



News letter

August 2013

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Introducing Kate



We would like to welcome Kate Pishief to Taranaki CDEM. Kate is on a fixed-term contract until July 2014 while Lynsey Wilcox is on maternity leave. Kate has recently moved to New Plymouth from Christchurch where she worked as an Emergency Management

Advisor for Christchurch City Council from 2010. Prior to that Kate worked in CDEM in the Waikato Region. Kate is really looking forward to meeting you during her time at TEMO – and is hoping for a less eventful 12 months than the previous few years in Christchurch were!

Community Emergency Plans

We mentioned the Community Emergency Planning project in the previous Taranaki CDEM newsletter. The Oakura planning committee have been working hard in recent months and have now almost completed their plan! They have established a facebook page, an email address, and are currently looking at how to best promote the plan within the Oakura Community.

Planning is also well underway in Urenui and Inglewood, and more recently Tikorangi, Patea and Waverley have started work on their community emergency plans. It has been great to see the development of these plans, and even more encouraging is just how well each community is taking ownership of their plan. They all see the need for a plan in case they become isolated during an emergency event, or find that they are own their own for 3 days or more. They are identifying those in their community who may be more vulnerable than others – and therefore need a wee bit more assistance than others; and they

Congratulations to Lynsey

Congratulations to Lynsey and John on the arrival of their son Jowan George Myles Wilcox on Thursday 25 July. All are doing well.



are identifying what skills and resources they have in their communities – so they are not reliant on outside help. It's been great to see!

We will be continuing to work with communities throughout the Taranaki region in the coming months – and are looking forward to working with you to establish an emergency plan for your community. Keep an eye and ear out for when we are coming to your community!



Community Emergency Plan meeting in Patea.



Civil Defence Emergency Management
24 hours - 0800 900 049

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Wellington storm event

The night of 20 – 21 June 2013 saw large areas of the Wellington region affected by a storm event. Wind gusts of up to 200 km/h were recorded on Mt Kaukau and up to 140 km/h at Wellington airport, and 10 m swells were recorded in the Cook Strait. Emergency Services and Civil Defence personnel were saying that this was the worst storm event in the Wellington area since the Wahine storm in 1968! In fact the wind gusts of 200 km/h exceeded those recorded in the Wahine storm by 2 km/h.

It is estimated that approximately 30,000 homes and businesses in the area were without power at the peak of the event. Not only did residents find themselves without power, but many roads were closed, schools were closed, and the airport was closed, meaning that disruptions were experienced by many in the region.



Downed power lines and uprooted trees block a car's access in Wellington

Some homes were still without power up to a week after the event – something many of us think just wouldn't happen to us in this technological age – but disasters do happen, and we need to ensure that we have a plan in place to get ourselves, our families and our communities through.

Taranaki wind event 14 July



A section of State Highway 3 was closed between New Plymouth and Bell Block due to roofing iron blowing on to the highway during the wind event.

Sunday 14 July saw the Taranaki Region battered by wind gusts of up to 140 km/h in some areas. Although relatively shortlived, the wind storm disrupted travel plans for many during the first weekend of the school holidays, took out power to parts of the region, uprooted trees, and generally caused disruption across the region. Approximately 15,000 people were without electricity for much of the afternoon and evening, with Powerco calling in contractors from outside the region to fix some of the estimated 160 overhead power lines that were downed in the wind. New Plymouth airport was closed due to high winds, and SH3 was closed for a time between New Plymouth and Bell Block due to roofing iron from a nearby business blowing onto the highway. Events like this just go to show the importance of being prepared for the worst at any time. Remember to check your emergency survival items, ensure you have alternative cooking and heating sources, and check the batteries in your torches. You just never know when you might be left in the dark!

COOK STRAIT EARTHQUAKE

The magnitude 6.5 earthquake that occurred on Sunday 21 July rattled a number of people around the country into ensuring they had emergency survival items on hand. Felt as far away as Christchurch and Waikato, the earthquake, on one of the many faults beneath the Cook Strait, was classified as severe and caused damage to pockets of the Marlborough and Wellington regions. It closed down the Wellington CBD for a day, hampered travel in and out of the capital, and moved the town of Blenheim 5 cm to the east! It

is important to remember to have a household emergency plan, emergency survival items, and a getaway kit ready just in case. You never know when you might next need them. And it is better to be prepared and never need them, than to need them and not be prepared!



Damage to the Port of Wellington following the 6.5 magnitude earthquake



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Social media and emergency events

The storm event of 20-21 June saw the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) facebook page almost double in the number of people it was reaching with information when the number of Facebook “likes” increased to almost 10,000 overnight. Some Facebook postings were viewed by more than 60,000 Facebook users. This highlights just how important Facebook and other types of social media are in getting messages out to a large cross section of the community – as simple as just a few taps on a keyboard or keypad.



Here at TEMO we were very impressed with WREMO’s use of Facebook during the Wellington storm event. We wondered just how well utilised Facebook would be here in

Taranaki during an event. Following the wind storm on Sunday 14 July we can confirm that Facebook is one of the best ways of informing large numbers of the public about what is going on around the region (and one of the best ways to hear from people in our communities just how they are being affected).

Prior to the storm event we had 585 ‘likes’ – following the wind event we were up to 2,400. One of our posts reached over 23,000 people! We now have over 3,100 likes following on from the Cook Strait earthquake event on Sunday 21 July.



Join Taranaki Civil Defence on Facebook or follow us on twitter – so you too can be connected and kept up to date with the latest news and advice during emergency events.

www.facebook.com/TaranakiCivilDefence
and <http://twitter.com/TaranakiCD>

New documentation released by the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management (MCDEM)

Working with people with disabilities and with CALD communities:

To support its future publications and provide information for the civil defence emergency management sector, the Ministry has published two new documents with information about working with people with disabilities, and with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. These documents are available to view online on the front page of the MCDEM website

www.civildefence.govt.nz

Including people with disabilities

Including CALD communities



On 20 November 2013, the Taranaki CDEM Group will run Exercise Pahu (“Pahu” meaning to explode or pop). The exercise will involve the participation of multiple CDEM Groups, the National Crisis Management Centre, emergency services, critical suppliers, local businesses, and some community groups.

The aim of the exercise is to test the emergency response arrangements, both across the Taranaki CDEM Group and between nearby CDEM Groups, in the context of a Taranaki volcanic event. Unlike Taranaki Blowout which was a public education campaign, Exercise Pahu is focused on the agencies involved in the coordination of a response to a volcanic event. Scenario development started in early 2013 and exercise “participants” (mostly EOC staff) will be contacted shortly to ensure they are available on the day (20 November).

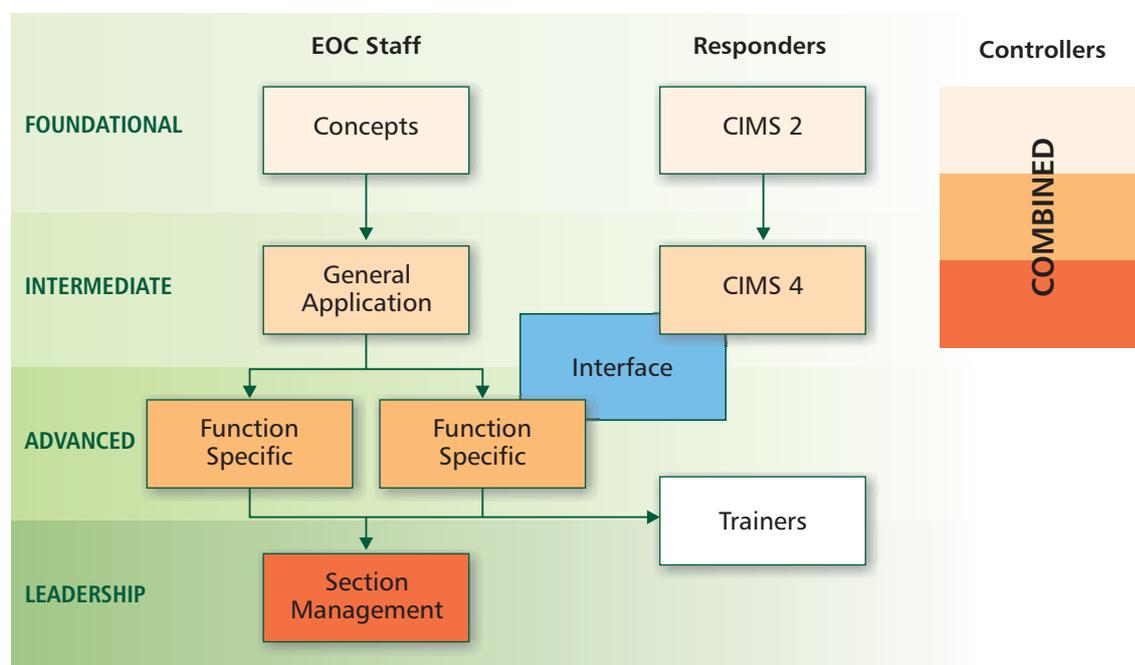
Training

Recently, Senior Emergency Management Office Shane Briggs has been busy on a number of national training and development committees. “This is an exciting time for emergency management,” he says.

“With recent recommendations from Christchurch earthquake and Pike River, review of national qualifications, funding arrangements for volunteer training, the pending release of the new CIMS material and the creation of the EOC Integrated Training Framework, there are many opportunities to look at the development of volunteers and staff.”

The EOC Integrated Training Framework (ITF) provides a platform for the development of nationally standardised training and guidelines. The goal is to raise Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) staff competency and enable Inter/intra regional Incident Management Teams, through the provision of national credentials.

EOC staff will be requested to attend these new courses as they roll out in 2014/15. The foundation course was recently run in Taranaki as part of the pilot.



The ITF pathway for both EOC staff and emergency service responders

Qualifications in the Rescue and Emergency Management sector are currently under review. These are being reviewed as part of NZQA's Mandatory Review process of all NZ qualifications. Senior Emergency Management Officer Shane Briggs is a member of the Governance Group who will be required to determine the suite of qualifications, ensure qualifications meet strategic direction, encourage collaboration and provide the final sign-off on behalf of the sector.



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