

Report 10.127
Date 16 March 2010
File Z/01/04/19

Committee Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG)
Author Craig Hamilton, CDEM Group office

Exercise Phoenix VI evaluation report

1. Purpose

To inform the CEG about the outcome of and lessons learned from *Exercise Phoenix VI*, an exercise to test the Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Manager (WRCDEM) Group's arrangements for responding to a major disaster resulting from an earthquake in Wellington.

2. Background

Exercise Phoenix VI, carried out on 12 and 13 November 2009, was a repeat of the days 3 and 4 earthquake scenario used for the *Phoenix V* Tier 3 exercise in November 2008.

Exercise Phoenix VI included a tabletop exercise, a full activation of Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) and separate workshops to cover public information management and recovery.

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

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

- **Roles and responsibilities** - understand, develop and practise 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 VI* were:

- **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. Observations

The Wellington Group Office prepared a report of the exercise, which is attached as **Attachment 1**.

The tabletop component of the exercise took place on 12 November, providing an opportunity for agencies to consider the scenario and share with other agencies some of the realities of their agencies' capacity and capability to deal with the demands placed upon them. The feedback from the participants of the workshop has been positive and the more we understand the scenario, agencies' roles and responsibilities the better prepared we will be.

The public information workshop and recovery workshop provided further opportunity to discuss the complexities of the scenario and the demands each agency will face. This workshop proved to be very valuable and several measures have been taken to enhance our public information and media management arrangements

The activation of the Group EOC (GEOC) enabled volunteers to practise and consolidate the training that has been delivered throughout the year, with some considerable gains being achieved in Planning and Intelligence, Welfare, Geographic Information System (GIS) and Operations.

4. Conclusion

The participation of all of the emergency management agencies was enthusiastic and constructive, with significant commitment evident from a number of the individual organisations and other co-ordinating agencies. The considerable preparatory work undertaken by most participating agencies in the lead-up to *Exercise Phoenix VI* was a key element in the success of the exercise.

Based on the observations and feedback from those involved in the exercise, it is considered that the exercise aim and objectives have been met. A number of important operational learnings, within and across agencies, have resulted from this exercise, and capability development needs have been identified.

5. Recommendations

That the Co-ordinating Executive Group:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content.***

Report prepared by:

Craig Hamilton
Emergency Management Advisor
CDEM Group office

Attachment

- 1 *Exercise Phoenix VI* evaluation report