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Committee Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG)
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Exercise Phoenix V

1. Purpose

To provide information about Exercise Phoenix V, an exercise developed to test the functioning of the CDEM Group Plan under the direction of the Group Controller.

2. Background

Project Phoenix began in 1998 as a joint project between Auckland and Wellington and it involved the regional and local councils, 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 resource 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 has been conducted in Wellington and Auckland. The overall aim of Exercise Phoenix III was to improve planning for the management of urban search and rescue, treatment and movement of the injured and the provision of potable water.

The information gathered from the exercise was used in the preparation of the CDEM Group Plan and also for the review of councils' standard operating procedures.

Exercise Phoenix IV (November 2005) was to test the effectiveness of the Wellington Region CDEM Group Plan which became effective on 1 May 2005. 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 were tested in the exercise.

3. Exercise Phoenix V

Exercise Phoenix V will be a Tier 3 exercise in accordance with the National Exercise Programme. Planning for the exercise is well underway, being led by the Wellington Region CDEM Group Office. The exercise will be supported by the Auckland, Hawke's Bay, and the Manawatu-Wanganui CDEM Groups, the Ministry of CDEM, emergency services, lifeline utilities, and other agencies and organisations, as appropriate.

3.1 Exercise Aim and Objectives

The aim of Exercise Phoenix V is to "test the Wellington CDEM Group's arrangements for responding to a major disaster resulting from a movement of the Wellington Fault".

There are three core exercise objectives and three supporting objectives. The three core exercise objectives are:

- **Roles and responsibilities:** understand, develop and practice the respective roles and responsibilities of local, regional and national agencies in response to the exercise scenario
- **Arrangements:** embed the planning arrangements in standard processes for all participating agencies
- **Connections:** confirm the connections between local, regional, national and international agencies

The three supporting objectives of Exercise Phoenix V are:

- **plan** for the evacuation of affected communities – the welfare arrangements regarding emergency shelter, water, food, counseling, etc.;
- **plan** for the continuance of essential services, including local government (Business Continuity Planning), lifeline utilities (service continuity regarding water, roads, energy, fuel, communications, disposal of sewage, refuse and debris), emergency services (service continuity), and government agencies (business continuance and support to CDEM Groups);
- **manage** public information.

3.2 Exercise Scenario

Movement of the Wellington Fault would block roads, destroy buildings and affect essential lifelines, such as water supply, sewerage reticulation, electricity, and telephone and radio services. In the vicinity of the fault, total destruction may occur. Evacuations may be needed, as well as an extensive public information programme. Significant economic, political and social issues could emerge. The exercise will consider all of these issues in the face of ambiguous information on the size, location, depth and timing of the earthquake.

3.3 Exercise Timeline

The following is the planning schedule for the exercise:

| Planning event | Due date | Responsible |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Specialist Group workshops for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local authorities Emergency Management officers, the 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 | 20 June 2008 | Group Emergency management Office (GEMO) and members of each Specialist Group |
| Review scenario | 26 June 2008 | Group Emergency Management Office |
| Confirm participation | 15 August 2008 | All exercise participating local authorities, organisations, etc |
| Specialist Groups feedback to GEMO (for Exercise Writer) | 15 August 2008 | Special Groups |
| Write control systems including umpire systems, evaluation forms | 15 September | Group Emergency Management Office |
| Write communications plan (telephone/fax, radio, email, web site) | 15 September | Group Emergency Management Office |
| Produce Exercise General Instruction | 15 September | Group Emergency Management Office |
| Public information plan: develop; publish | 29 September | Group Emergency Management Office GWRC Media Liaison |
| Exercise writing research, produce master sequence, detail messages, setting the scene for day 3 & 4 | 20 October 2008 | Group Emergency Management Office |
| Prepare recovery input for exercise | 20 October 2008 | Group Emergency Management Office |
| Set up and prepare venue | In the week prior to 12 November 2008 | Group Emergency Management Office |
| Brief exercise participants | 10 November | Group Emergency Management Office |
| Brief exercise control staff | 11 November | Exercise Director |
| Exercise Phoenix V – response for days 3 and 4 of the event | 12, 13 November | All |
| Exercise Phoenix V – recovery management at day of the event | 17 November | Group Emergency Management Office, Recovery Managers, Group Controllers |
| First debrief (internal) | 21 November 08 | 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 |
| Formal debrief | 10 December 08 | Attended by all participating emergency agencies to be confirmed by the Group Emergency Management Office |
| Exercise Phoenix V Report | 31 March 2009 | Group Emergency Management Office |

4. Conclusion

Exercise Phoenix V is clearly a very important means of testing the CDEM Group Plan. As the Plan is in the process of being reviewed, lessons learned from exercises such as Phoenix are invaluable and will be incorporated into the revised Group Plan.

5. Recommendations

That the CEG:

1. *receives the report; and*
2. *notes the contents.*

Report prepared by:

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 Office