



NEW MANAGER OF THE THAMES VALLEY EMERGENCY OPERATING AREA ANNOUNCED TODAY

The Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako District Councils are pleased to announce that Gary Talbot has been appointed to the role of Manager, Thames Valley Emergency Operating Area.

Gary will begin his new role in October 2011 and brings with him 35 years of experience in the NZ Fire Service, coupled with an extensive knowledge of emergency management and response.

Gary has worked in the Thames Valley area since 2009, and prior to this was based in Hamilton for a number of years. He has an excellent understanding of the Thames Valley area and the challenges that are faced within the emergency management arena.

In a statement issued today, Gary said, "I am very excited about my new role. I'm well aware of the excellent job Ron White has done over many years, so I know I have big boots to fill. I have really enjoyed my time in the New Zealand Fire Service, so it is with some sadness that I leave that organisation. At the end of the day, history will be the judge of whether I live up to peoples expectations in my new role. It is certainly my intention to work very hard to ensure the communities of the Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako Districts are well informed about hazards and their management, as well as also being prepared to deal with emergencies that can happen."