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Committee **CDEM Group**
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Exercise Phoenix IV

1. Purpose

To inform the Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM Group) about Phase IV of Project Phoenix and the planned Exercise Phoenix IV.

2. Background

Project Phoenix began in 1998 as a joint project between Auckland and Wellington. It involved the regional councils and territorial authorities, emergency services, health providers and many other response agencies. The main aim of the project was to determine how Auckland could assist Wellington to recover from a large earthquake and what logistical support Auckland could provide to Wellington.

Phase I of the Project (1999 and 2000) explored what resources Auckland had to offer to the Wellington Region. That culminated into Exercise Phoenix I, a tabletop exercise for organisations in Auckland.

Phase II (2001) was a needs analysis of Wellington's logistics requirements and the role of lifeline utility services. Exercise Phoenix II took place in October 2001 and tested the operational response of lifeline utility services.

Phase III (Exercise Phoenix III in July 2002) was an exercise to reality check all the planning that had been conducted in Wellington and Auckland, but specifically, the management of urban search and rescue, treatment and movement of the injured and the provision of potable water.

The information gathered from Exercise Phoenix III was used in the preparation of the CDEM Group Plan and also for the update of councils' standard operating procedures.

Phase IV of Project Phoenix is to test the functioning of the CDEM Group Plan. Exercise Phoenix IV will take place on 25 November 2005 under the direction of the Group Controller. It is planned to have such a major exercise every three years.

3. Exercise Phoenix IV

To ensure that the effectiveness of the Wellington Region CDEM Group Plan is evaluated, it is essential that the Plan be tested in an exercise. More than a hundred organisations with roles and responsibilities in emergency management have contributed to the preparation of the Group Plan and all of these organisations' operational responses will be tested in the exercise. Phoenix IV is the first opportunity to exercise the CDEM Group Plan. The exercise is being co-ordinated by the CDEM Group Office Manager.

3.1 Scope of the Exercise

The scenario for the exercise is a major earthquake, with the Wellington fault rupturing. It will be a Level 4 event.

The exercise will last 12 hours and involve all organisations with roles and responsibilities in the CDEM Group Plan.

3.2 Assessment areas

The effectiveness of the following CDEM activity areas will be assessed in Exercise Phoenix IV:

- the co-ordination of regional civil defence welfare
- the co-ordination of Lifelines restoration – based on the Protocols for Lifelines Response
- information and media management
- resource management (logistics, external supply, etc)
- the interrelationship between the Group Emergency Operations Centre (Group EOC) and local emergency operations centres (EOC), the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management (MCDEM) and the role of the Emergency Services and other emergency organisations in a Level 4 emergency
- the operating procedures of all participating organisations.

3.3 Schedule of events

The following is a schedule of events leading up to the exercise, including the subsequent reporting after the exercise:

Planning event	Due date	Responsible
Specialist Group workshops for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authority Emergency Management Officers, emergency services (NZ Police, NZ Fire Service, Ambulance), Ministry of CDEM Medical (CCDHB and Wairarapa DHB), Regional Public Health and welfare agencies (Ministry of Social Development/Work & Income, Victim Support, CYF, Housing NZ) Lifelines Communications/public information 	7 September 05	Group Emergency Management Office (GEMO) and members of each Specialist Group
Review scenario	22 September	
Confirm participation	26 August	Group Emergency Management Office
Specialist Groups feedback to GEMO	23 September	All exercise participating local authorities, organisations, etc
Write control systems, including umpire systems, evaluation forms	23 September	Special Groups
Write Communications Plan (telephone/fax, radio, email, web site)	15 October 05	Group Emergency Management Office
Produce Exercise General Instruction	15 October 05	Group Emergency Management Office
Public information plan:	15 October 05	Group Emergency Management Office GWRC Media Liaison
Exercise writing research, produce master sequence, detail messages, setting the scene from Day 2	28 October 05	Group Emergency Management Office
Set up and prepare venue	11 November 05	Group Emergency Management Office
Brief exercise control staff	In the week prior to 25 November	Group Emergency Management Office
Exercise Phoenix IV	24 November 05	Exercise Director
First debrief (internal)	25 November 05	All
Formal debrief	28 November 05	Group EOC: (0900 – 1200 hrs) EOC staff, exercise control staff/umpires, liaison officers, Lifelines Co-ordinators, others as available Local authorities, emergency agencies, etc carry out their own debrief
Exercise Phoenix IV Report	15 December 05	All participating emergency agencies (to be confirmed by the Group Emergency Management Office)
	31 March 06	Group Emergency Management Office

4. Conclusion

Exercise Phoenix IV will be a very important means of testing the Wellington CDEM Group Plan.

However, there are huge spin-offs. Participating organisations are having to plan together, and look at their operating procedures and response capability. This in itself means that valuable relationships are being built.

After the exercise, when we have reviewed performance and identified gaps, we will be able to work co-operatively to improve our CDEM operational capabilities.

5. Recommendation

That the CDEM Group:

- 1. receive the report; and*
- 2. note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

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