



Ready Steady Safe

Nelson Tasman Regional Civil Defence News

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upcoming dates

18 August
WAG Meeting

2 September
CEG Meeting

18 September
Group Meeting

20 October
WAG Meeting

21 October
Exercise Pukenga

3 November

Golden Bay civil defence exercise

A lot of work has been underway to ensure that the Golden Bay Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is ready for a regional disaster, such as a flood or earthquake.

On 28 July civil defence staff gathered at the Tasman District Council office in Takaka to conduct "Exercise Activate 2009".

Local Civil Defence Controller, Roger Broadhurst, said that, "The aim of Exercise Activate was to develop and test procedures, conduct radio checks throughout the district, and discuss evacuation plans in the event of flooding."

"This was a first test of our procedures since we put together the new Golden Bay Community Response Plan last year. We still have a lot of work to do, but we're making solid progress", Roger said.

Richmond-based regional civil defence Group Controller, Jim Frater, added that, "We had a very successful Exercise, covering off arrangements for activating the EOC, assigning roles to staff and ensuring we are able to coordinate well with the emergency services".

As part of the overhaul of civil defence procedures in the district, new civil defence radios were installed this month. These are now in place in Upper Takaka, Kotinga, Wainui Bay, Collingwood, Bainham, Mangarakau, Pakawau, and Takaka.

The Manager of the Nelson Tasman Emergency Management Office, Jim Burrows, said "The purpose of having a radio network is to ensure we have emergency communications in the event that the phone network goes down. In many cases these radios are in the homes of residents and we are very grateful for their support."

Exercise Activate involved staff from Tasman District Council, Police, Fire, Department of Conservation, Golden Bay Community Workers and the Nelson Tasman Emergency Management Office.

Contact: Jim Burrows, 546 9500

Influenza A H1N1 - Swine Flu

Now that we have swine flu spreading freely in the community, civil defence emergency management staff are implementing plans to provide support to the Health sector.

Fortunately this outbreak is relatively mild-moderate in terms of its impact. However a lot of people are expected to get this virus in coming months and it's important that we all make a few



CEG Meeting

20 November
Group Meeting

links

[Nelson City Council](#)

[Tasman District Council](#)

[Nelson/Tasman Emergency Management](#)

[Get Ready, Get Thru](#)

[Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management](#)

[Ministry of Health - Pandemic influenza](#)

preparations:

- People need to plan ahead because if you get sick you will have to stay at home to recover (unless you are very unwell). So you'll need food, medicines and essential supplies.
- If you have school age kids, think about how you will manage if you have to be off work to look after them.
- If you're an employer, have you thought about the impact on your business if a lot of staff are calling in sick – how will you keep things going?
- Remember, basic hygiene is extremely important: wash hands, cover your mouth when you cough.

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A stuffed pig with a facemask.

There is very helpful information for understanding the swine flu on the Health website www.moh.govt.nz. If you get sick and want Health advice about swine flu call the free Healthline 0800 611 116 or your GP.

Contact: Roger Ball, 546 9500

Pandemic planning workshop with Welfare agencies

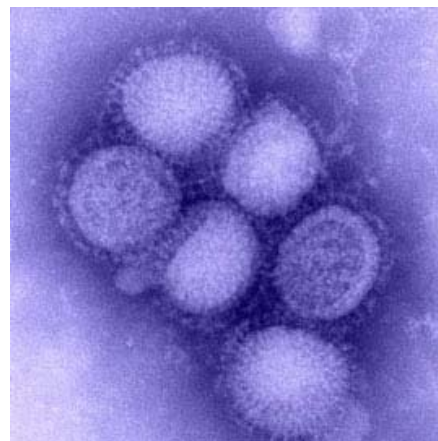
Agencies under the civil defence "Welfare" umbrella met for a half day workshop on 12 June to discuss the implications of the swine flu for our community in Nelson Tasman.

The focus was on what community support might be needed if the District Health Board found itself unable to cope with the outbreak.

Almost 20 agencies attended, including Ministry of Social Development and other government departments, and voluntary organisations such as Red Cross, Salvation Army and Citizens Advice Bureau. Agencies are now implementing their pandemic planning and thinking what they might be able to do if asked to assist in other roles.

For civil defence, our immediate focus is establishing a mechanism to provide food and supplies to quarantined people if they need it.

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A group of cells.

The primary message remains the same, however - people need to be resilient and look after themselves as much as possible.

Contact: Debbie de Geus, 546 9500

New Nelson Tasman civil defence website

Take a look at the new regional civil defence website at www.nelsontasmancivildefence.co.nz.

Nelson City and Tasman District Councils, the NMDHB, Fire, Police and St Johns now have a regional Civil Defence site. There's info on disaster preparedness,

response and recovery. Both Council websites link to this site and it is managed by the Nelson Tasman Emergency Management Office in conjunction with Nelson City Council's public communications team.

Jim Burrows, Emergency Management Manager, says "The new site delivers the tools and information individuals, schools and businesses throughout the region need. We are no longer splitting up our communication by councils and agencies, we are now presenting the information on a single site that is easy for people to find, understand, and has a regional focus."

Civil Defence Group Controller Jim Frater says the website will be one of the most useful tools in getting out the word about civil defence events, in addition to learning about everyday preparedness.

"People are very internet-oriented now. As long as they are able to get their news online during a civil defence event, our experience is that they go there either in the first or second instance (after radio) to get the information

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A snapshot of the home page of the new Civil Defence website.

they need. The new site will enable us to focus and target our communications to the public during any event."

The site has three coloured levels of emergency status - green for no civil defence emergency, yellow for a civil defence event that is undeclared, and red for a declared civil defence event.

You can find information about getting prepared in schools and businesses, a collection of publications by the emergency management office, and a list of the civil defence partners and their contact information.

The next phase will see more work done on a partner interface - more about that in the next newsletter.

Contact: Penny Bloomberg, 546 0223

NZ RT2 member wins Youth Volunteer Award

A NZ RT2 member was honoured at the Nelson Youth Volunteer awards on 18 June at the New Hub.

NZ RT2 team member Jenni Chaddock, aged 20, was one of the award winners on the night out of a field of 130. Jenni, like most NZ RT2 members, spends every second Wednesday night at training, as well as one weekend a month. She also holds down a position at Richmond Vet Centre, as well as continuing her veterinarian study.

The team at NZ RT2 are proud that Jenni is giving up a many social activities with her peers to be a volunteer member of the response team. Jenni is a highly valued team member and has a great deal to contribute.

Congratulations, Jenni!

At Nelson Tasman Emergency Management we feel it is important to



Jenni Chaddock, with dad Mike Chaddock, receives her Nelson Youth Volunteer award.

volunteering as adults, and that it is estimated for every dollar spent on a volunteer the community will receive a benefit equivalent to \$13 (study by Price Waterhouse). We rely on our community volunteering to carry out many of our civil defence duties.

recognise that young volunteers are twice as likely to continue

Contact: Debbie de Geus, 546 9500

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A new BERT is born

The Response team's truck (called BERT - Big Emergency Rescue Truck) has now been replaced with a new and improved BERT.

This vehicle is an Isuzu Forward crew cab, 7 seat, 9 tonne diesel. The vehicle is low in mileage, has a larger storage capacity and better passenger seating. The photo shows the vehicle with a digital mock up of its new paint job.

The refit of BERT is being carried out by three team members, who are suitably experienced in this field and partial sponsorship from local organisations. The refit includes ladders, topboxes and storage systems inside the back.

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The Response team's new Big Emergency Rescue Truck - or BERT.

The vehicle is able to travel comfortably at 90 km/hr so the response team are looking forward to arriving at emergency scenes before the media!

Contact: Jim Burrows, 546 9500

From the Civil Defence Group Controller

At the time of writing the article for the previous newsletter we were putting measures in place to be able to respond to a storm event which fortunately did not eventuate.

While it was doubtful that this event would have resulted in a declaration of an emergency, we nevertheless took the opportunity to place people on standby to keep them familiarised with the monitoring and activation processes.

Very recently the Ministry of Health announced that they were moving from the containment phase of the A(H1N1) virus to a management phase. What that means is that we may be called upon to coordinate the delivery of the welfare needs of people in isolation. This assistance would be provided through our normal CDEM welfare structures and a substantial amount of our current Emergency Management Office work is focused on this planning. We will be prepared to respond when required and you need to be prepared as well, we may call on you for assistance.

We should all have our own personal emergency plans to enable ourselves and our families to last in isolation for up to seven days. We should also have plans to



Jim Frater

continue. Please take time now to ensure you have robust plans in place to care for your loved ones as well as a plan to ensure the continuity of your job or business.

What better time than the present to review your emergency supplies. How old is that tin of baked beans, and what are the use by dates on the dry foods?

One thing is certain with emergency management in that we never really know what may occur or when. As with this pandemic, there are so many potential possible outcomes that we cannot afford to be complacent. "Get Ready Get Through" is certainly good advice.

Contact: Jim Frater, 543 8445.

ensure our business or work functions can also

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Civil Defence News

CDEM Signage

We have commenced an upgrade of signage for CDEM facilities in the Group area.

See the signage to the right, one for the Welfare Centre and another for Base.

Local Emergency Operations Centres in Murchison, St Arnaud and Tapawera will be fitted with the new signage displaying 'Civil Defence Base'.

Welfare Centres established in Takaka, Upper Moutere, Murchison, Richmond, Annesbrook Church, Maitai Club, Suburban Club, Trafalgar Centre and the Whakatu Marae will display the new 'Welfare Centre' signage.

New signage will be progressively rolled out over the next six months.

Contact: Debbie deGeus, 546 9500

National Warning System media information

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management maintains the National Warning System (NWS) to issue civil defence warnings based on information received from agencies in New Zealand and overseas.

MCDEM's objective is to issue warnings so that local authorities, the responding agencies and people can take action to prevent and reduce loss of life, injury and damage.

Read the full National Warning System document, which includes New Zealand monitoring agencies; tsunami, earthquake, and volcano specific information; and media contacts.

[Download the National Warning System media handout \(PDF @ 3MB\).](#)

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Contact

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Public Information Manager Penny Bloomberg, Nelson City Council, [email](#) and phone 546 0223