

# CANTERBURY DISTRICT HEALTH BOARDS

## DRAFT CANTERBURY CDEM GROUP PLAN

### SUMMARY

#### 1 Glossary

ACC	Accident Compensation Corporation
CDEM	Civil Defence Emergency Management
Disaster	Any incident involving large numbers of live casualties or an incident with the potential to produce large numbers of live casualties
ECC	Emergency Coordination Centre – Regional/Group-wide
EMC	Emergency Medical Centre
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre - Local
RHCC	Regional Health Co-ordination Centre
MCI	Multiple Casualty Incident - An incident which involves casualties which place demands on the ambulance service that temporarily exceeds local resources
PRIME	Primary Response in Medical Emergencies
RCC	Regional Communications Centre (Christchurch)

#### 2 Introduction

- 2.1 This section outlines the Health Services response to major incidents and is compatible with the Canterbury District Health Board, South Canterbury District Health Board and Hospital plans. The section covers not only a state of emergency declared under the CDEM Act or health services emergencies declared under the Health Act or other legislation, but also covers emergencies where significant health responses may be required.
- 2.2 Health Services include;
- Ambulance
  - Hospitals
  - Community (District Nursing, General Practitioner, Community Pharmacies, Residential Care & Hospital Level Rest Homes)
  - Public Health
  - First Aid
- 2.3 This section should be read in conjunction with Part 6 of the National Civil Defence Plan (Health).
- 2.4 A disaster will threaten the lives and the well-being of large numbers of people; casualty numbers may well be a severe test of available medical facilities. In planning the following points must be considered:
- (a) The normal responsibilities of the Canterbury District Health Board, South Canterbury District Health Board, St John Ambulance Service, Medical Officer of Health, and Council's Environmental Health Unit are not relinquished by the declaration of a state of local emergency.
  - (b) The Ministry of Health, Canterbury District Health Board, South Canterbury District Health Board and ACC contract the Order of St John to provide "out of hospital" emergency services. The Ministry of Health contract includes the

planning and preparation to manage Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) events and to provide disaster-planning advice to all health services in the South Island.

- (c) St John operates a Regional Health Co-ordination Centre (RHCC) out of its Regional Communications Centre (RCC) with the responsibilities to co-ordinate the health response in the event of a major incident or hospital disaster.
- (d) Whenever possible, the normal systems for the movement of casualties, treatment and documentation will continue to be used.
- (e) Rural areas are to make the best available use of the medical resources within their area such as medical practitioners, registered nurses, St John ambulance personnel and the members of the Red Cross.

### **3 Regional Health Co-ordination Centre Roles, Functions and Powers**

3.1 In any emergency, declared or otherwise, where a significant coordinated health response is (likely to be) required, Health Services response will be co-ordinated from a Regional Health Co-ordination Centre (RHCC) established in the boardroom of the St. John Ambulance Headquarters, 150 St. Asaph Street Christchurch or another appropriate site, depending on the demands of the event.

3.2 The RHCC will provide the following services:

- Provide and monitor a 24-hour communication network linking Canterbury District Health Board facilities, South Canterbury District Health Board facilities and Canterbury CDEM ECC.
- Maintain, through duty Managers at Canterbury District Health Board, South Canterbury District Health Board and Private Medical Facilities, a call out system of appropriate skilled persons.
- In the event of a state of local emergency under the CDEM Act or potential emergency, activate/advise all relevant agencies.
- Co-ordinate the movement and delivery of patients to the appropriate health facility.
- Emergency Medical Centres and Health Support Units.
- Co-ordinate the supply of resources (personnel and medical supplies) to any facility/ location requiring such support.
- Advise all receiving Hospitals and departments of the number and condition of patients involved requiring treatment.

3.3 The RHCC will operate in support of the Controller and the Medical Co-ordinator in any affected area. The Centre will provide resources when local Health Providers are unable to cope with the emergency.

3.4 The Centre will be activated once advice is received of potential health problems. Such advice can be given by:

- Emergency Services, including Ambulance
- Hospitals
- Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management
- Local Authorities

#### **4 Co-ordinator Hospital Services**

- 4.1 Chief Executive, Canterbury District Health Board and/or his/her designate
- 4.2 Chief Executive, South Canterbury District Health Board and/or his/her designate.

#### **5 Co-ordinator “Out Of Hospital” Emergency Services**

- 5.1 The District Ambulance Manager, The Order of St John and/or his/her designate.

#### **6 District Hospitals**

- 6.1 Several hospitals provide general medical services in the Canterbury region:
  - Christchurch Hospital is the Tertiary Hospital in the region
  - Timaru and Ashburton Hospitals provide general hospital services to their respective communities
  - Kaikoura Hospital provides a GP-lead minor emergency, geriatric and maternity service to the Kaikoura community
  - Burwood Hospital incorporates a specialist spinal unit and an orthopaedic centre
- 6.2 Alternative care sites will be GP surgeries, Community Assessment Centres (CAC), veterinarian clinics and pharmacies and other facilities as available.

#### **7 Surgical And Medical Supplies**

- 7.1 Each service will be responsible for arranging the supply of emergency resources.
- 7.2 Would be available from hospitals and commercial pharmacies.
- 7.3 The Order of St John, Northern Region (South Island), has medical equipment and supplies to support a mass casualty incident. Additional resources can be called from the regional supply in Christchurch.

#### **8 Emergency Hospital Arrangements**

- 8.1 Evacuation of patients from one hospital to another or to other premises may be necessary. The RHCC will collate and provide information on available bed states.

#### **9 Transport**

- 9.1 The Order of St John undertakes to facilitate the transport of patients but may require direct assistance from the CDEM ECC/EOC.

#### **10 Communications**

- 10.1 Separate systems will operate including telephone (including direct line and radiotelephone).
- 10.2 St John will provide a Health Liaison Officer to the Group ECC when there is a need during emergencies. The Group ECC will provide the Liaison Officer with telephone, email and Internet access. Similar arrangements will be made within local EOCs, as the needs of events require and available resources allow. St John may assign a Health Liaison Officer to the Timaru EOC, rather than all South Canterbury EOCs, during a widespread emergency.

- 10.3 Christchurch Public Hospital, Burwood Hospital, Christchurch Women's, Princess Margaret Hospitals and Timaru Hospital have access to the emergency ambulance communications network as well as radio communication with the ambulance service.

## **11 Medical Aid Units**

- 11.1 Medical personnel will initially be General Practitioners augmented where required by hospital personnel.
- 11.2 General Practitioners will be expected to supply basic equipment. PRIME (Primary Response in Medical Emergencies) doctors will be coordinated by St John Ambulance.

## **12 Security**

- 12.1 Security is a CDEM and Police responsibility.

## **13 Mortuary Facilities**

- 13.1 Hospitals are primarily responsible for mortuary facilities, will link with funeral homes and have arrangements in place for refrigerated containers as required.
- 13.2 The New Zealand Police will requisition additional buildings/facilities as necessary.

## **14 Public Health**

- 14.1 Community & Public Health's Medical Officer of Health or nominated Health Protection Officer will co-ordinate the public health response to a major incident.
- 14.2 The role of Community & Public Health is to:
- (a) identify and assess the extent of public health risks through an analysis of the hazards and threats posed by the emergency
  - (b) monitor all risks that may impact on the health of the public
  - (c) co-ordinate public health activities with the activities of other emergency services
  - (d) communicate and advise local emergency services, District Health Board(s) and Ministry of Health about the emergency
  - (e) ensure appropriate management of the public health aspects of the emergency
  - (f) communicate with the public on all matters relating to public health
- 14.3 The public health response will, in conjunction with the applicable agencies, address the following issues:
- (a) public health measures to control communicable disease
  - (b) potability of water supplies
  - (c) safety of available food supplies and ongoing food hygiene issues
  - (d) sewage and waste disposal
  - (e) sanitary burial of the dead (in conjunction with Police and hospital services)

- (f) residential and emergency accommodation including advice on maintenance of sanitary conditions
- (g) control and disposal of hazardous substances (in conjunction with Fire Service)
- (h) sanitary disposal of dead animals and control of pets
- (i) vermin and pest control

14.4 Medical Officers of Health and Health Protection Officers have a range of legal powers and responsibilities that allow them to carry out their roles. In addition, the Medical Officer of Health may, by agreement with the District Health Board, liaise with and co-ordinate the response of community health care providers in an emergency.

## **15 Registration of Casualties**

15.1 Registration of casualties will be the responsibility of the hospital where casualties are receiving health care. CDEM ECC/EOCs will liaise with the DHB concerned to assist with registration if necessary and to ensure that the Registration section of the relevant CDEM EOC is also sharing and compiling the relevant information.

## **16 Support Services**

16.1 Local CDEM Welfare sections will provide welfare support including catering, as required, for any EMC, HSU or other medical facility established during any major incident.

16.1 Local CDEM EOC sections will arrange for any water supply, electrical supply, drainage, sewerage disposal, transport support, or other services as required, with support and coordination provided by the CDEM Group ECC.

## **17 References**

St John Ambulance Service Northern Regional (SI) Civil Defence and Health Services Plan

National Civil Defence Plan