

NEW EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE FOR ECAN

By Josie McNee,
Environment Canterbury

Civil Defence took centre stage at the opening of Environment Canterbury's office complex in Christchurch on 12 February.

The morning tea and official opening of the Environment Canterbury Centre by Governor-General Dame Silvia Cartwright included displays by rescue teams, search dogs, Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Taskforce.

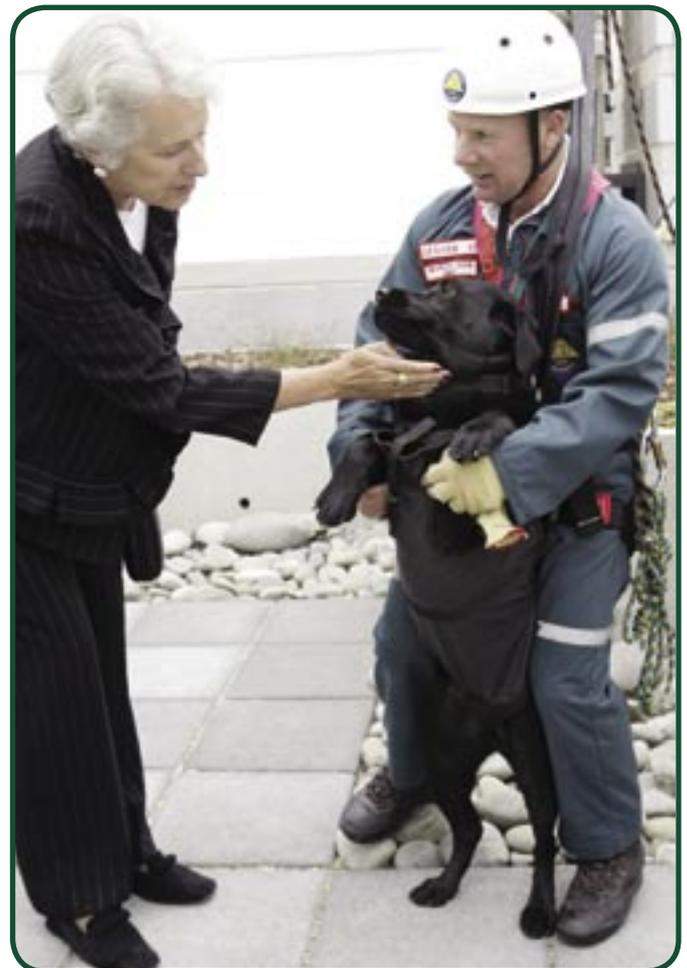
Regional Civil Defence Manager John Fisher said the opening was an opportunity to showcase the wide range of people and skills involved in civil defence activities.

"It was also an opportunity for staff and volunteers from Civil Defence and related agencies to meet the Governor-General and show her the facilities available in the new Emergency Operations Centre."

The centre, which lies behind the new Environment Canterbury foyer, is designed to withstand a major earthquake and concrete falling from surrounding buildings. The building is less than five metres high, but has foundations 7.7 metres into the ground.

Environment Canterbury Chairman Richard Johnson said there had been a clear need for a centralised emergency centre in the region and the building would act as a base for decades to come.

"We live in a region where the threat from flooding, earthquake, tsunami and landslides is real and it's vitally important that we are prepared to handle any emergency."



Dame Silvia meets Jesse and her handler Graham Joseph after the civil defence rescue demonstration.



A centralised emergency management centre.

Earthquake is rated as Canterbury's number one threat, with experts believing there is a 50-80 percent chance of a magnitude eight earthquake on the Alpine fault in the next 50 years.

The Emergency Operations Centre is equipped with modern computer-linked overhead screens and emergency radio equipment. It can be self sufficient for power, water and sewage disposal for four days if city services go down.

Inside the centre, space is allocated for representatives of agencies involved in an emergency, so that responses can be coordinated. The facilities can also be used by other organisations like the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry during a biosecurity alert or the Maritime Safety Authority during a major oil spill. ■



PUSHING AHEAD

The first phase of the implementation of the CDEM Act 2002 is generating a lot of energy, and a bunch of questions on the re-visiting of past questions as regions prepare for the formalising of their joint committee CDEM Group structure by 1 June.

From some of the questions being re-visited it is important to emphasise again that a primary driver of the new arrangements is the coordination of planning across regions and between agencies.

For this to be effective it is necessary that commitments be made within the CDEM group to provide capability for planning and coordination across the 4 R's (reduction, readiness, response and recovery), and to provide senior management oversight to the group activities.

The accountability for the outcome rests with each individual authority and responsible agency.

The Director's Guideline for the Formation of CDEM Groups issued in December 2002 sets out the issues and expectations around this. In particular for the Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) it is expected that each authority be represented at a senior management level.

For the Group CDEM Office it is expected that an appropriate capability and organisational capacity will be provided. The Office should be capable of dealing with risk issues and collaborating with individual authorities on reduction measures as well as coordinating the planning for regional readiness, response and recovery. A "virtual" office or "technical committee" is unlikely to satisfy this requirement.

In addressing voting and funding issues within the CDEM Group there are four principles to consider:

- Each level authority in a Group has an equal vote
- All citizens of the region benefit from CDEM so all should contribute to its cost in some measure
- Risks are fairly owned and shared within and across territorial local authorities
- Territorial local authorities remain accountable for CDEM at their local level and have incentives to reduce risk.

Overlying all the discussion of these issues is the fundamental statement that the management of hazards and disasters remains a role of local governments. The value to be achieved from all this work is substantial.

Finally, I want to comment on the cooperative effort in dealing with the terrorism threat through the NZ Herald over the last couple of weeks.

Our role was to support the Police and the Ministry of Health using our stakeholder networks. The positive and pragmatic response of utilities, local government and the emergency services has been largely encouraging as we all seek the fine balance between informing our communities to achieve an orderly lifting of awareness and readiness versus creating alarm and anxiety. The reaction through New Zealand has been mature and measured.

The National CDEM Strategy

With the passing of the CDEM Act 2002, the development of the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Strategy is fully underway. The National Strategy is a Crown statement about the future direction of civil defence emergency management in New Zealand and will be completed by 1 December 2003, as required by the Act.

The strategy will be the focus of targeted consultation from March until May and will be released for broad public consultation in late June 03.

The Ministry's website will also have the latest developments on the National Strategy, including an online draft during the public consultation period.

For any enquiries at this stage please contact blair.robertson@dia.govt.nz

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RFPs in for National Crisis Management System

The RFPs (Request for Proposal) for a National Crisis Management System closed at the end of February 2003. The Ministry, together with representatives from local and central government, is currently in the process of evaluating the six proposals from vendors with a view to selecting a preferred package by the end of March.

The development of a National Crisis Management System (NCMS) is aimed at improving the effectiveness of local, regional and national civil defence emergency management. When completed, the system will allow the agencies involved in the management of emergencies to more effectively collect, evaluate and disseminate information, within emergency operations centres and onward to civil defence emergency management (CDEM) Groups and the National Emergency Operations Centre in Wellington.

At a national level, the system will be used by all of the potential lead agencies (MCDEM, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and Police) operating in the National Crisis Management Centre.

The Ministry's Readiness Manager Mike O'Leary said that there has been extensive consultation over the last year with all of the agencies involved to determine the business requirements, and technical and functional specifications of a NCMS.

The specifications are that the system must be able to:

- manage more than one incident concurrently, at any or all centres while still recording each incident or local emergency as a separate event
- group incidents to form a local or district event and combine one or more local or district events to form a regional CDEM group event
- combine a view of one or more regional CDEM group events to form a national event
- provide assistance with intelligence assessment and decision-making
- support the controller by collating information and presenting it for ease of reference



Members of the NCMS Evaluation Committee going through the RFPs. l-r Amadee Rose, Working Knowledge, Leigh Hodgson, DIA, Allen Bryce, MAF, and Mike O'Leary, Hans Brounts, David Coetzee, MCDEM. Not in picture: Paul Knox, DIA, Rian van Schalkwyk, Greater Wellington Regional Council, and Robin Fitzgerald, Ministry of Health.

- manage delivery of vital information to central government
- provide an audit trail of all information received and log all decisions, recommendations, orders and instructions, and all communications.

The system must be able to facilitate interoperability between participants and adhere to e-Govt principles as detailed in the New Zealand e-Govt Interoperability Framework (e-GIF).

In November 02 technology vendors who had a product that could fulfil the requirements were invited to register interest. Shortlisted vendors were then invited to submit their proposals via a RFP process.

Once a suitable system has been selected and the costs associated with its implementation identified, the Ministry will report back to Cabinet with its recommendations. Updates on the project will be posted on the Ministry's website at www.civildefence.govt.nz.

Director's Forum 2004

The Ministry's next Director's Forum will be held in Christchurch on 24 & 25 March 2004. The Forum aims to bring together civil defence emergency managers and planners from local and central government, and representatives from emergency services, utilities, and scientific groups with an interest in emergency management to address issues of common interest. It aims to be responsive to regional as well as national matters, with active participation from the CDEM sector.

In order to keep the forum fresh and relevant, the next two fora will be held out of Wellington, firstly in the South Island in 2004

and then in the middle North Island in 2005. It is a national forum and we are committed to discussing national issues, A different location, however, does provide the opportunity to introduce a regional interest and shares the cost of travelling to the forum around as equitably as it is possible to do.

Your suggestions on themes/topics of interest for the next Director's Forum are welcome and can be sent to sara.williams@dia.govt.nz

CDEM Professional Development Courses

By Tom Roche, EM Advisor (Education)

Public Information Management

A Public Information Managers Course held recently at the Museum Hotel in Wellington drew 16 participants from city and district councils around the country.

The three-day course is designed to introduce participants to the function of public information in the civil defence emergency management context, with a specific focus on the role and responsibilities of the Public Information Manager (PIM) during the response and recovery phases of an emergency.

It came as a surprise to the majority of the participants that the PIM is not only responsible for dealing with the media, but also responsible for establishing and coordinating activities related to information centres, visitor reception and public enquiry.

The key message emphasised throughout the course was – ‘You cannot carry out all these responsibilities on your own – build up a team of professionals.’

Particular highlights in the course programme were:

- Robyn Sharon’s presentation about her experiences as the PIM for the Thames Valley Combined District Civil Defence Organisation during the storm event ‘Weather Bomb’, in June 2002. Her frankness and sincerity in describing what ‘went right’ and what ‘went horribly wrong’ gave participants valuable insights to the pressures and stresses involved in the function.
- Exercise ‘Overwhelm’ a small group activity designed to introduce participants to the working environment of an Emergency Operations Centre and to test their skills in dealing with a range of public information issues.

A successful course that benefited from the professional input of the course directing staff, the guest presenters and particularly from the positive response of the participants.

Coordinated Incident Management

The Royal NZ Police College, Porirua was the venue for a three-day Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) course in mid February.

The course was sponsored by the NZ Police as a pro-active initiative to educate staff in the CIMS ‘command & control’



At the CIMS course: Mike Caldwell - Bay of Plenty, Ian Lowe - Horizons, Blair Hillyard - Wellington, Ian Langridge - Greymouth



Public Information Managers at the National Emergency Operations Centre

arrangements and to promote the routine application of the system at emergency incidents requiring a multi-agency response.

The 24 participants on the course included police officers from across the country, who were joined by 12 representatives from a variety of Wellington – based agencies and organisations; NZ Fire Service, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, Wellington Free Ambulance, local government and several voluntary agencies.

The CIMS level 4 Course is designed to equip personnel with the knowledge and skills to enable them to fulfil any of the key roles in the Incident Management Team, i.e. Incident Controller, Operations Manager, Planning/ Intelligence Manager, Logistics Manager, in any emergency situation requiring a multi-agency response.

The introduction of the NZ Coordinated Incident Management System is aimed, through the use of common terminology, structures and processes, to achieve improved effectiveness and efficiencies in the control and coordination of multi - agency resources at a number of incidents.

Congratulations are extended to Mr John Bowman (Inspector –retired) and his team of Instructors for delivering a successful programme. Thanks also to the College staff for their professional support.

On the Web

Resources for volunteer managers

The Ministry is committed to supporting best-practice management for volunteers in the civil defence emergency management sector. Recent additions to the website seek to make available information on policy, legislation, and guidelines for best practice. Check it out on our web-site under ‘Volunteers’ in the Professional Development sector.

You will find information on CD Volunteers and the CDEM Act 2002, CD Volunteers and the HSE Amendment Act 2002, and links to useful volunteer-related sites. We have also included some guidelines for best practice management of volunteers. Any enquiries please contact sara.williams@dia.govt.nz; blair.robertson@dia.govt.nz

Tsunami in Wellington

In September this year there will be significant tsunami activity in Wellington, but fortunately not the damaging kind. A workshop titled "Tsunami in the South Pacific – research towards preparedness and mitigation" will be followed by the ITSU XIX Conference, an international conference for the signatory countries involved in the Pacific Tsunami Warning System.

Tsunami are considered the sixth largest natural hazard, with storm surges, earthquakes, flash floods, cyclones and tornadoes leading the list. Large tsunami are infrequent. There have been no significant Pacific Ocean-wide tsunami since March 1964 but there have been local tsunami in the Pacific which have killed, on average, about a thousand people a year.

Since 1964, the IOC (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) has taken on the international responsibility for coordinating the efforts of the member states in operating the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific. The Commission, through its International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (ICG/ITSU), has organised and coordinated efforts for the timely dissemination of tsunami warnings throughout the Pacific.

The ITSU XIX Conference, which is a UNESCO/IOC organised meeting for the signatory countries involved in the Pacific Tsunami Warning System, will be hosted by New Zealand in September this year. New Zealand is represented on this group by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management's Readiness Manager Mike O'Leary. The conference will be addressing the governance and operation of the Warning System. Limited places may be available for observers at the session. Please contact sara.williams@dia.govt.nz at the Ministry to register an interest.

Tsunami workshop

In conjunction with the international conference, a "Tsunami in the South Pacific – research towards preparedness and mitigation" workshop is being organised jointly by the IUGG Tsunami Commission (IUGG/TC) and the ICG/ITSU, in cooperation with the Institute of Geological & Nuclear Sciences, and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (New Zealand).

The Workshop will run from 25-26 September, 2003 in Wellington and is planned as a two-day international meeting for discussing a wide spectrum of tsunami research related to understanding tsunami hazards, and developing tsunami warning and mitigation measures. The focus will be on aspects important for the South West and Central Pacific region, although other presentations are welcome.



Tidal Wave, March 26, 1947: The Pouawa Bridge was swept away and the decking was washed about half a mile upstream.

The workshop will be of interest to a wide community of researchers, emergency managers, decision makers, and other practitioners dealing with assessment and mitigation of the tsunami hazard. It is designed to assist in developing regional tsunami mitigation programmes.

The Wellington workshop aims to:

- review the situation with tsunami observations and preparedness in the South West and Central Pacific area
- analyse the regional features of tsunami generation, propagation and impact from both local and remote sources
- exchange national experiences on the development of mitigation measures
- formulate recommendations on the actions required for tsunami disaster reduction.

If you are interested in attending the workshop or have enquiries relating to the submission of abstracts, please contact Gaye Downes at tsunami_conference_nz2003@gns.cri.nz.

An optional one-day field trip is also on offer on 27 September. The field trip is to the nearby Wellington coast where a series of raised beaches attests to the dramatic effects of past large earthquakes, the most recent being the tsunamigenic M8+ earthquake in 1855.

Lifeline utilities - Best Practice

By Hans Brounts

The National Lifelines Coordinating Committee (NLCC) convened a recent meeting to discuss 'best practice' advice on how utilities, Lifelines Groups and CDEM Groups may interact. The project intends to build upon the Director's Guidelines for lifeline utilities issued last December.

The morning's NLCC workshop discussions carried over into an afternoon meeting with the gas industry. Gas utilities have a history of sound cooperation in emergency management with sector leadership being provided by the Gas Association of New Zealand (GANZ).

The industry has a Mutual Aid Plan in place between its members and is working to finalise a National Gas Outage Contingency Plan (see www.ganz.org.nz). GANZ convenes regular meetings where utilities review emergency contact arrangements, exercise requirements, staff training, and share best practice for continuity planning.

The meeting focused on how industry members can develop a standardised approach to CDEM Group and national planning, thus meeting CDEM Act expectations, whilst at the same time gaining the maximum benefit for individual utilities.



New regional partnerships forging ahead

The CDEM Act 2002 establishes the legal framework for comprehensive risk management in New Zealand. The establishment of regional CDEM (civil defence emergency management) Groups is a crucial component of the new legislation. In this feature, regional CDEM staff comment on where they are at in the process, and on finding new tiers of partnership and increased regional coordination.

Waikato Region

Anticipating the new Act's emphasis on risk reduction and integrated planning proved valuable for the Waikato region – even before the Act came into effect in December last year.

That's the view of Brendan Morris, Environment Waikato Programme Manager for Emergency Management.

"As the Bill went through, it pushed the issue of hazard reduction to the point it simply had to become a priority. And we've also seen the Waiho River issue playing out as a precedent..."

As a result, the region has been pressing ahead with significant new hazard reduction activities. Environment Waikato is currently working with the Thames Coromandel and Taupo district councils on the Thames Coast Flood hazard mitigation, and Hipaua landslide hazard.

"Anticipating the new framework of the Act has also improved the way in which we're working with other emergency management agencies. There's been more talking between us and relationships are getting better all the time."

The region's mayors and CEOs also reached broad agreement in advance of key issues such as formation and funding of the regional Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group.

The target date for official formation of the regional CDEMG is 9 May 03.

"We're now going out to CEOs of our territorial authorities, emergency services and utilities to call for nominations for the regional CEG (Coordinating Executive Group), and we'll be looking for a resolution from all the groups involved to join the CDEMG during April.

"We developed a draft outline for our regional CDEM plan last financial year, with some preliminary hazard identification." The target date for completing the draft CDEM plan is 30 June, 2004.



Brendan Morris

Flooding has been considered as probably the main hazard in the region, Brendan says. "Certainly it's the most costly one. Having said that, we haven't fully considered technological or human hazards to date.

"In planning a way through the Act's requirements, the 'Director's Guideline' document set has been extremely helpful.

"I see our role in this process as coordinating, rather than driving,"

Brendan says. "It's certainly a workable process, given that we'll be working in partnership with other emergency management agencies."

Hawkes Bay Region

Late last year, all of the region's four local authorities agreed to form a joint committee of mayors plus a regional councillor, as the platform from which to form the region's CDEM Group. This committee's first meeting is scheduled for 24 March 03, the agenda to include adopting terms of reference for CDEM Group formation.

In the meantime, the regional Emergency Management Office intends to help set up an interim CEG, awaiting the regional CDEM Group's formation and exercise of its powers to appoint the formally constituted CEG.

"In terms of meeting our obligations under the Act, although we're still getting to grips with what needs to be done, I'm confident we can meet all our deadlines," says James Tennant of the Emergency Management Office.

That confidence stems partly from the history of close cooperation between the region's local authorities, and partly from the local remembrance of the disastrous 1931 Napier earthquake. James feels the region is "particularly proactive" in making emergency management arrangements.

"We're well down the track in hazard analysis. We were the second region in the country to do a region-wide engineering lifelines study, completed last year. That's given us a really good understanding of natural hazards likely to impact on the region.

"By June, we should also have completed an initial study to identify technological hazards with regional impact. So, we'll have a good understanding of all the hazards and risks defined by the Act.

"These studies have produced no surprises so far, although the lifelines study certainly highlighted our dependence on some infrastructure bottlenecks such as bridges, and the need for better contingency planning," says James.

Marlborough Region

Although it was considered, the potential benefits of joining an enlarged Wellington CDEM Group couldn't bridge the physical barrier of Cook Strait – and the Marlborough District Council as a unitary authority decided to form its own CDEMG.

An establishment working party to set up the regional CDEM Group was formed, bringing together the territorial authority, Police, district health board and Ministry representatives.

The Council has approved the formation of the Group, comprising the Mayor and the three standing Committee chairpersons. Initially, to ensure continuity, the Chairman of the out-going Regional Civil Defence Committee will sit on the CDEMG for two years.

The CEG committee has been formed with representatives from the Police, Fire Service, Nelson/Marlborough District Health



Northland Forms

By Graeme MacDonald
Northland Regional Council

Northland is poised to have a single, proactive emergency management plan covering the entire region for the first time under new civil defence legislation.

About 20 representatives of the Northland Regional Council, the region's three District Councils, emergency services and Northland Health gathered in Whangarei on 4 March 2003 agreeing to form two committees to oversee emergency management in Northland.

One of the first tasks will be to oversee the introduction within the next two years of a single, nationwide emergency management plan.

Currently, emergency management in Northland focuses mainly on response and recovery activities to emergencies like floods and storms under four plans, one for each of Northland's three District Councils and one by the Northland Regional Council. These are reviewed every three years.

But under the new Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, which came into effect on 1 December last year, emergency management in Northland will take on a broader

and more proactive approach under a single plan. The new plan, to be in place within the next two years, will focus on risk reduction, planning, recovery and response.

The CDEM Group is chaired by Northland Regional Council Deputy Chairman Peter Jensen. Its four members comprise an elected representative from each of Northland's three District Councils as well as the Regional Council.

The Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) is an eight-strong group, made up of local authority management and senior emergency services representatives.

Far North District Council Chief Executive Clive Manley, the group's newly-elected Chairman, has welcomed the changes. Mr Manley, who has extensive practical experience in managing emergencies, says the looming changes to the way emergency management in Northland is handled are sensible and will help streamline the way the region both prevents, and copes with, emergencies.



CEO Far North District Council and CEG Chairman Clive Manley

Board, Assets and Services Manager Marlborough District Council, and the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management. The Emergency Services Manager will represent Council as well as Rural Fire.

Meeting the timeline set by the Act is 'achievable', Marlborough's Emergency Service's Manager Ross Hamilton believes. "Provided we continue to get cooperation from the range of agencies we need to work with.

"Some national utility service providers seem to have little knowledge about their responsibilities under the Act," says Ross.

"With one utility service provider, it took an hour on the phone talking with five or six different people in various offices in Auckland and Wellington before they could even find the right person for me to talk to. I think the Ministry for Civil Defence & Emergency Management should communicate more with these agencies at the national level, so that they are fully aware of their obligations under the Act."

"In Marlborough we will need to get buy-in from the local news media and local rail network people, as we cannot expect to have representatives from Radio NZ, Television New Zealand, and rail network services.

"At the moment we're working on terms of reference for our three working groups – Reduction, Readiness / Response, and Recovery, and planning a workshop to inform utility service providers about their responsibilities under the Act."

The region's first official CDEMG meeting is scheduled for 22 May, and Ross believes the Group



Ross Hamilton

* Note: The Ministry already has a number of initiatives underway to communicate with utilities at a national level, including the development of an information document on working together for lifeline utilities and emergency management

should consider commissioning an engineering lifelines study. "Regional hazard analysis is really all ahead of us, although we can build on work already done under the Resource Management Act.

"Our obvious natural hazards include earthquake, tsunami and of course flooding, for which the Regional Council has already undertaken a lot of mitigation work," says Ross.

Nelson and Tasman Regions

With a long history of cooperation in civil defence arrangements, the two authorities helped pilot aspects of the new civil defence arrangements.

In September 1998, they set up a joint Coordinating and Advisory Committee (CAC), which has functioned as the regions' overseeing body for Emergency Management since then.

As this Group already has most of the membership required for a CDEMG, the two authorities are considering a detailed proposal for the establishment of their regional CDEM Group, using the existing platform with slightly expanded membership and other necessary arrangements such as agreement on funding.

The next major step is formation of the regional CEG. Again, according to Regional Controller Fraser Galloway, "...an easier task because of the close cooperation that already exists between the regions' territorial authorities, emergency services and utilities."

Planning is also well advanced in the region. "We already have the basis of our regional plan, so we're really in the process of making adjustments to that, rather than starting from scratch," Fraser says.

"We're currently doing a lifelines study of our major hazards, which include flooding, earthquakes, landslips and tsunami. We're still assessing what are probably relatively minor biosecurity risks, and we'll take in our technological hazards at a later stage."

USAR Achievements

By Lynda Angus, Chairperson, National USAR Steering Committee

The multi-agency response and rescue project, which includes the ongoing development of the Urban Search and Rescue capability, has made considerable progress over the last six months. The emphasis for the project during this financial year has been on:

- the building of regional response and rescue capability, focusing on the delivery of training packages and training opportunities in General Rescue & GR Trainer, CIMS, Cat 0, and Cat 1.
- the development of the support functions that work with the USAR Taskforces, in particular engineers and search dogs
- consolidation of the policies, systems and procedures that underpin the whole national rescue capability, such as the completion of SOPs for mobilisation and deployment and taskforce operation and the development of an electronic platform for a national inventory and resource database. Memoranda of Commitment have been signed with Defence, Police, LGNZ and Ambulance NZ supporting the USAR project and their services' commitment to the project.

In addition, the success of the enhancement of Taskforce 1 (Palmerston North) and the training of Taskforce 2 (Christchurch) needed to be continued with some provision of PPE (Personnel Protective Equipment) and rescue equipment especially for the latter.

The project management of the multi-agency USAR project by David Brunson of Spencer Holmes won a bronze medal at the National Association of Consulting Engineers NZ (ACENZ) annual awards ceremony. Congratulations to Dave and to the National USAR Steering Committee for their visionary management of this challenging project.

Training

In the area of training development and delivery a number of significant achievements have been made. The following are some of the highlights so far this year.

- The USAR component of the July Phoenix exercise involved activities in Auckland with our international partners and a deployment to Wellington and very successful public displays.
- The South Island team has been liaising with the very professional Mines rescue team on the West Coast with a view to joint training.
- Category 0 training has been delivered to Wellington Police (a total of 6 courses and 100 participants).
- A number of General Rescue Trainer courses have been delivered in key centres around the country.
- Work on developing an NZQA registered, National Certificate in USAR has commenced.
- A USAR Best Practice Guideline: Trainer Certification in both General Rescue and USAR Awareness has been completed.
- An interim General Rescue Trainers package is now available on CD.
- Response and Registration Guidelines for USAR Response teams have been consulted on and will be signed off by the Steering Committee shortly.



USAR Open Day at Palmerston North

USAR Website development

The website has really taken off with a large number of people, nationally and internationally visiting the site. A popular fact sheet series has been launched, available on the website and content improved and up to date. A very useful document has proved to be the USAR Tier summary document (0,1,2,3)

Search dogs

The team working on the development of this support area has developed a constitution towards setting up an Incorporated Society that will provide a national representative body for USAR search dog owners. A dedicated newsletter has been established for this specialist area of USAR development. A Best Practice Guideline: Canine Evaluation Process has been produced. Search dog unit standards have been developed and registered with ANTECH. We are currently in positive talks with Air New Zealand regarding a dog cabin and carrying policy.

Workshops for interested dog owners have been scheduled for three centres, along with Dog evaluations scheduled for both Palmerston North and Christchurch.

Engineers

Development of the Level 1 & 2 USAR Engineering course modules has been continuing with the Level 1 ready to be delivered shortly.

International coordination

Bernie Rush, National Rescue Manager on secondment with the Ministry from the Fire Service and John Lovell from the South Island Ministry team participated in the Australian Steering Committee and we are also represented on the Australian Fire Authorities Council with whom we are working on several joint initiatives.

John Lovell attended the INSARAG Asia Pacific meeting in Shanghai: and took recommendations for a peer review process for international USAR Taskforces and with respect to an international review of the INSARAG Guidelines.

Bryce Coneybeer (NZFS) and John Titmus (MCDEM) assisted with a major Fiji exercise which had a USAR component.

Taskforce team developments

South Island Taskforce 2, based in Christchurch

September 02 saw the launch of the South Island team with a public function attended by national and regional

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USAR Achievements

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representatives, along with family & friends of the USAR team. The establishment and development of the team's Woolston Store has been a spectacular achievement has been largely due to the generous support of Barry Shields and the Transalpine Fire Region. The team has been minimally equipped with basic PPE, pending further budget developments next financial year. The Fire Service has provided a specialised USAR vehicle for the team. They have made the most of several training opportunities and demonstrations provided by local events.

Taskforce 1, based in Palmerston North

Funding constraints have not allowed significant support to be provided for this team this financial year, however, they have taken delivery of a USAR vehicle, taskforce members have attended Gas monitoring, Life detector and IATA training courses and, most importantly, they have been involved in sharing their expertise with the other developing taskforces.

Taskforce 3, based in Auckland

This taskforce does not officially exist as yet, but they have been charging ahead with their planning. They have established a multi-agency USAR subcommittee of CEG (Fire, local government, MCDEM) and are in the process of setting up a sponsorship trust which they hope will assist them to access equipment purchases which will be much slower in coming from the project funding arrangements. They have potential Taskforce members selected and working towards Cat 1R status.

Regional response and rescue capability development

A notable development in this area has been the establishment of a Category 1R Waitakere Rescue team. In Wellington, the approach has been to establish a coordinated region-wide approach to response and rescue with multi-agency support and training. This is the model the Ministry and the National USAR Steering Committee are promoting around the country. Nelson and Dunedin/Invercargill are other areas prominent in developing their regional response capability. The Nelson development (under the guidance and enthusiasm of Jim Burrows) provides an example of a true Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a



Taskforce 1 Palmerston North

Ian Craig

By Keith Evans,
Emergency
Management
Planner



The news of the sudden passing of a respected colleague and dear friend on Tuesday 11 March came as a huge shock for all of us who knew Ian Craig.

Ian was passionate about rescue and had been for many years, from his time as Team Leader with the Red Cross Relief Team in Canterbury to creating his own specialist team, Rescue and Technical Services (RATS), within the Christchurch Civil Defence organisation.

Further into his career his enthusiasm led him to become involved with Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and he was one of the first trained technicians with Task Force One.

Ian had a keen interest in canine search and rescue, recently seeing this being brought to national standards. He gained a reputation as an expert in the field not only nationally but internationally.

During his time with Environment Canterbury he became the Chief Rescue Instructor and was pivotal in the relocation of the training school in Christchurch to a purpose-built rescue training centre.

Ian will be deeply missed by all of us who had the pleasure of working with the guy and dealing with his sometimes warped sense of humour. Our thoughts are with his wife Monique and sons – Royden 11, and Campbell, 9.

concept which will be explained and promoted through the next issue of IMPACT.

We expect the above momentum to continue for the rest of the financial year and we will report on further achievements at the end of another six months. Visit www.usar.govt.nz for current updates.



Rescue Dog Training

Lifelines in Porirua City

Sara Leighton, a Porirua City resident, recently chose the study of “The Lifelines in Porirua City - Vulnerability and Emergency Planning” as partial fulfilment of her BSc Honours in Physical Geography at Victoria University. General lifelines material was sourced from the Centre for Advanced Engineering, Wellington Regional Council and the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management. Specific lifelines material was obtained from Porirua City Council plans and some private service providers. Sara interviewed Marshall Hyland, Porirua City Council’s Emergency Management Advisor and Rian van Schalkwyck, EM Manager for Greater Wellington.

In her report, Sara says that with focus from the Wellington Lifelines Group and with the drive of the Council Asset Managers and Emergency Management, a lot of work has been started with mitigation and emergency response capability, especially with local roading and water supply. However fragmentation of electricity, gas and phone networks through private ownership, together with outsourced maintenance, have greatly lessened the presence of sustained response capacity within the city. This has further exacerbated the constraints imposed by lifelines interdependencies, particularly the transport and communications disruptions expected after a major earthquake.

Marshall Hyland says that in her report, Sara has systematically analysed the vulnerability, mitigation measures, planning, strengths and weaknesses of lifelines services (transport, water, communications, electricity, gas and sewage disposal) for Porirua City. In summary, Sara noted that impact consequences identification has been well done and a number of potentially effective mitigation measures also identified. However apart from roading and water supply, “for the majority of lifeline networks in Porirua City the next step needs to be taken with the implementation of these mitigation measures and the creation of comprehensive response plans”.

Porirua Hazardscape

Porirua City, with a population approaching 50,000 is one of four cities and five districts of the Wellington region. The Porirua Basin which stretches southwards including Tawa has a hazardscape subject to natural and technical hazards.

SH1 and the main trunk rail go through the west edge of Porirua Basin with daily movements of petrol exceeding 1 million litres, mostly by road tankers.

A regional bulk water pipe comes over from Hutt Valley and runs through Tawa into Wellington City. Sewage from Tawa and all Porirua City urban areas gravity flows with some pumped assistance to the city centre from where it is pumped over the west hills to the Treatment Plant on the west coast with a sea outfall after tertiary treatment. Gas supply comes in from the east and electrical overhead lines bulk supply comes on from the south and east. The Landfill has gas extracted, fed locally and reticulated down to Wellington City.

Along with exposure to NW storms and areas subjected to stormwater overflow, the most significant threat to the city infrastructure is from amplified shaking and liquefaction during the central NZ quake. The city is built around the Porirua Harbour and Pauatahanui Inlet with the CBD and megaretail areas and major service pipes and roads traversing flat sedimentary ground beside the inland waterways. The outcomes from Exercise Phoenix (2002) reinforced the likelihood of isolation between the cities and districts of Wellington region in the central NZ quake and the limited expectation of external resources to augment immediate reinstatement of the damaged city lifelines.

Marshall Hyland says he has found the report very useful in setting a benchmark for the city’s preparedness and a number of city-based projects will be actioned from the report findings. As many of the lifelines providers are regionally based, and some outside the region, further actions will be followed up through the Wellington Region Emergency Management Officers Committee.



Aerial photo of Porirua City with the Pauatahanui Inlet on the left, and Porirua Harbour on the right.

Marshall is also calling for the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management’s involvement with assisting regions to negotiate with lifelines providers to establish service continuance levels following a major earthquake. The continued habitation of cities and districts by their residents and businesses is largely determined by the availability of lifelines services. And the catchcry from major earthquake review reports is to keep people in the cities to be available for business employment, suburban cleanup and neighbourhood solidarity.

“Functioning city lifelines are the foundation of city disaster recovery”, says Marshall.

Risk Management Modules at AUT

**By Chris Webb,
Professional Development Manager**

In 2002, the Ministry worked closely with the School of Community and Health and Sports Studies at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) to assist them in the development of two modules for their Certificate in Emergency Management and Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedic). The models developed were Risk Management (as it applies to emergency management) and disaster management. While the existing certificate and bachelor programmes focus predominantly on prehospital care, the addition of the two modules broadens the scope of the programmes and gives students an additional dimension to their studies.

The delivery of the two modules is by way of guest speakers and exercise scenarios. The speakers and exercise scenarios focus on key emergency events, with students then analysing the effects and implications of these events.

As part of the assessment process the students were required to design a poster of a significant emergency, assess the implications and lessons learnt from these events and present

back to their peers. The standard of this work was exceedingly high and the depth that some students went to when analysing the implications and effects of significant events was amazing.

Poster work sample.



Coping in a crisis

For Michael Hingson, September 11 was the day when he and his guide dog Roselle saved each other's lives. Working on the 78th floor of the World Trade Center, he walked down 750 steps as the fire fighters began their ascent. He and Roselle survived; the fire fighters didn't.

Guide Dog Charity Auction series

The Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind (RNZFB) is soon to host the 2003 Guide Dog Charity Auction series.

The guest speaker is Michael Hingson and his guide dog Roselle, survivors of the 2001 World Trade Centre collapse.

Michael has been quoted as saying, "For me, the saddest part was talking to the firemen as they were coming up the stairs (of the World Trade Centre) – that's what I'll always remember most. I knew that some of them got kisses from Roselle – probably the



last demonstration of love that they would ever receive."

Michael is coming to New Zealand in May to talk about that life-changing experience and the power of the human/animal bond, particularly in a crisis situation. The organisers would love to hear from civil defence staff around the country who may be interested in the sessions.

The RNZFB's Charity Auction series dates are: Wellington (8 May), Christchurch (1 May), Dunedin (21 May), Auckland (22 May).

The organisers are also trying to arrange sessions in Hamilton, Tauranga, Taupo, Napier, Nelson and Queenstown in May.

For more information contact Brian Keeley, bkeeley@rnzfb.org.nz or (03) 375 4300 or visit www.rnzfb.org.nz

Guideline - planning a safe event

The Ministry is currently developing a guideline for event planners and managers that will help them plan a safe event. The guideline will cover pre-preparation and event execution for safety aspects, from public health to planning for unexpected emergencies. The guideline is intended as a resource for local government, local police and fire personnel and event managers and promoters. It will be provided to local government in an amendable format, so that councils can add their own information and contact details, and will be available on the Ministry's website.

The guideline is being developed in conjunction with NZ Police, NZ Fire, the Ministry of Health, District Health Board representation, and St John. We have also consulted with representatives from local and regional councils, and gratefully acknowledge their sharing of previously developed resources.

An initial draft of the guideline is underway, and will be out for selected consultation in April. We are intending to have the final document available by November this year. Any questions about this project please contact sara.williams@dia.govt.nz

Earth's Fury in Hamilton

By Philip Renner, Hamilton City Council

The Earth's Fury exhibition launch at Hamilton's Exscite Centre got off to a rousing start with sirens wailing and horns blaring.

Hamilton's emergency services, in partnership with the Hamilton City Council, put on a mock emergency to showcase the skills of the teams and serve as a backdrop to the exhibition.

Libraries and museum manager Geoff Williams said the Emergency Services' spectacle worked well with the exhibition focus on natural disasters.

"It's comforting to know that we have a well organised emergency services team equipped to help despite what nature throws at us. Not only did the fire and ambulance crews put on a great show, but they also stayed onsite for people to ask questions about the appliances, and what it takes to do the job."

About 250 people turned up to watch as the Fire Service brought into action its specialised equipment, including the engine with a fitted snorkel ideal for a multi-storey building rescue. The snorkel was extended to the upper storey of the Waikato Museum, where the Exscite Centre



Demonstrating the snorkel to rescue people from the upper floor.

and the exhibition was held. Two people were rescued from the 'earthquake damaged' building and brought to earth where St John's staff ministered to them.

All the while, Council emergency management officer Graeme Cleaver provided an informed commentary of the action and included challenges to those watching to make sure they were prepared if earth's fury struck.

Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management Director, John Norton, opened the exhibition after the mock emergency.

Kevin O'Kane heads East

Kevin has been with the Ministry so long that only one staff member remembers his arrival! While he is moving only four blocks East, to join the Land Transport Authority, the move still marks a very significant change in direction.

Kevin's first association with the Ministry was acting as a consultant in 1985, to help with the design and management of two major exercises. "Before I answered the question, how much do you know about writing exercises, I had been told how much the contract was worth," Kevin remembers, "so I suggested that I knew what I was doing – and there was a lot of on-the-job learning happening that year." The exercises were successful,



Kevin and Carol O'Kane at the farewell

and Kevin gained a permanent position with a newly expanded Ministry of Civil Defence in March 1986.

Between 1986 and 1994, Kevin worked as part of the National Civil Defence School staff. The work included quite a range of activities beyond the conduct of courses, such as the production of training videos and civil defence manuals. Projects such as completing the first Exercise Writing Guide were picked up as a way of passing on what had been learned from helping with regional and national exercise programmes.

In 1995, Kevin moved to Wellington as Manager Mitigation, and straight into a time-critical project to design an evaluation system for local government. "The best part of that job was the liaison with scientific and technical groups," said Kevin, "because of their real enthusiasm for the job they were doing." Kevin also took the opportunity to branch out into web design (the Ministry's first site went 'live' with the Ruapehu eruption in 1995).

After working with the transition team on policy issues for the Ministry's restructure, Kevin moved into a greater emphasis on emergency planning.

From 1998, Kevin went into temporary overdrive, adding a part-time university course and two theatrical productions a year to the schedule. One tangible result was being capped in 2001 with a Master of Public Policy with distinction.

Kevin will be missed by all of us at the Ministry and the many people in local government that he has worked with over the years. All the best Kevin.