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Committee CDEM Group
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 Group

Exercise Phoenix VI

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

The purpose of the Phoenix exercises is to provide a realistic scenario in which employed and voluntary emergency management personnel and first responders at national, regional and local level can be brought together in a co-ordinated manner to test the Wellington Region's CDEM arrangements to respond to a major earthquake event.

Project Phoenix began in 1998 as a joint project between Auckland and Wellington. This is already the 11th year of this project. Participants normally include:

- CDEM Groups (Auckland, Hawke's Bay, Marlborough, Manawatu-Wanganui)
- Territorial authorities
- Emergency Services (Police, Fire and Ambulance services)
- Health providers (District Health Boards, Public Health, Medical Centres, General Practitioners)
- Other response agencies (Lifelines services, welfare agencies, government departments)

The exercises are based on a major disaster caused by a shallow earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale along the Wellington Fault with its epicentre located at Petone.

Over the past 10 years we have had good participation from all of the emergency management agencies. Participation has been 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 these exercises has been a key element in the success of the previous exercises. A number of important operational learnings, within and across agencies, have resulted. Capability development needs have been identified and, where possible, rectified.

3. Exercise Phoenix VI

Exercise Phoenix VI will be a repeat of the Phoenix V Tier 3 exercise that was held in accordance with the National Exercise Programme in November 2008. This exercise will include a tabletop exercise, a full activation of Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) and separate workshops to cover public information management and recovery.

Planning for the exercise is well underway, being led by the Wellington Region CDEM Group Office. The exercise will be conducted over two days (12 and 13 November 2009) and will follow the same scenario and injects as last year. The reason for repeating last year's exercise is a request from staff to have another opportunity to smooth out the issues and gaps that were identified during the 2008 exercise.

A table top exercise will be held on 12 November where all responding agencies will gather to discuss their respective roles and responsibilities during Day-3 of the event. This method will provide all the role-players with a chance to air their views, ask questions, test their own planning arrangements and build those vital relationships between participating agencies.

On 13 November 2009 the Group EOC will be fully activated (Day-4 of the event will be exercised with timed injects and challenges). Participating territorial authorities and the emergency services (Police, Fire, DHBs, etc) will also participate by activating their own EOCs or providing liaison personnel to the GEOC.

3.1 Exercise Aim and Objectives

The aim of Exercise Phoenix VI 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 will 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.

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 	10 July 2009	Group Emergency management Office (GEMO) and members of each Specialist Group
Confirm participation	15 August 2009	All exercise participating local authorities, organisations, etc
Produce Exercise General Instruction	30 September	Group Emergency Management Office
Arrange workshops for public information management and recovery	8 October 2009	Group Emergency Management Office

Public information plan: develop and publish	8 October 2009	Group Emergency Management Office GWRC Media Liaison
Write exercise, produce detailed messages, setting the scene for days 3 & 4	26 October 2009	Group Emergency Management Office
Set up and prepare venue	In the week prior to 12 November 2009	Group Emergency Management Office
Brief exercise participants	9 November	Group Emergency Management Office
Brief exercise control staff	10 November	Exercise Director
Exercise Phoenix VI – table top exercise using Day 3 scenario and injects	12 November	All
Exercise Phoenix VI – full activation of Group EOC – response relating to day 4 of the event	13 November	All
Exercise Phoenix VI – recovery workshop	13 November	Group Emergency Management Office, Recovery Managers
Exercise Phoenix VI – public information management workshop	13 November	Group Emergency Management Office, PI Managers
Debrief	13 November 09	Group EOC: (1500 – 1700 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
Exercise Phoenix VI Report	31 March 2010	Group Emergency Management Office

4. Conclusion

Exercise Phoenix VI is clearly a very important means of testing the region's response capability and 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 CDEM Group:

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

Report prepared by:

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