



HAZARDS UPDATE NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2003

Hazards Research and Emergency Management News and Information

This is the second edition of *Hazards Update* as an 'e-newsletter'.

If there is anyone that you think should be added to the mailing list, or if you would prefer a hard copy in the future, please contact Rylee Pettersson.

Current Projects

Internet Portal for the Region's natural hazards

This financial year an internet portal is being developed. This project resulted from feedback from the Stakeholder Needs Analysis project carried out last financial year.

The aim is to create a website (hosted by Greater Wellington) that people can visit to find out what information exists about natural hazards in the Region. The information will be from many different organisations throughout the Region. The search fields will be by geographic area, hazard-type and document-type (e.g. map, report).

During November and December we will be visiting organisations that hold information about natural hazards in the Wellington Region so that we can build up our database of hazard information.

If you have any feedback on the project or know of hazard information that exists within your organisation and you have not received a letter from us, please get in touch by either calling Rylee Pettersson on 04 384 5708 or email rylee.pettersson@gw.govt.nz

Flooding fact sheets

Two more fact sheets on flooding are currently being written. These will cover flooding in Kapiti and the Hutt River. Look out for these in March or April 2004.

General hazard fact sheet

We are in the process of preparing a fact sheet that describes what natural hazards and technological hazards actually are, and how they are defined and characterised. This will be a useful fact sheet to have at the beginning of the series.

CDEM Group Plan

The strategic part of the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group Plan is currently being developed. An analysis of the hazards and risks we face is being carried out. This includes identifying the consequences of the hazards and the strategic and operational issues that need to be addressed by the CDEM Group Plan.

A risk analysis workshop is to be held on 9 December at GW to discuss this process.

For more information about the CDEM Group Plan please contact Debbie Cunningham on 04 384-5708 or debbie.cunningham@gw.govt.nz

CDEM Group Projects

The CDEM Group are working on projects for:

- road access restoration
- regional reconnaissance
- emergency communications
- commuter management during an emergency
- external logistics supply
- urban search and rescue
- public education
- medical logistics
- emergency fuel supplies

If you would like to know more about a specific project contact Rian van Schalkwyk at the CDEM Group Office on 04 384-5708 or rianvan@gw.govt.nz

Emergency water supply project

A Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan for emergency water supply has been developed. The strategy provides for investigation of alternate methods of supplying water, continuing

work to strengthen water supply networks, and community education.

A fact sheet has been developed that explains why storing water is one of the most important actions you can do to be prepared for an emergency.

To get a copy of the fact sheet, or for more information about the metropolitan emergency water supply project please contact Debbie Cunningham.

Recent Reports and Publications

Re-branded fact sheet series

We have re-branded all of our existing fact sheets into a consistent format. We now have sets of 14 fact sheets covering:

- Earthquakes
- Wellington Earthquakes
- Hutt Valley Earthquakes
- Kapiti Earthquakes
- Porirua Earthquakes
- Tsunami hazard
- Landslide hazard
- Hazardous substances
- Petroleum hazards
- Wildfire hazard
- Meteorological hazards

- Climate change
- Flooding
- Flooding in the Wairarapa

If you would like a set, please contact either Rylee Pettersson or Debbie Cunningham (contact details on previous page).

Recent events

Natural Hazards Awareness Week

Natural Hazards Awareness Week was held from the 6 – 10 October to coincide with the World Natural Hazard Awareness day on 9 October.

This year the theme of the week was “Store more water for longer.” Activities carried out during the week included articles in local newspapers, radio advertising and interviews, and the release of the emergency water fact sheet. Over 1000 emergency water fact sheets were distributed during this week. If you don’t have a copy of this fact sheet and would like one, see the article on ‘Emergency water supply project’ for contact details.

Flooding at Paekakariki

On the evening of Friday 3 October, very heavy rain caused a flash flood carrying tonnes of debris to surge into the low-lying township of Paekakariki. A culvert that was blocked with silt and debris forced the floodwaters and debris over the road and into the township.

The Kapiti Coast District declared a state of emergency that lasted almost a week.

This event should serve to remind us that:

- Our Region is vulnerable to natural and technological hazards that can happen at any time
- Emergency response may happen in a relatively short time frame but community recovery takes much longer



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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