



## exercise tangaroa newsletter: 2 march 2010



20 October 2010

Further background information on the exercise can be found on the Ministry's website [www.civildefence.govt.nz](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz)

### Contacts

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**Welcome to our first update newsletter for Exercise Tangaroa.** Exercise planning is now underway at the national level. The Exercise Planning Team will be issuing monthly newsletters to give exercise participants an update on exercise preparations. This newsletter provides a background to the exercise and exercise planning progress to date.

**STOP PRESS:** The magnitude 8.8 earthquake in Chile on Saturday 27 February 2010 and subsequent Pacific-wide tsunami warning provided New Zealand with an opportunity to test its tsunami response. **Exercise Tangaroa** – the national tsunami exercise planned for 20 October 2010 will still go ahead. Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management Director, John Hamilton, said “whilst the exercise scenario is similar to the event in Chile, it will provide participants with plenty of opportunities to practice their response planning to a distant source tsunami warning, and to continue to improve procedures”.

### Exercising in New Zealand

**The National Exercise Programme (NEP)** was established in 2006 to provide a formal framework to exercising in New Zealand. The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) is the overall National Exercise Programme sponsor. The programme is owned collectively by the 16 CDEM Groups and managed through a representative governance group.

The programme recognises that exercising needs to occur at all levels of the CDEM structure. A four-tier approach to exercising has been adopted. Each tier is expected to be based on and informed by a consistent regime of planning, observation, evaluation, feedback and continuous improvement.

- Tier 1** Local exercise (individual organisation)
- Tier 2** Group exercise (with CDEM Group)
- Tier 3** Inter-Group exercise (across CDEM Groups, may include MCDEM)
- Tier 4** National exercise (New Zealand or part thereof, including central government)

### Background

The first Tier 4 exercise under the NEP was **Exercise Capital Quake**, which took place in November 2006 and tested arrangements for responding to an earthquake in Wellington.

The second Tier 4 exercise, **Exercise Ruamoko**, was based on a volcanic eruption in Auckland and

was conducted in two phases over four months from November 2007 to March 2008.

Exercise Tangaroa is the third Tier 4 exercise to be held in accordance with the NEP and focuses on the national response to a distant source tsunami warning. The exercise will be an operational/functional exercise held on **20 October 2010**.

### Agency participation

Exercise Tangaroa is led by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM), and will be supported by all 16 CDEM Groups, central government departments, emergency services, lifeline utilities, and other agencies as appropriate.

### Exercise planning underway

An exercise planning team has been established with representatives from:

- MCDEM
- CDEM Groups
- Territorial Authorities
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- NZ Police
- NZ Fire Service
- NZ Defence Force
- GNS Science
- Ministry of Social Development
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ministry of Transport
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Ministry of Health.

The planning team held its initial planning meeting on 17 February 2010 and a follow up meeting on 24 February 2010.

The Exercise Coordinating Instruction, which sets out the aim, objectives, scope and exercise scenario, will be issued on 5 March 2010 and published on the Ministry's website.



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### Exercise Tangaroa overview

The aim of Exercise Tangaroa is to test New Zealand's all of nation arrangements for responding to a national tsunami warning.

A great deal of work has been done to enhance tsunami preparedness and response in New Zealand over the last few years. This exercise presents an opportunity to assess this planning at the national, regional and local levels and includes, but is not limited to, the Tsunami Risk Management Programme work including:

- National Warning System
- *National Tsunami Advisory and Warning Plan: Supporting Plan [SP 01/09]*
- Tsunami source modelling
- *Mass Evacuation Planning Director's Guideline for Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups [DGL 07/08]*
- *Tsunami Evacuation Zones Director's Guideline for Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups [DGL 08/08]*
- *Tsunami Signage: Technical Standard [TS01/08]*
- *Tsunami public education brochure*
- Tsunami threat levels

### Getting involved

If your agency would like to participate in the exercise:

- establish an exercise planning team
- determine your agency's level of participation in the exercise, and
- get in touch with the Exercise Coordinators Jo Guard or Tane Woodley at MCDEM to advise them who your agency exercise contact person is and what level of participation your agency will take on.

### Exercise management and writing tips

A structured approach to exercise development and writing is important whether the exercise is a small single agency exercise, or a large multi-agency exercise.

The Exercise Planning Team will use the *CDEM Exercises, Director's Guideline for Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups [DGL 010/09]* to provide a common approach to exercise planning. This document can provide the basis for your agency's exercise development.

You are welcome to download this, along with the Tsunami Risk Management Programme documents listed above, from the [publications page](#) of the Ministry's website.

### Log of learnings

The Exercise Planning Team has established a 'Log of Learnings' to capture the process issues and gaps as they are identified during the exercise preparation process. Previous major exercises have highlighted the importance of capturing these 'as you go' rather than assuming they will all be remembered and caught in the post-exercise review processes.

You are encouraged to establish such a log within your own agency to maximise the learning opportunities provided by the exercise.

### Regional tsunami seminars

MCDEM and GNS Science will host a series of regional tsunami seminars during April and May 2010. Seminars will explain the changes contained in the revised National Tsunami Advisory and Warning Plan as well as introduce further information enhancements that are expected to be adopted by the middle of 2010 and will be applied in the exercise. An introduction to Exercise Tangaroa will also be given and we will explain how these new developments will feature in the exercise.



### Key dates

#### March 2010

- 10 Exercise Planning Team meeting
- 15 EMIS conference (Exercise Tangaroa introduction will feature at the end of the conference programme)

#### April 2010

- 14 Tsunami Seminar (Tauranga)
- 15 Tsunami Seminar (Auckland)
- 16 Tsunami Seminar (Whangarei)
- 27 Tsunami Seminar (Palmerston North)
- 28 Tsunami Seminar (Wellington)

*Note: Tsunami seminars are planned for the South Island and dates will be notified shortly.*

- 29 Exercise Planning Team meeting