

Working party on integrated planning for earthquake response – 2001 report



NZSEE 2002
Conference

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ABSTRACT: The focus of the Working Party is on promoting the need for key organisations to be better prepared to respond following a major earthquake, and in particular highlighting the pre- and post-event roles of Society members. This work involves liaison with the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, the Earthquake Commission, the Building Officials' Institute of New Zealand and a range of territorial authorities. The Working Party is the vehicle by which the Society's strategic direction *Promoting the need for a higher level of preparation to respond to major New Zealand earthquakes* is addressed.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

The following Discussion Paper summarises the current NZSEE proposals regarding Priority Response Agreements and a Post-earthquake Register of Engineers. Developing the earlier concepts into the form outlined in the paper has represented the main focus of the Working Party's activities during 2001. This Discussion Paper is being promulgated via the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management to the new regional Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups, and from there to the operators of critical facilities.

A watching brief has also been kept on the proposals by MCDEM and NZ Fire Service to develop a national urban search and rescue (USAR) capability. The Working Party strongly endorses the proposal for three USAR Task Forces in Palmerston North, Christchurch and Auckland, each having a working and response relationship with at least two engineers with specific USAR training.

The Working Party has also prepared a seminar series on the role of engineers in emergency response. This seminar was given initially in Auckland, with subsequent meetings to be held in Christchurch and Wellington.

The members of the Working Party during 2001 were:

David Brunson (convener) Spencer Holmes Ltd

James Dance New Zealand Fire Service

John Gardiner IPENZ

Andrew King BRANZ

David Middleton EQC

Kevin O'Kane Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management

Richard Sharpe Beca Carter Hollings and Ferner

Bruce Shephard Seismic Consultants Ltd

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The continuing contribution of the members of the Working Party and others from related committees is gratefully acknowledged.