



impact

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**Disaster Awareness
Week thrills! P6**

In this Issue



MOU signed with Sallies - P3



International engagement - P10



Waitakere EOC passes test - P3



Ministry of Civil Defence
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MESSAGE FROM John Hamilton



Resilience initiatives

As this edition of *Impact* is distributed, the revised National Strategy for civil defence emergency management has been considered by the Government and is now before Parliament before it can be adopted and revealed early in the New Year.

The revision process considered comments and contributions from those involved in the sector.

Early in the review it was determined that the strategy's vision and its four goals would be retained unchanged as they well describe the condition we seek and the route we intend taking to achieve a resilient New Zealand. The goals provide four powerful factors that have to be used to generate a resilient nation.

Throughout the country we all see aspects of communities that represent risk, and each of us has different thresholds of what constitutes a risk. As a result, there are different ideas on whether it is necessary to do something about that risk.

You will not find me bungee jumping, canoeing down swift rivers or trying my hand at rodeo this Christmas! But I might well take on activities that others would balk at. Pause during your summer break and look at what you and others are doing. Look at the four environments around you; natural, built, economic and social that together constitute communities. Think about the complex interactions that occur across these environments. We know we face many hazards. The key is to understand them, and educate others about them. Goals 1 and 2 are about identifying hazards and managing risks and they are critical elements of the strategic equation that aims to create resilience.

The next important component of the equation is ensuring we have the capability. Being prepared reduces the impact of an emergency and contributes to resilience by making communities better able to cope. Being prepared covers all aspects of community life; horizontally across them and vertically between neighbours, districts and businesses. Having well-trained staff enables

swift, well co-ordinated and directed response activities and lessens the impacts felt by communities.

Goal 4 of the strategy is to enhance our capability to recover from emergencies. Once again, thinking and planning before the event makes recovery faster and easier. But then, having greater resilience in the first place is also going to result in needing less in the recovery.

The National Strategy is not intended to be prescriptive; there is plenty of scope for initiative and the application of brilliant ideas; these are some of our most highly-valued Kiwi traits. We should make the most of the skills available across our sector and apply them toward being better prepared, better able to cope and therefore more resilient. I would love to hear of local ideas and innovations that contribute to civil defence emergency management and resilience in communities; ideas and concepts that can be shared with other groups.

The challenge for us all is to ensure that all that we do is aligned with, connected to and contributing toward the goal of greater resilience. This will come from you examining the situations faced in your area and then being willing to make suggestions and implement actions and initiatives.

Generating resilience is about improving the capacity of our physical and human systems to respond to and recover from extreme events. The National Strategy provides the guidance and the paths that we will take to achieve high levels of resilience. While the strategy has been revised, its vision and its underlying themes have been retained. We will return after the holidays to redouble our efforts across the four Rs, within the four goals and within our own areas, to work together towards the strategic goal of creating resilient communities in New Zealand. ▲

Auckland region gearing up for new era

Auckland Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group has a spring in its step after some major improvements designed to enhance the regional community's resilience.

Over the past few months, the group has been busy setting up a new group emergency operations centre (GEOC), enhancing the Group Emergency Management Office (GEMO), and training volunteers.

Peter Winder, Auckland Regional Council's chief executive, offered the council's central city building on Pitt Street to house the GEOC and GEMO.

ARC staff volunteers are close to completing the training needed to operate the GEOC during an emergency event.

Peter says he is happy with the new developments.

"Auckland is enhancing its regional civil defence responsibilities to ensure Auckland has a greater capacity than it currently has. We will soon be hosting the operations centre at the ARC building, staffed by permanent ARC personnel."

"Sixty-two ARC volunteers have just completed the initial training. They have been through a simulated declared state of emergency exercise and from my observations have gained a good understanding of their roles."

"There also seems to be a feeling amongst staff that the civil defence training process can be enjoyable as well as contribute a very important element towards our communities' resilience."

The training and exercises have also contributed to preparing the ARC GEOC staff to participate in Exercise

Ruamoko, and have also helped ensure the Auckland CDEMG is able to respond well in a real emergency event in the region.

The ARC plans to run one more refresher exercise for staff next February to prepare for Exercise Ruamuoko.

Ben Stallworthy, the new GEMO executive manager, is looking forward to the new operation centre getting off the blocks.

"New staff positions are being advertised and we are getting ready to launch the new centre next year. It's an exciting time," Ben says. ▲



Peter Winder, Auckland Regional Council's chief executive

New Waitakere EOC passes test

A huge bush fire burns near Piha Road. Smoke covers the road and makes driving hazardous. Fire Fighters set up to fight the fire. If the fire continues on its current heading, Piha will be isolated and Karekare will be threatened directly.

This was the scenario facing the Emergency Operations Centre staff 28-29 November during the first exercise conducted in the Civil Defence Emergency Operations Centre. The new Waitakere EOC was opened by the Honourable Rick Barker on 26 September 2007.

The new state-of-the-art EOC faced its first challenge through this exercise to prove the concept of the building and method of operating would work and with the exception of a couple of procedural glitches which can be easily rectified, it passed with flying colours.

Darryl Griffin leads the team during the exercise looking at issues from the welfare of people trapped in Piha to the evacuation of people from Karekare. Working with outside organisations such as Fire and Health the EOC staff operated the systems within the EOC effectively.

"This is a very exciting time in Emergency Management in Waitakere City. We have a brand new building,



Conference room (above) and Comms centre (right)

we have a great team of volunteers staffing the Emergency Operations Centre and we are building from strength to strength in our ability to meet any disaster headed our way" say Manager, Emergency Management Bill Morley.

"The exercise was also the first time that Council volunteers had actually worked in the EOC and everyone picked up on the new computer based operating system very well which is a vast improvement on the old paper based system used in the former EOC." ▲



Exercise Ruaumoko

Exercise Ruaumoko is now well under way, with the first injects starting in early November.

Ruaumoko is divided into two main phases:

- ♦ **Initial Exercise Phase** from November 2007 to February 2008. Agencies are asked to review their preparedness and explore some of the broader 'big picture' issues that would emerge at the early stages of both organisational and public awareness of a volcanic threat in the Auckland region;
- ♦ **Main Exercise Phase**, in March 2008. This will be the more conventional 'operational' part of the exercise, involving more traditional exercise play and the exercising of specific response arrangements and procedures.

Ruaumoko is fast becoming New Zealand's largest-ever civil defence exercise, with more than 120 organisations participating from a range of sectors – from local authorities to emergency services as well as government departments, scientific institutes, lifeline utilities and representation from a variety of business sectors.

Next steps

Work is now beginning on preparations for the main exercise phase. This includes development of the master sequence and the writing of injects and evaluation guidelines. Exercise organisers will be meeting with representatives from all major participating sectors to inform scheduling of consequences to be managed.

For further information on the exercise please see www.exerciseruaumoko.co.nz, or contact Jo Horrocks (jo.horrocks@dia.govt.nz)

Situation Update

November 6: 16 earthquakes are detected under Auckland. Earthquakes range from magnitude 1.8 to 2.2 and are characterised as 'long period events', which are indicative of fluid movement (rather than tectonic events). GNS Science raises the Science Alert Level to 1: signs of unrest.

November 7: the Auckland Volcanic Science Advisory Group (comprising experts in the fields of seismic monitoring,

physical volcanology and social science) meet to discuss questions posed to them by the Auckland Group and National Controllers.



November 8: Auckland CDEM Group Operational Planning Group meets to discuss the threat, and initial actions to take.

November 13: Auckland CDEM Group partners briefed in an all day meeting. Discussion groups identify top issues for Auckland, being: individual and organisational preparedness, leadership and communication, and mass evacuation planning.

November 14: ODESC meeting in Wellington. Central government agencies are briefed on the Auckland threat and asked to consider preparedness actions required. A Watch Group is established.

November 16: GNS Science confirms no further earthquakes and lowers the Science Alert Level back to 0. GNS advise that there is the potential for future activity in the coming weeks and months and all organisations should stay vigilant.

KEY POINTS FROM THE AUCKLAND VOLCANIC SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP

- ♦ Highly likely (approx 70%) that these earthquakes are volcanic in origin.
- ♦ They have observed no progression in depths of the earthquakes (shallowing would indicate magma rising), so there is no information about when and if an eruption might occur.
- ♦ Magma may stall at depth (a 'failed' eruption).
- ♦ It is very difficult to predict the location and size of eruption from initial data such as this.
- ♦ The style of eruption and impacts will depend on *where* it erupts.
- ♦ Possible physical impacts: ashfall, lava flows, ash cloud surges, ballistics.
- ♦ Possible social impacts: wide range of behaviours from panic to denial. ▲

MCDEM signs long-term Yellow Pages agreement

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management and the new owners of the Yellow Pages, the Yellow Pages Group, have affirmed a long-term partnership with the signing of a new agreement. The Ministry's Director, John Hamilton said that the agreement reached ensures that New Zealanders have ready access to civil defence information in their Yellow Pages.

The agreement also includes provision for regional authorities to take up additional pages for local civil defence information at a substantially discounted price. Councils wanting to take up additional pages in the regional phone books for civil defence information will get a 75% discount on the cost of the pages.

"Civil defence has had a presence in the Yellow Pages for about 30 years and people expect to find that information in their book. The agreement means that every household and workplace in the country that has a Yellow Pages will

continue to have civil defence information available in the same place that they have to come to expect it, said MCDEM Director John Hamilton.

Advertisements appear in all the 18 phone books around the country. They are on the inside back cover of the Yellow Pages for regions that have separate books, and on the inside front cover for the combined books.

Yellow Pages Group Marketing Director Blair Glubb said that the Yellow book is probably the best known and most used find-it resource in New Zealand, and as such is the perfect vehicle to carry essential information on what to do in an emergency.

"Civil Defence plays a vital role in our communities, and with every home and business throughout the country having a Yellow book, we are ideally placed to support the work they do," Mr Glubb said. ▲

Life on the Edge

New Zealand's Natural Hazards and Disasters

We live in a beautiful but demanding land. The challenges of coping with New Zealand's rugged mountains, powerful rivers and extremes of weather have helped forge the national character. Being prepared to deal with these dangers is the price of living in a dynamic landscape.

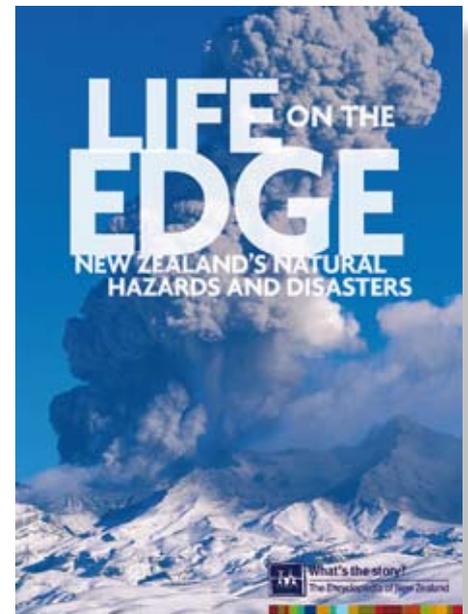
Building on the success of the 'Earth, Sea and Sky' section of Te Ara (the online Encyclopedia of New Zealand, www.teara.govt.nz) the Ministry of Culture and Heritage has drawn together nine web entries from the 'Natural Hazards and Disasters' section of the website in this recently-released book.

The book explains the geological hazards we face and tells stories of



David Middleton (EQC), Jock Phillips (General Editor, Te Ara), Simon Nathan (Science Editor, Te Ara), Richard Smith (MCDEM) at the book launch

some of the major disasters, using a combination of science, history and eye-witness accounts. The result is a great resource for every home and school, with big dramatic images and lively design making the content accessible and user-friendly.



Life on the Edge is available through all major book retailers and features on the Whitcoulls Christmas book list. ▲

MOU signed with Salvation Army

New Zealand's ability to respond to civil defence emergency management events has been strengthened after the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management and The Salvation Army signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) about welfare services.

The Director of the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, John Hamilton, said that the MOU expands and formalises the Salvation Army's long-standing involvement in response to civil defence emergencies.

Under the MOU The Salvation Army will, where possible, assist in planning for and recovering from a significant emergency by providing:

- ♦ stand alone catering units
- ♦ pastoral welfare support units
- ♦ welfare needs assessment units (clothing, furniture)
- ♦ meet and greet, reception
- ♦ trained critical incident stress support teams
- ♦ other welfare units as skills are identified.

The Salvation Army will be represented on the National Welfare Recovery Co-ordination Group and on each of the 16 regional CDEM Welfare Action Groups.

Salvation Army Territorial Commander, Commissioner Garth



(Left to right): Territorial Commander, Commissioner Garth McKenzie, National Coordinator of Emergency Services Major Ian Spargo and John Hamilton, Director MCDEM.

McKenzie, said that The Salvation Army appreciates the relationship that has developed with the Ministry over a number of years.

"Salvation Army Emergency Services staff and volunteers around the country stand ready to organise vital help such as catering, welfare support, emergency accommodation, and post-disaster counselling when needed. They also work closely with government departments such as the Ministry, local and regional authorities, and a range of non-government agencies," Commissioner McKenzie said.

"By working together and understanding our roles we are better able to help people during their time of need." ▲

CDEM features on Volunteering NZ website

A new webpage about emergency services has been posted on the Volunteering NZ website. This service has been established through a partnership between Volunteering NZ and the Ministry for Civil Defence and Emergency Management.

One of the objectives of the new webpage will be to encourage more people to consider becoming an emergency volunteer and the page provides information about a full range of emergency services: civil defence, land search and rescue, specialist land search and rescue, search dogs, marine search and rescue, fire, ambulance and victim support. Contact information is provided for each section. Regular updates and bulletins will provide a source of information for current and potential emergency services volunteers.

Visit www.volunteeringnz.org.nz/civil/civil_index.php



Disaster Awareness Week 2007

Every year since the early nineties, the United Nations organises a World Disaster Reduction Campaign, which culminates on International Disaster Reduction Day, the second Wednesday of October. In New Zealand, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, working in collaboration with CDEM Groups around the country, promotes Disaster Awareness Week, a week of activities aimed at raising awareness of hazards and the need to be prepared.

The purpose of the Disaster Awareness Week is to have a heightened period of activity to get across key CDEM messages to the general public. The Ministry ran its Get Ready Get Thru campaign with an intensive three week series of advertisements on television and radio. CDEM groups were encouraged to undertake local and regional activities for their communities and a number of resources were offered to Groups in support.

There was lots of advertising and activities during Disaster Awareness Week 2007. Congratulations to all those CDEM Groups who went the extra mile with displays, demonstrations and handing out information.

Southland CDEM Group prompted shoppers to stock up on emergency survival items as part of their weekly shop. The Group mounted a campaign in six supermarkets to increase awareness of the need for householders to prepare for emergencies.

Shoppers at Pak N Save, Woolworths and Windsor New World in Invercargill, the Te Anau Four Square and the Gore and Winton New World supermarkets were handed a survival checklist as they entered the supermarket. "We hope that they'll take the opportunity of stocking up on tinned food, bottled water, first aid items and other emergency supplies while they do their normal shopping," said Group Coordinator Neil Cruickshank.

The Otago Regional Council, on behalf of the Otago CDEM Group organised lectures on earthquake risks for Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes and got national media coverage. Canterbury University Associate Professor Tim Davies, one of New Zealand's leading geomorphologists, spoke at three venues about earthquakes originating on the South Island alpine fault.

Several CDEM staff members were on hand to answer questions about getting prepared. Well over 500 people attended the talks and a large amount of media coverage was generated.

It was clear people were hungry for detailed practical advice on what they should do to prepare for an earthquake and what they should be doing during and after an event. Many wanted a follow up event with someone speaking about this and able to answer questions.

Environment Canterbury had daily themes for Disaster Awareness Week: water supply, food, First aid and medications, communications and light, making a plan and your community. Environment Canterbury also ran a competition and "Disasters Don't Discriminate" presentations about getting businesses ready for emergencies.



The Wellington Region CDEM Group organised "goodie" bags of preparedness information. The Minister of Civil Defence, Rick Barker (above), along with CDEM Group and MCDEM staff helped to hand them out to hundreds of morning commuters as they passed through Wellington railway station.

Nelson Tasman CDEM Group had a slightly lower-key Disaster Awareness Week and supported displays at The Warehouse outlets in Nelson and Motueka including providing pamphlets and household emergency checklists for putting into customers bags at checkouts. Media releases from the Controller were also picked up well by local media. The Group was able to secure a twenty minute interview with our office on community TV (Mainland TV) based on 'Get Ready Get Thru' messages.

The Group also adapted some of the generic media releases offered on the online CDEM Public Education Toolbox and ran an article in *Live Nelson*, a publication distributed to all Nelson households. It used the pro forma article on water from the MCDEM website and adapted it to local needs. The Group also organised a couple of presentations to Rotary and a local Deaf Association.

Rotorua City Council organised several events including Q&A sessions on Radioworks, Get ready Get Thru brochures in with council staff payslips; survival kit and banners on display in the council foyer; local television coverage and general Civil Defence displays in the Rotorua Warehouse store.

Masterton District Council set up and staffed a preparedness display at the local Warehouse for the week (right).

Disaster Awareness Week is an annual activity (always in the second week in October) which the Ministry will continue to support so please remember to include it in your council's planning cycle. ▲





DISASTER AWARENESS WEEK 2007

Emergency Services thrill!

Ten-year-old Daniel Carter from Harewood, got the experience of a lifetime when he won a Disaster Awareness Week Competition sponsored by Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group.

The competition formed part of the Disaster Awareness Week strategy developed by the Canterbury Group. From Monday October 8 to Saturday October 13, half page advertisements appeared in the Christchurch Press and Timaru Herald featuring a competition, tips, and other emergency preparation information. Each advertisement contained a puzzle piece and all six pieces needed to be collected to display the full picture and then mailed in.

The grand prize was an "Ultimate Emergency Services behind the scenes VIP tour", which included: a ride in a Red Cross Landrover; a visit to the fire station and ride in a fire truck; a ride in a helicopter; a tour of the Christchurch City Police Station (including the jail); a jet ski trip with the Coast Guard; a ride in the Christchurch City Council CDEM vehicle; abseiling with the RATS team and a ride home in a St. John Ambulance.

The action-packed day was a great opportunity for emergency services in Canterbury to share the most exciting parts of their job with Daniel. The idea was the brain child of the Canterbury CDEM Public Education Public Information (PEPI) committee, which works together on joint public education projects.

The story was picked up by TV One and broadcast on November 11, 2007. It was also picked up by several local newspapers further enhancing the preparedness message.

"Ultimately, we enjoy working together, not only during emergencies but for public relations campaigns like



From rescue chopper (above) to police cell; Daniel enjoyed the experience of a lifetime

this. This was a great opportunity to highlight some positive work we do together," said Sara McBride Steele, Communications Officer. "We really enjoyed the experience of working together to make one boy's dream day out come true."

Also during the week there were a series of presentations for businesses in Christchurch and Timaru entitled "Disasters Don't Discriminate!"

Presentations included a short tour of the Canterbury Emergency Coordination Centre outlining what occurs during any significant emergency, as well as how businesses in the region can prepare for emergencies.

For more information about this day, contact Sara McBride Steele at sara.mcbridesteele@ecan.govt.nz ▲



Thirty years of service recognised

Through floods, storms and earthquakes, for the last 30 years when the Gore District has been beset by emergencies, Civil Defence stalwart Joe Cummings has been on the job.

His long involvement with emergency management was recognised with a national commendation and a regional award from the Civil Defence organisation he has supported tirelessly.

Joe was shoulder-tapped to become Gore's Contoller of Civil Defence in 1977, when he was Principal of Gore Main School. Less than a year later much of Eastern Southland, including the town of Mataura, was inundated by flooding. Ever since then, Joe has dealt with whatever nature throws at his patch.

In January 1993, after 15 years as a volunteer leading the response during emergencies, he accepted the part-time position of Civil Defence Officer for the Gore District. With it came the responsibility for forward planning, training and maintaining the whole

(left to right) Invercargill Mayor and Chair of the Southland CDEMG Tim Shadbolt, Gore CDO Joe Cummings and Civil Defence Advisor John Lovell.

volunteer structure that Civil Defence depends upon and coordinating the Eastern Southland response to all kinds of emergency events.

In a surprise ceremony, the Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group presented Joe with a plaque recognising his 30 years of continuous involvement in civil defence. He also received a gold commendation from MCDem Director John Hamilton – one of only four to be awarded nationwide.

Presenting the award on behalf of Mr Hamilton, Civil Defence advisor John Lovell said that Mr Cummings had earned great respect and credibility throughout the emergency management sector. "The big thing about Joe is his total commitment to civil defence," Mr Lovell said. Gore District and the Southland Region as a whole had benefited from his knowledge and experience. ▲

National Public Education Activity Nov 07 – Dec 09

A two-year programme of planned activities for the national Get Ready Get Thru programme is available online on the Ministry website in the Public Education section and will be updated as detailed information comes to hand.

In particular, information on the timing of television and radio advertising will be shared with CDEM Groups so they can leverage off the national programme for regional activities.

The focus for the Ministry is to maximise audience reach given the relatively low budgets available. Advertising will occur in blocks at least once every quarter in March/June/October and Dec/Jan. Details on times and channels will be made available on the Ministry website as soon as they become available.

Councils are encouraged to share information about regional activities by sending information to the Ministry. The Ministry will circulate information about national and regional public education activities on the Ministry website, through its monthly email bulletin to the CDEM sector and through *Impact*.

Brendan Boyle appointed Chief Executive of DIA

The State Services Commissioner, Mark Prebble, recently announced the appointment of Brendan Boyle to the position of Chief Executive and Secretary for Internal Affairs, Department of Internal Affairs.

Mr Boyle is currently the Chief Executive for Land Information New Zealand, a position he has held since August 2003. He takes up his appointment with DIA on 4 February 2008.

"Mr Boyle has proven experience as a Public Service chief executive. He has a range of skills and experiences that are relevant to the role of chief executive of the Department of Internal Affairs, including the ability to maintain positive working relationships with Ministers, other government departments and stakeholders.

"The Department of Internal Affairs is a complex organization that provides a range of services supporting

government, communities and citizenship. It is responsible for providing information and services on matters relating to local government, identity services, citizenship, community development, gaming, racing, censorship, emergency management and State visits and ceremonies.

Mr Boyle has held positions at the Land Titles Office in Dunedin (then part of the Justice Department) and was appointed Registrar-General of Land Information New Zealand in 1996. In 2000, Mr Boyle was appointed to the position of Director of the E-government Unit, in the State Services Commission. ▲



General update to the Guide to the National CDEM Plan

The Guide to the National CDEM Plan outlines existing arrangements for national management or support for local management of civil defence emergencies.

The Guide is intended to be a 'living document'. Therefore as planning and operational arrangements develop, they are to be incorporated in the document as general updates.

Revised November 2007 – version 1.1.

The Guide became operational - in conjunction with the National CDEM Plan - on 1 July 2006. In response to the Guide being operational for 12 months, a review was undertaken in relation to revised Government policy that affects civil defence emergency management and/or errors, and omissions. As a result, 13 sections have undergone a general update and are now being republished (version 1.1.).

Reprinted Guide sections were despatched on 12 December to all original recipients of the Guide, in addition to being made available electronically on the



Ministry's website www.civildefence.govt.nz

If you own a copy of the Guide and have not received updated Guide sections, please contact NationalCDEM.Plan@dia.govt.nz

Review of the Guide

In addition to the general update of the Guide, a wider review involving sector consultation and development is underway. The review aims to improve current national CDEM planning arrangements and documentation.

Agencies with responsibilities and/or arrangements specified in the Guide were consulted in September to identify areas needing improvement.

Work is now being undertaken to develop and refine identified areas and will involve further engagement with agencies. Consultation with the sector on the draft revised Guide will take place in mid 2008 before revised Guide sections are republished in late 2008.

If you would like more information on the review please contact: NationalCDEM.Plan@dia.govt.nz ▲

Faster messages to CDEM sector

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management's (MCDEM) is upgrading its system for getting warning and advisory messages to the civil defence emergency management (CDEM) sector.

MCDEM's Director, John Hamilton, said that the upgrades will be completed by the end of the year. The upgraded system will:

- ♦ allow MCDEM to issue messages more quickly
- ♦ make confirmation of receipt of messages easier and quicker for recipients and MCDEM staff
- ♦ simplify address list maintenance.

The upgrades were given their first full broadcast test on 6 December 2007 when MCDEM sent a test message to the CDEM sector.

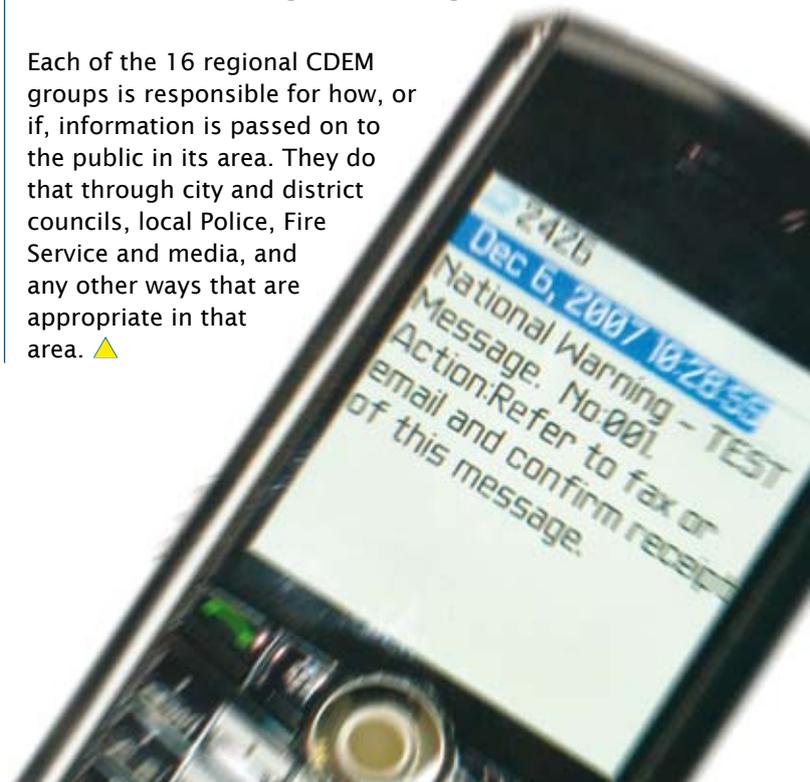
As *Impact* went to print a further full broadcast test of the upgraded system was being planned. All recipients would be advised of the date as soon as it was confirmed and the message sent would be clearly labelled as a test message.

The system sends messages by e-mail, text and fax to:

- ♦ Each of the 16 regional CDEM groups
- ♦ MCDEM staff
- ♦ Police
- ♦ Fire Service
- ♦ Ministry of Health
- ♦ Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- ♦ Maritime New Zealand
- ♦ Civil Aviation Authority

- ♦ Airways Corporation
- ♦ GNS Science
- ♦ MetService
- ♦ Utility providers
- ♦ Reserve Bank
- ♦ Media, if the message is a warning

Each of the 16 regional CDEM groups is responsible for how, or if, information is passed on to the public in its area. They do that through city and district councils, local Police, Fire Service and media, and any other ways that are appropriate in that area. ▲





MCDEM UNDAC accredited member John Titmus in Niue January 2004, photographed in front of the remains of a building totally destroyed during Cyclone Heta.

International engagement

In September, the Minister of Civil Defence announced that international engagement is one of his top three priorities for this year.

The Ministry coordinates its current activities and identifies new opportunities for international engagement around three objectives. These are: to ensure New Zealand's response capability is supported by access to international assistance following a large emergency event; fulfilling New Zealand's international obligation to be a good global citizen through response, capability and the provision of international assistance; increasing New Zealand's domestic resilience and CDEM capability through increased CDEM knowledge.

The Ministry's contribution to international engagement currently includes:

- ♦ fulfilling commitments to international disaster assistance arrangements and efforts, for example working with the field coordination support section of the emergency services branch of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA);
- ♦ capability development and disaster assistance for Pacific Island Countries;
- ♦ bilateral engagement to develop relationships for assistance and professional development, for example with Emergency Management Australia;
- ♦ representation on regional and international bodies, such as France, Australia and New Zealand Arrangement (FRANZ) and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); and
- ♦ contributing to international emergency management knowledge and exchange, for example relationships with academic institutions in Australia, USA and UK.

The following are examples of some of the international activities the Ministry has recently been involved in.

Capability building in the Pacific

In October, the Ministry signed a new three year Memorandum of Understanding (2007-2010) to provide \$300,000 funding with the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID). This MOU enables MCDEM to work closely with the Cook Islands, Tokelau Islands, Niue, Tonga and Samoa to build capability in the area of disaster management.

Activities have included providing assessment of national disaster management arrangements, working with national disaster management officers to review and where necessary, develop national disaster management plans and facilitate exercises and training. The Ministry may also provide technical support through NZAID following disasters to undertake assessment, or to support the affected country in response efforts. The Ministry provided such support to Niue following Cyclone Heta in 2004.

United Nations Disaster Assessment & Coordination (UNDAC) Team

The UNDAC Team is a standby team of disaster management professionals who are nominated and funded by member governments, UN OCHA, United Nations Agencies and other non governmental organisations. Upon a request from a disaster-stricken country, an UNDAC team can be deployed within hours. Priority needs are then assessed and support given to national authorities and the UN Resident Coordinator to organise relief on-site.

UNDAC teams assist the UN through early and qualified information gathering and through the coordination of incoming international relief.

In October, the Ministry hosted two UN OCHA courses,



(Above) Participants involved in various UNDAC training exercises held recently in Christchurch. (Right) Airport security simulation at Christchurch airport.

which were jointly funded by NZAID and the Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID). The On-Site Operations Coordination Centre Course (9-11 October) and the UNDAC Induction course (14-26 October) involved more than sixty participants from twenty four countries.

New Zealand has been a full financial member of UNDAC since 2000 and has eight accredited members: John Titmus (MCDEM), Sarah Stuart-Black (MCDEM), Rian van Schalkwyk (Greater Wellington Regional Council), Shane Bayley (Horizons Regional Council), Ian Pickard (NZ Fire Service), Jim Stuart-Black (NZ Fire Service), David Coetzee (MCDEM) and Sara Carley (NZAID).

The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)

Established in 1991, INSARAG comprises countries that are either prone to disasters that may cause buildings to collapse, or countries willing to provide international USAR assistance to other nations in need. INSARAG also includes the UN, IFRC and other international responders. INSARAG is divided into 3 regions (Asia-Pacific, Africa-Europe and the Americas). INSARAG is overseen by a Steering Committee. The organisational framework is further supported by a number of sub-committees and a secretariat function provided by the FCSS.

INSARAG activities are designed to improve emergency preparedness including strengthening the cooperation between international USAR teams and the exchange of operational and training information.

The New Zealand Fire Service (NZFS) maintains 3 USAR Task Forces developed in accordance with INSARAG guidelines. In support of the INSARAG framework, NZFS is responsible for the operational management and coordination of USAR in New Zealand. MCDEM and NZFS jointly serve as the government focal point for INSARAG.

New Zealand-supported INSARAG initiatives include:

- ◆ Leading the development of new INSARAG guidelines and methodology;
- ◆ training and exercises in Asia-Pacific;
- ◆ maintaining strong engagement with INSARAG at regional and international forums (NZ will chair in 2008);
- ◆ developing the New Zealand Border Arrangements



Guide (2006) which was tested for Exercise Capital Quake, 2006; and

- ◆ leading the development of training methodologies.

FRANZ Exercise

New Zealand, Australian and French participants met in Wellington to discuss ways of collaboratively responding to disasters in the Pacific

In September, 28 participants under the France, Australia and New Zealand Arrangement (FRANZ) met in Wellington to share ideas on ways of responding to requests for international assistance following Pacific natural disasters. Signed in 1992, this Arrangement commits all three countries to "exchanging information to ensure the best use of their assets and other resources for relief operations after cyclones and other natural disasters in the region." While cyclones remain the most common disaster affecting the Pacific, FRANZ has been used effectively across a broad range of hazards – most recently the earthquake and tsunami that devastated parts of the Solomon Islands. NZAID has coordinated New Zealand's contribution to FRANZ since 2004.

Over a two-day exercise, participants worked through a scenario based on Cyclone Heta (2004) and came up with a series of recommendations designed to strengthen the partnership and to ensure a level of consistency between the countries. This in turn ensures that the partnership is based on mutual trust and respect, and means that responding to disasters in the Pacific is achieved as effectively as possible. Participants gained a greater appreciation of the benefits of jointly sharing information and coordinating assets. Participants also benefited from an increased familiarisation of the FRANZ Arrangement and how it might be used to assist our Pacific neighbours when they are faced with disasters. ▲



CDEM Specialist Services

The first six months of this financial year have proven to be as busy as expected and, like you I'm sure, Christmas provides a welcome break to recharge batteries and spend time enjoying the summer weather with family.

The CDEM Specialist Services Unit has been working on a range of projects and initiatives since the September edition of *Impact*.

- ♦ A **CDEM presentation package** was developed for newly elected local government members. It includes a Power Point show of 20 slides, the first ten of which explain the Act, the Strategy and MCDEM's role in CDEM, along with notes to aid the speaker. There are also blank slides for Group and local content to be inserted. The package is available on mini-disc from Regional Emergency Manager Advisors.

- ♦ **Three pilot courses** were run for Recovery Managers, Controllers and Public Information Management (PIM). The PIM course was completely new and was developed to take participants through the Public Information Management booklet launched earlier this year. The Recovery Manager and Controllers courses have been thoroughly revised building upon the best of previous course material and feedback from the CDEM sector. All three courses were extremely well received and feedback from participants is currently being used to refine content for further courses in the New Year. Comments from Controllers course participants included: "Excellent formatted course, with good techniques to engage the participants" and "As a volunteer this has been very good. I said that I needed heaps and I got it."



Exercising on the Recovery Managers course

- ♦ The **National Hazardscape Report (NHR)** was completed and copies continue to rush out the door. What is so positive to note is the range of stakeholders requesting copies. These include schools, universities, international agencies and non government agencies. Copies of the NHR are available in hardcopy or can be downloaded from the MCDEM website, www.civildefence.govt.nz (search 'hazardscape').
- ♦ **MCDEM hosted the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Induction and On Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC)**

courses. Both courses, held in Christchurch during October, were very successful with more than sixty delegates from twenty four countries participating.



By Sarah (Norm) Stuart-Black

In September, the Minister announced that professional development is one of his top priorities for this year. In addition to projects already underway, some key components include:

Development of a CDEM competency framework To date a comprehensive literature review has been completed including review of material from Australia, USA and the UK. Information will be provided in E-bulletin over the coming months about how you can contribute to the development of the framework.

Work continues on the **CDEM library collection** including the purchasing of new journals, books and DVDs. The professional librarians of DIA Information Services continue to work with us. During this transitional period, any library information requests can be directed via richard.smith@dia.govt.nz who will liaise on your behalf with the DIA librarians.

The second series **Recovery Manager, Public Information Management and Controllers courses** will be held in April 2008 incorporating changes and recommendations from the pilot series. See below for 2008 course dates.

Working with a range of **education, research and professional development stakeholders** to identify a variety of CDEM-related professional development activities. These include CDEM post-graduate, undergraduate and short courses along with opportunities for connecting research to daily practice.

Looking ahead

In December, the team spent two days off-site conducting a business planning workshop. This involved identifying strategic outcomes for the next five years against our five accountabilities (research, professional development, hazards and risks, recovery and international engagement). We then developed a tentative work programme and outputs. We hope this planning will enable us to better support you and be more responsive to your needs in the coming years.

Please do not hesitate to contact the CDEM Specialist Services team with any questions or comments. ▲

2008 MCDEM Course Dates



Public Information Manager
7 April 2008



Controller
9 -11 April 2008



Recovery Manager
14 & 15 April 2008



Ministry of Civil Defence
& Emergency Management

Information on registration for these Wellington-based courses will be advertised early next year