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**NATIONAL
EXERCISE
PROGRAMME**
INTERAGENCY
CAPABILITY BUILDING

New Zealand's national security system during a crisis

New Zealand's world-class processes identify and deal with national security events and emergencies, and build national resilience.

New Zealand's arrangements for dealing with national security issues have evolved through the system of Domestic and External Security Coordination (DESC). This is a high-level strategic structure that has been the foundation of national security governance and planning since 1987.

The system provides a mechanism for dealing with major crises or other situations requiring an all-of-government response. Across New Zealand more generally, it is able to facilitate the coordination of all sectoral, regional, and government capabilities where national planning or a national response is required.

Combined with the National Exercise Programme (and other readiness processes), this approach helps to ensure that risks receive appropriate attention, the right capabilities are developed, and lessons are identified and learned from.

How you can get involved

In order to be successful, the National Exercise Programme needs to engage a wide range of government, industry and non-government organisations.

There are a range of opportunities for organisations to be involved in National Exercise Programme activities. These can range from observing exercises through to fully participating in the planning and delivery of activities.

Organisations are also able to link into National Exercise Programme events to facilitate the testing of their own readiness and business continuity processes. If you think your agency wants to get involved then contact the National Exercise Programme Planning Team.

newzealand.govt.nz

Background to New Zealand's national security system

New Zealand identifies national security risks on an “all-hazards” basis. This means that all risks to national security, whether internal or external, natural or man-made, are included within the scope of our national security system.

The interagency National Exercise Programme was established in 2013 with the aim of ensuring New Zealand is prepared to effectively respond to national security events on or offshore.

New Zealand's recent history is filled with examples of complex national security events that required all-of-government management.

The Canterbury earthquakes, the response to the blackmail threat to poison infant formula and the Rena grounding are recent examples.



About the National Exercise Programme

The National Exercise Programme is chaired by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and reports to the Hazard Risk Board which is the National Security System governance body responsible for building system resilience. The programme builds capability across government through a coordinated series of interagency readiness activities that underpin the resilience of our national security system. These activities are measured against a set of national objectives.

Capability is also built through the capture and sharing of lessons identified from previous events and exercises.

The National Exercise Programme is supported by a planning team comprised of an interagency professional body of specialists. The planning team maintains oversight of nationally significant exercises and supports national exercising consistency through the development of tools and the provision of guidance to agency-led exercise writing and planning groups.

The Programme is designed to be able to adapt to emerging threats and issues.

What does the National Exercise Programme do?

The National Exercise Programme follows the ‘Crawl-Walk-Run’ philosophy. This approach gives agencies and individuals every opportunity to prepare and build skills and to test those skills in an annual capstone exercise.

Crawl

The National Exercise Programme aims to support **six** ODESC Forum seminars each year. These seminars, alongside a range of other readiness activities, are aimed at raising awareness of key issues, supporting exercises and embedding lessons identified.

Walk

The National Exercise Programme aims to support **two** ‘enabling’ exercises each year. These activities lead up to the ‘run’ activity and can range from a discussion exercise through to a functional command post activity that tests agencies and staff.

Run

Each year at least **one** capstone exercise is conducted that aims to fully test the system in a realistic national security scenario.



How the National Exercise Programme supports the national security system

The National Exercise Programme is about officials confidently following best practice crisis management processes in support of the Domestic and External Security Coordination system (DESC).

The Programme is focussed on building a more resilient national security system and compliments – but does not replace – agency readiness programmes.

The 2015-2019 Programme

The National Exercise Programme operates across a four year timeframe. This ensures that a balanced series of activities are delivered across a range of potential scenarios.

2015	DEC	Exercise Rawaho (Walk): Pest Incursion	
2016	MAY	Exercise Whakautu II (Walk): Maritime Incident	
	AUG SEPT	Exercise Tangaroa (Run): Tsunami	
	NOV DEC	Exercise Guardian 16 (Walk): Counter-terrorism	
2017	APR	Exercise (Walk): Major Industrial Accident	
	JUL	Exercise (Run): Disease threat	
	SEPT	Exercise (Walk): Extreme Weather Event - Tropical Cyclone (Regional Disaster)	
	DEC	Exercise (Walk): Malicious cyber threat	
2018	APR	Exercise (Run): Irregular migration	
	SEPT	Exercise (Walk): Biosecurity threat	
	TBC	Exercise (Walk): Volcanic eruption	
2019	APR	Exercise (Run): Major transport incident	