey was to determine the number of schools that had undertaken any planning for Civil Defence or emergency situations. Only half of the schools surveyed replied and of these, 91% had some form of plan (many counted fire evacuation plans as 'emergency' plans). This raises the issue as to whether those schools who did not reply have no plans in place and were uncomfortable filling out the survey!

The survey asked for general comments from the schools and many of them took the time to provide feedback. Some of the comments received may be of interest to readers:

- There should be a common policy as families move
- Not an overwhelming interest from the community about Civil Defence
- It is great to see local government being proactive
- It would be very difficult to cope with over 500 children in a major emergency
- Any plan/responsibility has to be a local community one
- It would be great if provisions for schools were sensible and actually possible
- It is so detailed I would love someone to do it for me
- Difficulty with where staff responsibility ends

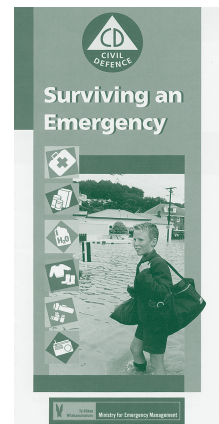
The results of the above survey were posted on the Ministry's bulletin board and resulted in many replies from councils around New Zealand. Numerous councils have extensive programmes in place with their local schools and there is a very distinct difference in opinion between the use of a template and writing a plan from scratch. Feelings generally are that a template can provide the schools with a starting point and may cover things that they had not considered. However there could be a temptation to just fill in the blanks but not take ownership of the plan.

Because of the many issues and the requests for assistance raised by the schools a workshop was held on 4 December 2000. The aim of the workshop was to get senior management representatives from the schools together to discuss planning for emergencies, and to brainstorm the issues surrounding the need to look after their students in emergency situations.

SCHOOLS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Schools form part of the intricate entity we call the community. Responsibility falls on the individuals within the community to prepare for emergencies as they may be on their own for up to three days. Schools however have the added responsibility of looking after the students in their care for this period of time. This does not necessarily mean that the school must store, onsite, three days' supply of food and water but that they should consider where they will get these items from if they are needed. For example, the school may consider an agreement with a local supermarket whereby provisions are provided in an emergency. Because of their responsibilities to look after their students, Auckland City Council does not designate schools as meeting places during emergency situations. Instead, emphasis is placed on people staying in their homes if at all possible, and checking to see if their neighbours are okay. If there is a need for evacuation, a network of community halls and other such centres will be opened and locations for meeting relayed to the community by radio or other appropriate medium.

The above issues need to be considered by all schools pre-emergency, as it is too late to plan for these things on the day. Preparing for such events has ramifications throughout the wider community, especially as by informing parents of the schools' emergency policy the issue of family preparedness can be highlighted. Because of their status and community involvement, schools can be important leaders in the move to community resilience.



PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Two professional associations, one national and the other international, that readers might find useful to connect with are the *New Zealand Society for Risk Management* (NZSRM) and *Local Authorities Confronting Disasters and Emergencies* (LACDE).

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY FOR RISK MANAGEMENT

In December 1999, 59 people from a variety of backgrounds and employment settings attended a meeting at the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) New Zealand to discuss the viability of setting up a New Zealand Risk Group. There was widespread support for the initiative and some broad parameters for the nature of the group were developed for creating a national professional association.

Three working parties (comprising 30 members) were set up to develop the initiative:

- Constitution Working Party – chaired by Neil Britton (Ministry for Emergency Management), to develop a draft constitution for the group;
- Communication Initiatives Working Party – chaired by Karen Cronin (ERMA New Zealand), to develop proposals on how facilitation between risk professionals could be undertaken;
- Other Activities Working Party – chaired by Alistair Sheats (Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd.), to develop concrete proposals for activities that the group might undertake.

An Establishment Group comprising Steve Thornton (chair – Hagler Bailly Asia Pacific), Janet Gough (ERMA New Zealand), and the working party chairs framed the material produced by the working parties into an Establishment Plan.

The proposed name of the Incorporated Society is the *New Zealand Society for Risk Management*. The purpose of NZSRM is to improve the knowledge and practice of risk management in New Zealand. By 'risk management', the Incorporated Society means all aspects of the risk management process as outlined within the *Risk Management Standard* produced by the joint technical committee of Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand. The proposed objectives of NZSRM centre on the promotion, development and application of the theory and practice of risk management within the New Zealand context.

The Society was incorporated on 19 October 2000 and an interim management team has been established to develop a business plan and organise the first elections which are scheduled for February/March 2001. Currently, over 120 people have registered an interest in joining the association.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONFRONTING DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

LACDE is an international association designed to strengthen international contacts and exchange technical and policy solutions on issues that focus on community-level public safety.

Established in 1994, LACDE aims to increase the effectiveness of local authorities to prepare for and confront disasters and emergencies by promoting the study of risk management, providing a permanent document repository for coordination and collection of research material, and by organising conferences and training courses.

Current membership spans 40 countries throughout the world. Full membership is open to a wide range of organisations including local authorities, national and regional government agencies, universities and non-governmental organisations. Individuals can also join as Associate Members. New Zealand currently has two Full Members and one Associate Member. MEM's Manager, Sector Development, Dr Neil Britton, is a Vice-President of LACDE. LACDE sponsors, promotes and advises on a number of major international projects including the Safer Cities programme, the You Are Not Alone programme, the Global Disaster Information Network (GDIN), and the World Bank ProVention Consortium.

The 2000 LACDE's meeting was held in Reykjavik, Iceland in August. The next meeting is scheduled for 2002 in Shanghai, China.

■ For further details contact Dr Neil Britton, Ministry for Emergency Management, 04 473-7363 or email neil.britton@dia.govt.nz. For more information on LACDE, visit their website ulais@netvision.il.

MEM PUBLICATIONS

- *Managing the Flood Hazard: A civil defence emergency management perspective*

Managing the Flood Hazard

Flooding is the number one cause of declared civil defence emergencies in New Zealand resulting in potential loss of life, damage to property, trauma, disruption, and economic hardship.

Roles and responsibilities for managing the flood hazard are wide ranging and come under a number of statutes.

The Ministry for Emergency Management (MEM) has acknowledged a need to outline its role, and interest in flood hazard management, and its understanding of responsibilities for managing the flood hazard throughout New Zealand and has recently published an information paper *"Managing the Flood Hazard: A civil defence emergency management perspective"*.

The paper looks at local authority legislative responsibilities for river management and flood control, and discusses ways river management regimes and mitigation can reduce impacts of the flood hazard.

The paper, prepared by MEM in consultation with a regional council working group and the Ministry for the Environment, is primarily aimed at local government staff, including chief executive officers, managers, planners, hazard analysts, and civil defence emergency management personnel. Anyone else who is tasked with work in the river management area may find the paper of interest.

If you would like a copy of the paper, please contact Policy Analyst Janine Kerr at the Ministry on (04) 473 7363 or visit our website at www.mem.govt.nz.

PILOT CIMS COURSE

A pilot programme "Apply the Coordinated Incident Management System" was held at the Police College in Porirua on 14-16 November 2000. Twenty four participants from emergency services, Rural Fire and Civil Defence offices attended the three day course.

The Ministry for Emergency Management's Education and Development Advisor Tom Roche says the programme was developed and delivered by a joint agency team representing the key emergency services, NZ Fire Service and local government Civil Defence organisations.

Participants were given a series of presentations on the roles and responsibilities of the primary role holders in the CIMS environment.

NZ Fire Service's Joanne Douglas says that the practical nature of the course enables participants to engage in five different scenarios, allowing them to take on each of the four incident management team roles. Considerable emphasis is placed on the need for sound leadership and decision-making activity in the emergency incident situation.

Once the course development process is complete and the package is signed off, it will contain a bank of scenarios for trainers to utilise depending on the nature of course



From left, Mark Harrison, NZ Police Palmerston North; Joe Cumming, Civil Defence, Gore; Mark Chapman, NZFS Wellington; Gary Westbury, Resource Management Databases, Auckland; and Chris Raine, St John's Ambulance, Southland.

participants and location.

Tom Roche says that the programme and material used in the pilot programme will be evaluated by the joint agency working group. "It is anticipated that a series of joint-agency courses will be delivered in 2001."

Christchurch training school sets pace

"Professional volunteers" is how Wayne Rissman, Civil Defence officer for Environment Canterbury, describes the 13,000 people Civil Defence has trained in Christchurch, since its inception 25 years ago.

A major contributor to the thriving Christchurch-based network is the training school at Queen Elizabeth II Park, which opened in 1975, rolling on from the 1974 Commonwealth Games on that site.

"The idea of the school, which is unique in New Zealand, was that it was necessary to train members of the community, business houses and councils inside their own immediate communities so if an earthquake or similar event hit Christchurch, there would be a pool of core

people available outside of the paid emergency services, to lend a hand and to take over in situations where the police and emergency services were fully stretched," says Wayne.

"What we have learnt is that in general there are

not enough trained people to assist emergency services or relieve the pressure on paid personnel when a situation extends beyond the first two or three days.

Even relatively straightforward storms can quickly take their toll on human resources in a small city the size of Christchurch.

Wayne points to a storm which hit Christchurch in October 2000, knocking over trees, cutting power supplies to some areas, smashing up a partly-built marina and sinking 20 yachts, and making many roads impassable for

hours on end. The local police force asked Civil Defence to set up welfare centres at two local schools for evacuated residents who had nowhere to stay, plus the local RATS (Rescue and Technical Support team – the specialist group of Civil Defence) sandbagged flooding streets and enabled several groups of residents to stay on in their homes with dry feet.

The paid emergency services meanwhile were fully occupied dealing with trees that had fallen on cars, streets blocked by floodwaters, trucks which had flipped over and reconnecting power supplies.

Wayne says the QEII Civil Defence Training School can take a bow for the success of operations like this one. The Training School recently gained status as a Registered Private Training Establishment under the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. The formal and comprehensive process ensures that a training establishment has the resources and facilities to provide a sound learning environment.

"Civil Defence training covers three key components - basic rescue, casualty handling and first aid. Basic rescue is all about using what is at hand to get people out of dangerous situations as quickly and safely as possible. There are also courses in advanced rescue, communications, welfare, headquarters operation, or CIMS (co-ordinated incident management systems).

"The training school has also enabled us to train Civil Defence rescue instructors New Zealand-wide. Since doing this we have become a private training establishment working within the nationally recognised New Zealand Qualifications Authority approved guidelines. All our courses are NZQA approved."

Civilian courses are provided in response to demand and run both day and night to fit in with people's busy lives. Wellington's Trentham Army Camp will be the site for the next rescue instructors' course from the QEII trainers in February 2001.

