



impact

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Inter-agency collaboration to the fore



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Common acronyms

MCDEM Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management
CDEM Civil defence emergency management
NCMC National Crisis Management Centre
ECC Emergency Coordination Centre
EOC Emergency Operations Centre
EMO Emergency Management Officer

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FOREWORD

Sarah Stuart-Black, Acting Director CDEM



It has been another full year, and an especially busy run-up to Christmas with a number of multi-agency exercises and sector meetings over the past month. Collaboration has been a recurring theme during 2014.

The recent domestic response to the Ebola risk, led by the Ministry of Health, has been a timely reminder of the criticality for cross-agency/sector response to any risk faced by New Zealanders. The level of engagement by the health sector to ensure preparedness measures are employed by all sectors has been impressive, and recently culminated in a multi-agency, table-top exercise involving response to a range of potential Ebola outbreak scenarios.

In addition to the Ebola exercise, the NZ Police have recently led (with CDEM in a support capacity), a counter-terrorism exercise, again involving multi-agency participation in a response and early recovery scenario. Involvement in the planning and exercising of CDEM arrangements in a support role has been vital in clarifying our roles and responsibilities, and enables us to build our capability to meet the needs of the community regardless of the type of hazard involved.

Aside from involvement in recent exercises, I had the opportunity at the end of November to engage with CDEM leaders from across the country at both the Controllers Forum and Coordinating Executive Group Chairs meeting held in Wellington. Participants at both meetings conveyed an appetite for greater emphasis on resilience and increased collaboration on projects and initiatives across the sector.

Certainly as you read through this edition of *Impact*, it is clear that in recent times there has been a greater level of collaboration, with a number of projects and initiatives all benefiting from the collective input of multiple agencies. There are many benefits to working more collaboratively not least of which include the development of strong working relationships, shared understanding and outcomes that benefit all involved. It is often important to remind ourselves of the shared vision that CDEM aspires to: Resilient New Zealand – Communities understanding and managing their hazards, and to recognise that the fulfilment of this vision can only come about with time and effort across the 4Rs, with the participation and commitment at all levels from Government, local authorities, businesses, volunteer organisations and individual families themselves.

The examples of collaboration and involvement at all levels, from Government to the community, in this edition of *Impact*, are hugely positive and we look forward to building on this good work in 2015.

With 2015 and beyond in mind, I trust that you will all have a restful (and thoroughly uneventful) Christmas break so that you can return refreshed and ready for what is shaping up as a busy year ahead. ■



Self-evacuations applauded

Schools, hospitals and residents in coastal areas of the Gisborne District are being congratulated by CDEM authorities and scientists for taking the correct action and self-evacuating following a large earthquake on 17 November.

The magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck 155km off the coast of Te Araroa, at a depth of 32km, at 11.33am while school students were in class.

Gisborne CDEM Group Manager Richard Steele said that the earthquake was felt widely across the district – as a long, rolling motion around the city, but more strongly up the top of the coast.

Mr Steele said that given the size and duration of the earthquake, immediate self-evacuation was the correct action for coastal communities to take in case a tsunami eventuated.

“We congratulate our schools, hospitals and residents who know that any time they feel a large earthquake, they need to evacuate immediately,” he said.

“For a very strongly felt earthquake, or a long duration of shaking – one that goes on for one minute or more – self-evacuation is the only option. The earthquake will be your only warning.”

GNS Science has studied the tsunami threat off the Gisborne coast and confirms that evacuating is the correct action to take, despite a tsunami not being generated by this particular earthquake.

“Evacuating as soon as a strong or long duration earthquake is felt is the right action to take,” said Bill Fry, GNS Science seismologist. “Local source tsunamis have occurred before in the area and people need to act immediately to ensure their own safety. Those people who evacuated did the right thing.”

Earthquakes of this intensity have the potential to trigger submarine landslides that may cause tsunami, if the strong ground shaking occurs in areas of unstable sediment.

“Our research on large seafloor landslides off the North Island’s East Coast shows that large amounts of rock and sediment have moved rapidly downslope in the past,” said NIWA Marine Geologist Dr Joshu Mountjoy.

“The majority of these landslides are believed to occur during or immediately following large earthquakes, and similar large slope collapses in the future may cause tsunami. The action taken by communities to evacuate to safe areas is absolutely the right thing to do.” ■

Gisborne exercise shows services work well

Flooding and slips throughout the district recently isolated Gisborne, prompting a ‘declaration of a state of emergency’.

The flood was an all-day exercise to test the capability of Gisborne’s Civil Defence Emergency Management team.

CDEM Group Manager Richard Steele said the exercise involved more than 100 people over two shifts including police, the fire service, rural fire, Tairāwhiti District Health and welfare volunteers working out of the Gisborne District Council’s chambers and offices. Another 100

volunteers worked from several bases of the Community Link network.

Mr Steele said that Gisborne held such exercises every four years.

As part of the day, that started with a state of local civil defence emergency being declared at 6.30am, the civil defence team was required to provide updates on the

flooding, slips, road closures and utility faults taking place in real time, and then respond to conditions across the region.

The rural fire team used the exercise to deliver information on flood evacuation procedures on the Poverty Bay Flats and to help prepare residents for future flood events.

Two Ministry representatives, and Gisborne civil defence assistant recovery manager Patrick Willock, assessed the team’s performance and offered some advice.

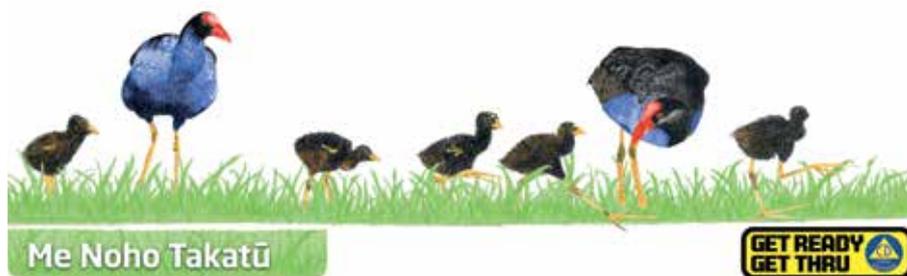
Ministry Regional Coordinator – Central, Keith Evans, said that the enthusiasm shown by the team throughout the exercise was heartening.

“Civil defence has a good atmosphere, and relationships between different services work well,” Mr Evans said.

“Communities tend to be more resilient in isolated areas. Civil defence is about the community responding and the community helping themselves, and that was shown by the response in this exercise.” ■



Me noho takatū ngā mokopuna – better practices & resources for children



Ian Macdonald (Hawkes Bay CDEM Group)

The Me Noho Takatū project addresses gaps in early childhood education (ECE) and kōhanga reo services' emergency planning knowledge, as many only plan for fire and earthquake hazards.

There are very few emergency preparedness resources for young children, and nothing available in te reo Māori.

A Hawkes Bay collaborative working group was formed to address these issues, with representatives giving time in kind, from the local offices of civil defence, the Ministry of Education, the Kōhanga Reo Trust, Te Puni Kōkiri, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated, and Te Ūranga Waka at the Eastern Institute of Technology.

The result is a series of workshops being held throughout Hawkes Bay for kōhanga reo and early childhood teachers. Resources that were created by the project group include a bilingual book (Te Hiko i a Rūaumoko/Ruaumoko's Walk), written by Kahungunu language experts, based on Kahungunu legends relating to local hazards and illustrated by

a Kahungunu artist; waiata/songs, a one-page service emergency plan template; a kaiako/teachers pack with teaching and learning ideas; and bilingual child-friendly emergency planning resources, to distribute to whānau/families.

The resources are easy to follow and practical. After attending workshops, teachers are motivated to update their service's emergency plan, have an improved relationship with their local Emergency Management Officer, and are committed to distributing resources to their whānau. There are just under 10,000 children enrolled in early childhood education services in Hawkes Bay so this is a far reaching result.

More information is available by contacting Graham Howse at the Hawkes Bay Regional Council. ■



Farewell to Pauline Hitchcock

After 12 years, Pauline Hitchcock, Emergency Management Coordinator for Rotorua District Council, is taking a well-earned break from Emergency Management to enjoy her family and spend more time with her grandchildren.



Pauline Hitchcock

As well as being an active member of the NZ-RT15 team, including being deployed to assist with the response to the Canterbury earthquake, Pauline has delivered training and exercises, been a very active member of various working groups and has assisted with not only the planning and delivery of Emergency Management for Rotorua, but supported the development and delivery of regional projects.

In 2013, Pauline was instrumental in delivery of a pilot programme in Rotorua for Youth in Emergency Services (YES), which introduces young people to the skills they need to work in the various volunteer emergency services.

Pauline has been a highly respected Emergency Management Coordinator across the sector and her enthusiasm, skills and knowledge will be missed. We wish her all the luck in the world with whatever new challenges she chooses to undertake.

Linda Johnston now has taken over the role, after working for the Rotorua District Council for over two years in the Safer Communities and Community Crime and



Linda Johnston

Injury Prevention Coordinator role. Linda brings extensive experience, knowledge and integrity to the team and will be a great asset to the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group. ■

Factor of magnitude creates great experience for Wellington Response Team

Jason Paul (Wellington Region Emergency Management Office & Wellington Emergency Response Team - NZRT8)

I've always found it remarkable - the number of earthquakes that seem to happen at about 7pm on Monday evenings.

For years I've arrived at Response Team training to discover yet another earthquake had struck, bizarrely only affecting a few people, wherever the team happened to be training.

Imagine our surprise to find another earthquake had occurred, this time affecting only the Wellington Town Hall, while we were visiting. As usual, reconnaissance squads were sent in to gather information and locate anyone who may have been injured. Things quickly changed tone from our usual expectations as we discovered 15 people in need of assistance in the offices on the first floor. Further investigation quickly revealed more people throughout the auditorium and backstage rooms, but the real challenge was found in the little lecture theatre, which was nearly full!

In all, the team of 15 responders had over 60 casualties to deal with! And for a change, in this training environment, these were 60 real, living people to interact with and extract from the building; no placeholder cards, no inanimate mannequins, but real people, with blood and guts makeup, and specific injuries and roles to act out for the benefit of our responders.

Herding more than 20 walking wounded who had various injuries and desires to wander off up random corridors was the

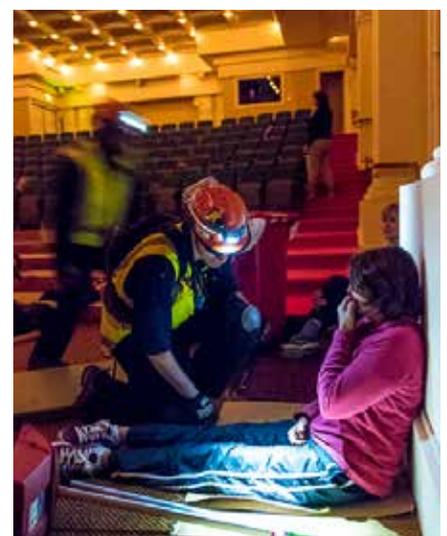
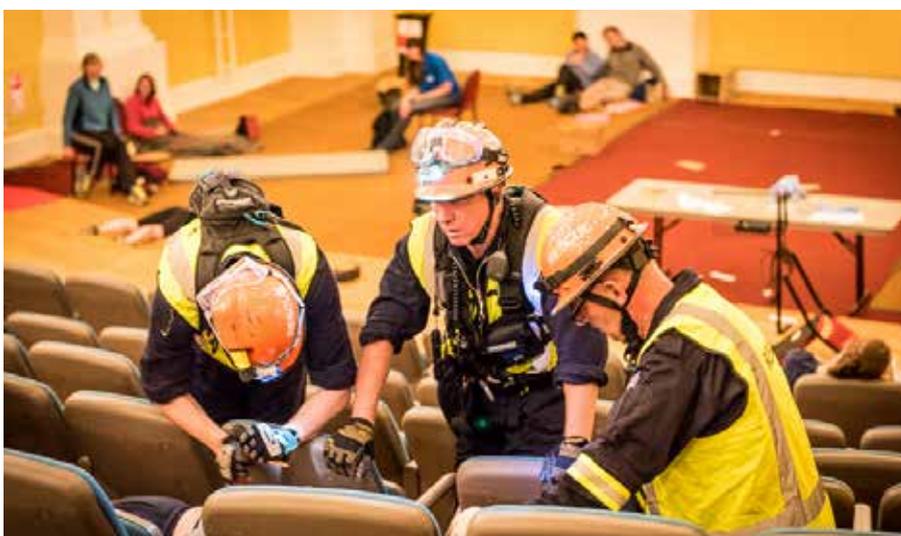


first challenge. Many were reluctant to leave behind their loved ones with more significant injuries. The second challenge was coordinating the extraction of so many wounded using limited resources, and managing an overwhelmed Casualty Collection Point.

This exercise was an opportunity to really push the team beyond our capacity. It's not often we get the chance to practise managing these numbers of casualties, and this exercise provided valuable experience that the team will reflect on for years to come.

The Wellington Emergency Response Team will be advertising for new recruits soon, follow www.facebook.com/WellingtonEmergencyResponseTeam if you're interested. ■

Photos: Wellington Emergency Response Team members treat 'casualties' during a recent training exercise at the Wellington Town Hall (photos by Artful Dodge Photography).



Inter-agency cooperation enhances Northland community & business resilience

Bill Hutchinson (Northland CDEM Group), Damian Southorn (Refining New Zealand)

From 14 to 16 November, 100 firefighters from Northland assembled at Ruakaka, south of Whangarei, to participate in a training camp that tested leadership, command and control, and firefighting skills.

Over the course of the weekend a number of exercises covered realistic scenarios that included a log truck versus a motor vehicle with persons trapped, structure fires in an industrial park, car versus a LPG pump with a LPG fire, a light aircraft crash resulting in fire with multiple casualties, and a coordinated fire containment and control on a hydrocarbon fire at the Marsden Point Oil Refinery.

Most if not all of the scenarios were based on every day work for fire brigades, but the point of difference was the involvement of Refining New Zealand.

Refining New Zealand's emergency response team lead by Emergency Services and Response Manager Damian Southorn co-hosted the training weekend in conjunction with the Ruakaka Volunteer Fire Brigade supported by the New Zealand Fire Service, St John Ambulance and the Refining NZ

Marine Department Oil Spill Response Team.

Northland Civil Defence Coordinator Bill Hutchinson said that one of Northland's vulnerabilities was its relative isolation, particularly during extreme weather events.

Because of this, one of the Northland CDEM Group's priority outcomes is community resilience and this extends to supporting our emergency services, most of whom are volunteers across the region, in every way they can.

The refinery also recognises this and has paid firefighters on-site, but is also reliant on volunteer firefighters both from within their workforce of approximately 300 staff and NZ Fire Service brigades from the greater Whangarei District to complement and respond to all greater alarm emergencies at the refinery.

This cooperation between agencies such as the refinery, the emergency services and the CDEM sector most definitely enhances both community and business resilience.

Mr Southorn said that a major fire at the Refinery, Auckland Pipeline failure, or even tsunami damage to New Zealand's only oil refinery could easily cripple domestic fuel supplies with flow-on effects for freight, industry, air travel and tourism and would have a major impact on our economy.

Not only does Refining NZ provide the bulk of New Zealand's transport fuels, but around 50 percent of all New Zealand's energy needs are met by products made at Marsden Point.

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Below: Marsden Point Oil Refinery



Northland resilience (continued from page 6)

The Marsden Point refinery supplies:

- all of the country's jet fuel
- nearly 80% of diesel
- around half of all petrol for the country
- between 75 and 85% of bitumen for roading
- all fuel oil for ships
- sulphur for farm fertilizer
- CO2 for industry

The infrastructure risk profile for Northland highlights that a major fuel disruption is one of the highest risks to Northland's infrastructure. This high risk reflects limited redundancy in the supply chain as all of Northland's, Auckland's and the upper North Island's fuel is normally supplied direct from Marsden Point.

A further challenge is that there is a single power source to operate the refinery. There would be a subsequent impact on other utilities and key community facilities if fuel supply is disrupted, particularly in an emergency which also impacts power, as fuel becomes critically important.

Whilst the threat of fire presents a very real risk, the worst case scenario in terms of the duration and extent of potential fuel supply and disruption is a major tsunami that impacts both the refinery and the Transpower substation that supplies it. The recovery of those two sites could take weeks or months. However the compounding factor is that in such a scenario, we could expect fuel storage and supply ports across the coast of New Zealand to also be impacted, and with the impact across Asia-Pacific we may not be able to rely on nearby neighbours for fuel, hence the importance of this very strategically located refinery.

Mr Southorn said that there had been a huge improvement in regional emergency planning and preparedness over the last four or five years.

"Relationships with other response agencies is vital. Regular attendance and contribution at the Northland Lifelines Group meetings, the local Emergency Services Group meetings, Community Response plans, EMIS user training and utilisation, as well as multi agency joint training exercises goes along way when preparing for emergencies.

"The level of pre-incident communication and notification along with Incident

Management has greatly improved in recent years. Everyone has a part to play and we now understand each and everyone's risks, weak points and strengths. We have had strong leadership and support from the District and Regional Civil Defence and Emergency Management teams under the direction of Graeme McDonald and his hard working team.

"The NZ Fire Service and NZ Police have also contributed heavily in joint emergency preplanning and staff training with the aim of having a generic emergency response plans accessible to all agencies electronically from any location along with regular site preparedness visits and response training of supporting crews and brigades.

"Our Incident Management Teams now know that guidance and planning in disaster welfare can come from the local Community Response plan with the support from the CDEM welfare team. It's pretty straight forward - stick with the 5 Rs Reduction, Readiness, Response, Recovery and Relationships," Mr Southorn said.

Mr Hutchinson said that Refining New Zealand also has a very high level of commitment to the community and provides specialist training to the New Zealand Fire Service and emergency response to support the Ruakaka Volunteer Fire Brigade by responding their

fire crews to emergency calls within the community.

"It is no coincidence that we enjoy a high level of inter-utility and emergency services co-operation across the CDEM sector in Northland. It is due to the goodwill and the relationships that we have here," he said. ■

Below: Firefighters at the Refining NZ Marsden Point live fire training ground during the exercise on 15-16 November.



Auckland exercise highlights importance of collaborative response

Paul Clement (Auckland CDEM Group)

Auckland Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM), in conjunction with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), ran an exercise over 5 and 6 November to help ADRA – a humanitarian response agency – prepare for the Pacific cyclone season.

Exercise Wharenga, Maori for ‘curling wave’, was developed to highlight the importance of a collaborative response should a major disaster hit the region.

The ADRA Emergency Response Team (ERT) team was made up of representatives from around the Pacific region; Samoa, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Australia, and New Zealand.

The exercise presented a unique opportunity for the different parties to formulate response plans and prepare for how they’ll work alongside communities and local government.

The scenario, a regional tsunami, hit Auckland’s coastlines, displacing 106,875 people across the region. ADRA specifically requested to exercise in two of the most

affected communities, the north-eastern coastal communities of Point Wells and Leigh.

The first day of the exercise saw the Auckland Council Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) activated when the notification of an ‘earthquake’ came through with the Controller declaring a local state of emergency.

A large number of Auckland Council Emergency Support staff (ACES) were used in the exercise. Being specialists in their own roles they bring vital expertise to the CDEM team.

Other agencies involved in the exercise included the NZ Police, NZ Fire Service, Order of St John, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency

Management and local Community Response Groups.

As with any emergency, the community are the first to respond, so day two saw the local Community Response Group activate an Evacuation Centre as per their Community Response Plan.

Once CDEM agencies were able to get on the ground the Evacuation Centre was transitioned to a formal Civil Defence Centre. The local residents were involved in the exercise and played the roles of evacuees.

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Below: Red Cross and Adventist Development and Relief Agency members during the recent Exercise Wharenga.



Exercise Wharenga (continued from page 8)

Controller Harry O'Rourke was very impressed with how the community participated in the exercise.

"The community took their roles very seriously because they live in at-risk tsunami areas," Mr O'Rourke said.

"An exercise like this is one of the best forms of training that we can do. It was a great opportunity for CDEM agencies to interact with the community and vice versa. It gives people exposure to something that's a little bit real and gets us thinking about what we need to do when faced with that situation."

A huge amount of work went into organising the exercise from many different agencies and organisations. The exercise was a fantastic opportunity to build effective relationships with our stakeholders so that when there is an emergency we can work quickly and efficiently together. It was about being on the same page, talking the same language, and supporting each other. ■

Right: Members of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency's ERT during Exercise Wharenga.

Below: A hot debrief at the conclusion of the exercise.



Multi-agency training exercise in Whanganui

Matthew Smith (Wanganui District Council)

In mid-November, the Wanganui and Rangitikei districts experienced exercise Cyclone Cindy; a multi-agency training activity based on the storm/flood event in the area during 2004.

This New Zealand Red Cross exercise had Disaster Welfare Support Teams (DWST) from around the North Island, and upper South Island, concentrating in Whanganui to assist a community in need.

In addition to the 100-plus New Zealand Red Cross DWST and Red Cross Emergency Operations Centre personnel, the exercise involved Wanganui and Rangitikei Civil Defence Emergency Management, New Zealand Fire Service, Rural Fire crews from Rangitikei and Wanganui, St John Ambulance, Police, Urban Search and Rescue dog unit, and an amazing number of public volunteers that acted as casualties or evacuees for the exercise.

There were multiple different events throughout the weekend which ran in the different phases of disaster, starting with response on the Friday night with tasks like door knocking for evacuations, searches and most of the teams having to stay overnight in a hall in Marton due to 'road closures'.

Saturday was the response/rescue phase, with tasks including establishing Civil Defence Centres, rubble pile searches, sandbagging, hazardous substance decontamination, assistance to NZ Police Search and Rescue, first aid and building reconnaissance amongst others. On Saturday night a mass casualty event, over multiple incident sites, was run from an

Incident Control Point established in the Fire Service Command truck on the banks of the Whanganui River. Teams finally got to bed at about 1am on Sunday morning.

"Our local Red Cross DWST are a fantastic resource who helped us during our state of local emergency in October last year and we wanted to show our thanks by supporting Exercise Cyclone Cindy one hundred percent," said Wanganui CDEM Emergency Manager Matt Smith.

"We were also keen to give the Emergency Management Information System (EMIS) Welfare Registration module a good shake to see what worked and what didn't. One Civil Defence Centre (CDC), at Castlecliff School, ran EMIS online with Red Cross teams being registered onto EMIS and given a quick training session before beginning to register 'evacuees'.

"With teams changing over every two to three hours, we demonstrated how quickly this training could be conducted and then applied. The other CDC, at Durie Hill School, used the paper EMIS forms and then loaded the information into the Ministry's provided excel spreadsheet - what we would do if there was no Internet connectivity?"

Mr Smith said that both methods of registration worked well and showed how quickly they could be picked up by previously untrained operators.



Above: Talking emergency preparedness with a local Putiki resident.

Sunday moved to a recovery phase. A very successful public outreach activity was conducted in the suburb of Putiki in conjunction with the Fire Service.

Red Cross teams door knocked every house, giving away disaster preparedness information packs and doing an assessment to identify those eligible for a free home smoke alarm. Fire Service teams followed up and 20 percent of the homes visited had a free smoke alarm fitted the same day.

Other teams had the task of 'evacuating' a rest home village and taking the residents to a Civil Defence Centre. This really people focused activity was a highlight for both the teams and residents participating, there was even a 'sing along' session on the bus trip back!

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Left: Red Cross members lay out a 'sandbag dam' - once finished this was filled with water by Wanganui Rural Fire.

Exercise Cyclone Cindy (continued from page 10)

Not only were Red Cross DWST members put to the test but Red Cross staff set up and ran an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for the exercise. The Wanganui Civil Defence team spent the weekend ensuring the exercise stayed on track, and fed through the taskings to the Red Cross EOC just as it would happen in a real event.

There was amazing cooperation from many Whanganui businesses who allowed the use of their premises and the Whanganui community got behind the exercise. Many people turned up to be 'attacked' by the amazing wound moulage team, coming out with fake wounds and then patiently waiting to be rescued.

A good learning and practical exercise for everyone involved with plenty of opportunity for the different agencies to learn the



capabilities and operating procedures of their emergency partners.

"If NZ Red Cross ever asks to have an exercise in your patch just say 'yes' and make the most of it. You will have a ball," said Tim Crowe, the Senior Emergency Management Officer in Wanganui. ■

Above: A Red Cross team receives instructions from NZ Fire Service before heading off to door knock.

Emergency Controllers develop skills

Some of New Zealand's most experienced emergency managers spent a week at Massey University's Wellington campus in November leading instructions on the role of a Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Controller.

The Controllers' Development Programme, led by the Ministry and organised by Massey's Joint Centre for Disaster Research (JCDR) and PaCE (Professional and Continuing Education Centre), saw 17 national, regional and local CDEM controllers undertake the residential week-long course.

In an emergency, a controller is responsible for leading, directing and coordinating the response to an emergency. Controllers are also responsible for leading the development of response capabilities,

contributing to risk reduction, and providing transition from response to recovery.

Research Manager at Massey's JCDR, and the Controller Development Programme Coordinator, Jon Mitchell, said that reviews of responses to significant emergencies such as the Canterbury earthquakes, the Pike River coalmine disaster and the grounding of the container ship Rena, all indicated a need for further development of senior response management staff.

The five day course, which is the first cohort

of five such programmes to be run through till 2016, forms part of a thorough schedule of controller development including a six-week, part-time online learning module, and an 18-month mentor and peer-supported development phase.

Mr Mitchell said that at the end of the programme, controllers would have a more in-depth understanding of their own leadership style and the role of shared leadership, as well as extra confidence and an enhanced ability to carry out required roles in emergency management leadership.

The residential component built on the knowledge developed in the on-line phase, and featured lessons from subject matter experts on a wide range of emergency management topics and experiences, targeted exercises, self-reflective discussions, and development of each candidate's own ongoing development plan.

Lessons identified from the first cohort are being incorporated into an improved programme. Three cohorts are planned for 2015, in April, July and November. For more information contact Jon Mitchell (j.mitchell1@massey.ac.nz) or Ministry Team Leader Capability, Grant Morris (grant.morris@dpmc.govt.nz). ■



Get set to ShakeOut

New Zealanders across the country will have the chance to drop, cover and hold in synchronisation on Thursday 15 October 2015, during New Zealand ShakeOut.



New Zealand ShakeOut is a national earthquake preparedness campaign, leading to a nationwide earthquake drill. It is based on the Great Southern California ShakeOut, which was first held in 2008 and has since become a global phenomenon, with more states in the US and other countries participating each year.

The last New Zealand ShakeOut, held in September 2012, was the first national earthquake drill in the country. More than 1.3 million people took part, many of them from schools, businesses and Government agencies.

Planning is underway for the 2015 national drill, with the three governance groups meeting before Christmas. The 2015 date ties in with international ShakeOut events and has been approved by the Ministry of Education.

ShakeOut will also be the focus of Get Ready Week 2015, which will run from Sunday 11 October to Saturday 17 October.

A big part of ShakeOut's appeal is its simplicity, says Bridget Cheesman, Public Education Advisor for the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) and New Zealand ShakeOut Coordinator.

"All participants practise 'drop, cover and hold' during the drill, but many organisations took the opportunity last time to also practise evacuation procedures and check

business continuity processes. It's a great opportunity for families, individuals and communities to check their plans and emergency survival items and make sure they're prepared too."

Bridget will be working closely with Anita Walker, Emergency Management Advisor for MCDEM and New Zealand ShakeOut 2012 Co-coordinator, and ShakeOut founder Mark Benthien from the University of Southern California to make sure it's easy for people to be involved.

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Right: MCDEM Public Education Advisor Bridget Cheesman, right, will be coordinating New Zealand ShakeOut 2015, and will be working closely with MCDEM Emergency Management Advisor Anita Walker, left, who co-coordinated New Zealand ShakeOut 2012.



ShakeOut 2015 Governance Groups

Governance Group

Sarah Stuart-Black, MCDEM
Suze Strowger, Ministry of Education
Mike Reid, Local Government New Zealand
Richard Smith, EQC

Steering Group

Bridget Cheesman, MCDEM
Anita Walker, MCDEM
Lesley Porter, Ministry of Education
Jane Watson-Baker, Ministry of Social Development
Angie Perry, Ministry of Health
Julia Becker, GNS Science
Murray McLeod, Te Puni Kōkiri
Jo Martin, EQC
John Lucas, Insurance Council
Alicia Palmer, CDEM Groups' Representative

Planning Group

Bridget Cheesman, MCDEM
Anita Walker, MCDEM
Naomi Lockett, CDEM Groups' Representative
Drew Broadley, Hawke's Bay Regional Council
Victoria Walker, Auckland Council
Michele Poole, Queenstown Lakes District Council
Drew Mehrstens, Thames-Coromandel District Council

Get set to ShakeOut (continued from page 12)

A dedicated website will allow people to register their participation, see who else is participating, find information about how to be involved, learn about the earthquake risk in their region, and learn how to prepare for earthquakes.

The website will also have downloadable resources, including drill manuals and other planning documents, posters and flyers, Facebook and web banners, logos and other artwork, colouring-in pictures, online ads and videos, and screensavers.



“We want to make it as simple as possible for people to participate and for councils and other agencies to encourage them.”

For any questions related to ShakeOut, please email shakeout@dpmc.govt.nz or call Bridget on (04) 817 8562. ■

One family's ShakeOut 2012 experience

“Our family checked our disaster packs that we were all guilty of using or removing items from e.g. batteries, aspirin, Milo, sleeping bags, yes even toilet paper. So it was a good reminder to restock!

We went through different scenarios of what to do if we were at school, work, walking or driving home, where to meet if home was not viable etc. Our 10 and 11 year old grandchildren were distressed at what I would do because I'm on crutches.

Showing them the steps I would take in a disaster helped ease their minds. Showing them where survival items would be kept, safe spots, exit routes, and danger areas in the home gave us all confidence.

I also got the grandchildren to refill the drinking water supply. The more we got them involved the better we all felt. We are grandparents with custody of two beautiful granddaughters. All our immediate whanau live up North. So we would like to thank you for all the information. Without your help we would not have been prepared and would have been doing it on our own.”

- **Wakerori Rooney**

Public Alerting Project update

In Budget 2014, the Government appropriated funding for the development of a business case to assess options for the delivery of public alerting.

MCDEM leads the project to develop a two stage business case. Other agencies involved are New Zealand Police; New Zealand Fire Service; Ministry of Health; Ambulance NZ; Ministry for Primary Industries; Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; and CDEM Groups.

The objectives of the project are to, by 2016:

1. establish a reliable capability to alert at least 75 percent of the population in a defined geographical location;
2. improve the speed of public alerting by enabling government agencies to issue and achieve delivery of an alert within six minutes; and

3. make a nationally consistent alerting capability available to all government agencies issuing critical public alerts.

The initiative is one of eight projects under the Emergency Services Information and Communications Strategy and Road Map 2013-2017 that was agreed by Cabinet in 2013. It is also one of the Minister of Civil Defence's priorities on the MCDEM work programme.

Starting in July, six workshops with stakeholder agencies were completed in November 2014. The objectives of the workshops were to:

- Develop objectives
- Establish critical success factors
- Establish business requirements
- Evaluate responses to the Request For Information (RFI) that was published in September

- Discuss an operational model for the preferred option
- Individual meetings and joint workshops were also held with Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees.

An Indicative Business Case (IBC) will be made available to stakeholders for comment in December 2014, with the intent to obtain Cabinet agreement of a preferred option in February 2015. Following Cabinet approval of the IBC, development of the Detailed Business Case will commence, for final Cabinet sign-off in May 2015.

Implementation of the solution is intended in the 2015/16 financial year.

For more information, contact:

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Disastrous tour a great success

Steve Fabish (Hauraki District Council)

The Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group is a bit like an airsickness bag; we hope we'll never have to use it, but it's good to know it's there!

Made up of all the councils in the Waikato Region, the group has a full time Group Controller, who takes a lead role in managing Civil Defence emergencies in the region in cooperation with local controllers, appointed from each district.

While natural disaster movies might lead us to believe it's possible to battle giant tidal waves, volcanic eruptions, and alien invasions for days on end without eating or sleeping – in reality no one can actually work for 24 hours straight. If a natural disaster or other emergency ever struck, local controllers would have to pull together and help each other out. This arrangement is currently in place for the local controllers of Hauraki District, Matamata-Piako and Thames-Coromandel district councils.

With this in mind, Hauraki District Council local controller and district council community services manager Steve Fabish, recently organised a tour of the Hauraki District to familiarise controllers from other districts with the lay of the land and to get an understanding of the civil defence arrangements that are in place.

Matamata-Piako Local Controller, Roger Fisher, said that visiting the actual places people might be talking to him about in an emergency was very useful.

"I don't know the district very well but if I was called over to be controller I would be managing people in the office and dealing with issues as they arose," he said. "The thing that was particularly worth getting a feeling for was just how low all that (plains) farmland lies in relation to the sea and all the rivers running through it," he said.

As well as district wide flooding issues and foreshore protection in Kaiāua, the tour took in potential mining emergencies in Waihi and the tsunami risk at Whiritoa Beach.



Waihi Ward Councillor, Max McLean, who was also on the tour, said that interestingly, Whiritoa is quite a safe place to be in a tsunami.

"It's most likely a tsunami would come from the Kermadec Trench, out East Cape way.

It would come into the Bay of Plenty on such an angle that land would have to be below five metres to be affected. Most houses in Whiritoa are above that," he said.

The group also looked at potential places to house people quickly if they had to be evacuated. In Waihi

that included the local Marae, fire station, schools and the Taiwanese Flying Phoenix Academy in Golden Valley.

In the event of a natural disaster, however, people should be prepared to look after themselves for at least three days. According to a recent Council survey less than half of Hauraki residents are prepared for an emergency. This is a number Cr

McLean would love to see increase.

"In the event of an emergency cell phones are quite possibly not working and even if they are, everyone tries to contact their family at once which clogs the lines. Having a pre-determined plan so everyone knows what to do and where to meet is vital," he said.

Waikato Group Controller, Lee Hazlewood, said hearing from people who are "boots on the ground" in the district was very valuable to him.

"As Group Controller it's critical I can visualize what's happening on the ground," he said. "It adds context to the data. It's one thing to hear there are so many millimetres of water on the ground in this area – it's another to be shown around by a local engineer familiar with all the stop banks and told the last time he was here, the water was up to the windowsill on that building over there. It has really helped me get a better understanding. So when a local controller says 'this is happening in this area', I can visualize what he's actually talking about." ■

**"As Group Controller it's critical I can visualise what's happening on the ground."
– Lee Hazlewood**

2015 New Zealand Emergency Management Summit

The 2015 New Zealand Emergency Management Summit, endorsed by MCDEM, is the national civil defence emergency management event that is not to be missed.

The Summit will be held on 24 and 25 February 2015 at Mac's Function Centre in Wellington and will once again gather more than 150 civil defence emergency management practitioners and as such create a unique platform where ideas, knowledge and interests will be shared and spread.

Key themes of the Summit are:

- Pre-disaster planning and recovery in focus
- The meaning of the empowered communities and their role in emergencies
- Key features of leadership and workforce resilience
- Engaging communities through social media

Featured speakers are:

Scott Miles

Director, Resilience Institute; Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, Western Washington University

Scott is the Director of Western Washington University's Resilience Institute - a disaster research and service center - and was instrumental in establishing the university's disaster risk reduction undergraduate program. His research programme seeks to understand the dynamics of community resilience and disaster recovery, with an emphasis on the metabolic relationships between well-being, infrastructure, and natural hazards.



Pierre van Heerden

General Manager, Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing

Pierre has headed up Sanitarium in New Zealand since 2007. He is also the Chairman of the New Zealand Food and Grocery Council and serves on a number of government appointed panels and groups. In 2012 Pierre received the New Zealand Institute of Food, Science and Technology (NZIFST) award for Excellence in Leadership and in 2013 the



Communicator of the Year for his handling of the media during the "Marmageddon" crisis in New Zealand.

Superintendent Matthew Vanderbyl

Commander, Policelink and Programs Group, Community Contact Command, Queensland Police Service

Matthew is the Commander of the Policelink and Programs Group, within the Queensland Police Service Community Contact Command. This group includes the QPS Policelink non urgent contact centre, which receives all non urgent calls, taking crime and other reports from the community over the phone, online and via Australia's first full service app. In this role, Matthew has overseen a channel migration from traditional telephone based non urgent reporting and contact, to a broad based online presence, offering a wide range of services to the community, and also to specific industry types.



Jamie Fitzgerald

World-class Adventurer, Motivational Speaker and Leadership Development Consultant

Jamie has walked unaided to the South Pole, holds the world record for rowing across the Atlantic Ocean, is a double New Zealand representative, fronts the TV documentary series First Crossings and Intrepid NZ, and is CEO of a management consultancy business. In 2011 he managed the design and delivery of training to the 7000 Rugby World Cup volunteers, creating a culture among them to deliver a uniquely New Zealand experience for visitors throughout the Tournament.



See www.conferenz.co.nz/emergency for more information. ■

Satellite receiving station coming

Maritime New Zealand and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority have joined forces to provide a major boost to search and rescue (SAR) in the region.

The two organisations have contracted McMurdo Group's Techno-Sciences Inc. to build two new satellite receiving stations, one near Taupo and the other in Western Australia, along with a new mission control centre in Canberra, to pick up signals from medium-Earth orbit search and rescue (MEOSAR) satellites. This behind-the-scenes change is necessary because without a receiving station, New Zealand would effectively lose its ability to respond to distress beacons when the low-Earth orbit (LEOSAR) satellites are phased out.

MEOSAR satellites (orbiting at around 20,000km above the Earth) are replacing the current LEOSAR satellites (orbiting between 800-1000km), which are being phased out over the next four years.

Existing 406MHz distress beacons, of which there are over 48,000 registered in New Zealand, will not be affected by the change.

Six satellite dishes will be built mid-way between Taupo and Rotorua, with construction scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015. The receiving station is expected to be commissioned towards the end of 2016 and operational by 2017.

There are currently 16 MEOSAR satellites orbiting Earth, compared to five LEOSAR satellites, meaning beacon signals will be received more quickly and beacon locations will be identified with greater accuracy. This will further improve over the next five years as the number of MEOSAR satellites is expected to increase to more than 50, ensuring several satellites will be in view at all times from anywhere on Earth. Beacon signals will pass through the MEOSAR satellites to the two ground stations where they will then be processed through the Canberra mission control centre and relayed to the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ), triggering SAR operations. ■

Taupo CDEM spreads message at Safekids Expo

Roger Nelson (Taupo District Council)

Taupo Emergency Management, with the assistance of Stan the Dog, presented at the Safekids Expo held over two days at the Great Lake Centre in Taupo last month.

Emergency Manager Phil Parker, with his trusty furry friend Stan, talked about some of the natural hazards in the Taupo District. Stan demonstrated some of the items that should be in a Household Emergency Kit, and the pair then demonstrated Drop, Cover and Hold using the Turtle Safe DVD.

Invitations to the expo were sent to all schools in the Taupo District, with funding provided for travel and venue by Contact Energy, Safer Community Trust and Blue Light Taupo. The target age group for this expo was 7-10 year olds. More than 600 pupils attended!

The Safekids expo is designed to capture the largest number of children effectively and efficiently for all of the agencies presenting.

Being in one place also allows easier access for schools, especially the smaller rural schools in the district.

Also presenting at the expo were Bryan and Bobby from NZ Police, Safe Boating NZ, Firewise with the New Zealand Fire Service, and Bullyproof Turangi. ■

Photos: (right) Taupo Emergency Manager Phil Parker and Stan run through their Emergency Survival Items; (below right) Some of the approximately 700 attendees at the Safekids Expo; (below) Phil and Stan take questions from the audience.

