



impact

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MESSAGE FROM Hon Rick Barker



Are we ready yet?

It's now a year since I launched the Get Ready Get Thru campaign and we are starting to get some idea of what messages are getting through – and also how far we've got to go.

Of course, the reality is that some people will retain that 'it'll never happen here' mentality right up till the time that 'it' does happen. That's exactly what many thought in New Orleans. Getting all the population prepared for an emergency all the time may be impossible but getting most of the population prepared is attainable.

When I launched the Public Education Programme a year ago I stated three simple facts that underpinned our thinking:

- We are all at risk
- Preparation works
- We are not yet prepared

One year on, those three statements still hold true except that we can now – cautiously – amend the last to: some of us are prepared, but not all.

Research undertaken in conjunction with the Get Ready Get Thru campaign indicates that the public has a high level of awareness of the hazards we face in this country. The challenge now is to move more New Zealanders from awareness to preparedness.

The latest research indicates that three quarters of those who have seen the ads are taking action to prepare for an emergency. Many of these have at least started talking to family members about what they need to do to be prepared while others have got their emergency survival items sorted out. That's a good start, but it is just that – a start.

The number who are fully prepared – who have a family emergency plan for both home and away-from-home, who have emergency kits and who regularly update those kits – has increased over the course of the campaign but still remains too low.

So, we're making it easier for households to prepare. This month has seen a new phase in the campaign, with an easy-to-use emergency checklist and survival planner sent to 1.6 million homes. This mail drop is tied in with a new series of TV and radio ads, urging individuals and families to 'Get Ready Now'.

The Government has committed to the public education campaign for the long haul. We know the preparedness message is getting out there but we also accept that it will take time for most people to get ready.

Old habits die hard and the fact that most New Zealanders have never experienced a disaster at first hand can lead to a misplaced complacency, regardless of the images of tsunami-ravaged coasts and quake-damaged cities that flash across our TV screens. The impact on our own communities of earthquakes like Murchison and Napier are fading from memory.

Another significant factor in changing attitudes is the very successful 'What's the Plan Stan?' awareness programme in schools. We're raising a generation to recognise the risks and to be prepared. It's a lesson they in turn can take home and teach their families.

With a loud, consistent message coming from the public education campaign, our kids and the excellent education work being undertaken by the civil defence sector, I am confident that we are better prepared than we were, but we need to keep preparing.

Civil Defence systems to be improved

The safety of all New Zealanders in an emergency will be further enhanced by the provision of more than \$6.7 million in extra funding to the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, says Civil Defence Minister Rick Barker.

"The additional funding will provide for an upgrade to the information and warning systems used by the Ministry before, during and after emergencies," said Mr Barker.

"An enhanced information management system will improve the flow of information in the National Crisis Management Centre, allowing staff to better co-ordinate our response. In addition it will allow access to that information from other sites," said Mr Barker.

This initiative provides \$500,000 of operating funding and \$400,000 of capital funding for 2006/07, followed by \$3.9 million in operating funding and \$2.4 million in capital investment over the following four years.

"The second initiative will make improvements to the National Warning System (NWS), by increasing the speed and reliability of the distribution of warnings to emergency and civil defence groups for events such as tsunami," Mr Barker said.

A total of \$120,000 in capital funding will be provided for improvements to the NWS over 2006/07 and a further \$440,000 in operating funding over the next four financial years.

"There has been a considerable increase in civil defence funding over the past few years which has resulted, amongst other things, in raising public awareness of the risks we face and how to 'get thru' in an emergency.

"Since 2005, staffing at the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management has been increased by 60 percent. We are now investing in updated technology to ensure faster and smoother management of emergency events." ▲

Review of national CDEM planning

The *National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan* (the Plan) and the *Guide to the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan* (the Guide), which set out and document New Zealand's national CDEM planning arrangements, are to be reviewed within two years of coming into force (1 July 2006).

Though the official review is not due to commence until 1 July 2008, the Ministry recognises there is an opportunity to review and update the Guide in the time given before the required review. As a result, the Ministry has developed and initiated a work programme to begin the review and development process.

The programme is organised into two phases. The focus of Phase I is to identify and recommend any necessary amendments to the Guide, while Phase II is to address any amendments to be made to the Plan.

Phase I of the review has commenced. In the coming months the focus will be the identification of possible amendments to be made to the Guide.

All agencies specified in the Guide (ranging from

Government Departments, NGO's, emergency services, lifeline utilities, and CDEM Groups) will be contacted shortly, and consulted. This is to identify aspects of national CDEM planning (as expressed in the Guide) that may require amendment, augmentation, or deletion to refine and improve current national CDEM planning arrangements.

Agencies with responsibilities and/or arrangements in the Guide will be asked to review these in order to identify changes or possible developments that may need to be updated in the Guide.

It is important to note that consultation with agencies in relation to Phase II of the project (Review of the Plan) will take place in 2008.

Once identification of amendments has been completed, a work programme will be developed with the relevant agencies, and will include input from a CDEM Working Party in addition to consultation with the sector.

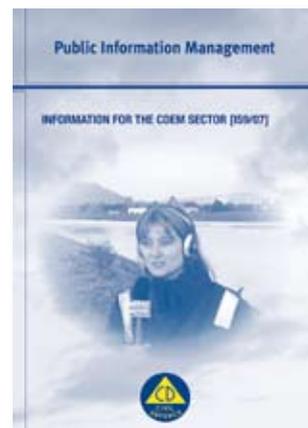
For more information on the review of national CDEM planning please contact: NationalCDEM.Plan@dia.govt.nz ▲

PUBLIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Last month, MCDEM published a new resource to help CDEM Groups plan for and deliver public information in an emergency. MCDEM's *Public Information Management: Information for the CDEM Sector* is a practical working tool to help PIM Managers and their staff to fulfill their tasks during an emergency. It has been developed by Specialist Services with input from PIM representatives from across New Zealand.

Timely, accurate public information supports emergency response and recovery, and ensures that members of the public take appropriate actions to protect themselves. The booklet is the first step in supporting PIM Managers and teams to develop their skills and carry out their role effectively. MCDEM will continue to work with CDEM Groups to identify and facilitate PIM staff's needs.

Please do not hesitate to contact the team if you want to discuss your views, needs or areas of support. ▲



SAREX: From the Crow's Nest

by Sara McBride Steele

A cold, drizzly morning kicks off the start of the Regional Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) in Lyttleton on June 16. The Regional SAREX is a massive, South Island-wide exercise. Coastguard boats and crew from 14 Units from all around the South Island participated. Police, Rescue Coordination Centre, St John, Fire, Salvation Army, Westpac Rescue Helicopter Crew, and Civil Defence all joined in the exercise. In all, more than 200 volunteers braved the cold conditions.

Search & Rescue (SAR) Controllers and radio operators received an early wake-up call from their pagers at 05:00 hours. By 06:00, headquarters is buzzing with activity, with crew and casualties arriving in regular intervals. Casualties walk around HQ with simulated head wounds, hypothermia and other injuries.

I have been assigned to the Coastguard Rescue Vessel, Canterbury Draught Rescue (CD Rescue), which is impressive, more than 20 metres long. After getting onboard and receiving our safety briefing from the skipper, CD Rescue is tasked. A mother and her young daughter have been involved in a kayaking accident. The pair huddled together on a little beach in a bay past Port Levy. The St John Ambulance crew attends quickly to the injuries. The daughter has a serious head injury and Westpac Helicopter is dispatched. That's when the real fun begins.

The Westpac Helicopter flies quickly and hovers with ease over the top of CD Rescue - a crewmember abseils down from the helicopter onto the deck. The injured girl is winched up with the crewmember back into the helicopter. The mother is next. After both are secured inside, the helicopter flies off to HQ to drop off the casualties. It is an impressive sight.

Shortly after completing the scenario, CD Rescue is tasked to the 'Albatross' to offer back-up support. The Albatross was involved in a severe collision, with the six crewmembers on board suffering from serious injuries. The Albatross is swarming with St John and the Civil Defence RATs personnel. After each scenario is completed, another task comes through from HQ.

In the early afternoon, fire personnel come aboard CD Rescue to put out a fire on a boat. After the fire is put out, another call comes in from HQ. Six survivors are collected from a life raft lost offshore. Over the course of the day, 12 brutal scenarios are exercised and the results are clearly positive. All scenario objectives were met and there was only a single "No Duff" situation.

Jim Lilley, who wrote the exercise, says it took about five months to plan. Planning the event must have been a Herculean task, considering all the people, boats, and appliances involved.

More impressive is the commitment from all the

The entire exercise would not have happened without volunteers



Fire Service exercise simulating procedures for coping with a fire at sea.



'Albatross' rescue involving Coastguard, St John and the Canterbury RAT Team

volunteers like Mark Thompson, CD Rescue's skipper, and engineer Paul Elliot, who give anything from 5-50 hours per week to the Coastguard. The entire exercise would not have happened without volunteers. It is amazing the amount of personal commitment these volunteers have for their respective services.

At the end of the day, everyone was exhausted from all the scenarios but also relieved the exercise went so well. Jim Lilley was clearly pleased with the results and is already planning the next SAREX. ▲

SMART moves closer to registration

The Southland Multi-Agency Response Team (SMART) has been developing over several years. It's a big step closer to its aim to create a response capability that can assist communities over the whole of CDEM Group and support others as required. Eventually, the team wishes to have an operational membership of 26.

On behalf of the CDEM Group, Bill Obers recently requested an independent evaluation to complete its registration. This will be used as evidence in anticipation of national moderation from the USAR Response Operations Working Group this month.

John Lovell and Tim McNamara from MCDEM travelled to Invercargill to support the registration. The team reviewed documentation, inspected equipment and provided advice on the training programme and other matters. They found SMART exceeded the requirements in almost all areas.

The Southland team is unique in the country in terms

of its make-up and the support it receives from several agencies across the region. In order to be a member of SMART, responders are required to have their USAR Cat-1R training provided by a parent organisation that has formed an MOU with the SMART Trust. Responders must be part of a parent organisation in order to be eligible for membership of SMART. So far, CDEM agencies and St John Ambulance and have agreed to support people who wish to be part of the team as parent organisations.

The team trains together monthly, with more frequent training provided by parent organisations. This allows responders who travel from around the district to participate fully. The format adopted is to spend a whole day on concentrated work, rather than smaller, more frequent training sessions. Over the coming months, the team is focused on increasing its capability to respond to flood and storm events.

We wish the team and Southland communities all the best. ▲

National Hazardscape Report

The National Hazardscape Report is the first New Zealand Government report to provide a thorough description of the New Zealand hazardscape since Tephra: The 1994 National Report of New Zealand.

This first edition of the National Hazardscape Report will provide a contemporary summary of the physical nature, impacts, distribution and frequency of occurrence of 17 key hazards affecting New Zealand. The report will give general information on the management of hazards with the focus on reduction and readiness initiatives.

Four key factors influencing New Zealand's current hazardscape will be discussed in the report. These are climate change, demographic and other social development trends, reliance on technology, and human modification of the natural environment.

The National Hazardscape Report will assist with identifying and assessing hazards of national significance, and draw on information from Civil Defence Emergency Management Group plans, and other agencies, to achieve this. The report will be regularly updated as our knowledge of hazards and risks improves. Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management and other agencies are all involved in hazard and risk investigations, research and assessments.

The National Hazardscape Report is a non-statutory document that fulfils the requirements of the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Strategy 2003-2006. The report will be revised and updated every three years. The report is an essential and logical extension to the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan Order 2005, but will not direct or affect the core statutory responsibilities and functions of any agency or organisation.



USAR SEARCH DOG TEAMS NEEDED

The search is still on for dog handlers to boost the number of teams available in an emergency.

A devastating earthquake could trap many people and this means that it's imperative that we develop our multi-agency Urban Search & Rescue response.

One of the really important aspects of USAR is the ability to detect casualties under rubble so that rescuers can be deployed efficiently. Dog teams are therefore one of the most important resources we have available to us.

A dog team is made up of a certified search dog and a handler. The handler is trained in companion animal first aid, hazards encountered at a building collapse and directing a dog to search.

In New Zealand we have some really dedicated handlers. However there are only six operational dog teams around the country and only one in Wellington.

We have the goal of having 50 teams in training by 2010. To find out more, contact searchdogs@usar.org.nz.

Photo: KapiMana News

Reflections on Banda Aceh



“How can I get involved in international relief but maintain my day job?” This was the question Shane Bayley wrestled with having completed an Essentials of Humanitarian Practice course provided by Register of Engineers for Disaster Relief (Red-R).

The answer came in the form of a contract to serve on-call with United Nations Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination (UNDAC), an international organisation comprising more than 200 disaster relief professionals. Within four days of signing his contract, Shane was on an aircraft to Banda Aceh following the December 26 2004 earthquake and devastating tsunami.

Given the scale of the disaster and the huge loss of life, many believed it would be a significantly traumatising event. Shane downplays this aspect of the experience. “It didn’t hit me. The psychological impact hasn’t happened. Our role was management and co-ordination.” Whereas some USAR teams were dealing with body recovery in appalling conditions, Shane’s primary focus was establishing infrastructure to facilitate recovery. This proved a challenge in itself.

“We had to organise camp facilities. I had the UN field book but there were no instructions for establishing a tent city. What do I do with two plane loads of tents?”

Helicopter landing areas had to be created and space identified for tents. As a result of this vertical learning experience Shane prepared detailed guidelines for the UN should other colleagues find themselves in a similar situation.

Two experiences proved formative. First was the realisation that you can work in an incredibly stressful environment but only for a short time.

“I knew I was there for only about two weeks. An average day was 18 hours, a long day 21 hours. There was not a lot of time for sleep. One of the disadvantages of sleeping on the office floor is that you wake up and go straight to work, although being at ground zero you felt you were really doing something to help.”

The second experience was working with the local



Daniel Zief and Shane Bayley on their way to meet the Minister responsible for Indonesia’s recovery.

The Tsunami Working Group (TWG)

Following the disastrous tsunami on 26 December, 2004, the New Zealand Government resolved to consider the risk of such events in New Zealand.

It requested the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management develop a national picture of the risk, the consequences and New Zealand’s preparedness. Two reports were commissioned.

The first, known as the Science Report (Berryman, 2005) summarised the current state of knowledge of tsunamis and uses that knowledge to assess the level of risk in terms casualties and buildings affected.

The second, known as the Preparedness Report (Webb, 2005) reviewed the current national arrangements for tsunamis, including sources of warnings, the national warning system, the national duty officer and the role of scientific advisors. The status of the seismic monitoring system (GeoNet) and the sea-level monitoring system were also reviewed. The report also discussed the components of a fully effective warning system (Chapter 7.2).

The recommendation of the Preparedness Report, relevant to this project is summarised as:

“Formation of a national working group to identify where national guidelines would be beneficial and to develop and implement those guidelines for regional effective warning system components. The national working group should include representation by (but not restricted to) MCDEM, CDEM groups, scientific organisations and key individual scientists.” (Recommendation 7.1)

In December 2005, the Government released the two reports. Cabinet requested that MCDEM engage with

local government and CDEM groups to determine the implications for their regions. Cabinet also noted that MCDEM had been requested to discuss priorities to improve arrangements for managing New Zealand’s tsunami risk with local government and CDEM groups and the Ministry for Research, Science and Technology (CBC Min [05] 19/17 refers).

In July 2006 MCDEM released the Tsunami Risk Management Report – Priorities for Action. The CDEM implications from that report included:

- A co-ordinated national tsunami risk management programme*
- Upgrade the national warning system
- Improve public alert warning systems
- Deliver improved public education and signage
- Develop national and local response and evacuation scenarios
- Deliver a range of tsunami risk management programme supporting activities.

** The project will not include the national warning system currently under upgrade review, nor be involved in the co-ordination of a national tsunami risk management programme.*

The TWG was formed with representation from MCDEM and CDEM groups. It will, as required, call on the expertise from the Science, Emergency Services, Telecommunications and Electrical sectors. The group had its first meeting in March 2007 and identified its goal as the development of a people-centred, affordable early warning capability that empowers individuals and communities threatened by tsunami to act in sufficient time and in an appropriate manner so as to reduce the



people. The UNDAC team was able to teach the locals what they were doing and the reasons why. However it became quickly apparent that all of the local workers had been profoundly affected, some even witnessing the loss of family members. "I learned to be respectful of their loss, even down to things like not laughing with UNDAC colleagues or smiling for photos."

Whilst Shane believes he returned to New Zealand relatively unchanged psychologically, he gained valuable professional insights. He views local CDEM development quite differently now and is concerned about the overall attitude to potential disaster within the general public in New Zealand. "Since Napier in 1931, we haven't had anything really big happen in New Zealand to focus us. I just don't think the general public, or even some of our politicians, treat it like it's real"

He believes that in the event of a major disaster, New Zealand would be reliant on overseas assistance. However he is concerned that local emergency managers do not see themselves as part of a global network. Shane thinks this should be factored into our preventative strategy.

To facilitate this, Shane has become a strong advocate for national consistency, rather than accommodating autonomy within local groups. He likens this approach to



The camp set up by the UNDAC team. All equipment, including vehicles, brought in from Europe

the standardised systems and procedures found within conventional emergency services. "I should be able to travel anywhere in New Zealand and know what the systems are within CDEM."

In advocating national consistency, he in no way downplays the importance of developing the local relationships that are vital for successful teamwork. He believes however these relationships sit atop a standardised framework.

Shane Bayley still serves with UNDAC. Over the past two years he has made himself available for selection on several occasions, he has been on standby twice (bags packed), and has actively served once. He currently works for Horizons Regional Council. ▲

possibility of personal injury and loss of life.

The system may be a one threat specific system, but more than likely be several systems. One solution is unlikely to suit all regions/areas and there should be scope for consideration of options within a standardised framework. The project will not re-invent what is already effective rather it will build on that capability. Members of the TWG are:

Richard Steele (Gisborne) Adrian Glen (Wellington)
Peter Wood (MCDEM Hazard Management) Mayor
Meng Foon (Gisborne) Murray Sinclair (Canterbury)
Bo-Yao Lee (MCDEM Policy) Rana Solomon (Chatham Islands)
John Thurston (Bay of Plenty) Kevin Deacon (Hastings)
Paul Utting (Rodney) David Coetzee (MCDEM Sector Development)
Peter Kingsbury (MCDEM Hazard Management)
Steve (Harry) Orr (MCDEM Operations) Chairperson,
Clive Manley (Northland) Mike O'Leary (MCDEM Operations).

There is also a signage sub-committee that was formed following the National CDEM Managers' Forum in February of this year. The committee comprises of Lisa Pearce (Hawkes Bay Regional Council) Alan Pearce (Tauranga-Western Bay of Plenty Combined Districts) and Jon Mitchell (Environment Canterbury). The committee will work with the Joint Centre for Disaster Research and the TWG to research and make recommendations on a national standard for tsunami signage.

Please direct TSW inquiries to Harry Orr at steve.orr@dia.govt.nz ▲

NORTH SHORE PREPARED FOR TSUNAMI

An opt-in telephone tsunami alert system designed to effectively warn 15,000 homes and businesses in a matter of seconds, was approved in May by North Shore City Council and Civil Defence. Homes were invited to opt in either online with an individual code, or returning the slip provided on the letter.

The response from the public so far has been quick and positive. From the first batch of 5000 letters mailed more than 500 invitations to opt in were accepted within the first week. North Shore Civil Defence manager David Keay is looking forward to the implementation of an alert system, initially for the city's most at-risk areas.

"We're one of the first in this country to implement a telephone-based tsunami alert system, an invaluable tool for our unprotected coastline. We see this system as the best fit for our landscape," he says.

North Shore City's *Actionline* call centre manager Ann Hollway says the warning system technology can handle a large volume of calls in the event of a tsunami warning.

"We tested the system last year on a small scale and it was highly efficient. We will soon be ready to test it on a larger scale. Because no one knows when a tsunami may strike, our best defence is to be prepared and that involves testing the system with as many participants as possible," she says. ▲

Pandemic Survival Roadshow opens in Canterbury

The Pandemic Survival Roadshow opened in the Hurunui District at Waikari Hall on May 15, 2007. Environment Canterbury Chairman Sir Kerry Burke, Hurunui Mayor Garry Jackson, Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Chair Sue Wells and many others were on hand at the opening.

Waikari was chosen because it is the location of one of only two 1918 pandemic memorial statues in the nation; the other is in Waimate, also in Canterbury. The statue is of Dr Charles Little who succumbed to the flu after working diligently treating patients throughout Hurunui district.

Canterbury's health and emergency management organisations have worked together to create the project, which educates communities in the region about the need to prepare for a possible influenza pandemic.

The Pandemic Survival Roadshow, built by Science Alive, is a hands-on community education programme geared towards educating and encouraging residents of Canterbury to be prepared in the event of a widespread influenza outbreak.

The Canterbury District Health Board, South Canterbury District Health Board, Community and Public Health, Canterbury Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group, Environment Canterbury, territorial authorities, St. John, Ministry of Social Development and Red Cross have all worked together to create the roadshow. Officials from those organisations felt it was important to work together to deliver the message.

"Initially, there was quite a bit of attention paid to bird flu in the media and that interest has since died down. However, both the health and emergency management sectors are still very much concerned about a pandemic and we need the public to be prepared," said Dr Alistair

Humphrey, Medical Officer of Health for Canterbury.

While vaccination remains important to prevent seasonal influenza, vaccination for a rapidly emerging pandemic is still not a realistic option, despite increased research into this area. Cough etiquette, hand hygiene, isolation, reducing germs, and preparation (CHIRP) remain the most important ways of surviving a pandemic.

The main focus of the roadshow is individual preparedness, household preparedness and building community resilience, Dr Humphrey said.

"Many people believe that we are better off than in 1918, when more than 8000 New Zealanders died during that flu pandemic. While medically we may be more advanced, our communities are not as strong as they were in 1918. In 1918, people knew their neighbours and had strong community structures to help each other survive. Unfortunately, that isn't the same for many people living in New Zealand today," according to Dr Geoffrey Rice, author of *Black November*, a book about the 1918 flu.

For information contact: Sara McBride Steele, Canterbury Civil Defence and Emergency Management, on 03 372-7015 or Email: sara.mcbridesteele@ecan.govt.nz ▲



John Mitchell, James Thompson and Louise Starkey interacting with the preparedness exhibit.

Disaster recovery for people with disabilities

One of the recovery co-ordinators from Hurricane Katrina presented a seminar at the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management on 15 May.

Jennifer Mincin specialises in assisting local governments and the emergency services meet the needs of people with disabilities in and after emergencies. Her presentation explained competing definitions of disability and how planning for people with disabilities assists the needs of other populations. The seminar also emphasised that impact is greater on those with special needs due to their greater reliance on community infrastructure.

Ms Mincin also provided examples of lessons learned from emergencies in the USA. Her main messages to the sector were:

Emergencies impact people with special needs to a far greater extent than most people – the vast majority of deaths due to Hurricane Katrina occurred amongst the elderly;

Engaging with community-focused agencies in emergency planning will limit negative impacts to a great extent;

People with disabilities often have a greater level of ability than responders assume – blind people are blind but they are not incapable; and following on from this,

Most people with disabilities should not be taken to hospitals or other specialist facilities, as they do not need that level of care, and these facilities are then less able to treat the sick and injured.

Emergency planners should not disregard consideration of people with disabilities. Instead, preplanning will greatly reduce potential logistical burdens during an emergency enabling time and energy to be focused



Wairarapa Cruickshank Exercise success

“This time it was the task of CDEM to support another lead agency, in this case the Wairarapa District Health Board. It worked very, very well.” This comment from Masterton EM Manager Paul Walker sums up the overall outcome of Exercise Cruickshank in the Wairarapa.

Meeting in Masterton District Council Chambers on 8 June, representatives from all stakeholders discussed outcomes and assessed the effectiveness of the actions carried out for this exercise.

Key objectives for the debrief included assessing functional relationships and communications between key agencies and discussing “big picture” issues, such as appropriate staffing, training and information management.

Exercise Cruickshank was the first time since the new CDEM Act was passed in 2002 in which CDEM acted in a supporting, rather than lead, capacity. Feedback from Wairarapa DHB representative Joy Cooper confirmed CDEM’s ability to function effectively in support: “We found it extremely fortunate to have such a team to work with. It was amazing.” By being based in the Masterton District Council’s Emergency Operations Centre (that acted as a joint EOC for the DHB and CDEM), the temptation for Wairarapa hospital to draw key staff away from emergency management was removed.

The success of the exercise also highlighted the importance of joint pre-planning. Consideration was given by the team to possible local eventualities and sufficient local exercise “injects” were prepared in advance to maximise the opportunity offered by this exercise

As a result, the Wairarapa team was able to successfully engage a wide range of local support agencies in the exercise. The Department of Work and Income for example identified up to 20 local scenarios most likely in

where it is most needed.

The greatest obstacles to achieving these goals are lack of understanding and prejudice. However, Ms Mincin believes people with disabilities are very responsive to being included in the emergency planning process and that perceived concerns are often overstated. The best way to plan is to engage with community-focused agencies and work together using perspectives from both sides.

One example of where people with disabilities can be included is joint participation in exercises. Emergency responders gain a first-hand awareness of the issues and people with disabilities gain an increased awareness of what an emergency would be like for them. Realistic exercises strengthen plans, increase awareness and build the capability of the emergency management sector in general.

Sara Williams, Richard Smith, Trevor Stone and Tim McNamara from MCDEM attended the workshop and are able to answer questions relating to the seminar. ▲



Debriefing Wairarapa Cruickshank in Masterton Council Chambers

a pandemic, such as animal welfare, home alone children and displaced elderly. From the perspective of the agencies involved, the exercise helped them formulate an effective response. Another outcome was identifying the need for effective management of the diverse agencies likely to be involved. All benefited significantly from working and learning together.

Planning and relationships were identified as key factors contributing to the success of the exercise. An enthusiasm for training emerged whereby all key stakeholders aimed to participate jointly in regular training exercises to raise awareness and identify possible shortfalls. It was noted that this must be actively pursued.

The exercise required merging the CDEM capabilities of three councils: South Wairarapa, Carterton and Masterton. The fact that the exercise progressed so smoothly highlighted the benefit of this approach in Wairarapa. In particular it supported the consolidation of the resources of various welfare agencies and streamlining communication. ▲

CANTERBURY CRUICKSHANK

A joint Canterbury DHB / Canterbury CDEM Group Emergency Co-ordination Centre (ECC) was established in the Emergency Management Office at Environment Canterbury for the first three exercise days of Cruickshank.

Functions delivered jointly within the ECC were:

- Co-ordination (DHB Co-ordination with CDEM Group Controller)
- Public Information Management
- Intelligence (Health and CDEM)
- Operations (Multi-agency co-ordination) and following lessons learnt from the exercise, Logistics (Regionally Critical Resources)

This arrangement worked very well and while there may be some staffing implications for the CDHB, the benefits of working closely, sharing information and staff resources outweigh possible disadvantages. ▲

CDEM staff recognised



John Lovell and John Titmus were recently honoured for their long service to Civil Defence. Both received gold commendations in the inaugural Directors Commendations Awards during an informal ceremony held at Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management head office, attended by Department Internal Affairs CEO Chris Blake and numerous CDEM staff and friends.

MCDEM Director John Hamilton presented the awards, using the opportunity to formally and publicly acknowledge more than 40 years combined continuous service. Drawing from information recorded in personal files and from discussions with former colleagues, Mr Hamilton was able to paint a diverse and at times colourful picture of the careers of these two legendary staff.

John Lovell is currently the South Island Emergency Management Advisor. He began his career with Civil Defence in 1986 in Marton and personal records revealed “requests from the sector were responded to with enthusiasm and thoroughness. He takes the initiative to arrange meetings and workshops, and he has demonstrated exemplary proficiency.”

Current colleagues recall John’s willing manner and ability to communicate with anyone resulted in many friends throughout the South Island. Mr Hamilton also recognised John’s contribution to Urban Search and Rescue and his involvement in the Asian-Pacific division of the United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG).

In response, Mr Lovell commented that Civil Defence has always been a passion. “I come from a generation who

(Left to right) DIA CEO Chris Blake, John Lovell, John Titmus and MCDEM Director JOHN HAMILTON.

commit to an organisation and when we take on a job, we try and do it to the best of our ability.”

John Titmus also joined Civil Defence in 1986 after a career in the Navy specialising in communications. He has previously held appointments as Advisory Officer, Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner and is currently Regional Co-ordinator, MCDEM Northern Office.

In relaying comments recorded about John, Mr Hamilton noted that he is “good at influencing change in the environment. He is a good judge of character, able to identify champions and leaders who promote new ideas. He is good at challenging inadequacies while retaining positive working relationships.”

Mr Hamilton acknowledged John’s long association with United Nations Disaster Assessment and Co-ordination (UNDAC), INSARAG and the Asia-Pacific Humanitarian Partnership. John is recognised as a cornerstone of these networks and a prime advocate. He is regarded as a true veteran of the international emergency response system and one of its movers and shakers in the Pacific region.

In reply, despite such accolades for his international work, John affirmed the importance of building capability at local-level, regarding his interaction with grass roots Civil Defence a significant highlight. “If we’re not involved in doing that, we’re in real trouble. We must ensure our local capability is OK.” However he noted with concern that the public had an expectation of local civil defence capability that was unrealistic for major emergencies. ▲

CDEM Specialist Services

Aside from five new members of the team settling into their roles over the last two months, the CDEM Specialist Services Unit has continued to focus on fulfilling a number of existing commitments and completing key deliverables.

Since the last issue of Impact, we have successfully recruited the final member of the professional development team. Jane Pierard joined the Ministry at the beginning of July so look out for her profile in the July E-Bulletin.

At the heart of our activities has been planning the Unit's work programme for the 2007/2008 financial year. Whilst this does not include any new projects, it does include project areas that are being broadened or developed to build on existing work areas. The top eight priorities for the team are:

- The Professional Development Programme including development of new resources (where needed), revised job profiles and pilot courses for Public Information Managers, Recovery Managers and Controllers.
- Development work on RAPID following the review has been undertaken and completed.
- Support provided to CDEM Groups including training needs analysis and recovery management activities.
- Development of an NCMC staff development programme.
- Printing and distributing the National Hazardscape Report and further developing the national hazard and risk indicators.
- Reinvigorating the CDEM Library collection including new acquisitions and a move to a new and more practical location.
- Completing national recovery arrangements including revised SOPs and arrangements for establishing a national recovery office.
- Fulfilling a number of United Nations commitments including hosting two events in New Zealand.

Detailed below are some of the key achievements for the team over the past five months:

- The National Hazardscape Report is currently going through final government approval processes before being published and disseminated.
- The RMA Emergency Works Provisions guide was completed in June. This fulfills recommendation 13 from the 2004 Reid Report (which identified lessons from

the February 2004 Flood event for application to New Zealand's emergency management arrangements). The guide has been forwarded to the Ministry for the Environment to be reviewed by an expert panel before being published on their Quality Planning website (expected in early August).



By Sarah (Norm) Stuart-Black

- Reviews have been completed on the existing job profiles, resources and courses for Public Information Managers, Recovery Managers and Controllers.
- The RAPID Packages have been reviewed to determine areas for development in the next financial year.
- The Ministry worked in partnership with the Ministry of Health to plan and facilitate the recovery components of the Cruickshank Exercise in May.
- A new information series guideline was published in June on Public Information Management: Information for the CDEM Sector, fulfilling recommendations from several reports including the 2004 Reid Report.

We look forward to working with you on a range of exciting activities and opportunities in the coming year. Please do not hesitate to contact the team if you want to discuss your views or areas you would like support in. ▲

The Specialists Services team: (Left to right) Sarah Stuart-Black, Alex Tait, Peter Kingsbury, Jonny McKenzie, Richard Smith. (seated) Peter Wood ('Woody'), Brett Jones





Making it easier to get ready

A new series of advertisements in the Get Ready Get Thru campaign focus on *how* New Zealanders can be better prepared for disasters. The television and radio campaign urges individuals and families to take action to “Get Ready Now”.

The Get Ready Get Thru mass media campaign, which was launched in June 2006, seeks to increase public awareness and preparedness for the hazards we face in New Zealand. The key message is get prepared and stay prepared and that some simple actions taken now can significantly reduce the impact of the disaster when it happens.

“In the event of a disaster we have to anticipate that there will be significant disruption to essential services such as transportation, power and communications. Individuals and families also need to be able to look after themselves for three days or more. So part of the planning is to ensure you have the essential emergency survival items at home” says Civil Defence Minister Rick Barker.

Research to monitor the effectiveness of the public education programme suggests that the messages are slowly starting to get through and awareness is high. However the tendency to put it off until tomorrow has significantly affected preparedness levels. “So, we’re making it easier for households to prepare” says Mr Barker.

“An easy-to-use emergency checklist and survival planner was sent to 1.6 million homes earlier this month. The aim is to get households to work through what they will each do in the event of an emergency, where they’ll meet, who’ll pick up the kids etc.”

A copy of the checklist can also be downloaded from www.getthru.govt.nz. ▲



Screen grabs from the latest television campaign promoting the Household Emergency Checklist.

What’s the Plan Stan upgrade pack

What’s the Plan Stan is a great way to promote disaster preparedness in schools. In response to the many teachers and civil defence staff that provided feedback on this resource, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management developed an upgrade pack.

The pack contains a revised CD-Rom and a new storybook and audio CD. Updates are also reflected on the website at www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz. Upgrade packs will be delivered to all schools from the beginning of the third term.

The CD-Rom update includes: new photographs, videos and footage of recent and historic disasters; new footage of school earthquake drills and a simulated earthquake; a new video and a downloadable list on the survival items page; links to games and a video on the “cool extras” page; an updated map of historical disasters; and downloadable versions of the quizzes in the teachers’ section.

The illustrated storybook is a new feature of What’s the Plan Stan containing five stories in which Stan and friends cope with earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunami, floods and storms. Each story is followed by

a checklist of what to do before, during and after a disaster. These stories can also be downloaded as Word or PDF documents from the CD-Rom and the website.

The audio CD is also a new resource containing stories of how Stan and friends cope with various disasters. Each story concludes with information on what to do before, during and after a disaster. The audio CD is suitable for younger listeners as well as the target audience of 8-12-year olds.

Future upgrade plans include material in Te Reo Maori (2008), and a new version of teachers’ handbook, in line with the updated New Zealand curriculum (2009). ▲

