18. Readiness

Summary

In order to be ready for, and to reduce the effects of an emergency, agencies need to incorporate risk management into their normal activities. They also need to plan, train, and exercise for emergencies, and incorporate lessons identified into their planning and processes.

Contents

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18.1 Introduction

> **Part 7**
> **Readiness**
>
> **92   Introduction**
>
> (1)   *Readiness involves developing operational systems and capabilities before an emergency happens, including making arrangements with emergency services, lifeline utilities, and other agencies, and developing self-help and response programmes for the general public.*
>
> (2)   *For agencies, readiness is achieved through planning, developing capability, exercising and testing arrangements, and monitoring and evaluating capability and capacity.*
>
> (3)   *For individuals, communities, organisations, and businesses, readiness is achieved through the use of public education and community engagement programmes that build resilient communities.*

18.2 Objective

> **93   Objective**
>
> *The objective of readiness is to build capacity and capability, and to enable an effective response to, and recovery from, emergencies.*

18.3 Principles

> **94   Principles**
>
> *The principles underlying readiness are to—*
>
> (a)   *understand that New Zealand has finite capacity and capability for deployment in response to, or recovery from, emergencies; and*
>
> (b)   *establish and maintain ongoing processes to identify significant gaps and shortfalls in capacity and capability; and*
>
> (c)   *build and maintain capacity and capability for response and recovery.*

Readiness means developing operational systems and capabilities before an emergency happens, including self-help and response programmes for the general public, and specific programmes for MCDEM, CDEM Groups, local authorities, emergency services, lifeline utilities, and other agencies.

Readiness comprises two distinct but related aspects:

◆ **Organisational readiness**: tends to focus on the readiness of emergency response organisations, emergency services, local authorities, health and disability service providers, non-government organisations.

◆ **Community readiness**: focuses on the ability of communities, businesses, families, and individuals to be able to meet their own needs during and after emergencies. The public education and community engagement activities of local, regional, and national agencies play a key part in developing community readiness.

18.4 Readiness activities

> **95   Readiness activities**
>
> (1)   *Readiness activities include—*
>
> (a)   *planning; and*
>
> (b)   *developing capability; and*
>
> (c)   *exercising and testing arrangements; and*
>
> (d)   *monitoring and evaluation; and*
>
> (e)   *public education and community engagement.*

See the following sections for more information: Section 19, Planning; Section 20, Capability development; Section 21, Exercising and testing; Section 22, Monitoring and evaluation; Section 23, Public education and community engagement.

> *(2)   To function to the fullest possible extent (even though this may be at a reduced level) during and after an emergency and to contribute to response and recovery, each agency with responsibilities under this plan is expected to undertake readiness activities to—*
>
> *(a)   develop capability, and exercise and test their arrangements; and*
>
> *(b)   establish and maintain necessary equipment and operational systems, and address any need for specific interoperability and co-ordination with interdependent agencies; and*
>
> *(c)   monitor and evaluate their capacity and capability to perform in different emergency situations.*

Risk assessment is also a component of readiness. See Section 17, Reduction, for more information on risk reduction.

18.5 References and links

Other sections of the Guide

- ◆ Section 4, General roles and responsibilities
- ◆ Section 5, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM)
- ◆ Section 6, Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups (CDEM Groups)
- ◆ Sections 8 – 16, for specific roles of agencies and sectors
- ◆ Section 19, Planning
- ◆ Section 20, Capability development
- ◆ Section 21, Exercising and testing
- ◆ Section 22, Monitoring and evaluation
- ◆ Section 23, Public education and community engagement
- ◆ Section 24, Response