

## Post Earthquake Actions

The impact of an earthquake in the region may be limited to minor damage with few or no casualties – or could result in widespread devastation with severe damage and overwhelming numbers of casualties.

In the days, weeks, and months after a severe earthquake, numerous aftershocks should be expected, and they may cause further casualties and damage.

If an earthquake is long and strong:

1	<p><b>Consider activating the mass casualty plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If it is unclear whether or not people have been injured, contact the Ambulance Service (and/or monitor their radio channel)</li> <li>• Large numbers of casualties may arrive at Emergency Department and the Accident &amp; Medical Clinic unannounced and untreated shortly after a damaging earthquake</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Check staff on duty</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make contact with staff on duty in hospitals and in the community:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use whatever means are available (telephone, radio, visits etc)</li> <li>○ To the extent possible, address any immediate concerns they may have</li> <li>○ Ensure they know how to contact the EOC if necessary</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Assess the impact on DHB facilities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to contact all CCDHB facilities by whatever means are possible</li> <li>• Use the situation report in the 'Post Earthquake Action Pack' (in each Emergency Management Procedures manual and in the EOCs) as a template for collecting the data</li> <li>• When Technical Services staff are available, ask them to start their checks of the buildings starting with those most critical to the response – i.e.:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regional Hospital Building</li> <li>○ Emergency Department</li> <li>○ CSB (Laboratory and Blood Bank)</li> <li>○ Children's Hospital</li> <li>○ Total Energy Centre and other key utility services :                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Oxygen</li> <li>• Waste water</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Establish Communications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure communications are still possible with key staff and areas on site. If telephones are affected, issue radios to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ each clinical area</li> <li>○ cardiac arrest team</li> <li>○ incident response team members</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Monitor external communications on the VHF radios in the EOC – listen for pertinent information, and for calls to the 'DHB' or 'Wellington Hospital':             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 'Health Wellington' channels (other hospitals and GP surgeries)</li> <li>○ Ambulance and CDEM (emergency services)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Monitor any media sources that may still be operating:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Broadcast Radio (National Radio preferably)</li> <li>○ Television</li> <li>○ Internet media pages – e.g. stuff.co.nz</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

5	<p><b>Establish contact with other agencies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NOTE:</b> all of the following can be contacted by radio or satellite phone if normal telecommunications systems have been damaged</li> <li>• Try to contact the 'command and control' agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Ministry of Health National Health Coordination Centre (NHCC)</li> <li>○ Other DHBs in the Central Region – follow the procedures for 'Out of District Incident' above</li> <li>○ Regional and local Civil Defence EOCs – contact details are in the Wellington Region CDEMG Emergency Contact list. Copies are in the EOC document holder or electronically at J:\Emergency Operations Centre\Incident Management Pack&gt;Contact Lists</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other health providers – e.g. Private Hospitals and General Practices</li> <li>• Focus primarily on liaison with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hutt Valley and Wairarapa DHBs – they are in the same Civil Defence Group</li> <li>○ Compass Health – they will be coordinating the Primary Health response (most casualties are likely to be treated in the community)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Incident management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Form an Incident Management Team with appropriate available staff</li> <li>• If possible work closely with the Hutt Valley and Wairarapa DHBs – they are part of the same civil defence region</li> <li>• Compass Health should also be establishing an EOC at either Wellington or Porirua to coordinate the primary health response (GP practices and community pharmacies)</li> <li>• Participate in multi-agency regional and national planning to the fullest extent possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The initial health focus is likely to be on the treatment of casualties, and then expanded to encompass public health issues and then the restoration of normal services and facilities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In general, requests for assistance should be directed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The <b>National Health Coordination Centre</b> for health related assistance (e.g. staff, supplies, patient transfers)</li> <li>○ <b>Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group</b></li> <li>○ <b>Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC)</b> for generic assistance (e.g. fuel, water, transport, generators etc)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Water management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplies of potable water will almost certainly be very scarce following a large earthquake. Every effort must be made to preserve available supplies for essential use only – this may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Securing and rationing all water supplies and other potable liquids – if possible secure access to supply tanks in roof spaces and basements, and any reservoirs</li> <li>○ Quickly managing leaks to prevent loss of water (and water damage)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8	<p><b>Sewage management</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assume sewerage systems on hospital sites and in the community have been damaged - until advised otherwise from a reputable source</li> <li>• On hospital sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure all staff are following the sewerage procedures in the Earthquake Response Plan and the 'Post Earthquake Action Pack' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The key points are to shut down as many discharge points as possible (especially toilets, urinals and sanitisers) and to 'double bag' the toilets that will be kept in service</li> <li>• Consider options for collecting, storing and disposing of bags of waste</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>