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Committee CDEM Group
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Group (CEG)

CDEM Group Debris Disposal Guidelines

1. Purpose

To seek CDEM Group approval for the CDEM Group Debris Disposal Guidelines.

2. Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG)

At its meeting on 6 October 2008, CEG endorsed the recommendations in this report. It also asked for progress reports on this issue.

3. Background

Major disasters during the last decade have raised the importance of addressing the disposal of debris resulting from a major disaster event, in particular from earthquakes and tsunamis. There have been numerous examples of debris hampering urban search and rescue and the treatment and movement of the injured, as well as the restoration of lifelines. Debris has severely impacted on sanitation and welfare arrangements due to road access being blocked.

Feedback obtained from reports revealed that the amount of debris generated was, in some cases, equivalent to months, if not years, of normal solid waste production in the affected areas. Landfill capacities were overwhelmed; roads were damaged by trucks hauling debris; dust produced by clearance annoyed the population and caused health problems for several months. Tonnes of waste were burned and some disposal sites were established without adequate environmental consideration (including disposal of hazardous wastes). The financial and environmental impacts have been devastating.

The importance of having a plan in place for disaster debris management has been exemplified by these recent experiences. There is no doubt that debris will be a major problem for the region after a major earthquake. It is expected

that there will be around 2.25 million tonnes of debris in the Wellington CBD alone.

Following discussions at the CEG meeting of 6 October 2008 it was proposed that territorial authorities use these debris disposal guidelines to develop their own debris disposal plans.

The draft CDEM Group Debris Disposal Guidelines are attached as **Attachment 1**. They are the first of their kind in New Zealand.

4. Guidelines

The guidelines have three parts: initial; mid term; and long-term response. They include examples of mapping, estimating and managing debris removal and disposal sites.

Now that the Group has developed these guidelines, it is important that each territorial authority incorporates debris disposal arrangements into their planning and their Standard Operating Procedures.

The development of these Guidelines has involved consultation with national and regional emergency management staff. They will be refined as more information comes to hand. .

5. Recommendations

That the CDEM Group:

1. **approves** the Wellington region CDEM Group Debris Disposal Guidelines; *and*
2. **requests** the territorial authorities in the region to use the CDEM Group Debris Disposal Guidelines to develop their own debris disposal plans.

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: CDEM Group Debris Disposal Guidelines