



Ready Steady Safe

Nelson Tasman Regional Civil Defence News

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upcoming dates

Emergency Operations Centre Training, venue and time TBA

2 December
Nelson Tasman Engineering Lifelines Meeting (utilities)

12 December
Civil Defence Emergency Management Group meeting, venue TBA, 3.00pm - 4.30pm

25 December - 4 January

Region mops up after storm

The region has begun the mop up after last week's storm that saw roads closed and widespread surface flooding as more than 90 mms of rain was dumped over 36 hours, driven by gale force winds.

Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Group Emergency Management Officer, Roger Ball, says the Civil Defence Emergency Management team had been monitoring the weather closely over the prior weekend and was prepared for the event.

"It is a good opportunity to again drive home the message of 'get ready - get thru' for all our residents. Although we cannot control the weather, we can ensure we are ready, with torches, extra food, water and a battery operated radio. While power supplies were not cut in this instance, it often follows with such events, and people need to be able to cope on their own."

In Nelson, the Maitai River burst its banks with widespread surface flooding leading to Council closing the road, and the Takaka Hill and Takaka Valley roads were also closed. Sandbags were used extensively, including the main street of Takaka just before high tide at 8.30pm last Monday night.

Nelson Mayor Kerry Marshall says Council staff and contractors were aware well in advance of the event and performed admirably in monitoring potential trouble spots



Nelson based NZ Herald photographer Tim Cuff photographed the rising Maitai River downstream from Civic House.

and advising the public. "It is a reminder to us all how quickly these situations can develop and while it is comforting to know we have Civil Defence resources in place, we all need to be prepared for such events."

Tasman District Council Mayor Richard Kempthorne says there was some surface flooding in Takaka, but it stopped before there was significant damage. "We were very close to trouble, but the rain stopped and drains and flooding cleared."

"I'm told by the people involved in Golden Bay that the Golden Bay Community Response Plan worked very well. The Response Plan had to be used before it was officially launched the day after the storm. We were very fortunate; it could have been worse "Mr Kempthorne says.

Contact: Roger Ball, 546 9500

Breakthrough in earthquake faulting research

Nelson City Council offices closed

2 February
Nelson Anniversary Day

6 February
Waitangi Day

21/22 February
Response Team NZRT2
Storm Response training

25 April
ANZAC day

9/10 May
Response Team NZRT2
Flood Response NZRT2

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](#)

Scientists have discovered there is no connection between major fault lines in the North and South Islands through central Cook Strait – meaning that an earthquake fault rupture may be contained to one island if it occurred.

The findings are part of research released in late August by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) which provides vital new information to help assess the potential hazard of earthquakes in New Zealand.

It is the first time scientists have been able to comprehensively map the active offshore faults in the Wellington and Cook Strait region – New Zealand’s most active seismic risk area.

NIWA has mapped about 20 active faults in the Wellington and Cook Strait region capable of generating earthquakes of magnitude M7 or greater, but none of them connect from the North Island to the South Island. Some of the faults are the offshore extensions of large faults on land, whereas others are entirely submarine.

The two-year study of the seafloor, supported by NIWA’s deepwater research vessel Tangaroa, together with new and archived seismic profiles from other sources, gives the first clear picture of all active faults in the offshore region.

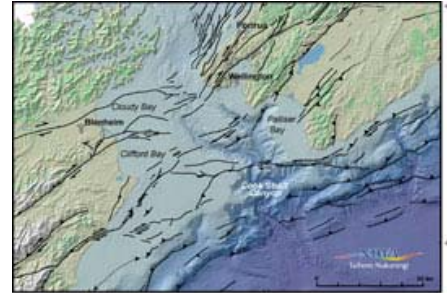
The work is part of the project “It’s Our Fault”, jointly funded by the Earthquake Commission, Wellington City Council and ACC, which involves a comprehensive review of the likelihood, size, location and likely impact of large earthquakes in the Wellington region.

These new findings by NIWA will assist the project, which includes studies by GNS Science and Victoria University of the major faults on land and modeling of the potential impacts of future earthquakes.

NIWA’s Ocean Geology Principal Scientist, Dr Philip Barnes says the new findings are a breakthrough for earthquake research in New Zealand.

“We finally know what the big faults between Wellington and Blenheim are doing. By combining the seafloor imagery with other data of the faulted sediments and rocks beneath the seabed we have been able to get a much more accurate idea of the location, size and history of faults in the area.”

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New map of active earthquake faults in central New Zealand, produced by NIWA. Onshore faults are from the GNS Science Active Faults database.

“The general discontinuity of active faults across Cook Strait has important implications for how we interpret the size and location of future earthquakes in the region. By determining the rate of activity on the faults over many thousands of years, we can also estimate the interval of time between earthquakes on each fault. This information has been added to the onshore active fault database at GNS Science to create a complete picture of the region, which can be used to provide new estimates of the likelihood of earthquakes occurring,” Dr Barnes says.

For the first time NIWA scientists have also been able to use high resolution images of the sedimentary layers below the seabed to assess the prehistoric earthquake activity of some of the faults – dating back as far as 18,000 years ago.

GNS Science Geologist, and Project Leader for the It’s Our Fault project, Russ Van Dissen says “knowing that there is no connection between the North and South island major fault lines will have a critical impact on the accuracy of modeling to assess earthquake risk.”

“Accurate forecasting of potential earthquake hazard is essential to many agencies including emergency managers, regional councils and insurers. This collaborative work will greatly improve our ability to assess the reality of the earthquake risk and potential impact.”

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Dr Philip Barnes
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Project Leader for It’s Our Fault Project, GNS Science
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Emergency fashion statement: the Getaway Jacket

Grab yours now, be a fashionable civil defence worker!



Nelson resident Megan Carnegie shows how stylish one can be and still be prepared.



If you're handy with a sewing machine, why not make your own getaway kit jacket? Sew a few pockets to the back – Nelson City Council's version puts the pockets on the inside for a clean, uncluttered look – and then fill with your getaway essentials and hang in the closet until needed.

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Training needs analysis undertaken

Earlier this year the Emergency Management Office undertook a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) dealing with all aspects of Civil Defence Emergency Management across the board.

The message we got was that more training was required in most areas, but particularly for those people expected to fill positions within the Emergency Operating Centre (EOC) at the time of an emergency event.

We have prepared a 'Group Training Plan'

which has been accepted by the CDEM Group. We wish to employ skilled, competent training providers to deliver the training in the areas exposed by the TNA. The requirement has been presented to both Councils.

We are hopeful of a favourable outcome which will allow us to progress our 'vision' of a 'resilient Nelson Tasman Community.'

Contact: Jim Burrows, 546 9500

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National Warning System changes

The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM) has been working to improve the functionality of the National Warning System. The upgrade of the system (with quite a lot of work done behind the scenes) will enable MCDEM to provide better reporting to CDEM Groups when identifying non-responders to National Warnings or Advisories of a potential

Reminder of the National Warning System process

Upon receipt of a National Warning or Advisory: Potential Threat message, all recipients:

1. Must confirm receipt of the Warning by one of the following methods within 30 minutes;

threat.

A review of the National Warning recipient list has also been completed. We hope that this will clear up issues where people were receiving several copies of the same message.

National Warning System templates revised

The National Warning, Advisory and Cancellation templates have been completed. Most of the changes are minor (including improving grammar and formatting issues).

However, there is one significant change that will affect all recipients of a National Advisory - Potential Threat messages: the messages will now require recipients to acknowledge receipt of the advisory (as you would for a National Warning message). The instructions are clearly stated on the Warning and Advisory messages.

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SMS: Reply to the text message to confirm receipt (remembering to insert the words 'ok or something similar', or

Phone: Phone 0800 CD EVENT (0800 23 38 368) to confirm receipt, or

Email: Reply to the email message to confirm receipt.

Note do not reply by fax to confirm receipt of the message.

2. Follow your emergency response procedures.

MCDEM will issue non responder reports to MCDEM Regional Emergency Management Advisors, and selected CDEM Group representatives after 30 minutes and 1 hour. This will enable CDEM Groups to follow up those recipients that have not confirmed receipt of the message.

Contact: [Tim Clarke](#), MCDEM, DIA

From the Civil Defence Controller

The Nelson Tasman Emergency Management Group Readiness and Response Committee met recently and was briefed by Brian Paton the Technical Support Supervisor Fire and Emergency Services, for the Department of Conservation.

Brian explained his role and outlined the resources that DOC has available to the Civil Defence organisation in an emergency. We have invited Brian to join the Readiness and Response Committee as we consider that he will be able to make a valuable contribution to our organisation.

I have attended meetings to establish the Golden Bay Community Response Plan and its launch on 25 November 2008. I have also attended the initial meeting for a Murchison Community Response plan and am pleased that these rural communities are taking ownership of their community response. With the absence of a substantial disaster in our regions for many years it is a challenge to motivate people to be prepared and be able to respond during an emergency. These plans and the testing of them on a regular basis will help in not only ensuring our communities can respond but actually are prepared to manage themselves during that crucial first 72 hours. I have to acknowledge the great



Jim Frater

our Emergency Management team with this Community planning.

With the onset of summer and the festive season our emergency management partners will be gearing up to cope with the usual issues that they have to face during this period. The CDEM organisation will be available and able to activate at any time either to support any organisation or react to a declaration. If you are remaining in our regions during December and January please ensure your contact details are up to date.

I wish you all a merry and disaster free festive season and good wishes for 2009.

Contact: **Jim Frater, 543 8445.**

work done by

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Civil Defence News

Welfare

CDEM is currently finalising Memorandums of Understanding between Emergency Management and the Welfare Centres to ensure resources are monitored during an event. Our current Welfare Centres are at the Maitai Club, Nelson Suburban Club, Annesbrook Church and Richmond New Life Centre. New centres to be established are at Wakatu Marae, Takaka and Upper Moutere Recreation Centre. Welfare centres support people who have been affected by an emergency. This may be to provide shelter, accommodation, food, clothing, financial assistance, personal support and advice. Registration of affected people in the community is also a priority. During an emergency event your radio will inform you of these centres. The stations are Classic Hits 89.8 FM, and More FM 93. You can also call local emergency services who will inform you of your nearest welfare centre.

Disaster Awareness Week

5 - 11 October 2008

Nelson Tasman Emergency Management presented displays around Nelson and Tasman that displayed the Get Ready Get Thru message. Our focus was to encourage the public to set up three day emergency kits, getaway kits and emergency plans. Displays were held at the libraries and Council offices. A stall was held in Richmond Mall and Woolworths Supermarket in Nelson that displayed these kits, provided emergency water containers and provided vital emergency information for the public. Feedback has been positive with many of the public expressing surprise at how easy it would be to set up their own kits.

Civil defence planning in Murchison

The Emergency Management Office has this year been reviewing civil defence arrangements in rural communities in our region. Last October it was Murchison's turn. A meeting was held at the Murchison Emergency Services (MESI) building to look at plans for the village and surrounding valleys. Representatives from the emergency services, local school,



The Civil Defence team displayed at the Nelson Woolworths during Disaster Awareness Week.

for the village. The new Murchison Sport and Recreation Centre was designated as Murchison's principal Welfare Centre. Further work will need to be done to put in place welfare structures and radio networks. However this was a very positive start.

Meanwhile the Golden Bay Plan has been completed and was launched in Takaka this week. A meeting to discuss a new plan for St Arnaud takes place in December also.

Civil Defence Controllers Forum

Under the civil defence structure we have a number of people appointed to act as "Controllers" in the event of an emergency. If an emergency is declared, Controllers are able to access special powers under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002. There are four "Group Controller" positions in Nelson Tasman, while "Local Controllers" are appointed in geographically isolated areas of Takaka, Murchison and St Arnaud.

Nelson Tasman's Controllers assembled at Fairfield House on 21 October for their annual Forum. Also present were representatives from emergency services, Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

Department of Conservation, Work and Income and community representatives were present. The value of having good local arrangements was reinforced by the snow event in August which saw many people in the Murchison and St Arnaud areas isolated and without power for some days. The meeting at Murchison confirmed that the MESI building will continue to function as the Local Coordination Centre

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and from the Marlborough Civil Defence Emergency Management Group. The day consisted of a re-fresher on Controllers powers, training and table-top exercises. This was a good opportunity not only for training but also for Controllers to meet with each other and discuss issues in common. Staff from the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management also attended to help deliver the training.

Contact: Roger Ball, 546 9500.

Orchard Flats get ready

Residents of Council-owned community housing – many of whom are elderly or physically disabled – are ‘getting ready to get through’, with help from the Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and Te Korowai Trust.

Emergency Management Officer Debbie de Geus explains how it came about:

“Shelly Carter of Te Korowai Trust came to me about how prepared some of our housing communities are. Looking at the Orchard Street Flats we realised we could improve things for all residents by doing two things: putting together a supplemental emergency kit for each of our nine housing communities, and providing residents with more information about preparing for emergencies – to ‘Get Ready Get Thru’.”

The kits include information about what to do in emergencies, a basic first aid kit, torch, radio, personal hygiene supplies, snacks and water. The contents will be maintained by Civil Defence staff.

Residents also learned how to make their own emergency kits:

- A ‘getaway’ kit if they must leave home quickly in an emergency
- A ‘three-day’ kit with enough supplies to last up to three days at home without power, water, phone or transport

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Orchard Flats community housing tenants showing off their Civil Defence emergency kit. From left: Barbara Tuwhangai, Phylliss Baker, Paul Light, Catherine MacDonald.

The get-together with residents also gave them a chance to talk about how they can rely on each other during emergencies, strengthening the community spirit that blossoms when people care for each other.

Contact: Debbie de Geus, 546 9500.

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