

12. New Zealand Defence Force

Summary The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is a support agency to lead agencies with responsibility for the management of emergencies.

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12.1 Introduction

Part 5

Roles and responsibilities New Zealand Defence Force

52 Introduction

- (1) *During an emergency, the New Zealand Defence Force is a support agency.*
- (2) *Given the nature of the New Zealand Defence Force operations, forces can be deployed at short notice to assist with the response.*
- (3) *The general legal basis for provision of New Zealand Defence Force support to aid to the civil power is provided for in section 9 of the Defence Act 1990.*
- (4) *Section 9(1)(a) and (b) of the Defence Act 1990 authorises the New Zealand Defence Force to be used in New Zealand or elsewhere to—*
 - (a) *perform any public service; or*
 - (b) *provide assistance to the civil power in a time of emergency.*

12.2 Objective

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- (1) *The objective of the New Zealand Defence Force is to provide appropriate support to government authorities during an emergency, while maintaining operational outputs and missions.*
- (2) *This means that all efforts will be made to support the lead agency, taking into account the Government's priorities; however, the New Zealand Defence Force cannot guarantee that certain resources will always be available, because they may be involved in another Government-directed mission.*

12.3 Principles

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- (1) *The principles underlying the role of the New Zealand Defence Force are to—*
 - (a) *ensure that New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed to assist the response to an emergency will remain under military command while the lead agency directs the New Zealand Defence Force units assigned to the response; and*
 - (b) *ensure that requests for New Zealand Defence Force assistance are in the form of a general task or a desired effect rather than a request for a specific resource or piece of equipment; and*
 - (c) *provide, after analysis of the general task or desired effect, the most suitable personnel and equipment to complete the task or achieve the effect.*
- (2) *In performing general public services or providing assistance, New Zealand Defence Force personnel are not empowered to exercise New Zealand Police powers; however, service personnel are to act to save life in any circumstance, and to act on a specific lawful request by the New Zealand Police.*

12.4 Role of New Zealand Defence Force during readiness

55 Role of New Zealand Defence Force during readiness

The New Zealand Defence Force undertakes to do the following to ensure that it is sufficiently prepared to respond to an emergency:

- (a) manage business continuity plans at levels that are necessary to ensure that defence functions can continue during and after an emergency; and*
- (b) maintain contingency plans for response to an emergency; and*
- (c) conduct internal training and participate in exercises at the national level to maintain response proficiency; and*
- (d) participate in planning and training sessions with the MCDEM and CDEM Groups.*

12.5 Role of New Zealand Defence Force during response

56 Role of New Zealand Defence Force during response

(1) During an emergency, the New Zealand Defence Force—

- (a) will provide liaison officers to the NCMC, the ECC, and, if necessary, the local EOC (the liaison officers will advise on potential support operations by the New Zealand Defence Force and provide updates on the progress of any tasks that the New Zealand Defence Force is conducting in the respective areas or levels; however, the liaison officers are not authorised to accept tasks); and*
- (b) can utilise certain forces assigned at short notice to support emergencies (forces are held ready for response at the regional and national levels and include land, air, and sea assets as necessary); and*
- (c) will co-ordinate New Zealand Defence Force assets at either the local level (ECC) or national level (the NCMC), depending on the type and scale of the emergency and the mode of operation of the NCMC.*

(2) Requests for the support of the New Zealand Defence Force beyond local levels of commitment must be made by the CDEM Groups through the National Controller.

NZDF support during emergencies

During an emergency the New Zealand Defence Force is a support agency to the agency that has the lead responsibility for managing the emergency. In the event that an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) or the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) is activated, a New Zealand Defence Force Liaison Officer may be appointed to provide advice to the Controller on the capability and resources of the New Zealand Defence Force.

National level support from the New Zealand Defence Force during an emergency is requested through the National Controller via a New Zealand Defence Force Liaison Officer. A second New Zealand Defence Force Liaison Officer may be dispatched to the NCMC to facilitate the strategic liaison between the National Controller and the Chief of Defence Force.

Commanders of New Zealand Defence Force camps, bases, and other facilities may support responses to local emergencies with their own resources (up to 25 personnel) consistent with CDEM Group and New Zealand Defence Force arrangements. If the New Zealand Defence Force provides support to local emergencies (up to 25 personnel), via the CDEM Group ECC, the NCMC must be notified. Any additional support for national assets must be requested through the NCMC to New Zealand Defence Force Headquarters.

The degree of support and the tasks to be conducted will be agreed between the Controller (National, CDEM Group, or Local) and the New Zealand Defence Force and should be in the form of a general task or a desired effect rather than a specific resource or capability.

NZDF assets

The New Zealand Defence Force determines what resources and equipment are to be deployed in its response to an emergency. Resources and equipment allocation are based on the following factors:

- ◆ identification of the appropriate resources and equipment to best perform the task, and
- ◆ availability of resources and equipment in New Zealand at the time of the emergency.

New Zealand Defence Force assets remain under the command of the New Zealand Defence Force throughout a response, but when authorised, may be tasked by EOCs, ECCs, or the NCMC as appropriate to the circumstances.

New Zealand Defence Force assets are normally only used when local or regional civil defence assets are no longer able to meet the demand.

12.6 References and links

Other sections of the Guide

- ◆ Section 3, Management of emergencies
- ◆ Section 5, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM)
- ◆ Section 6, Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups (CDEM Groups)
- ◆ Section 8, Emergency services
- ◆ Section 14, Welfare services
- ◆ Section 24, Response
- ◆ Section 26, National Crisis Management Centre
- ◆ Section 31, International assistance to New Zealand
- ◆ Section 32, Recovery