

# 8. Emergency services

**Summary**                      Emergency services comprise the New Zealand Police, New Zealand Fire Service, the National Rural Fire Authority, the rural fire authorities and health and disability services, that act together to plan for and respond to any emergency.

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## 8.1 Introduction

### Part 5

#### Roles and responsibilities Emergency services generally

##### 35 Introduction

*Emergency services, which include the New Zealand Police, the New Zealand Fire Service, the National Rural Fire Authority, the rural fire authorities, and health and disability services, have duties under section 63 of the Act.*

## 8.2 Principles

##### 36 Principles

*The principles underlying the role of emergency services are to—*

- (a) ensure that planning encompasses the 4 Rs and enables an effective response to all emergencies; and*
- (b) have,—*
  - (i) at the national level, a senior officer—*
    - (A) who has the authority to co-ordinate the activities of the officer's emergency service; and*
    - (B) who is appointed by the relevant chief executive or national commander of each emergency service to liaise with the National Controller or designated staff within the NCMC; and*
  - (ii) at the CDEM Group level, a senior officer assigned to the Co-ordinating Executive Group of each CDEM Group; and*
- (c) use the CIMS framework to guide the co-ordination of each emergency service's operations; and*
- (d) ensure that the responsibility of each service for its primary functions is in no way transferred or modified by the declaration of a state of emergency (staff continue to work under their service's command structures and established procedures); and*
- (e) liaise with and act within the co-ordination and direction of the National Controller, or the appropriate Local Controllers or Group Controllers, when the consequences of an emergency require the response to be co-ordinated through plans and arrangements under the Act; and*
- (f) request a declaration of a state of emergency for an affected area via the Local Controller, Group Controller, or National Controller when an officer in charge of an emergency service considers that an emergency has occurred or may occur and emergency powers under the Act will or might be required to co-ordinate, direct, or control a response to that emergency; and*
- (g) notify the chief executive or national commander of the emergency service that a liaison has been established for a significant co-ordinated response or declaration of a state of emergency; and*
- (h) plan for, and provide, welfare support to staff to enable staff to carry out their functions in response to, and in recovery from, an emergency; and*
- (i) participate in readiness planning at the national and CDEM Group level.*

## 8.3 Operational arrangements

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**Emergency Services Coordinating Committee (ESCC)** The Emergency Services Coordinating Committee (ESCC) comprises representatives from emergency services partners. The purpose of the ESCC is to establish relationships, determine methods of control and coordination across agencies, and generally develop a shared readiness to enable a coordinated response in an emergency.

The membership of an ESCC includes a senior Police employee, and may have representatives from:

- ◆ local fire and ambulance services
- ◆ CDEM Group Controller
- ◆ CDEM regional and local Emergency Management Officers (EM Officers)
- ◆ organisations assisting with resources or expertise, and
- ◆ other agencies with roles and responsibilities during response as per the *CDEM Act 2002*.

**Operational arrangements**

- ◆ **New Zealand Police:** to view the arrangements of the New Zealand Police, see Section 9, New Zealand Police.
- ◆ **Fire services:** to view the arrangements of the fire services, see Section 10, Fire services.
- ◆ **Health and disability services:** to view the arrangements of the Ministry of Health, District Health Boards (DHBs), Public Health Units (PHUs) and land and air ambulance emergency service providers see Section 11, Health and disability services.

## 8.4 References and links

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**Other sections of the Guide**

- ◆ Section 4, General roles and responsibilities
- ◆ Section 5, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM)
- ◆ Section 6, Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups (CDEM Groups)
- ◆ Section 9, New Zealand Police
- ◆ Section 10, Fire services
- ◆ Section 11, Health and disability services

