

# Waikato Civil Defence

## Emergency Management Group Plan





# Foreword

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New Zealand is a truly unique nation. We enjoy an environment and quality of life that is known around the world. However, New Zealand's wild and diverse landscape, plus our relatively isolated geographic location, means we are threatened by significant hazards. The reality for New Zealand is that hazards can pose real risks to life, and destroy property, infrastructure and livelihoods. The Waikato Region is no exception.

The 'Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Group Plan' is the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group's key vehicle for carrying out a new approach to CDEM in the Waikato Region.

The Plan is a key step towards a comprehensive, integrated, and sound approach to CDEM. The CDEM Group has embarked on a journey to address how we can better protect Waikato communities against disasters. The CDEM Group wants you to understand what hazards can affect you, your family, business and livelihoods - so you can make your own choices and commit to action.

*Flooding in Tararu*



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# The purpose of this guide

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The purpose of this guide is to provide background information on new Civil Defence Emergency Management arrangements in the Waikato Region. More importantly, the guide summarises the 'Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan,' which was adopted by the Waikato CDEM Group on 3 May 2005.

## What is Civil Defence Emergency Management?

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Civil Defence Emergency Management is all about applying knowledge, measures and practices that are designed to guard against, prevent, reduce or overcome any hazard or harm or loss that may be associated with any major emergency.

This new approach integrates traditional civil defence (for instance, response and associated prior planning) with risk reduction, such as provided for in other statutes (for example, the Resource Management Act 1991), and with community expectations, such as those determined through Long-Term Council Community Plans. There is also a greater emphasis on forming partnerships as a key to managing risk and requires a greater involvement by the community in determining what level of risk is acceptable.

The Waikato Region is at risk from a wide range of hazards, each having the potential to disrupt our lifestyle and our normal daily living at any time. Our Region's next Civil Defence emergency could be an earthquake, flood, fire, chemical spill or even an animal disease outbreak. We should all be prepared and know what to do in a major disaster.

# What is the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group?

The CDEM Act 2002 requires the establishment of CDEM Groups – a consortia of local authorities based on existing Regional council boundaries, working in partnership with emergency services (for example, Police, fire and health services), lifeline utilities and others to deliver more effective management at a local level.

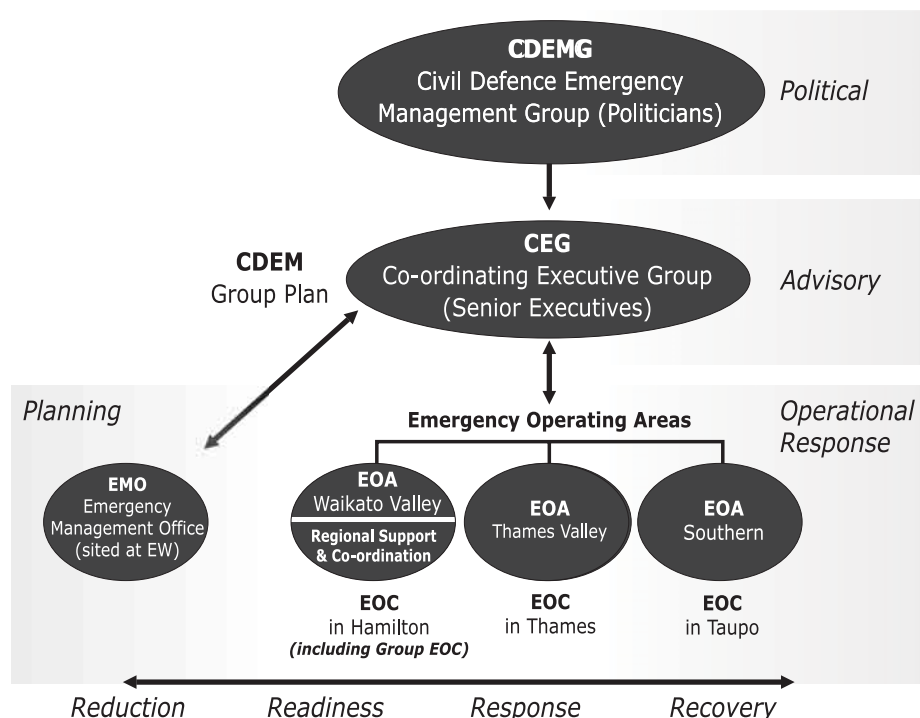
In the Waikato Region, we've established a CDEM Group to plan for and respond to any type of emergency. The Waikato CDEM Group is made up of elected representatives from eleven local authorities within the Region and aims to address hazard and risk issues within its area (see map).

The CDEM Group is supported by the 'Coordinating Executive Group (CEG)', consisting of senior executives from each local authority and emergency service. The role of the CEG is to provide senior executive direction and commit resources to developing and implementing CDEM policies and plans. The CEG also ensures CDEM Group decisions are implemented. Other members may be invited to join the CEG from time to time as required.

Both the CDEM Group and the CEG work very closely with emergency services (and other partners) including the Police, Fire Service, Ambulance and Health Boards to minimise damage, prepare communities to respond to emergencies and help people recover as quickly as possible.

Technical and administrative support for the CDEM Group and CEG is provided by the 'Emergency Management Office (EMO)' which is physically located at Environment Waikato (as shown in the diagram below).

**Figure 1 1: The structure of the Waikato CDEM Group**



Because of the number of councils in the Waikato Region, the spread of our population, our difficult landscape and 'hazard-scape' (the hazards we face), three Emergency Operating Areas (EOAs) have been established as follows:

**Thames Valley EOA**

Consisting of the **Thames Coromandel**, **Matamata Piako** and **Hauraki District Councils**

**Waikato Valley EOA**

Consisting of the **Waikato**, **Waipa**, **Otorohanga**, **Waitomo District Councils** and the **Hamilton City Council**

**Southern EOA**

Consisting of the **Taupo** and **South Waikato District Councils**

The Councils highlighted in bold perform the function of the administrating authority for their respective EOA. They are also the location for the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

An EOC is effectively a location where emergencies will be physically managed from. If it's a really big event (for example, if the emergency affects more than one EOA), a Group Emergency Operating Centre (Group EOC) will manage it. The Group EOC is based in Hamilton and is co-located with the Waikato Valley Emergency Operating Area EOC.

**Figure 1 2: The Waikato CDEM Group coverage area.**



# What is a CDEM Group Plan?

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A CDEM Group Plan is the foundation document of the CDEM Group. The Plan is required under the CDEM Act 2002 for the broad purposes of identifying significant risks within the CDEM Group area and how those risks are to be treated. The Plan is centred around the "4 Rs" of CDEM:

## **Reduction**

identifying and analysing risks to human life and property

## **Readiness**

developing capabilities before an emergency occurs

## **Response**

taking action immediately before, during or directly after an emergency

## **Recovery**

helping communities recover as quickly as possible following an emergency.

Developing CDEM Group Plans logically builds upon and improves existing CDEM arrangements and adds a risk management approach to address hazards. CDEM Group Plans seek to integrate policies and plans across local government organisations, and coordinate arrangements with emergency services, lifeline utilities and central government agencies. These Plans represent a unique opportunity to improve relationships and coordinate hazard management arrangements for the benefit of public safety.

CDEM Group Plans specifically address:

- The hazards and risks to be managed by the group
- The CDEM measures necessary to manage the hazards and risks
- The Objectives of the plan and the relationship to the National CDEM Strategy
- Providing resources for the activities of CDEM Group members; and
- The arrangements for declaring states of emergency, and cooperation and coordination with other CDEM Groups.

# The Waikato CDEM Group Plan

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In developing its Proposed Plan, the Waikato CDEM Group has drawn on the planning, hazard, risk and emergency management expertise of the local authorities, emergency services, Ministry of CDEM and other agencies within its area.

## **What is the purpose of this plan?**

The Waikato's physical setting and large rural area means that we are exposed to a number of natural and non-natural hazards. When a hazard event occurs, people and property are quite often affected. Last year's severe weather events in the North Island were testament to that. The Asian Tsunami on Boxing Day was also a timely reminder for us. These, and other hazard events, could happen in the Waikato Region at any time, so we need to be prepared.

The Proposed Waikato CDEM Group Plan sets out the hazards that we as a Region are susceptible to and puts in place a management (what are we going to do about it) and operational (how we are going to respond to it) regime to reduce or address their effects.

The Waikato CDEM Group Proposed Plan consists of five key parts:

## **Introduction**

This section introduces the Plan, its purpose and its structure. It also briefly outlines the purpose and structure of the Waikato CDEM Group and describes the consultation undertaken during the development of the Plan.

## **Strategic Section**

This section describes the goals for CDEM in the Waikato Region. It outlines the hazards and risks faced by the Region, identifies key issues and outlines a work programme to address them over the next five years (the life of the plan).

The Goals of the Waikato CDEM Group are:

- Goal #1** To increase community resilience in CDEM
- Goal #2** To reduce the risks from hazards
- Goal #3** To provide effective and efficient response and recovery capability

The list of hazards that affect the Region is long and includes tsunami, flooding, earthquake, infrastructure failure, human pandemic, animal epidemic and volcanic eruptions (from within and outside the Region).

## **Operational Section**

This section outlines the principles underpinning the operational arrangements and describes the CDEM Group operational framework (response systems). It also outlines agreed agency functions and management arrangements for readiness, response and recovery activities.

## **Administrative Section**

This section sets out the administrative arrangements relating to how we provide CDEM within the Waikato Region. This includes the governance structure, roles and responsibilities, cross-boundary agreements and provisions for monitoring and evaluating the Plan over the next five years.

## **Annexes**

The annexes contain supporting information and processes that complement the Plan.

The Proposed Plan is a good starting point that we can ALL build upon. Its success lies in all agencies and people working together so that we are collectively better equipped to handle any type of emergency in the Region, creating stronger, safer and more resilient communities.

*Weather bomb on the Coromandel Peninsula*



# Need more information?

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Visit the Waikato CDEM Group's website at [www.waikatoregioncdemg.govt.nz](http://www.waikatoregioncdemg.govt.nz)

The website features the latest news from the Waikato CDEM Group and the current status of the Waikato CDEM Group Plan.

You can also email any queries you have to [info@waikatoregioncdemg.govt.nz](mailto:info@waikatoregioncdemg.govt.nz) or call **Environment Waikato's Freephone 0800 800 401** and talk to one of the Emergency Management Office staff.