

## Central Hawke's Bay District Council – Report

**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Regulatory Services Manager  
**DATE:** 1 April 2010  
**FILE REF:** CD 1-1700  
**SUBJECT:** **COMMUNITY CIVIL DEFENCE PREPAREDNESS**

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### 1.0 SUMMARY

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 requires Central Hawke's Bay District Council to have and maintain a Civil Defence organisation.

Central Hawke's Bay is divided into 28 sectors with each sector based on a community of interest. These Sectors are: Tikokino, Ongaonga, Ashley Clinton, Ashcott, Takapau, Hatuma, Femmington, Te Uri, Wimbledon Road, Cooks Tooth, Te Paraehi, Porangahau, Wallingford, Wanstead, Oueroa, Long Range, Blackhead, Aramoana, Pourerere, Omakere, Mangakuri, Kairakau, Elsthorpe, Waipukurau, Waipawa, Argyll, Patangata, and Otane.

Each sector has a Civil Defence Emergency Centre Manager who is trained to manage a local response to an emergency incident. Leading up to and/or during an emergency incident, these people are the 'eyes and ears' of the Civil Defence organisation and report to the District Emergency Operations Centre. The EOC manages the over-all coordination of Civil Defence for the Central Hawke's Bay District.

Council is in the process of further engaging with Civil Defence Emergency Centre Managers and communities to enhance knowledge and levels of preparedness for Civil Defence and Emergency Management response.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

#### *THAT*

The Community Civil Defence Preparedness report be received.

#### **REASON**

**The Objective of the decision will contribute to the following Community Outcomes:**

- Safe and secure communities
- A strong, prosperous and thriving economy

### 3.0 BACKGROUND

#### **Informing and Educating Communities**

Residents of Central Hawke's Bay are provided numerous opportunities by which to ensure they are prepared to respond to emergency management incidents. Information is conveyed through Local, Regional (Group) and National initiatives such as:

- Get Ready Get Through (National Advertising Campaign)
- What's the Plan Stan (National Education Programme – School Curriculum)
- Action Reaction (Hawke's Bay Primary & Secondary Schools)
- Disaster Awareness Week (Hosted by Local Supermarkets)
- Radio Campaigns (Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Group – 12 Month Campaign)
- Community Meetings
- Presentations
- Council Page – CHB Mail (Articles)
- Press Releases (Leading up to Exercises and Following Incidents)

An auditable level of service for the activity of Emergency Management is 'to educate and inform the community' with a satisfaction of >60% satisfaction.

The results of the survey conducted in July 2009 returned a satisfaction level of 86%.

Survey results suggest that the public are informed of actions to be taken in the event of an emergency; however there is some concern as to how many have actually taken steps to ensure they are prepared to look after themselves, for up to three days or longer, as may be required given the nature and impact of any event.

While Council is responsible for maintaining a Civil Defence organisation, the responsibility for being prepared, rest with individuals.

#### **Community Meetings**

All communities face unique challenges which impact their ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies and necessitate different strategies for preparedness and response.

Common preparedness issues include:

- Geographic isolation
- Communication capabilities
- Delayed assistance
- A heavy reliance on volunteers
- Availability of emergency services (Fire/Police/Health)

In recognising challenges faced by communities, and expectations of residents in the event of an emergency incident, Council is in the process of scheduling community meetings with all civil defence sectors.

The desired outcome is to engage and enhance the participation of residents in developing a 'Community Emergency Preparedness Plan' thereby informing and training local populations how to prepare for natural disasters and emergencies, reducing the community's vulnerability to specific hazards.

Sector meetings will be held with all coastal communities (nine) by October 2010. The first meeting is scheduled to take place at Blackhead Beach.

While the goal is to develop community preparedness plans for all communities, the initial focus on coastal communities is due to the fact that an opportunity exists for these plans to be tested as part of a National Civil Defence Tier Four Exercise, Exercise Tangaroa, which will take place 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

Meetings with all other sectors will be scheduled after the National Exercise.

### **Training Initiatives**

As part of community preparedness planning, existing and new CDC Managers will be provided opportunities to participate in Civil Defence courses throughout 2010. Primarily the focus will be with coastal communities in the lead up to 'Exercise Tangaroa' as this will enable a testing of roles and responsibilities.

### **Communication Networks**

The Central Hawke's Bay District Council owns and operates a 'voice' radio telephone network. Council also owns a duplex repeater system that operates from a purpose built complex situated on Amblethorn Station, Omakere.

A radio repeater upgrade was carried out in 1998 with the installation of the new T800 repeaters. Shortly after this upgrade an intermittent 'interference' started to occur on both the ES4 and ES134 channels. The 'fault' manifested itself as a prolonged series of clicking type noises.

The net effect of this interference is that as a result of Civil Defence Centre (CDC) Managers turning the volume down on sets, weekly radio telephone checks fell by the wayside due to a lack of response.

Radio telephones, while extremely useful, can also be limited in effectiveness due to the fact that only one 'line' can be used at any one time, and they rely upon an uninterrupted power supply. To minimise the risk of loss of communication, some CDC Managers have been issued with 12 volt adaptors that will enable a power supply to be maintained from vehicle cigarette lighter sockets or a 12V car battery. This is not an optimum solution however in that it requires the disabling of a vehicle that may be required for other purposes during an emergency event.

A review of the radio telephone communications network will be conducted to advise Council of equipment upgrades and/or replacement that may be required to rectify the existing fault, qualify number and location of radios required, provide a back-up power supply to users, and enable the re-instigation of weekly radio checks.

### **Meeting Community Expectations**

In the past six months Council has activated its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in response to three Tsunami Events, and one storm event. The capabilities of the EOC were also tested in November 2009 as part of Exercise BayVac, and will be tested and assessed as part of Exercise Tangaroa.

Council's ability to meet community expectations during an emergency relies not only on the competency of emergency management personnel, but also on the immediate availability of technological equipment required within an EOC. As a result of recent events and exercises, it has become increasingly apparent that there is an urgent need to review the layout and functionality of the EOC to identify immediate technological requirements, and other such improvements as may be required.

#### **4.0 OPTIONS**

That the Community Civil Defence Preparedness report be received.

#### **5.0 STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002  
Local Government Act 2002

#### **6.0 STRATEGIC LINKS**

- Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Group Plan
- Long Term Council Community Plan

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