Exercise Ruaumoko
National Lifelines Forum Briefing
16 October 2007

Aim of Exercise

- To test New Zealand’s all-of-nation arrangements for responding to a major disaster resulting from a volcanic eruption in Auckland
Objectives

- **Roles and responsibilities**: understand, develop and practice the respective roles and responsibilities of local, regional and national agencies in response
- **Arrangements**: embed the planning arrangements in agencies’ standard processes
- **Connections**: confirm the connections between, local, regional, national and international agencies

Sub Objectives

- Planning for **evacuation** of affected communities
- Planning for the **continuance of essential services** including:
  - Local government
  - Lifeline utilities
  - Emergency services
  - Government departments
- Management of potential **economic impacts**
- Coordination of **science** aspects
- Management of **public information**
**Scope & Type of Exercise**

- Exercise Ruaumoko is a Tier 4 national-level exercise in accordance with the CDEM National Exercise Programme
- It is a joint local government and central government exercise
  - Auckland CDEM Group, MCDEM, DPMC

**Exercise Scenario**

- An eruption in the Auckland Volcanic Field
- Focuses on the lead-up period (exercise stops shortly before or after eruption)
- Details of timing and location to be ‘secret’
- Decision making in the face of a serious threat, but in an environment of uncertainty (timing, location, severity, hazards, impacts and consequences)
Exercise Themes

- **Leadership**
  - Informing the community and key organisations with co-ordinated and consistent messages
- **Business**
  - Planning for and managing the continuance of business, the economy and government
- **Community**
  - Understanding and managing the social implications
- **Safety**
  - Planning for and delivering response functions

Functions

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<th>Business</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Assessment and management of economic impacts</td>
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<td>• Continuance of lifeline utilities</td>
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<td>• Business continuity and contingency planning</td>
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Auckland Evacuation Plan

- Procedures for a large scale evacuation in Auckland
  - Any event (with warning or without)
  - From 1,000s to tens to hundreds of thousands of people
  - Within region or involving other regions

Current Focus of Engagement

- Engagement with key agencies to identify the
  - Impact of general scenario
  - Scope of their exercise participation
  - Specific arrangements and procedures to be exercised (and what isn’t to be exercised)

- Identifying meetings, interactions etc that should occur during the Initial Exercise Phase
December-February Activity

- Possibly some low level activity?
- Exercise General Instructions from agencies
- Meeting of all agencies to confirm arrangements for the Main Exercise Phase
- 2 x half day ‘Volcano short course’ for interested parties

Main Exercise Phase – March 2008

- Scenario may ramp up at any time (injects)
- Some meetings of specific agencies to consider injects
- Associated notional responses fed back into scenario
- 13-14th March:
  - Expected full activation of NCMC
  - Participation of ODESC
  - Participation of other agencies, as per EGIs
### Key Dates

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exercise Co-ordinating Instruction V2</td>
<td>End October</td>
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<td>AVSAG meeting</td>
<td>Wednesday 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Nov (Akl)</td>
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<td>Controllers Briefing</td>
<td>Thursday 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Nov (Akl)</td>
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| Initial Exercise Phase meetings            | Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> Nov (Akl)  
|                                           | Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov (Wgtn) |
| Main exercise week                         | Week of 10<sup>th</sup> March |
Interactive Exercise:

Impacts and Co-ordination Issues from a Prospective Eruption in the Auckland Volcanic Field

Map courtesy of Louise Cotteral, University of Auckland
Briefing

- Felt seismic activity in a pattern that suggests an eruption is likely in 3 to 4 days
- Scientific Alert Level 2: Confirmation of volcano unrest - Eruption threat
- There are strong location indications...
**Briefing** (continued)

- A Group declaration has been made
- Evacuations are about to commence

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**Your Tasks**

- Breakout into sector groupings
- Address the questions/ issues indicated in the handout
- Make use of the scientific advisers