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Committee Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG)
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Office

Urban Search and Rescue Response Team Agreement

1. Purpose

To inform the Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) of the proposal to enter into an agreement with the Wellington Regional Urban Search and Rescue Response Teams.

2. Background

The Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan details a number of hazards that have and will in the future cause emergency events that affect the communities within the region. Throughout New Zealand other communities will also be affected by similar hazards. Either of these events may require assistance being requested from the Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

The Group Controller and Group Emergency Management Office have the role of co-ordinating resources to provide assistance to the affected communities in response to a request from the local controller.

In the Wellington Region there are four light Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Response Teams, namely WCC Tawa Rescue NZ-RT8, Victoria Rescue, NZ-RT7 Upper Hutt Community Rescue NZ-RT9 and Hutt City Emergency Response Team NZ-RT18.

Each team has purchased equipment, trained members and developed Standard Operating Procedures in accordance with the National USAR Steering Committee and the Best Practice Guideline for Response Team Registration. The teams have subsequently been audited and obtained registration with the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management.

The Response Teams are regional resources that need to be responded in a co-ordinated manner during an emergency event, especially when a number of territorial authorities are affected at the same time.

In order to be able to co-ordinate the response the Group Controller and Group Emergency Management Office need to know the capabilities and competencies of the Response Teams.

3. Aim and Objectives of the Agreement

3.1 Aim

To set out the minimum terms and conditions for mutual support between the Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM Group) and the Response Team Sponsor in the provision of CDEM activities at Local, Group or National level.

3.2 Objectives

To recognise that each Response Team is sponsored and funded by a different organisation and that sponsor has first call on the team.

To provide the CDEM Group and the Response Team Sponsor with an ability to agree on the capability and competency of the Response Team.

To provide for the compensation of services in a manner similar to a rural fire response.

To provide for agreed training and exercises to the requirements of the Group and the Response Teams.

To provide for a co-ordinated response to any request for Response Team resources to an emergency event.

4. Financial Implications

The agreement provides for the CDEM Group to fund and co-ordinate appropriate exercises and training for the USAR Response Teams to meet their registration requirements and where the training enhances the capability of the teams to respond to events.

The proposed budget for the Response Team Exercise held in February this year was \$5000.00. Flood Response and Storm Response training held in July and August, with funding from the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management cost \$5000.00 plus GST. We have been advised that this will be the last of this type of funding from the Ministry.

On the basis of the abovementioned costs it is suggested that \$10,000.00 be included in the CDEM Group budget for Response Team exercise and training per year.

5. Response Team Agreement

A draft of the proposed agreement is attached (**Attachment 1**).

6. Recommendations

That the CEG:

- 1. receives the report;*

2. *recommends that the Group enters into an agreement with the Wellington Region Response Team Sponsors; and*
3. *recommends that the Group Emergency Management Office be delegated the role of maintaining the agreement between the Group and the USAR Response Team Sponsors.*

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Attachment 1: Proposed Draft Agreement