

Quarterly Newsletter No 6
September 2006

Vulnerability and interdependence

Chairman's comments

Alex Shaw, South Waikato District Council

The 2005/06 financial year ended with another successful breakfast seminar at the Hamilton Airport. The two key presentations were pandemic planning from the Waikato District Health Board perspective by Liz Prior and the dangers of development on alluvial fans by Dr Tim Davies. Visit our website www.welg.org.nz to view these two excellent and topical presentations.

The 2006/07 financial year has started and promises to be an exciting and busy year. Two key projects are the production of the final Emergency Communications Plan (to be released in October 2006), and vulnerability workshops which will be carried out during the year.

To assist with meeting increasing expectations, the budget has been raised from \$65,500 to \$68,000. We are fortunate to have two new members – Vodafone and Contact Energy – which have enabled contributions to remain at the same level as the previous year. It is also a reflection of the increasing interest and value in the Waikato Engineering Lifelines Group.

Public interest in emergency management is growing, almost certainly as a result of the tsunami and hurricane events overseas and the potential avian flu pandemic, but also from the increasing number and severity of local events, both natural and man-made. New Zealand has faced a number of adverse events over the last year, ranging from severe flooding over large areas to localised hillside instability and communication blackouts. These events are demonstrating the need for extreme care by utility authorities/agencies, especially when considering developments in marginal areas. This relates to both central and local government as well as utility companies, with lifeline groups nationwide playing a pivotal part, especially in the readiness and reduction roles for emergency preparedness.

I will also take this opportunity to thank, on behalf of the Waikato Engineering Lifelines Group, the authorities and companies that have had the foresight and confidence in the group to support it both by direct funding and indirectly through staff participation. The group will continue to justify that confidence.

Project Manager's comments

John Harris, John Harris Consultancy

Asset and risk management considerations require that lifeline utilities manage the potential impact of hazard events, and be able to function during an emergency. However, to do this effectively, lifeline utility members require the identification of sites vulnerable to hazards (including natural, technological, chemical and biological) within the Waikato region, to determine the risk or vulnerability of their utility. This allows utility members to reduce the potential utility failure during a hazard event, reduce the potential disruption to communities, but allow for a more secure environment.

Assessment of vulnerability takes account of the importance of the lifeline component, that is, the degree of disruption if the element is lost to the network. This aspect typically highlights the redundancy, or lack of it, in a system. The assessment of potential damage takes into account the impact of a hazard and includes the time and effort which is likely to be required to reinstate the component in addition to the cost of replacement. The assessment also takes into account the dependencies on other utilities, especially transportation as access is almost always a key issue.

You may think that you have heard these words before. You have – in the December 2005 newsletter to be exact, and related to the vulnerability workshops that have been mentioned over a considerable period of time. The dates of the workshops have been put back several times in order to get the process right, and if the old adage that “success is the product of good preparation” is correct then the outcome can not be in doubt.

There is, however, one component of the workshop that we can not control and that is participation. All the planning in the world will not provide a successful outcome if the workshops are not well attended. It is important for utility operators to view these workshops not as another unwanted additional chore, but as a means of getting optimum support in carrying out their own individual roles and responsibilities. The primary participants of this project should be at the asset/activity manager level and it is one of WELG's functions to assist them in undertaking their duties by providing a vehicle through which individual asset/activity managers can network and assist one another.

All lifeline utility companies and local and regional councils are urged to attend the workshops, the first being in Hamilton on Friday, 20 October 2006. This workshop will be to disseminate available information, provide a brief overview of the objectives and methodology of the project and set the date for the next workshop.

Communications plan Update

The WELG Emergency Communications Plan has been reviewed and the final document will be available in October 2006.

It is a controlled document and will not be available on the web but if you are interested in a copy please contact John Harris, WELG Project Manager.



Free text messaging notification service boosts emergency management warning system

The South Waikato District Council's Emergency Management Office, through the Auckland based communication company OPTN Limited, has launched a free text messaging notification service that will provide mobile phone owners (with text facilities) with live updates during high fire risk periods and during a civil defence emergency in the South Waikato District.

For further information contact John Harris, WELG Project Manager, or Barrie Herlihy phone (07)885 0778 or email barrie.herlihy@southwaikato.govt.nz

Avian flu pandemic

The Waikato District Health Board released a draft Pandemic Report in July 2006 for comments by interested parties by 8 September 2006. The report has a strong emphasis on community based assessment centres as a way of protecting influenza-specific information and care, while protecting existing primary care and emergency departments in particular from being overwhelmed. Detailed planning for the establishment of community-based assessment centres has started.

The finalised New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Action Plan 2006 has been released by the Ministry of Health and is available on their website www.moh.govt.nz.

For further information, contact Liz Prior, Manager, Emergency/Contingency Planning, PO Box 934, Hamilton or email priorl@waikatodhb.govt.nz.

Brief excerpts from "Pandemic Influenza: Update for period ending 11 September 2006"

Bird disease – confirmed by the OIE in 50 countries since it was first reported in 2003. H5N1 continues to spread. Ducks can carry the virus without exhibiting signs of illness.

Human disease – stands at 143 deaths from 244 reported cases in 10 countries. Indonesia, the worlds fourth most populous country, now has the most cases with 48 deaths from 63 confirmed cases as a result of close human contact with ailing chickens.

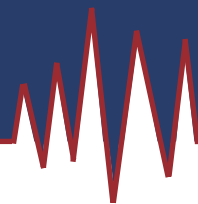
Central government – and the Ministry of Health in particular, continues to put considerable planning efforts into pandemic influenza culminating in Cabinet approving the "final" New Zealand Influenza Action Plan (NZIPAP) for release. Due to logistics, it will first be available electronically, while hard copies are printed.

For further information on avian flu pandemic planning refer to www.moh.govt.nz/pandemicinfluenza or call 0800 286 358.

Canterbury storm 2006



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AS/NZS 1170 0: 2002 Structural Design Actions and Its Relationship with Emergency Management Requirements

The Department of Building and Housing, in conjunction with the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, has commenced a project initiative to link structural design requirements for post-disaster facilities with overarching civil defence emergency management requirements. It is intended that this work will prompt CDEM groups and territorial authorities to identify specific facilities and set policies to help improve their post-disaster functionality.

This guidance document is intended to assist structural designers and others to interpret Table 3.2 of AS/NZS 1170 Part 0. In later stages of the project it is anticipated that this document will be repackaged for a wider audience in order to benefit the owners of post-disaster facilities, emergency managers, architects and

building control officials. Lifeline utility organisations, government departments and local authorities have the additional requirement under section 60 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Act that they must ensure they are able to function to the fullest extent possible, even though this may be at a reduced level, during and after an emergency. There is a need for informative text which provides a linkage between this requirement and Table 3.2, and it is intended that further work in this area will occur in the next stage of the overall project. It is intended that the next phase of this project will provide elaboration on the categorisation of utility facilities, using examples from key utility sectors. Through this wider involvement it is hoped to raise awareness and promote consistency in the designation of the importance of various facilities that reflect the wider community perspectives.

Training

Following is the current Waikato CDEM Group training calendar. 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.

2006 programme

Date	Training	Location
October		
5 October	CDEM communications	Hamilton
10 October	CDEM communications	Hamilton
12-14 October	Welfare supervisors	Hamilton
18 October	CDEM communications	Hamilton
19-21 October	Welfare supervisors	Thames
November		
1 November	OPS/LOGS/P&I intro	Hamilton
6 November	WVEOA welfare exercise	Hamilton
8 November	OPS/LOGS/P&I intro	Hamilton
15 November	OPS/LOGS/P&I intro	Hamilton
16 November	EOC Manager	Hamilton
23-24 November	CIMS 4	Taupo
28-29 November	CIMS 4	Hamilton
December		
6 December	EOC Manager	Hamilton

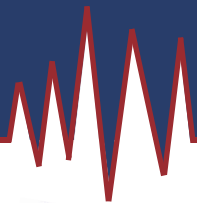
2007 programme

Date	Training	Location
February		
1 February	EOC skills rotation	Cambridge
6 February	EOC skills rotation	Hamilton
8 February	EOC skills rotation	Otorohanga
14 February	EOC skills rotation	Hamilton
15 February	EOC skills rotation	Waikato
21 February	EOC skills rotation	Hamilton
22 February	Skills Rotation	Hamilton
March		
1 March	Otorohanga and Waitomo local exercise	
6 March	Local exercise	Hamilton
8 March	Waipa local exercise	Te Awamutu
14 March	Local exercise	Hamilton
15 March	Waikato local exercise	Ngaruawahia
21 March	Local exercise	Hamilton
April		
18 April	Welfare volunteer refresher	Hamilton
25 April	Welfare volunteer refresher	Hamilton
June		
13 June	WVEOA exercise	Hamilton

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, phone (04) 473 7363 or email rapid@dia.govt.nz.

For further information contact John Harris, WELG Project Manager.

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Events diary

A chronicle of WELG events over the last quarter

A breakfast seminar was held on 30 June 2006 at the Hamilton Airport Motor Inn, which proved to be as popular and successful as the first breakfast seminar in June 2005. The success was due to the high calibre of presenters and interaction between all participants. Key presenters were Liz Prior (Waikato District Health Board) on "Pandemic Planning – where are we at?" and Dr Tim Davies (Canterbury University) on "Hazards and Developments on Alluvial Fans". Updates on the WELG and national lifelines were presented by Alex Shaw (WELG Chairman) and Dave Brunson (National Engineering Lifelines Coordinator) respectively. In the absence of Basil Morrison (Waikato CDEM Chairman), introductions to the seminar were carried out by Peter Lee (Deputy Chairman Waikato CDEM) and Scott Fowlds (Waikato Group Controller).

The first WELG meeting of the 2006/07 financial year was held at Environment Waikato on Friday, 25 August 2006, with the theme being climate change. Key presenters were Nigel Jollands (Landcare Research) on the "Hamilton Climate Change Model" and Dr. Richard Warrick (Waikato University) with a presentation and demonstration of CLIMFACTS, a computer model that assesses the impacts and adaptations to climate variability and change in New Zealand.

Waikato Engineering Lifelines Group meeting dates for 2006/07 are as follows:

- Friday, 20 October 2006 (theme - communications during emergency events)
- Friday, 8 December 2006
- Friday, 2 March 2007
- Friday, 11 May 2007
- Friday, 27 July 2007 (AGM plus normal committee meeting).

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

Please put these dates in your diaries and if you are interested in hosting one of the meetings please contact John Harris, WELG Project Manager.

WELG website

Visit the WELG website www.welg.org.nz or email info@welg.org.nz for copies of the 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 John Harris, WELG Project Manager. Examples of information could be emergency management training schedules, emergency management and lifeline utility related conferences and overseas projects.

WELG Utility Vulnerability Workshop

Preparations for this project are well under way and the first workshop will be held in Hamilton on Friday, 20 October 2006, immediately following the next WELG meeting.

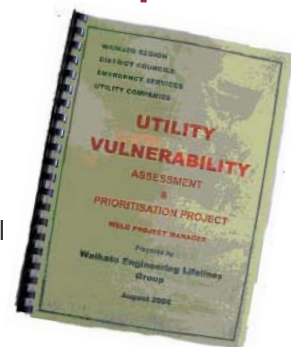
The workshop will be short and is simply to introduce the resource book and outline the objectives of the project and the process by which it will be carried out.

The resource book will outline the methodology and include information relative to the individual utilities. If available, it will also include vulnerability information previously identified several years ago.

The principal objectives are to identify individual utility vulnerabilities and cross reference to other utilities to identify interdependencies between them.

The workshops are targeted at asset managers in order to assist them with their own asset management processes, especially risk management.

The outcome of this project is dependent on the active participation of all lifeline utilities. If you require further information before the workshop, please contact John Harris, WELG Project Manager.



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 or contact:

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