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Report to the Environment Committee
from Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager: Emergency Management

Emergency Management Training

1. Purpose

To advise the Committee about what training is in place for the various non-professional groups and organisations involved in Emergency Management.

2. Background

On 6 April 2000 the Environment Committee resolved that a report on the training of non-professional groups and organisations involved in Emergency Management be submitted to their next meeting.

3. Findings

3.1 Training Standards

Training is an integral part of the preparedness phase of emergency management. It is legislated for in key provisions of the Civil Defence Act 1983.

The National Civil Defence Plan (Part 12 – Training) acknowledges that the design and provision of civil defence training programmes throughout New Zealand is diverse in order to meet the individual requirements of all organisations and agencies with emergency management responsibilities. However, commonality of purpose and method are promoted through the promulgation of training standards, training manuals and the provision of other training resources as provided by the Ministry for Emergency Management.

Training in Emergency Management is delivered at three levels: national; regional; and local.

3.2 **National level training**

At the **national** level the Ministry for Emergency Management provides training for Emergency Management Officers/Civil Defence Officers, as well as other agencies and organisations. In the past the Ministry for Civil Defence, through the National Civil Defence School, was responsible for providing training courses such as emergency planning, community response, key agencies, welfare supervisors, civil defence managers, public information managers, headquarters operations, rescue instructors, recovery managers, community preparedness, assessors and controllers. Although the National Civil Defence School has recently been closed, the Ministry continues to provide training, but is now making use of the Police College in Porirua.

The Ministry for Emergency Management is accredited by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, under the provisions of the Education Act 1989, to provide education and training based on all the Unit Standards under the Civil Defence Sub Field of the New Zealand Qualifications Framework. Attendees could also elect to be assessed and credited with the appropriate unit standard. To be credited one has to meet all the requirements of the unit and be assessed as competent to the required standard.

3.3 **Regional level training**

At the **regional** level we develop, schedule, provide and/or facilitate training for our own volunteer staff. We train staff in general emergency management, communications, media liaison, headquarters operations and management, logistics, planning, co-ordinated incident management system (CIMS), basic rescue and first aid. We promote the NZQA unit standards where they are appropriate.

We are also regularly involved in making presentations on emergency management to businesses, resident associations, care groups, churches and other organisations as requested.

3.4 **Local level training**

At the **local** level training is provided to community groups, neighbourhood support groups, interested individuals, educational institutions, businesses, industry, emergency services, and other support groups. The main aim of the training is to increase awareness and to prepare communities to respond effectively in an emergency situation. Local Authorities also provide educational material and resources to educational institutions. Training is mostly response-orientated and where there are standards, they are adhered to. Community response is co-ordinated through joint exercises.

At all levels, training in Emergency Management often relies on support from volunteers and voluntary organisations. This can mean that there is a high turnover of participants or that participants are unable to attend regular training due to their employment commitments. Within the Regional Council we have good support from a number of Divisions who allow staff to participate in training and exercises for Emergency Management. Although these staff are highly motivated, we have to accept that it is volunteer labour. We rely on other people's good will and staff who are

employed because of skills other than response skills; we do not have a dedicated response team.

4. **Recommendation**

That the report be received and the information noted.

Report prepared by

Approved by

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