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Committee CDEM Group
Author Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager Wellington Region
CDEM Office

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 CDEM Group:

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

Report prepared by:

Rian van Schalkwyk
 Manager, Wellington Region CDEM Group
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