

Emergency Management Department Report

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1. Regional Exercise

The Regional Exercise developed for the Wairarapa took place on 10 May at Mount Holdsworth near Masterton. The scenario for the exercise was that of a nearing Tsunami (originated by an earthquake on the West Coast of South America). We also stipulated that our permanent headquarters were out of action.

The 22 volunteer staff (in two groups) from our Wairarapa-Office had to put up the mobile Headquarters, establish radio-communications with Wellington Region and Masterton District Council and manage the event according to the training that they have received on 3 May (operations, planning and intelligence, logistics management, communications, media liaison and HQ administration).

The CIMS method (co-ordinated incident management system) was successfully put to the practice and we achieved the proposed outcomes for the exercise. Colin Wright and Ian Gunn were the Regional Controllers. This exercise went quite well and the volunteer staff regarded the exercise as very productive and informative. The staff also enjoyed the challenges put to them.

2. Chinese Seismological Bureau Visit

A delegation of eleven seismologists from the Chinese Seismological Bureau visited Wellington on 29 May. The Emergency Management Department hosted the group and we arranged for them to visit a few places of interest. We also arranged for presentations to be made to assist them in their information gathering process.

The group visited the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, the National and Regional Headquarters in the Beehive, and the Wellington Emergency Management Office (WEMO). At the WRC they were warmly welcomed by our Chairman (Stuart Macaskill). That was followed with presentations on Health (hospitals), Lifelines, Flood Protection and the EQC. The visit was a great success and we have received a letter from the Chinese Embassy thanking the WRC for the wonderful programme that was organised for them and the effort to make their visit so successful and enjoyable. The group returned to China on 31 May after a visit to Taupo, Rotorua and Auckland.

3. Projects

3.1 Yellow Pages.

We have completed the revision of the current pages and developed a complete new series of information (see attachment). The new version contains the 4R's, as well as information on First Aid and the Insurance Industry. Telecom Yellow Pages will publish the Wairarapa Directory in July and the Directory for the rest of the Region in October. We are also working with all the other Regional Councils to have one message throughout the Country published in the Yellow Pages. The other Regional Councils agreed to our proposal but have to budget for the expenditure before they could proceed. It is envisaged that that all Yellow Pages throughout the Country will have the same Civil Defence message as from next year.

3.2 Logistics Plan for the Wellington Region.

The purpose of this Plan is to provide logistic arrangements to enable effective response and recovery from a major emergency in the greater area of Wellington. The Plan will cover aspects such as disaster context, logistical needs, sourcing and activation, movement control, transport control, storage and warehousing, distribution, critical response activities and the analysis of gaps and needs. The main emphasis will be on the customer (our communities) and the supplier (services, lifelines, etc.).

We are progressing very well with this Plan and we envisage to have a workshop on the Plan later this year or early next year. All role-players in the Region will be invited to take part in this workshop.

4. Communications

Regular testing of the radio-communication system is taking place every Wednesday. The Police Operational Centre in Wellington linked new equipment to our communications network and that was successfully tested with us as well.

5. Activities

Since the previous report of the Emergency Management Department to the Environment Committee on 18 May, this Department has been involved in various activities relating to public information and general emergency management planning.

- We attended the normal monthly meetings of the Emergency Management Officers in Carterton (2 May), the Hutt Valley Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee in Upper Hutt (9 May) and again in Lower Hutt (18 May), the Rural Fire Committee in Upper Hutt (12 May), and the Insurance Council (16 May). Topics of discussion were the progress on the EMG, strategic planning and the planning of combined exercises. At the Insurance Council meeting we discussed the Queenstown flooding-event in detail.

- We did a presentation regarding the hazards in the Wellington Region to the AGM of the Wellington Lifelines Group on 1 May. We also informed the meeting about the proposed hazard studies that the WRC plans to undertake in the next three years.
- As a result of our published document, *Organisations with a Civil Defence Role and Responsibility*, we met with Rosemary Williams (Director of the SPCA) on 4 May. We discussed their role and responsibilities and we are helping them with the development of their Business Continuation Plan.
- We were involved with the World Bank visit to Te Marua water treatment plant on 17 May. We provided information to the group regarding the WRC's role in emergency management and the 4R's (reduction, readiness, response and recovery).
- We are working with the Hutt Valley Emergency Services Co-ordinating Committee in planning a combined exercise that will take place in the Hutt Valley on 21 June. The exercise is based on a railway crossing where runaway rolling stock is involved in an accident with a private motor vehicle, a school bus containing 30 school children, a heavy transport vehicle and trailer loaded with general freight and a mixture of hazardous liquids and toxic gas. The resulting spillage flows into an adjacent waterway, which feeds the Waiwhetu Stream and then flows into the Harbour.

6. General

- Three Special Weather Bulletins were received on 3 and 4 June. All of them were for strong wind and heavy rain. This department has notified all the involved agencies and we did not experience any problems.
- Since the last report 33 earthquakes bigger than 3.0 on the Richter Scale occurred in the Country. The following Earthquake Reports for the Wellington Region (and reports of earthquakes felt in Wellington) were received from IGNS:

2 June - 40 km south-east of Blenheim (4.2) felt in Wellington

1 June - 90 km west of Paraparaumu (4.3)

31 May - 20 km west of Wellington (3.5)

19 May - 20 km northeast of Picton (3.7) felt in Wellington

12 May - 30 km south-east of Wellington (3.5)