

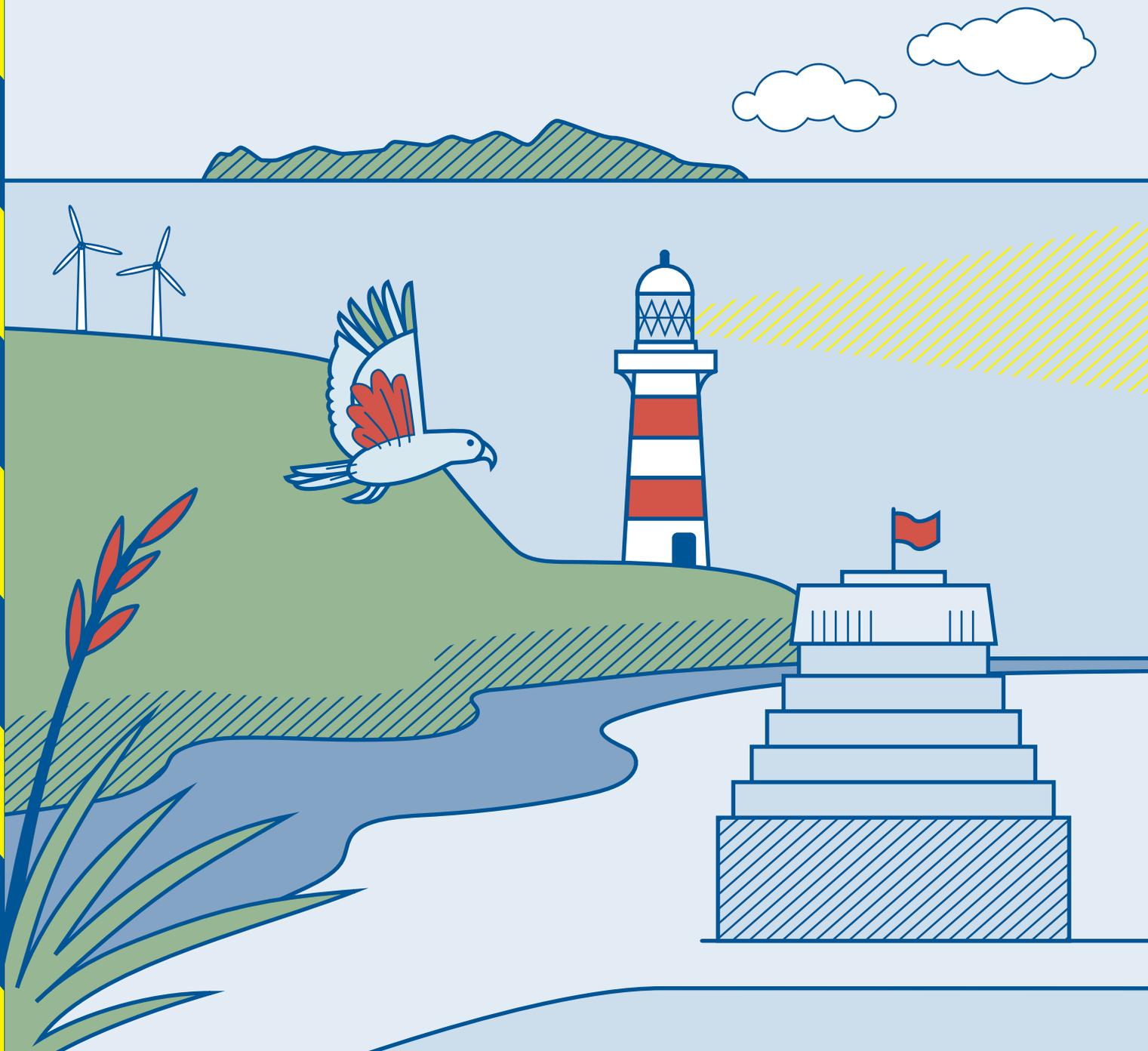


WELLINGTON REGION
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

GROUP

Wellington Region
Civil Defence Emergency
Management

Group Plan 2019–2024 Summary



Wellington Region CDEM Group Plan

Purpose of the Group Plan

The broad purpose of the Group Plan is to enable the effective and efficient management of significant hazards and risks for which a coordinated emergency management approach will be required. This plan provides the strategic direction and a clear vision and framework to achieve what is required.

The Group Plan seeks to:

- **Provide information** on the hazards and risks in the Wellington Region;
- **Strengthen relationships** between agencies and partners involved in Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM);
- **Encourage collaborative planning and joint action** between councils, the emergency services, other emergency management agencies, central government, iwi, and the community;
- Show commitment from agencies and partners to the **delivery of more effective Civil Defence Emergency Management**; and
- Outline the **principles of operation** within which agencies involved in CDEM agree to cooperate.

The Group Plan will remain in effect for five years from the date of approval by the Joint Committee until reviewed by the Group and either amended, revoked, replaced or endorsed for a further period of time.

See **Introduction** (Group Plan pages 08-13) for more information about this plan.

HAVE YOUR SAY

To have your say on the document, complete a submission form and return it to the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office at:



Group Plan Submissions, WREMO, PO Box 11646, Wellington 6142



info@wremo.nz



Complete a submission form online

Submissions close at 4.00 pm on Monday 29 April 2019.

Wellington Region CDEM Group

The Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group is made up of a number of agencies who work together to provide civil defence and emergency management to the region. This includes the nine councils, emergency services, lifeline utilities, the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) and any other agency with civil defence and emergency management responsibility.

Governance of the Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and its activities is provided by the Joint Committee. The Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) provides advice to the CDEM Joint Committee and implements their decisions.

WREMO is a semi-autonomous organisation that co-ordinates Civil Defence and Emergency Management services on behalf of the nine councils in the Wellington Region.

Audience of the Group Plan

The Wellington Region CDEM Group Plan is written for two main audiences:

- all agencies involved in CDEM (emergency services, local government, welfare services agencies, lifeline utilities and non-government agencies); and
- the general public.

Throughout the plan 'strategic partners' are often referenced. Strategic partners are those key partner groups (councils, emergency services, WREMO, lifeline utility agencies and welfare agencies) that have responsibilities outlined in the CDEM Act and which must work together to ensure the collective Group meets the strategic outcomes included in the plan.

See **Introduction** (Group Plan pages 08-13) for more information about the Group. For more information about the Group's structure, see **Governance** (Group Plan pages 98-111).

Wellington Region risk profile

Wellington Region's physical geography and topography has both created and restricted human settlement over the centuries. The risks facing people in the region reflect choices that have been made historically about where to live and work, as well as how to travel.

The Wellington Region is divided by mountain ranges which separate the western urban part of the region from the eastern Wairarapa area. Weather patterns, fault lines and land-use differences mean that it is likely that a major event would affect areas of the region in different ways. **To meet the needs of local communities, the region's CDEM response capability needs to be local to these areas.**



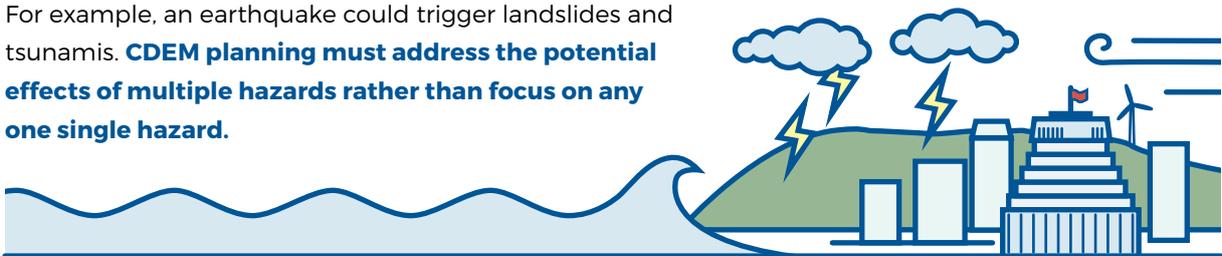
The region's transport links with the rest of the country are very vulnerable. The region has a 'Y' shaped transport network traversing two main valleys with limited cross-corridor transport links between these valleys. Key components of the transport network face a high risk of disruption from hazards.

Protecting these transport links must be a high priority for CDEM with a focus on contingency planning to cope with any damage that may occur.

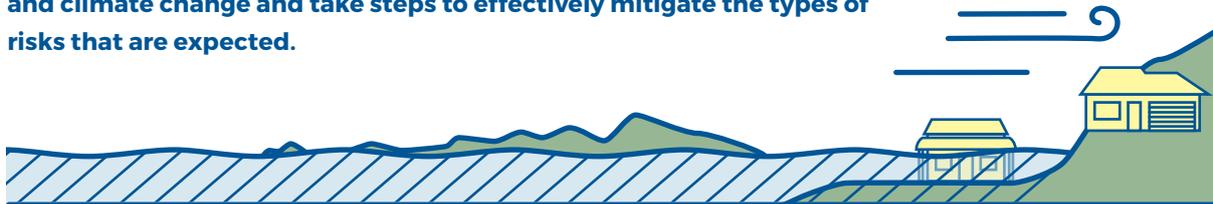


It is likely that the region will face multiple hazards in any major event.

For example, an earthquake could trigger landslides and tsunamis. **CDEM planning must address the potential effects of multiple hazards rather than focus on any one single hazard.**



Global warming and the associated challenges of climate change, such as the increasing frequency and strength of weather events, will likely lead to more emergencies and more people being affected by such events. **The region needs to understand the likely impact of global warming and climate change and take steps to effectively mitigate the types of risks that are expected.**



Many people commute to the region's cities and districts for work, so population densities vary across the region by area depending on the time of day or night. The timing of an emergency event will affect the nature of the response. **The region's CDEM capabilities need to be flexible and able to respond to a range of different scenarios that could potentially be caused by a major event.**



As the home of central government, the region has a key role to play in the effective running of the country. Wellington city is home to many government departments and head offices of large corporate organisations **It is vital that government agencies and corporate organisations are able to resume business as soon as possible after any event, as they will be key to any recovery operation and the economic implications of them not being able to resume business is likely to have a significant impact on the region.**



During the summer months, the region's population swells due to the thousands of tourists passing through the Wellington Region. These individuals may not be familiar with the region's hazards or how to mitigate them, as well as potential language barriers.

The region's CDEM efforts need to focus on the increasing number of tourists who visit the region.



There are different levels of deprivation across the region. Those in lower socio-economic communities tend to have less available resources – which means they are less prepared for an emergency. Growth in the number of migrants to the region increases the risk that some are not aware of the hazards in the region or how to mitigate them, as well as potential language barriers. **The region's CDEM efforts need to focus on more vulnerable communities as a matter of priority.**



The region has a large transitory population, both highly skilled members of the workforce and a large number of students who are from outside the region. As with tourists, they may not be familiar with the region's hazards or local response requirements. **The region's CDEM efforts and information needs to be clear for those who are unfamiliar with the region.**



The Wairarapa is particularly vulnerable to flooding, posing a threat to both the rural economy and to the wider regional economy. **CDEM planning should focus on reducing the risks of flooding in the region, both in terms of preventative measures to reduce the likelihood of flooding and minimising the potential impact it could have when it occurs.**



See **The Wellington Region and its hazardscape** (Group Plan pages 14–29) for more information about risks.

Hazards

While incidents occur every day, the occurrence and/or impact of a hazard can cause an emergency if the consequences have a significant negative effect on people, property or the environment.



WHAT ARE THE TOP FIVE HAZARDS WE WILL PLAN FOR?



Pandemic



Earthquakes



Flooding



Tsunami



Storms

» Planning will look to reduce the likelihood of hazards occurring as well as managing the consequences of hazards as and when they occur.

Risk management approach

The region's risks will be managed through the CDEM 4Rs framework:



Reduction



Readiness



Response



Recovery

This will be achieved by more concerted effort in the following areas:

1. Understanding disaster risk;
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience;
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response; and
5. 'Build Back Better' in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

See **The Wellington Region and its hazardscape** (Group Plan pages 14-29) for more information about hazards and risk management.

Vision and goals

GROUP VISION

A resilient¹ community: ready, capable and connected

GOAL

For all individuals and households, businesses and organisations, communities, cities and districts in the region to be **ready, capable and connected**.



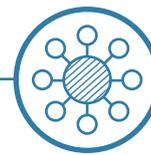
Ready

Being well informed of risks and proactively taking steps to prevent or mitigate their impacts, enabling us to be **ready** to respond to and recover quickly and effectively from emergencies.



Capable

Working together to develop the capability and interoperability to ensure we are **capable** of responding effectively to emergencies and recovering quickly afterwards.



Connected

Working with communities to increase **connectedness**, enabling communities to support each other before, during and after emergencies.

These goals will be achieved through the development and maintenance of capability across the 4Rs of comprehensive emergency management.

1. For the purposes of the Group Plan, Resilience is defined as the ability to adapt well to change, overcome adversity and recover quickly after an event.

See **Strategic Direction** (Group Plan pages 30-67) for more information about the vision and goals.



WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO DATE?

Below are some of the key developments that have occurred over the last five years:

- Significant improvement in National Capability Assessment.
- Regional resilience projects.
- Wellington Region CDEM Review.
- Capability Development (Skilled People) Strategy.
- Group Recovery Framework.

The Group Plan outcomes target five stakeholder groups which align with the National Disaster Resilience Strategy. These groups are:



Individuals and households

Focuses on benefiting the individual and households.



Businesses and organisations

Focuses on benefiting businesses and organisations.



Communities

Focuses on benefiting a group of people that identify as a community. A community can be based on location or interest.



Cities, districts and the region

Focuses on cities, districts and regionally beneficial outcomes.



Lifelines and critical infrastructure

Focuses on benefiting critical infrastructure.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Wellington CDEM Group will carry out monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the Group is meeting its obligations, achieving its objectives which contribute towards the Group achieving its strategic goals and vision.

See **Strategic Direction** (Group Plan pages 30–67) for more information about work to date, stakeholder groups and monitoring.

Strategic outcomes



Reduction

Reduction involves identifying and analysing risks to life and property from hazards, taking steps to eliminate those risks if practicable and, if not, reducing the magnitude of their impact and the likelihood of their occurrence to an acceptable level.

Strategic outcomes for Reduction:



Ready

- Increased understanding and management of regional risks (including hazards, vulnerability and ways to prevent and mitigate).



Capable

- Increased identification of risks and steps taken to eliminate or reduce them
- Increased investment in buildings taking into account long-term stressors and changes, so they are able to withstand hazards and are safe to occupy post-event according to their level of importance
- Increased investment in infrastructure taking into account long-term stressors and changes, to strengthen and retain functionality post-event, or have viable emergency plans including viable alternate infrastructure.



WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING:

- Development of the Natural Hazards Management Strategy for the region.
- Lifeline utility agencies have been investing in infrastructure to increase their resilience.
- Councils across the region have been working with Wellington Water on the Community Infrastructure Resilience Project.



Readiness

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

Strategic outcomes for Readiness:



Capable

- Increased household, business and community emergency plans that are understood and practised on a regular basis
- Integrated and comprehensive official response plans at the local and regional level that are understood and practised on a regular basis
- Integrated and comprehensive strategic recovery plans at both the local and regional level that are understood and practised on a regular basis
- Integrated and comprehensive Capability Development Strategy is implemented to increase both the capacity and capability of the Group to respond to emergency events



Connected

- Increased knowledge of Community Emergency Hubs, where they are located and participation in Hub exercises
- Increased knowledge of the role of Marae and other community facilities in helping support emergency response and recovery



WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING:

- Development and approval of the Wellington Region Earthquake Plan (WREP).
- Development and implementation of the Community Response Plan process.
- Development and implementation of the Community Emergency Hub concept.
- Refocus of the Emergency Services Coordination Committees (ESCCs) to improve communication and coordination of planning for an emergency.



Response

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

Strategic outcomes for Response:



Capable

- Prompt activation of local Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) and regional Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) to effectively manage and coordinate response efforts by response agencies to assist communities
- Prompt restoration of lifeline utility infrastructure services emergency levels of service



Connected

- Communities self-organise and take appropriate actions, such as evacuating and/or activating their Community Emergency Hubs
- Formal assistance is readily available and accessible to impacted communities.



WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING:

- Development of the Wellington Region CDEM Group Capability Development (Skilled People) Strategy and the Wellington CDEM Group Training and Exercises Plan.
- Improved marketing and communications with the appointment of a full-time marketing/communications advisor and Group Public Information Manager at WREMO.
- Increasing the capability of all the EOCs and the ECC in the region, with the identification of minimum operating standards.



Recovery

Recovery involves the coordinated efforts and processes used to bring about the immediate, medium-term, and long-term holistic regeneration and enhancement of a community following an emergency.

Strategic outcomes for Response:



Ready

- Investment in long-term resilience programmes that benefit future recovery outcomes are adopted by Group, private and community sector partners.



Capable

- Recovery Managers, teams and strategic partners have the capacity and capability to effectively meet the needs of communities throughout a recovery
- Integrated and comprehensive strategic recovery planning at both the local and regional level is embedded in and practised on a regular basis
- Central government and the Group effectively and cooperatively manage recovery.



Connected

- Effective implementation of Group recovery plans to ensure recovery efforts are coordinated and meet the needs of communities.



WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING:

- Development of the draft Strategic Regional Recovery Framework.
- More than 150 organisations have contributed to a series of five workshops.
- Collaboration with QuakeCoRE to develop a decision-making framework for the Wellington CDEM Group and central government.

See **Strategic Direction** (Group Plan pages 30–67) for more information about the strategic outcomes.

Roles and responsibilities

In an emergency, the lead agency is responsible for directing the response. The Wellington CDEM Group will provide support (where possible) to assist the lead agency achieve their objectives.

Hazard	Lead Agency (Regional)
Natural	
Geological (earthquakes, landslide, tsunami)	Wellington Region CDEM Group
Meteorological (floods, storms, severe weather)	Wellington Region CDEM Group
Drought (rural)	Ministry for Primary Industries
Animal and plant pests and diseases	Ministry for Primary Industries
Infectious human diseases (pandemic)	District Health Boards
Rural fire	Fire and Emergency New Zealand Department of Conservation (for conservation estate) New Zealand Defence Force (on defence force land)
Urban fire	Fire and Emergency New Zealand
Man-made	
Infrastructure failure	Wellington Region CDEM Group
Food safety	Ministry for Primary Industries
Hazardous substance incidents	Fire and Emergency New Zealand
Major transport accident	At the national level, the lead agency may depend on the type and nature of the transport accident.
Terrorism	New Zealand Police
Marine oil spill	Regional Council
Radiation incident	Fire and Emergency New Zealand

CDEM agencies roles in response

Agency	Function
Local authorities	<p>Leads and coordinates the response at local level for CDEM Lead emergencies.</p> <p>Support agency, coordinating the CDEM response to any emergency managed by another lead agency.</p>
Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO)	Supports the Group ECC and local EOCs in effectively responding to emergency events.
Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management	Supports the Group ECC in effectively responding to emergency events.
NZ Police	<p>Maintenance of law and order during an emergency. Protect life and property and assist the movement of rescue, medical, fire and other essential services, assist with disseminating public warnings, conduct search and rescue activities, carry out disaster victim identification, control access to affected areas, assist with evacuation, and coordinate inquiries to assist family/whānau to make contact and to trace missing persons.</p> <p>NZ Police often accept the initial responsibility for coordination of an emergency and will hand over to the appropriate lead agency once that agency is ready.</p> <p>Depending on the nature of the event, NZ Police may also carry out investigation activities during a response.</p> <p>NZ Police are responsible for the welfare services 'Inquiry' sub-function.</p>
Te Puni Kokiri	The principal role is working with local iwi and iwi providers regarding welfare support and services and engaging with Māori communities to ensure that their needs are met.
Fire and Emergency New Zealand	<p>Providing fire prevention, response and suppression services, stabilising and rendering safe incidents that involve hazardous substances, rescuing trapped persons, providing urban search and rescue services, performing technical rescues. FENZ are also tasked specifically with responding to severe weather-related events, natural hazard events and disasters. Investigation of the cause of an event may also be carried out.</p>
District Health Boards – Hutt Valley DHB, Capital and Coast DHB and Wairarapa DHB	<p>Provide services to minimise the consequences of the emergency for the health of individuals and the community.</p> <p>Coordinate the local health sector response to emergencies, ensuring appropriate coordination and liaison with CDEM Group and local authorities.</p> <p>Utilise the powers of the Medical Officer of Health.</p>

Agency	Function
Lifeline utilities	Continue to deliver the infrastructure services to the community they normally provide to the fullest possible extent through using business continuity, response and recovery plans.
Welfare services agencies	<p>Support individuals, family and whānau through the delivery of welfare services, sub-functions of registration, needs assessment, inquiry, care and protection services for children and young persons, psychosocial support, household goods and services, shelter and accommodation, financial assistance and animal welfare.</p> <p>Operational arrangements for each of the welfare services sub-functions are set out in the Wellington Region CDEM Group Welfare Plan.</p>
Building consenting authorities (local authorities)	Lead management of buildings during a response, including leading rapid impact assessments and managing the safety of people in or near a building through cordoning, stabilisation and barricading work, carrying out demolitions and setting up partial demolition cordoning. Regional authorities are responsible for the above aspects in relation to dams.
Wellington Free Ambulance	Maintaining services and managing increased demand and responding to emergencies involving risk to public health.
NZ Defence Force	Provide appropriate support to local authorities and agencies during an emergency (support agency).
Government departments and other agencies	Manage their response to emergencies. Plan for, and be able to ensure continuity of service, particularly in support of critical CDEM activities.
Science and research organisations	Provide evidence-based advice to support lead agencies, including definitive scientific advice or to communicate risk.
Maritime New Zealand	<p>Provide a national land, sea and air search and rescue coordination service.</p> <p>Manage New Zealand's national maritime incident and oil spill response capability.</p> <p>Lead responses to significant maritime incidents and emergencies (including oil spills).</p>
Coastguard New Zealand	Provides the primary maritime search and rescue service for New Zealand.

See **Operational Arrangements** (Group Plan pages 68-97) for more information about roles and responsibilities in a response.

National Warning System

Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM) is responsible for issuing nationally significant emergency warnings for some natural hazards through the National Warning System, such as a distant and regional source tsunami. The Wellington Region CDEM Group must respond to MCDEM within 30 minutes of receiving a warning.

Warnings within the region

Within the Wellington Region, warnings are initially coordinated through the WREMO Duty Officer. The Duty Officer is responsible for notifying appropriate partners and agencies. The Duty Officer is the first response of the Wellington CDEM Group to any warnings.

If the warning warrants the public to be alerted, the following mechanisms can be used:



- WREMO and local authority websites



- Alerts through Emergency Mobile Alert (national platform) and Red Cross Hazard App



- Facebook posts



- Twitter posts



- Radio and media releases



- Other localised warning systems, such as sirens and telephone trees

See **Operational Arrangements** (Group Plan pages 68-97) for more information about warnings.