



**National Emergency
Management Agency**
Te Rākau Whakamarumarū

10 February 2021

Ref: 4340568

To: Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) Chairs
Cc: CDEM Group Managers, NEMA Senior Leadership Team and Regional Partnerships staff

Ngā mihi o te tau hou ki a koutou katoa,

I hope you and your whānau were able to enjoy some well-earned rest over the holiday period.

2020 will go down in history as a tough year. Tough globally, tough across the motu, and tough for our emergency management system.



Floods and drought proved challenging in many regions across Aotearoa. The follow up to the Whakaari eruption is complex and will take some time to work through. The ongoing response to COVID-19 will remain a sharp priority for the foreseeable future.

I sense that ka mua ka muri (walking backwards into the future) may prove to be a defining theme in 2021.

Later this month we will remember those who died, were bereaved, injured or endured hardship, as well as honour those who helped in the aftermath of and recovery from the Christchurch Earthquake. Ten years on since that devastating event, we have learnt a lot. However, there remains much to be done as an emergency management sector.

Creating space in 2021 to further address the recommendations to improve the emergency management system identified in the 2017 Ministerial Review into New Zealand's responses to natural disasters and other emergencies (TAG) and what we've further learnt since then, continues to be a priority for NEMA.

Minister for Emergency Management, Hon Kiri Allan, spent last week at Waitangi as part of official Waitangi celebrations. This included attendance at the National Iwi Chairs Forum and meeting with Māori Wardens. A focus of this visit was how the government can continue to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.



Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern and Hon Kiri Allan at Waitangi celebrations



Recognising the role iwi Māori play in emergency management and further integrating te āo Māori into emergency management is another key focus for NEMA during the year ahead.

You can also expect to see NEMA working to ensure that our emergency management systems are geared towards inclusive and community-led

responses.

The National Emergency Management Conference in May will provide an opportunity to further explore these areas of focus. Further details on the conference, “Building Safe and Resilient Communities: The Future of the Emergency Management System”, follow below.

Thank you for the patience that you have shown in allowing NEMA time to transition to our new arrangements. We have grown our footprint to 100 FTEs, strengthened our leadership bench and reorganised our structure to support our role as the emergency management system kaitiaki, operator and assurer.

Expect to see more of us out and about this year as we build on the momentum we’ve achieved with the initial investment the government has made in NEMA.

Ngā mihi,

Carolyn Schwalger
Te Tumu Whakahaere, Te Rākau Whakamarumarū
Chief Executive, National Emergency Management Agency

Updates:

Save the date: National Emergency Management Conference 2021

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is pleased to announce preparations for the 2021 National Emergency Management Conference have commenced. Registrations will open in March.

Being held on 26-27 May at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington, the conference will include the NEMA Awards Dinner on the evening of 26 May.

The theme this year is “Building Safe and Resilient Communities: The Future of the Emergency Management System”.

We're assembling a great programme with an interesting list of speakers. This is definitely an event you won't want to miss!

The conference will include sessions designed to support emergency management professionals. A range of meetings and workshops will be held both sides of the conference to make the most of opportunities for networking and discussion.

The conference, which had been an annual event, has been deferred for the last two years; in 2019 while the focus was on establishing the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and last year due to COVID-19. We are very much looking forward to the opportunity to bring emergency management professionals together to discuss topics of mutual interest, network and celebrate advances in this important field of work.

Nominations for the Emergency Management Awards will open on 31 March 2021. You can see more about the Awards here: <https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/cdem-awards/>

For more information email: NEMConference@nema.govt.nz

NEMA Senior Leadership Recruitment

Applications for the NEMA Deputy Chief Executive (Emergency Management) role have now closed, with the short-listing process underway this week. The substantive Chief Executive role has also been advertised by the Public Service Commission, with applications closing on 21 February.

Contact: Alan Cassidy (Deputy Chief Executive, Strategic Enablement)
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10,000 registered and active uses of NEMA's online e-learning portal takatū

In 2020 online learning took off across many industries and sectors including emergency management. NEMA's online e-learning portal takatū has recently reached the impressive milestone of over 10,000 registered and active users. We are also in the process of introducing online unit standard assessments. To date there have been over 670 enrolments in the level 3 assessment from over 20 organisations, spanning national agencies, regional CDEM Groups and private businesses.

Eight new level 4 and level 5 unit standards in Intelligence, Planning, Operations and Logistics are now registered on the NZ Qualifications Framework. These CIMS function-specific unit standards build on the level 3 basic CIMS knowledge and level 4 operational CIMS knowledge and application. The sector has identified that a further seven unit standards should be developed to complete the CIMS pathway. The assessment that occurs to achieve unit standards helps to ensure greater consistency and grows capability across the Emergency Management workforce.

The new NEMA/CDEM designed and developed Coordination Centre Intelligence course and Planning course packages were successfully piloted in January in Hamilton and Tauranga, with attendees from Waikato, Auckland and Bay of Plenty CDEM Groups and St John. These CIMS function courses are part of the Integrated Training Framework (ITF) suite developed to lift capability and improve consistency. The course packages will be released in February enabling CDEM Groups to roll out training.

Contact: Gill Genet (Manager, System Capability) Gill.Genet@nema.govt.nz

NZ EMAT third training course begins this month

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is gearing up to run the third New Zealand Emergency Management Assistance Team (NZ EMAT) training course from Sunday 28 February to Friday 12 March 2021 at Camp Wainui in Wainuiomata.

21 candidates will attend as part of the EMAT selection process, along with NEMA staff and New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel who will attend as course participants. Course delivery is a significant effort for NEMA and Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) over the two weeks with wider support from other agencies.

The course is focused on ensuring the effectiveness of NZ EMAT members to support and assist Controllers and Incident Management Teams through developing interpersonal skills, including coaching, leadership and problem-solving approaches. The course provides a capability step for the sector and is a significant personal development opportunity for individuals, while strengthening the capability of participants' home agencies.

The establishment of NZ EMAT was the Government's response to the recommendations to establish a 'fly-in team' in the Technical Advisory Group's 2018 report on better responses to natural disasters and other emergencies. To date, EMAT has been engaged on deployments assisting with West Coast flooding, Southland flooding and in support of the National Crisis Management Centre and Queenstown EOC's for COVID-19.

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NEMA hosts first Tupu Tai intern

NEMA was delighted to host a summer intern as part of the Tupu Tai Pasifika Public Sector Internship Programme from the 2020/21 intake. This is the first year NEMA has been part of this initiative.

Joshua Alefosio-Pei started with NEMA in November 2020 and finished at the end of January 2021. Joshua came to us from Otago University, where he is studying medicine.



During his time at NEMA, Joshua was working as part of the National Planning Team, looking into the protection of children and young people in emergencies. He also supported the Communications Team review of their public education approach for reaching 18-30 year olds and students.

Tupu Tai is an interagency government initiative that offers Pasifika students the opportunity to explore career pathways, build confidence as Pasifika professionals, and see what it's like working for government. Find out more about the programme on the [Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment website](#).

Work underway on the Regulatory Framework Review (Trifecta) Programme

This programme brings together three separate but interconnected pieces of work:

- amendments to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (the CDEM Act)
- review of the National CDEM Plan Order 2015 (National CDEM Plan) and accompanying Guide
- development of the National Disaster Resilience Roadmap.

Cross-cutting work streams are being established to address priorities across the three projects including iwi Māori representation, supporting disabled people, system funding and financial assistance, and clarifying lead agency arrangements.

Work is underway on the development of a CDEM Act Amendment Bill which, pending Ministerial and Cabinet decisions, would be introduced by the end of 2021. NEMA has established a number of working groups and is adjusting the timing of the Trifecta Programme in order to meet this deadline.

As part of this we intend to engage extensively across the emergency management sector, specifically on those areas not previously addressed or agreed by government following the TAG. For example, representation of iwi/Māori in CEGs and JCs is a priority option being considered.

We will also be welcoming your input and feedback and will provide more detail on the process, including engagement opportunities, in the coming month.

Contact: Adam Allington (Manager, Policy) Adam.Allington@nema.govt.nz

CDEM Group plan reviews

We are aware that a number of CDEM Groups are in the process of completing, or are contemplating, a review of their Group plan. The requirements related to CDEM Group plans as per the [CDEM Act](#) remain the same while the Regulatory Framework Review work is progressing. A reminder that this includes:

- CDEM Group plans must state and provide for the aspects listed in the CDEM Act s49(2) and must follow the procedure outlined in s52
- the CDEM Group plan must not be inconsistent with the national CDEM strategy (i.e. the [National Disaster Resilience Strategy](#))
- a CDEM Group must begin a review of its CDEM Group plan if the plan has been operative for five years or more

We acknowledge that the Regulatory Framework Review Programme outputs, particularly the amended CDEM Act and updated National CDEM Plan, will likely have some impact on CDEM Group plans. We therefore encourage CDEM Groups undertaking or considering a review to consider the best approach for ensuring their CDEM Group plan is legally valid, accurate, and functional. This should be balanced with the potential need to update CDEM Group plans when new arrangements come into force. We currently plan to engage on a public consultation of the National CDEM Plan in the first half of 2022.

If you have queries, please contact your NEMA Regional Emergency Management Advisor.