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**Committee**       **CDEM Group**  
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## **Exercise Capital Quake '06**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the CDEM Group about Exercise Capital Quake, an exercise developed to test New Zealand's all-of-nation arrangements for responding to a major disaster resulting from an earthquake in Wellington.

### **2. Background**

The National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan came into effect on 1 July 2006. On approving the Plan, Cabinet directed the Officials Committee for Domestic and External Security Co-ordination (ODESC) to prepare a report for Cabinet on the feasibility of mounting appropriate disaster preparedness exercises for Wellington and Auckland.

The ODESC report to Cabinet proposed that a national disaster preparedness exercise, based on a Wellington earthquake, be undertaken.

Capital Quake will be an all-of-nation exercise conducted at local, regional and national levels, and will be jointly led by the Greater Wellington Regional Council and the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM), with support from other government agencies as required. It will be conducted over two days. The exercise will test the importance of understanding what the responsibilities are between central, regional and local government.

As with other national level exercises, an officials' steering committee to oversee development of the exercise was formed from interested agencies. The committee is chaired by the Director of MCDEM. A working group was formed from participating organisations to oversee the development of exercise material, the co-ordinating instruction and respective general instructions. The Manager, Emergency Management of Greater Wellington is serving on both the steering committee and the working group. Marshall Hyland of Porirua City is also a member of the working group.

Participating agencies and local authorities will fund their own costs. Greater Wellington will fund the provision of exercise support (catering and consumables) at the Group Emergency Operations Centre.

### **3. Exercise Aims and Objectives**

#### **3.1 Aim**

The aim of Exercise Capital Quake 06 is to test New Zealand's all-of-nation arrangements for responding to a major disaster resulting from an earthquake in Wellington.

#### **3.2 Objectives**

There are three core objectives:

- ***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 Plan (National and Group) arrangements in standard processes for all participating agencies
- ***Connections:*** confirm the connections between local, regional, national and international agencies

### **4. Scenario**

The scenario is based on days one and two following a 7.6 Richter magnitude movement on the Wellington fault line. This scenario has been used a number of times over the last eight years for Project Phoenix exercises conducted by the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

A normal day in Wellington consists of more than 30,000 inner-city residents with approximately 60,000 commuters travelling from areas around the Region into the city, increasing the numbers in the city to more than 200,000 people. There are more than 700 multi-level buildings in Wellington adding to the already vulnerable infrastructure.

With widespread damage through the Wellington Region as well as upper South Island, and other areas in the lower North Island it is regarded as a 'Central New Zealand' earthquake.

Major damage will be caused to the infrastructure of Wellington, Hutt Valley, Porirua and Kapiti areas.

Aftershocks of varying magnitudes from M6.5 to smaller M5.5 will continue constantly and are expected to continue for many days, weeks, and even months.

Severe fault rupture damage will be caused in Wellington City. Several buildings will collapse and many tons of debris and glass will cover inner CBD streets. The violent horizontal and vertical motions that will last for about one minute will also cause widespread liquefaction and slumping in Wellington City, Hutt Valley and Porirua.

Severe damage will occur around the harbour perimeter and the Wellington CBD and the wharves in the harbour will be severely damaged.

Consequences from the impact are:

- Collapsed buildings – trapped people
- Many people injured
- Road access blocked – cities/districts isolated
- Lifeline services severely damaged/destroyed
- Fires following the earthquake
- Scarce resources - human, equipment, material

This event gives rise to the following critical community needs: urban search and rescue, treatment and movement of the injured, welfare, health, sanitation and the restoration of lifelines.

## **5. Exercise Management**

Management of Exercise Capital Quake '06 is being co-ordinated by a Working Group with representatives of the Wellington CDEM Group, MCDEM and Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC).

The role of the Exercise Working Group is to determine the functions and arrangements to be exercised, and organisations required to participate in the exercise, and assist with the engagement of organisations whose participation is required.

The Working Group will also review and approve key documentation including the Communications Strategy, the Exercise Co-ordinating Instruction and the Master Sequence.

Kestrel Group Ltd has been engaged to co-ordinate the preparation, delivery and evaluation of the exercise.

Cluster/sector agencies identified in the National Plan with co-ordinating responsibilities will also be involved in the exercise development phase.

## **6. Exercise Development timeline**

Exercise Capital Quake '06 will take place on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 November, with the earthquake occurring early in the morning of the 14 November.

Participation in the exercise is principally during working hours on both days. However the National Crisis Management Centre and the Wellington CDEM Group Emergency Operations Centres will be operational overnight.

The Exercise Working Group is responsible for executing a planned schedule of events according to the following timeline:

<b>Planning event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Briefing Conference I	4 September	All participating local authorities, organisations etc
Working Group of key sector cluster lead co-ordinating agencies	11 September	Key sector cluster lead co-ordinating agencies Working Group
Meetings with individual sectors/cluster	18 September onwards	Key sector cluster lead co-ordinating agencies Working Group
Working Group key sector / cluster lead co-ordinating agencies: Preparing Exercise General Instructions	29 September	All participating local authorities, organisations etc
Planning Conference II	16 October	All participating local authorities, organisations etc
Final version of Exercise General Instruction	31 October	Kestrel Group Ltd
Final briefing workshop and distribution of documents	6 November	All participating local authorities, organisations etc
Exercise Capital Quake 06	14 & 15 November	ALL
Evaluation and Debriefing Processes	Friday 24 November	Participating organisations
Final exercise review workshop	15 December	All participating local authorities, organisations etc

## **7. Conclusion**

Exercise Capital Quake is clearly a very important means of reviewing and renewing interest in the serious problem of New Zealand's all-of-nation arrangements for responding to a major disaster resulting from an earthquake in Wellington.

The major advantage for all participating agencies is to understand and practice the respective roles and responsibilities of local, regional and national agencies in response to the exercise scenario and what the connections are between local, regional, national and international agencies.

Another advantage for participating agencies is the amount of planning, relationship building and preparation work to have staff, business continuity plans, operating procedures and operations' centres effectively in place before the exercise itself. This lead up time avails itself as an opportunity to identify obvious gaps in emergency preparedness and to address serious shortfalls.

## **8. Recommendation**

*That the CDEM Group:*

1. *Receives the report; and*
2. *Note the contents.*

Report prepared by:

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