24. Response

Summary

Response involves actions taken immediately before, during, or directly after an emergency to save lives and property, and to help communities recover.

Agencies respond to emergencies by activating their own plans and coordinating their activities with other agencies to manage the consequences of the emergency.

Contents

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24.1 Introduction

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Response

112 Introduction

(1) *Response involves actions taken immediately before, during, or directly after an emergency to save lives and property and to help communities begin to recover.*

(2) *Response ends when the response objectives have been met or a transition to recovery has occurred.*

24.2 Objective

113 Objectives

Response objectives include—

(a) *the preservation of life; and*

(b) *the prevention of escalation of the emergency; and*

(c) *the maintenance of law and order; and*

(d) *the provision of safety and security measures for people and property; and*

(e) *the care of sick, injured, and dependent people; and*

(f) *the provision of essential services; and*

(g) *the preservation of governance; and*

(h) *the protection of assets (including buildings and their contents and cultural and historic heritage assets); and*

(i) *the protection of natural and physical resources and the provision of animal welfare (to the extent reasonably possible in the circumstances); and*

(j) *the continuation or restoration of economic activity; and*

(k) *the putting into place of effective arrangements for the transition to recovery.*

24.3 Principles

114 Principles

(1) *Agencies respond to an emergency by co-ordinating with the lead agency and activating their own plans.*

(2) *Within the constraints that the emergency creates, each agency, operating within its particular mandate, is expected to—*

(a) *assess the consequences of an emergency on its own staff, assets, and services; and*

(b) *activate its own business continuity and emergency operational arrangements; and*

(c) *maintain or restore the services it provides; and*

(d) *communicate relevant information to the lead agency, other responders, and the public; and*

(e) *align response activities with those of other agencies to avoid gaps and duplications.*

(3) *In addition, CDEM Groups, emergency services, and lifeline utilities are expected to—*

(a) *undertake initial assessments of the form, and extent of the consequences, of the emergency and potential further risks to people, property, and services within the affected area; and*

(b) *co-ordinate the local efforts of their agency; and*

(c) *communicate assessments and actions to the appropriate lead agency.*

(4) *Recovery measures should be planned for and implemented (with necessary modifications) from the first day of the response (or as soon as practicable) and should be co-ordinated and integrated with response actions.*

24.4 Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS)

115 Co-ordinated incident management system (CIMS)

(1) Responses to emergencies are based on the CIMS framework.

(2) The purpose of the CIMS is to achieve effective co-ordinated incident management across responding agencies by—

(a) establishing common structures, functions, and terminology to be used by agencies in incident management, yet within a framework that is flexible, modular, and scalable so that it can be tailored to circumstances specific to any level or type of incident; and

(b) enabling agencies to develop their own processes, procedures, and train-ng for the execution of the CIMS.

(3) To give effect to the CIMS, those fulfilling key roles at the national, CDEM Group, and local levels during the response are expected to be trained and practised in its use.

(4) The CDEM response under this plan recognises the CIMS response levels.

24.5 Transition to recovery

116 Transition to recovery

(1) Planning for the transition from response to recovery needs to occur during response.

(2) Transitional arrangements are set out in clause 155 of this plan.

See Section 32, Recovery for more information.

24.6 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 25, National warnings and advisories
- Section 26, National Crisis Management Centre
- Section 27, Emergency information management
- Section 28, Public information management
- Section 29, Logistics
- Section 30, Mass evacuation
- Section 31, International assistance for New Zealand
- Section 32, Recovery
- Section 33, Government financial support to local authorities

Other documents

- Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (2008) (Revised October 2014) *Response Management: Director's Guideline for CDEM Group and Local Controllers [DGL 06/08]*; ISBN 978-0-478-43504-7 (www.civildefence.govt.nz – search for 'response management')
- Officials' Committee for Domestic and External Security Coordination (2014) *New Zealand Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) 2nd Edition*; ISBN 978-0-478-43500-9 (www.civildefence.govt.nz – search for 'CIMS')
- Ministry for Civil Defence & Emergency Management (2015) *Response Planning Director's Guideline DGL [19/15]* ISBN 978-0-478-43512-2 (www.civildefence.govt.nz – search for 'response planning')