



Ready Steady Safe

Nelson Tasman Regional Civil Defence News

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upcoming dates

3 March
Recovery Committee meeting, 11am, Nelson City Council

Readiness and Response Committee meeting, 2pm, Nelson City Council

10 March
Nelson Tasman Engineering Lifelines meeting, 10am
Nelson City Council

Atawhai fires test readiness

Tinder dry conditions and strong wind saw a bush fire spread quickly across the Atawhai hills on 3 February, consuming around 50 hectares of scrub and threatening nearby homes.

While a fleet of helicopters and ground crews from the Rural Fire Service battled the blaze, police and local civil defence swung into action to assist those families forced to evacuate.

The fire was brought under control in time for most residents to return to their own homes that night, although two families with young children stayed overnight at the Honest Lawyer, who very generously offered the accommodation free of charge.

The whole experience begs the question - how ready were we?

The response to the order to evacuate was very good on the whole, according to Emergency Management Manager Jim Burrows. One family reported that although they didn't already have a getaway kit prepared, they were given sufficient warning to have time to gather their photo albums and personal papers and to put the cat in his box



A helicopter aides the fire fighting effort by dumping water on the fireline.

ready for the "off". When the call came to leave, they just put it all in the car and took off.

Some residents even had time to organise the evacuation of classic cars and boats. Jim says "It's not always likely that people will have that time to prepare for evacuation so being as ready as you can be now really is vital. It's just as simple as preparing a small bag and putting it in a cupboard so it's ready should you ever need it. One good side effect is that you'll always know where to go looking for those important family documents when you need them."

Contact: Debbie de Geus, 546 9500

Civil defence storm response training recently held

In response to a growing number of call outs the Nelson emergency response team, known as NZRT2, held a two day storm response training exercise on 21/22 February.

The exercise signals a change in focus for the team who specialise in urban search and rescue scenarios. The inclusion of

11 March
Coordinating Executive
Group (CEG) meeting
1.30pm Nelson City Council

12-13 March
Sandbag training, Trafalgar
Centre

24-25 March
CDEM Regional Managers
Forum, Wellington

26 March
National Controllers Forum,
Wellington

27 March
Nelson Tasman CDEM
Group meeting

30-31 March
Recovery Managers Course,
Auckland

1-2 April
Controllers Course, Auckland

9/10 May
Response Team NZRT2
Flood Response NZRT2

12 May
Welfare Advisory Group
(WAG) meeting

26 May
Exercise Korero

3 June
CEG Meeting

11 June
Top of the South Emergency
Managers' Meeting,
Murchison

15-16 June
Emergency Operations
Centre training

19 June
Group meeting

22-24 July
South Island Civil Defence
Officers' Forum, Ashburton

18 August
WAG Meeting

2 September
CEG Meeting

18 September

storm and flood recovery training
recognises the prevalence of this type of
emergency in the region.

Jim Burrows Emergency Management
Manager says "We aim to have the NZRT2
team well prepared and trained for a range
of emergencies and certainly after the
number of heavy rain events we
experienced in the last 12 months, it seems
flood and storm response is an area we
need to focus on."

The training included basics of house
construction so the team can make
emergency repairs, especially to roofs,
boarding windows against wind and
floods, getting safe access to houses
through damaged roofs, removing the
injured from houses, and effective
sandbagging skills.

The exercise was held at two derelict
houses in the Washington Valley area.

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Members of NZRT2 help sandbag during a recent flood event.

NZRT2 is a volunteer rescue team
consisting of 24 members. In recent
months NZRT2 has been deployed to assist
with evacuations during the Atawhai fire
and sandbagging operations during the
Maitai River flood last November. The
team is funded jointly by Nelson City
Council and Tasman District Council.

Contact: Debbie de Geus, 546 9500

How safe is that building?

Comment encouraged on draft safety evaluation guidelines.

The Ministry of Civil Defence and
Emergency Management is encouraging
local authorities and other organisations to
comment on draft [Building Safety
Evaluation Guidelines](#).

The Ministry's Director, John Hamilton,
said that the guidelines would be used to
assist local authorities to prepare to quickly
evaluate the safety of buildings when a
state of emergency has been declared after
an earthquake or other emergency.

The draft guidelines have been prepared by
the New Zealand Society for Earthquake
Engineering with support from the
Ministry and the Department of Building
and Housing.

The draft guidelines have been circulated
widely for comment, including to all city
and district council chief executives and
the 16 regional civil defence emergency
management (CDEM) groups. Comment
should be made to the Society's project
leader, Dave Brunson, by e-mailing



A damaged building after the Gisborne earthquake.

The Society has updated its 1998
document on post-earthquake building
safety evaluations, drawing upon the
experiences from Gisborne. Changes have
been suggested to: how buildings are
classified, who directs the evaluations, and
references to relevant legislation.

It is intended that local authorities,
engineers and others who might be
involved in building evaluation would use
the guidelines before emergencies occurred
to help prepare them for the work they
would have to do after an emergency.

Contact:
New Zealand Society for Earthquake

Group Meeting

db@kestrel.co.nz

20 October
WAG Meeting

The Gisborne earthquake of 20 December 2007 provided a reminder that it is crucial to quickly evaluate the safety of buildings and decide if they should be occupied again. The Gisborne District Council's actions in response to the earthquake reduced anxiety amongst owners, tenants and the public by providing rapid and authoritative decisions on the safety of their buildings.

21 October
Exercise Pukenga

3 November
CEG Meeting

20 November
Group Meeting

Engineering
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links

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[Tasman District Council](#)

[Nelson/Tasman Emergency Management](#)

[Get Ready, Get Thru](#)

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

[Ministry of Health - Pandemic influenza](#)

968 natural hazard events recorded in 2008

As many involved with civil defence activities may know, earthquakes and weather warnings were the most common natural hazards in 2008. See the table to the right for the full data.

The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management announced recently that it recorded 968 weather and geological events in 2008.

The Ministry's Director, John Hamilton, said that the breakdown of events highlights what we should expect in New Zealand – about two-thirds of the events were earthquakes and heavy rain warnings.

One emergency was declared in 2008 – in Marlborough during the nationwide storm at the end of July – compared to four declarations in 2007. An emergency does not need to be declared for agencies to respond. The nationwide storm is an example where emergency management agencies throughout the country responded but it was only in Marlborough that the impact was severe enough to declare an emergency.

Over a longer period there is a clear pattern of emergency declarations - in the last six years there have been 15 declarations, 13 because of flooding. Historically, flooding is by far the most common emergency in New Zealand, though several earthquakes, most too small to be felt, occur every day.

The Ministry has staff working 24 hours a day seven days a week monitoring information from science agencies, meteorological services, emergency management organisations and others throughout New Zealand and overseas.

Event	2008	2007
Earthquakes 1	374	421
Tsunami bulletins	34	32
Volcanic bulletins	10	4
Heavy rain warnings	302	243
Strong wind warnings	59	108
Cyclone alerts	5	0
Heavy snow warning	45	24
Sea swell warnings	138	57
Severe thunderstorms 2	-	6
Other 3	1	0
Totals	968	895

1 - Most earthquakes recorded by GNS Science are not reported to the Ministry as they are detected by measuring equipment but not felt by people.

2 - Now included in other weather warnings.

3 - The European Space Agency advised that its "automated transfer vehicle", Jules Verne, would re-enter the atmosphere and burn up scattering debris about 2,000 km East of New Zealand. Destruction on re-entry was planned and occurred as expected. Jules Verne carried no nuclear material.

"We cannot tell where or when the next emergency will occur," Mr Hamilton said. "The first people to experience it could well be those who are right there at home, at work, at school or wherever it happens.

"In such a case, local resources are likely to be stretched at first. Additional assistance from outside the region and local community will be available but could take some time to be deployed. We all need to be aware of that, hence the

Teams working and on call 24/7 in Auckland and Wellington issue advisories and national warnings when information meets thresholds and activate the National Crisis Management Centre, which is beneath the Beehive, as required.

Most of the information received, and analysis provided, is about events that do not become emergencies. They are monitored as a precaution, in case they become emergencies.

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message that our people and communities must be prepared to cope on their own initially.”

Contact:

Public Information Manager, Vince Cholewa
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E-mail: vince.cholewa@dia.govt.nz

From the Civil Defence Controller

Apart from a couple of weather warnings our CDEM Controllers have had a fairly quiet time during December and January.

However, as I write this article, the tail end of tropical cyclone Innis is due to cross our regions and our Hydrology and CDEM staff are monitoring its progress.

The most significant event to occur recently has been the fire north of Nelson City which was managed by Rural Fire Network. Nelson-Tasman CDEM provided support by establishing a welfare base to cater for displaced persons and this was managed by Jim Burrows and Debbie de Geuss. While this was not a declared emergency the spirit of cooperation between the emergency services and Civil Defence enabled our team to provide support and leave the fire-fighters to concentrate on fighting the fire. The spirit of this cooperation is the underlying basis for the functioning of our CDEM Group.

For several months we have been operating with only two Group Controllers and the next CEG meeting in March will consider the appointment of two further Group Controllers

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Jim Frater

to bring us back to our complement of four, which is the minimum desirable number to manage a multi day emergency.

I recently attended a meeting in St Arnaud to discuss the establishment of a Community Response Plan for that area. I was impressed by the enthusiasm of this community to have a plan which will enable them to take ownership of their community response, particularly during that first crucial 72 hours.

Contact: Jim Frater, 543 8445.

Nelson and Tasman civil defence news

Civil Defence Local Controller for Murchison area appointed

Gary Blackburn has been appointed as the Civil Defence Local Controller for the Murchison area by the Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (a combined committee of Nelson City and Tasman District Councils). Gary

Volunteer Wanted

Civil Defence Emergency Management is looking for a volunteer to help manage their radio communications in the Murchison area. This involves going to the MESI building and using the radios there to communicate with the Civil Defence Offices in Christchurch and Nelson at

has considerable experience in local body affairs, including the response to emergency events, and is willing to share that experience with the community by accepting this volunteer role. His acceptance of the position is certainly appreciated.

Simon Blakemore will continue as the alternate Local Controller and will act in Gary's place should Gary be away. Simon and Gary, along with other members of the community are currently involved in assisting the Group in the preparation of a 'Community Response Plan' for emergency events for the area.

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scheduled times (during the day - once a week). The task is not onerous or complicated.

New Nelson Tasman Emergency Management website in works

A new website is in the planning stages for Nelson Tasman emergency management - it is a joint effort between the Nelson City and Tasman District Councils to coordinate communications on the web under a single website. The site is planned for its debut around mid-year. Stay tuned!

Contact: Jim Burrows, 546 9500

Workplace Emergency Response

Under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 and its amendments, there is a requirement to be able to look after your staff during an emergency, this includes Civil Defence emergencies.

This issue of the newsletter features a guide for equipment, food and training requirements in the workplace. It is separated into three mini articles following.

For further information on emergency preparedness for businesses can be found at www.civildefence.govt.nz

Guide for equipment

Some business such as lifeline utilities, government departments, emergency services and local authorities have further obligations under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

Many Occupational Health and Safety practitioners are now recommending that workplaces have a store of food for their staff for 72 hours. This guideline suggests some examples of equipment, training and food that could meet these requirements.

Minimum Equipment

Quantity	Description
1	Full height CD cabinet (orange) with Civil Defence logo.
3	Woolen blankets
10	Foil blankets
2	Folding stretcher

With the assistance of the USAR Training & Standards Working Group, a review of the inventory for a Civil Defence cabinet has been undertaken. This guideline provides current advice for businesses on the specifications for equipment, food and training. This guideline does not provide legislative guidance for fire safety or non-civil defence emergency first aid compliance.

These recommendations are not based on workplace size however it is envisaged that there would be one cabinet, at least, per work site. It would be preferable to have one per level of a multi level building or per 100 staff members. For a multi level work site with trained rescue personal it would be worth considering adding multi-story rescue equipment.

Advice should be taken on the location of cabinets to ensure they are likely to be protected by created void spaces following a structural collapse.

It is also noted that the equipment and training specifications are for generic risks and therefore the purchase of equipment and undertaking of training should be based on a site-specific hazard assessment and comprehensive business continuity planning.

Contact:

Fire & Rescue Services Industry Training Organisation (FRSITO)
Website: www.frsito.org.nz
Email: info@frsito.org.nz
Phone: (04) 801-9469
Postal: PO Box 11-988, Wellington, New Zealand

		Additional Equipment (Recommended)
		Where no quantity is specified, the item is to be supplied for each rescue team member.
2	20m of polypropylene rope (For general use – not for supporting human life)	
4	Torches spare batteries and bulb	
1	Dispenser alcohol based waterless hand cleaner	
1	Packet of 100 large plastic bags (for sanitation purposes)	Quantity Description
2	3.6x3.6m Tarpaulins (For temporary shelter)	1 CD Board stretcher with casualty securing straps
1	Step ladder (Must fit in or locked to the cabinet)	6 12m of 11m Kernmantle static rope (meeting AS or NFPA standards)
	Small portable radio and spare batteries (enough for three changes per radio)	2 2m sewn 25mm tape slings
2	5 liter water containers (filled with water)	2 4m sewn 25mm tape slings
3	Water purification tablets (packets)	5m of 8mm cord for personal safety line
1	20" wrecking bar	4 Screw lock alloy or steel Karabiners (minimum of 30kN)
1	Multi purpose saw	Safety footwear
1	Hacksaw c/w 10 spare blades	Overalls (Red or orange in colour)
1	Sledge Hammer	Hi visibility vest
1	Carpenters Hammer	Wet weather clothing/disposable plastic poncho
1	Pliers #8	1 900mm Bolt Cutters
1	Axe	1 Roll of CD or restricted area barrier tape
1 per 25 staff	CD disaster first aid kit	selection Nails (for basic repairs)
8 pair	Riggers Gloves, full leather	1 Gas Fog horn
1	Dust mask (box of 50)	2 Cans of orange spray paint
8	Safety goggles	12 Green chemical light sticks
8	Safety helmets (Standard industrial helmet with chin strap – Orange colour)	USAR Field Operation Guide (available form www.usar.govt.nz)
8	Whistles	UIAA or USAR rated helmet. (These would replace the standard helmet in the cabinet – Orange in colour)
Box	Disposable Ear Plugs	
1	Box latex gloves	
5 rolls	Fabric duct tape (For windows during storms)	
5 (or more)	Plastic Buckets	
	Copy of building floor plan showing the location of First Aid kits, exits, utility isolation, fire panel, occupancy locations etc.	

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Workplace Emergency Response

Guide for food

These recommendations come from the [Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management website](#).

Sample requirements for 25 people or

Rescue Best Practice Guidelines:

- Rope Rescue Tier Model
- Confined Space Rescue Tier Model

Both of these guidelines are available from www.usar.govt.nz

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Instructors

Instructors providing training in accordance with the above manuals should meet USAR Trainer Certification as prescribed in the USAR Best Practice Guideline: Trainer Certification.

Contact:

Fire & Rescue Services Industry Training Organisation (FRSITO)
Website: www.frsito.org.nz
Email: info@frsito.org.nz
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