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Ready Steady Safe

Nelson Tasman Regional Civil Defence News

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upcoming dates

30 April 2010
Group meeting

3 - 4 May 2010
Welfare Operational staff workshop Trafalgar Pavilion

5 May 2010
Welfare Supervisors workshop Trafalgar Pavilion

25 May 2010
Regional Tsunami Workshop
10:00am, Nelson City Council Chamber

31 May 2010
Welfare training – table top exercise for welfare agencies

16 June 2010
Welfare Advisory Group Meeting

7 July 2010
CEG Meeting

Storms, earthquakes, explosions - Murchison is ready

If the earthquake that devastated Murchison in 1929, killing 17 people and measuring 7.8, occurred today, Murchison's community response will be more than up to the task.

A range of events was explored during Waitangi weekend as the town of Murchison tested its new community response plan. To ensure their readiness, around 40 people were involved with the exercise led by Local Controller Gary Blackburn, with significant support from agencies including the Murchison Volunteer Fire Brigade, Police, St John Ambulance, volunteers from the community and the emergency management office.

Exercise Activation was the first part of the exercise activating the Emergency Operations Centre in the MESI building by the Murchison rugby grounds. Procedures were tested and radio communications and other equipment were checked.



The Emergency Operations Centre team in Murchison.

The Murchison Welfare Team, led by local Welfare Manager Dot Bradley, carried out Exercise Activation and assessed the welfare centre layout at the Murchison Recreation Centre. Dot was assisted by a team of local volunteers in testing how a welfare centre would be set up, what services would be provided and how communication would function in a real emergency.

Exercise Milo was run simultaneously by the NZ RT2 response team. An explosion at a timber mill and a motor vehicle crash kept the response team, Fire Service and ambulance busy for the weekend.

Contact: Debbie de Geus, 546 9500

A present for the Response Team

Nelson's NZ RT2 response team relies on generator power for it's equipment while out in the field, but their generator is small and could only cope with minimal needs.

In times of power cuts or when NZ RT2 is out in the field, such as support to rescues at Harwood Hole, the team relies heavily on generator power.

Last year, the team bought a brand new



Nelson Host Lions group with John McKenzie presenting the generator to Ken Connor of NZ RT2.

links

[Nelson City Council](#)

[Tasman District Council](#)

[Nelson/Tasman Emergency Management](#)

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[Ministry of Health - Pandemic influenza](#)

response vehicle and the truck was fully outfitted, painted, wired for radios and lights. But it soon became obvious that it would require a much more powerful generator.

Response team member Ken Connor and team leader Barry Rowe went to our local Nelson Host Lions for support.

The Nelson Host Lions are committed to improving the lives of others in the community, and Ken and Barry's request for a \$3,000 generator to be kept on the response vehicle met their guidelines.

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The 2kv generator was presented by Lions to NZ RT2 in March, and has pride of place on the truck. Now the generator will be able to power laptops, flood lights, cell phone chargers, and even jugs for cuppas.

The CDEM staff and NZ RT2 are very grateful to organisations like Lions that assist the team to support the community.

Contact: Debbie de Geus, 546 9500

Training update

Welfare

On 9 February Welfare Centre Operations staff training was carried out at the Trafalgar Centre in Nelson City and participants included Council staff, Red Cross, ACC, NZ RT2 members, CAB and other members of the public who will be involved in welfare response at the time of emergencies.

The course introduced participants to core welfare skills, such as providing clothing, catering, personal services, financial support and accommodation.

Welfare recipients include people who have been displaced from their homes and anyone affected by emergencies in their homes and/or work places.

On the following day a workshop was held for Welfare Supervisors. It looked at supervising and managing a welfare centre during an emergency.

Participants were introduced to some of the local welfare centres, planned how to set these up and looked at provisions and allocation of resources.

Both successful workshops are to be repeated next month due to overwhelming response from agencies and welfare teams in the outlying communities.

The Emergency Management Office looks forward to providing these courses regularly as welfare centres require a large number of staff during emergencies, especially over a long duration.

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EOC training crew in the Nelson City Council Chamber which doubles as the Nelson Emergency Operations Centre.

Emergency Operations Centre

The third round of Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) training was held on 12 and 13 April. It concentrated on the mechanics of how an EOC would run at the time of an emergency. It also covered component parts and taking into account how to apply the NZ Co-ordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) to manage, coordinate, staff and operate an EOC.

This initial training course was tailored towards staff of both Councils who hold positions in the EOC, who have shown particular interest or who have been nominated by management as important to CDEM response. The course also included members of other organisations who are our partners with a responsibility in response, including DOC, Work and Income and the Nelson Marlborough DHB. We have postponed the one day follow up courses dealing specifically with Intel/Planning, Operations, and Logistic until later in the year.

The course was particularly successful as we have been able to introduce more local

relevance.

Contact: Debbie de Geus, 546 9500.

From the Civil Defence Group Controller

A slow start to the year from a Controller's perspective was interrupted by a call out shortly after midnight on Sunday 28 February with a warning about a tsunami generated by the M8.8 earthquake in Chile.

A teleconference originating from the National Crisis Centre (situated in the bowels of the Beehive) was held a short time after that advice which included Group Controllers from throughout the country.

Roger Ball as duty officer (Jim Burrows was on leave) set up a monitoring office at Nelson City Council with support from Public Information Manager Nan Ward. We had our first local teleconference at 1:30am which involved our own hazard experts, police, fire, Department of Conservation, and others.

The assessment we made was that the effects of the tsunami would be relatively minor on our coastline, with waves or surges of up to 150mm or 200mm but with undercurrents that could put bathers at risk.

As a result, it was agreed that the swim section of the Weetbix Tryathlon should be cancelled, and beaches and boat ramps should be closed. Several national and local teleconferences were held throughout the morning.

The response was well coordinated and, although the effects of the tsunami were very minor, it was a valuable exercise and a thorough debrief was held. We realised that radio, television and internet warnings of pending tsunamis is insufficient notice, and we are considering alternative methods of warning



Jim Frater

those people who venture on or near the water during that warning period. Generally the response from the public was very good although the actions of a few as always was disappointing.

The announcement of the decision by MCDEM to use E-sponder as its emergency management information system is welcomed and once available will provide our Group with an additional tool which should revolutionise the way we run our EOC. I look forward to the introduction of this system into our EOC's and the training which will occur during the course of this year.

I wish our Emergency Management Manager Jim Burrows a well earned retirement. Jim has brought a professional edge to our organisation and has accomplished many feats in advancing Civil Defence in Nelson and Tasman. Roger has big shoes (literally) to fill and I look forward to working alongside him as we continue to improve our response capability.

Contact: Jim Frater, 543 8445.

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Civil Defence news in brief

Changing of the Guard

Jim Burrows will retire as the Manager of the Emergency Management Office on 30 April after almost 10 years with Civil Defence Emergency Management. Roger Ball will take over as Manager of the Office at that time. Roger's position has been filled by Joe Kennedy who has a military and Police background and is currently a member of the CDEM Response Team NZ-RT2. We look forward to him taking up his position.

Things have come a long way in the last 10 years as Jim started in the office by himself working four days a week. It is satisfying that CDEM has taken it's rightful place as a core business for both Councils and the various partners who will have to make it work on the day, including Police, Fire, Ambulance, DHB, and Work and Income to name but a few. Jim says the increased understanding of each others' roles and responsibilities and the building of relationships have been highlights of his tenure in the position.

Emergency Management Information System "E-sponder"

The Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management has selected the software application known as "E-sponder" as its communication application for the National Crisis Management Centre (NCC) in Wellington. This application will provide a platform for an all of Government response to

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Jim Burrows, retiring Emergency Management Office Manager.

emergencies. One of the criteria in making the purchase was that the system must have application for the various CDEM Groups around the country.

As a result our group started a project, assessed its suitability for our local needs and will prepare a report for the Group soon. This is an exciting development and one we have been anticipating for some time. Those readers who were involved in Exercise Pandora will recall our using a similar system.

Contact: Debbie de Geus, 546 9500

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Contact

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