

EXERCISE RŪ WHENUA 2024 WARNING ORDER

The purpose of this warning order is to provide advance warning of Exercise Rū Whenua 2024, a Tier 4 (national) exercise under the National Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Exercise Programme and a national exercise on the Interagency National Exercise Programme (NEP). The exercise will be led by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and will be conducted over three dates in 2024 (12 June, 26 June and 10 July 2024), with accompanying lead-up activities taking place prior to the main exercise days. Your agency will be formally invited to participate in the main exercise later in 2023.

1.1 Overview

Exercise need

Exercising is a core part of readiness and assists in identifying gaps and issues. The lessons identified are integrated into updated plans and procedures that improve the ability to respond to and recover from emergencies.

The Alpine Fault is one of New Zealand's major fault lines and has the capability of generating a severe magnitude 8 earthquake. Planning for this risk has been a focus across the South Island emergency management sector and within NEMA in recent years.

Despite being based on an earthquake scenario, the exercise will also be an opportunity to test or practice some of the lessons identified following the response to the January and February 2023 North Island severe weather events.

The national Alpine Fault exercise will take place as an exercise under both the interagency National Exercise Programme (NEP) and the CDEM National Exercise Programme (CDEM NEP).

Exercise aim

The aim of Exercise Rū Whenua 2024 is to test New Zealand's arrangements for responding to and recovering from a significant Alpine Fault earthquake.

Specific objectives are being developed and will be confirmed soon.

National exercise objectives

The exercise will also seek to meet the following National Exercise Programme objectives:

- NO 1.0 Lead a coordinated interagency response to a significant incident or emerging threat that warrants an NSS activation.
- NO 2.0 Support a coordinated interagency response to a significant incident or emerging threat that warrants an ODESC System activation.
- NO 3.0 Enable high level all-of-government decision making through the ODESC System.

- NO 4.0 Integrate recovery planning and arrangements into the response.
- NO 5.0 Situational awareness is established and maintained during the exercise.
- NO 6.0 Manage and deliver public information management to establish and maintain public assurance and confidence in the response.
- NO 8.0 Integrate previous lessons identified from interagency activities to engender a culture of continuous improvement.

Exercise location All of New Zealand.

Exercise dates and type

Phase 1 (Initial impact)	Phase 2 (Sustained response)	Phase 3 (Transition to recovery)
Wednesday 12 June 2024	Wednesday 26 June 2024	Wednesday 10 July 2024
<p>Functional: Activation of NCMC, NCCs, ECCs, and EOCs. Data exchange and Common Operating Picture (COP), initial rapid support – including coordination of offshore support.</p>	<p>Tabletop: Discussion exercises across NEMA, and national agencies, CDEM Groups, and partner agencies. Examining sustained response operations. To incorporate a Watch Group and potentially ODESC simulated meeting(s).</p>	<p>Tabletop: Discussion exercises across NEMA, and national agencies, CDEM Groups, and partner agencies. Looking at long term national recovery implications.</p>
<p>Focus on initial decision making and establishing communications and situational awareness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial actions (Declaration) • Situational awareness and information flows • Controller’s objectives and Initial Action plans • Iwi/Māori response integration • Domestic emergency services coordination (triage) • Initial rapid relief • Initial international support • Group/regional expectations vs national. 	<p>Focus on a deep dive into selected themes at a national level – based on Catastrophic Handbook development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and dissemination of situational awareness information • Mass casualties and transport • Mass accommodation and welfare • Iwi/Māori sustained activation • Mass movement • Critical infrastructure coordination • Coordination of national/international support • Role of science (across all phases) 	<p>Focus on what does recovery from this event look like at national/regional/local levels?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varied impacts across the affected region • Local vs national recovery coordination • Rapid policy advice • Lead agency changes • Local input • Iwi/Māori in recovery

Scenario	The exercise will be based on the South Island Alpine Fault Earthquake Response (SAFER) Framework, which is a key output of AF8, a project to improve knowledge of readiness for, and resilience to a magnitude 8+ earthquake on the Alpine Fault. https://af8.org.nz/response-planning
Participation	Wide participation is expected from across the emergency management sector – led by NEMA and CDEM Groups, with support from agencies and organisations identified in the National CDEM Plan 2015 as providing support to a significant emergency response.
Expectations of participating agencies	Participating agencies will be expected to develop their own objectives for their roles in Exercise Rū Whenua 2024, and to determine their relevant National Objectives as well. All participating national agencies in support roles will be expected to exercise against NO 2.0 <i>Support a coordinated interagency response to a significant incident or emerging threat that warrants an ODESC System activation.</i>

1.2 Formal invitations and further information

Formal invitations	Formal invitations will be sent out to agencies later in 2023.
Lead agency	National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
Exercise Director	Derek Baxter (NEMA)
Exercise Coordinator	Sara Mitchell (NEMA)
Exercise (Project) Sponsor	John Price, Director CDEM, NEMA
Steering Group	<p>The Steering Group will be primarily responsible for supporting exercise design, conduct and evaluation and will assist with the communication and implementation of exercise plans within and across agencies.</p> <p>This group will be made up of representatives from NEMA, CDEM Groups, the Interagency NEP, Project AF8, and Ngai Tahu.</p>
Exercise enquiries	exercises@nema.govt.nz