



## Avian flu pandemic

A sub-group of the Waikato CDEM Coordinating Executive Group was set up as a pandemic planning working party in January 2006 with the Waikato District Health Board chairing the meetings. The working party has meetings, generally on an as required basis, originally to identify response roles and responsibilities and planning requirements for the Waikato region. Its role is now to maintain a high level of awareness of the avian flu situation, government directives and legislation and implementation of required measures. The last meeting was held on on Wednesday 28 February 2007.

The membership of the working party comprises the Waikato District Health Board, Environment Waikato emergency management office, Police, representatives from the Waikato Valley, Thames Valley and southern emergency management offices, regional controller and the Lifelines Coordinator.

In terms of lifeline utilities, access to and from the working group is through the WELG Project Manager. Lifeline utilities are encouraged to contact the WELG Project Manager if they have any concerns or ideas relating to pandemic planning so that they can be presented to the working party for a response.

**As part of New Zealand's preparation for a possible flu pandemic, the Epidemic Preparedness Bill passed its third reading in December 2006. A number of gaps were identified in previous legislation and this Bill is to provide legal powers that reflect modern realities.**

Internationally, a turkey farm in the United Kingdom had a reported outbreak of avian bird flu and China also announced outbreaks of avian bird flu. As at 28 February 2007 there were 275 reported cases of avian bird flu in humans, resulting in 167 deaths.

Nationally, the main drive is Exercise Cruikshank – a national exercise to assess New Zealand's plans for responding to a pandemic. The key objectives of the exercise programme are to:

- gauge the capability and capacity of the health sector and central and local government agencies to respond to and recover from an influenza pandemic
- review the processes for coordination, communication, leadership and governance during a pandemic
- provide a forum for intersectoral review and discussion of pandemic plans
- inform policy, operational process, capability and capacity for 2007-2010.

This may, at a local level, be an opportunity for utility companies to test their business continuity plans in a realistic situation. If you are interested in taking up this opportunity please contact the WELG Project Manager. Time is short however, as the first stage of the exercise commences on 10 May 2007, although the second stage of "stamp it out" on 16 May 2007 may have more relevance to lifeline utilities.

For further information on avian flu pandemic planning refer to [www.moh.govt.nz/pandemicinfluenza](http://www.moh.govt.nz/pandemicinfluenza) or call 0800 286 358.

## Annex C: Roles of individual utilities, lifelines groups and CDEM groups

### Response

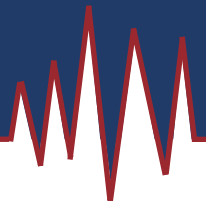
Process	Roles and functions			Comments
	CDEM groups	Individual lifeline utilities	Lifelines groups	
Lifelines coordination.	Organise and manage on the day.  Ensure two-way communications with key utilities.	Provide status information to CDEM Group emergency operations centre at agreed frequency and format.  Receive CDEM Group reports and action as appropriate.	Nil - unless agreed otherwise as part of readiness planning.	Metropolitan centres to have specific lifelines coordination mechanism (run by CDEM Group EMO), possibly involving specific communications systems and arrangements.

### Recovery

Process	Roles and functions			Comments
	CDEM groups	Individual lifeline utilities	Lifelines groups	
Lifelines coordination.	Organise and manage.  Address CDEM issues arising from lifeline utility recovery strategies.	Implement recovery, strategies and decisions having regard to CDEM Group Recovery Plan.	Nil - unless agreed otherwise as part of readiness planning	The possibility of lifelines groups (augmented by those outside the affected region) providing specialist advice to the Recovery Coordinator exists.

This is an excerpt from the Lifelines and CDEM planning publication "Civil Defence Emergency Management Best Practice Guide [BPG1/03]", to provoke thought for those who are already familiar with it and to educate those who aren't.

# Climate change



## Training

### Auckland City – Civil Defence Emergency Management training schedule 2007 for external agencies

Date	Time	Training
22 March	1pm-3.30pm	Coordinated Incident Management Systems Level 2 (first level, no pre-requisites)
23 May	9am-11.30am	Essentials of Civil Defence Emergency Management
24 May	9am-11.30am	Coordinated Incident Management Systems Level 2 (first level, no pre-requisites)
17 July	9am-11.30am	Essentials of Civil Defence Emergency Management
19 July	1pm-3.30pm	Coordinated Incident Management Systems Level 2 (first level, no pre-requisites)
10 September	9am-11.30am	Essentials of Civil Defence Emergency Management
11 September	9.30am-11.30am	Coordinated Incident Management Systems Level 2 (first level, no pre-requisites)

**Note:** There is a fee of \$44+GST for Coordinated Incident Management Level 2 training (NGOs and voluntary agencies exempt).

Please register for all courses with Jamie Richards, email [jamie.richards@aucklandcity.govt.nz](mailto:jamie.richards@aucklandcity.govt.nz). All courses are held at the Emergency Operations Centre, Bledisloe House, Wellesley Street, Auckland.

The above training should be carried out in the following sequence:

1. Essentials of CDEM – free of charge.
2. CIMS 2 – \$44 +GST per person – please supply invoicing details.

### Waikato CDEM Group training schedule 2007

Date	Training	Location
17 April	CIMS 4	Hamilton
18 April	CIMS 4	Hamilton
16 May	Personal Readiness CDEM	Hamilton
13 June	CIMS 2	Hamilton
25 June	WVEOA Exercise	TBA
26 June	WVEOA Exercise	TBA
27 June	WVEOA Exercise	TBA
28 June	WVEOA Exercise	TBA
29 June	WVEOA Exercise	TBA

The programme is subject to change at any time. If you are interested in a course, please contact Graeme Cleaver on (07) 838 6941 or email [graeme.cleaver@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:graeme.cleaver@hcc.govt.nz).

In terms of appropriate training packages for lifeline utility companies the MoCDEM "RAPID" training system may be of value. For further information contact the RAPID Project Manager, MoCDEM at (04) 473 7363 or email [rapid@dia.govt.nz](mailto:rapid@dia.govt.nz).

For further information contact the WELG Project Manager.

## Events diary

### A chronicle of WELG events over the last quarter and future events

Three WELG meetings have been held since the September 2006 newsletter, the first being on Friday, 20 October 2006 at the Vodafone office in Grantham Street, Hamilton. Key presenters were Kevin Loasby (Telstraclear) on the ability of the telecommunication sector to cope with the additional demands created by a pandemic, and Adam Munro (Environment Waikato) on hazard assessments in the Thames-Coromandel and Taupo areas. This meeting was followed by the first of the Utility Vulnerability Assessments and Prioritisation Project workshops, with an attendance of 31 people from the utility sectors.

The second WELG meeting was held on Friday, 8 December 2006 at the Waikato CDEM Group Emergency Operations Centre in Duke Street, Hamilton, and was followed by a tour of the facilities. Key presenters were Liz Prior (Waikato District Health Board) on the avian flu pandemic, with particular reference to Community Based Assessment Centres (CBACs), and Graeme Cleaver (Hamilton City Council) on his views of the recent Capital Quake Exercise, with emphasis on recovery management.

The third meeting was held on 2 March 2007 at the Huntly Power Station and was followed by a tour of the facility. The key presenter was Darryl Robson on his experiences at the recent bush fires in Victoria.

Waikato Engineering Lifelines Group meeting dates for 2006/07 are Friday, 11 May 2007 and Friday, 27 July 2007 (AGM plus normal committee meeting).

The breakfast seminar will be held at the Hamilton Airport Motor Inn on Friday, 8 June 2007.

Subject to sufficient interest, training workshops will be arranged in Hamilton to allow interested parties to have hands on training of the CLIMPACTS climate change model and to demonstrate its capabilities. The model allows different scenarios, in terms of potential climate changes, to be developed and for agencies to determine possible effects on their respective activities. To cover costs of the workshop (such as venue or computers) there would be a fee of about \$100 per person. The workshops would cater for 15-20 people over a half day period. Dates have not been set and would depend on numbers, but would be late March or early April. The workshops would be of interest to a wide range of parties, including utility companies, district and regional council planners and technical staff, asset managers, CDEM groups, DOC, Federated Farmers and pest management agencies.

For further information or to register an interest, please contact the WELG Project Manager.

## WELG utility vulnerability workshop

The first workshop was held on Friday, 20 October 2006, with the primary objective being to disseminate the information and discuss issues relating to the project. Attendance was high, with 31 people participating.

The outcome of the workshop was that the first stage, assessment of the individual utility's vulnerabilities, was to be completed and sent to the WELG Project Manager by Friday, 2 March 2007 and a second workshop held on Friday, 23 March 2007. While some completed forms have been received, some utilities have advised that they are having difficulty in meeting the deadline, generally due to a lack of resources. For this reason the date has been extended to 20 April 2007 and the meeting scheduled for 23 March 2007 has been cancelled.

An email forum, through the WELG Project Manager, has been set up to respond to questions from individuals so that any issues that may relate to other utilities can be sent out to all involved parties. To date, several questions have been responded to and additional information sent out to those involved in completing the assessments.

The following article is an excerpt from the Lifelines and CDEM planning publication "Civil Defence Emergency Management Best Practice Guide [BPG1/03]" and is the keystone to the vulnerability project.

### 5 What needs to be done?

#### Utility sector coordination

Developing inter-utility arrangements and planning within a sector (e.g. water) to optimise service during emergencies requires cooperation. Levels of inter-utility cooperation will vary across sectors at risk, asset and emergency management benefits are tempered by the commercial realities of competition. The first step is for utilities to cooperate across sectors to address critical interdependencies e.g. Has an electricity generator made the Road Controlling Authority aware of their specific road access requirements in advance of an earthquake?

The second, and arguably the most difficult step is to gain internal sector cooperation. This may result in sector mutual aid requirements, or specific contingency planning to address shared risks linked to individual risk, asset and emergency planning. Key national and trans-regional sectors such as electricity, gas, telecommunications and transportation should adopt a national approach to internal sector co-operation. While the water sector is typically operated at local and regional levels, the NZ Water & Wastes Association provides a very effective structure for national issues.

Whilst the CDEM Act's planning processes and Lifelines Groups foster cooperation, neither aims to restructure the New Zealand's utility environment. The status and benefits arising from established sector representation must be developed and owned by sector members, not driven by external legislative forces. The Ministry and CDEM Groups will however take an active interest in promoting particular sector coordination where high national or regional risk could be reduced through improved sector coordination.

## Communications plan

### Update

The final WELG emergency communications plan has been completed and is now available for interested parties in the utility and emergency management sectors. It is a controlled document and is not available on the web but if you are interested in a copy please contact the WELG Project Manager.



## WELG website

Visit the WELG website [www.welg.org.nz](http://www.welg.org.nz) or email [info@welg.org.nz](mailto:info@welg.org.nz) for copies of newsletters, projects, meeting minutes and agendas for viewing or downloading.

If you have any information that you believe should be on the website please contact the WELG Project Manager. Examples of information could be emergency management training schedules, emergency management and lifeline utility related conferences and overseas projects.

## WELG membership and contacts

The following are current WELG Committee members and/or sponsors.

CDEM Group	Contact Energy Geothermal
Environment Waikato	Genesis Energy
Hamilton City Council	Hauraki District Council
Matamata-Piako District Council	Mighty River Power
Ministry of CDEM	Powerco
South Waikato District Council	Taupo District Council
Thames Coromandel District Council	The Lines Company
Transit NZ	Unison
Waikato District Council	Waipa District Council
Waipa Networks	Waitomo District Council
WEL Networks	Vodafone New Zealand

For more information about WELG or to be added to the newsletter distribution list, please visit our website [www.waikatolifelines.org.nz](http://www.waikatolifelines.org.nz) or contact:

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