

Project Phoenix: preparing to respond to a major earthquake in Wellington

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ABSTRACT: Exercises in July 2001 involve Auckland and Wellington local authorities, and the Ministry. They build upon past activities that examined the basis for mutual support in the event of the 'design event' earthquake in Wellington. The exercises will simulate the gathering, transport, and distribution of supplies and personnel in the critical period after the event. Much of the value of this activity has already been collated from a series of workgroups that have examined immediate demands and the means of meeting them. The exercise programme is also being linked to USAR and health initiatives to establish and test coordination systems. Phoenix is also providing a catalyst for revisiting the existing guidelines for exercise development.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background*

Since 1997 the Wellington and Auckland Regional Councils along with respective territorial authorities, have been developing the logistical planning and operational capacity of the two regions to address the consequences of such a scenario.

Exercise Phoenix I explored Auckland’s ability to contribute to Wellington, whilst Phoenix II reviewed Wellington’s logistics requirements. Exercise Phoenix III will draw the prior planning together, and with the participation of the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, will provide a limited test of capability at both national and regional levels.

Participants recognise that the bulk of the benefit to the CDEM community will be gained through pre-exercise planning work, that

- assesses the ability of key agencies to respond to an event of such magnitude
- determines shortfalls in processes and resources and
- develops plans to address these deficiencies.

Planned exercise activities over the reserved three day period of 23/25 July 2002 will include table-top discussions, activation of operations centres, and practical field exercises.

1.2 *Scenario*

Exercise Phoenix III is based on a scenario whereby a shallow R7.8 earthquake with its epicentre under Petone, has caused widespread damage through the Wellington region as well as Nelson, Marlborough, Wairarapa, Horowhenua and Manawatu. Approximately 530 people are dead and major damage has been caused to the infrastructure of the whole region. Wellington is isolated, badly damaged and in need of external help.

1.3 *Aims and Objectives*

The overall aim of Exercise Phoenix III is:

To improve planning for management of the initial logistics support required in response to a major earthquake in Wellington.

Each of the three main participants has individual objectives associated with the overall aim, which will be coordinated during exercise play

1.3.1 *Shared Objective & Outcome*

Develop a Memorandum of Understanding between Wellington and Auckland regions setting out the basis by which mutual disaster aid will be planned and provided for.

1.3.2 *Authorities of the Auckland regional area*

Test the strategies, plans and framework arrangements for the provision and co-ordination of mutual disaster aid and support activities, with particular focus on

- The establishment of reliable-path alternate communication links for data and voice
- The co-ordination of domestically sourced aid
- The establishment of a processing point for international assistance and aid to provide reception and accreditation and the co-ordination of onward movement
- The reception and management of injured persons
- The reception and management of displaced persons
- The establishment of a public information group to provide interim dissemination of information while the impact area is incapacitated

1.3.3 *Authorities of the Wellington regional area*

To establish robust processes for the supply of critical external resources to fulfil three urgent response tasks for public safety and confidence:

- Urban Search and Rescue.
- Treatment of the injured
- Provision of potable water.

1.3.4 *Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM)*

To evaluate MCDEM's ability to meet Part 9 (Logistics) of the National Civil Defence Plan (NCDP) including MCDEM processes and resources for:

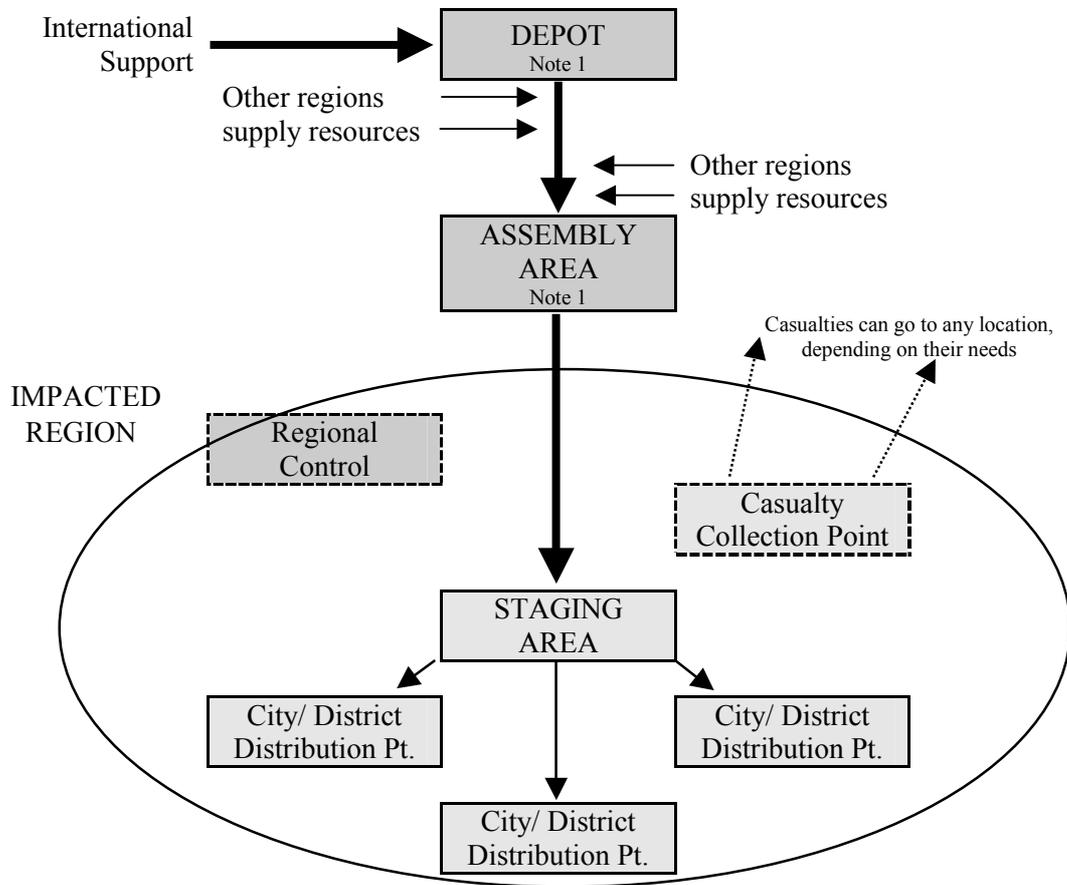
- Planning and arranging for Government agency support to local government responders (filling the gaps)
- Planning and arranging for international agency support to local government responders (filling the gaps)
- Managing logistics at a national level
- Monitoring and evaluating the response effort

1.3.5 *Exercise Parameters*

ODESC(E) and other central government coordination measures will not be exercised as part of Phoenix III. The exercise will assume that a regional civil defence declaration in Wellington will be replaced by a national civil defence emergency covering most of the nation. As part of exercise play, Auckland will act to deliver pre-arranged critical items once the size of the event is known.

2 THE LOGISTICS CHAIN

This represents the key elements of logistics coordination as depicted in the exercise.



3 SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Wellington Location		Auckland Location	
Local EOC activations Wgtn region as control point	Tue 23 July 2002	Control team only	Execute pre-planned Support response Detailed PI plan
USAR consideration			
Water tabletop Medical discussion Ministry of Health	Wed 24 July	Establish Akl depot and staging point Establish inbound Process point Medevac reception point	Prepare detailed Logistics plan (EOC activated) Detailed Medevac plan NZ Red Cross Enquiry
National EOC activation WRC Region activation Control point in Manawatu?			
	Thur 25 July	Prepare detailed displaced persons Plan	
	Fri 26 or Sat 27 July	Full-scale foreign team USAR	

