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Committee Civil Defence and Emergency Management
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CDEM Conference 2007

1. Purpose

To inform the Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group about the Civil Defence Emergency Management Conference to be held in Wellington in October 2007.

2. Background

Two Civil Defence conferences (one for the North Island and one for the South Island) are held on an annual basis in New Zealand.

The North Island Conference is hosted on a rotational basis and it will be Wellington's turn to host the two-day conference in 2007.

3. Objectives for the Conference

Three objectives have been identified:

- To reinforce emergency management themes by building and strengthening relationships across key organisations
- To increase awareness of available technology and the application of that technology in an emergency management context
- To integrate key agencies in emergency management to enable all agencies to work better together.

4. Conference planning

The Institute of New Zealand Fire Engineers has expressed an interest to jointly organise and deliver an emergency management conference with us here in Wellington. A draft 'Joint Venture Agreement' has been prepared in this regard.

4.1 Conference Planning Committee

A 'Conference Planning Committee' has been established comprising Rian van Schalkwyk and Craig Hamilton (Greater Wellington Regional Council), Desley Monks (Kapiti Coast District Council), Bill Butzbach, Grant Haywood, Gary ward, Russell Wood, Bernie Rush and Charlie Dickson (New Zealand Fire Service).

4.2 Conference Theme

The theme for this conference is:

Keeping Pace: Technology and Modern Emergency Management

4.3 Date and venue

The two-day conference will be held on 4 and 5 October 2007 at the Wellington Convention Centre.

4.4 Conference Programme

A draft programme has already been prepared to cover the 4Rs of emergency management (reduction of risks, readiness, response and recovery). Four keynote speakers were invited to address all participants, while the rest of the programme will be divided into separate streams to cater for the specific needs of the Institute of Fire Engineers and the needs of CDEM practitioners and other emergency management agencies' representatives.

It is planned to have these specific streams catering for controllers, recovery managers, lifelines co-ordinators, emergency services (Police, Fire, and Health), the business sector and also some general streams for CDEM practitioners.

4.5 Attendance

It is expected that between 250 and 300 delegates will attend the conference.

5. Conclusion

The annual Civil Defence Emergency Management Conference is highly valued by all agencies with a role and responsibility in emergency management. It is an opportunity to broadcast and nurture the seeds of wisdom for action all at once so as to ensure that operationally key people are being consolidated with the same ideals and objectives.

The benefit of this conference is that it brings emergency management role-players together to become more aware of what other organisations do in an emergency, and how the different organisations can work together better.

This conference also provides an opportunity for role-players to get to know each other better (building of relationships) and to get an international perspective on emergency management from overseas speakers.

6. Recommendations

That the CDEM Group:

1. *receive the report; and*
2. *note the contents.*

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