

14. Co-ordinated incident management system

Summary The co-ordinated incident management system (CIMS) is used by agencies to co-ordinate operational response. It involves common terminology and operating structures, integrated communications, and other management requirements to deliver emergency management.

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14.1 Co-ordinated incident management system (CIMS)

55 Co-ordinated incident management system (CIMS)

- (1) CIMS is used by the emergency services and other agencies as a basis for operational response.
- (2) The most important aspect of CIMS is co-ordination that brings together agencies to ensure consistent and effective response and recovery efforts.
- (3) CIMS is about teamwork in emergency management through sharing common terminology, using a modular organisational structure, integrating communications, using common incident action plans, ensuring manageable spans of control, and sharing resources.
- (4) Co-ordination is based on four core elements—
 - (a) control; and
 - (b) planning and intelligence; and
 - (c) operations; and
 - (d) logistics.
- (5) Multi-agency incident control (horizontally across agencies) is exercised by the senior first responder but is transferred on the basis of which agency has primacy for the incident type (for example, police for law and order situations).

14.2 CIMS in the national management of an emergency

CIMS is a standard, all-hazards incident management system.

During a state of national emergency or a civil defence emergency of national significance, national operations will be arranged in accordance with the CIMS core elements.

Agencies, CDEM Groups and local authorities use CIMS as the basis for their response procedures. Agencies should plan for an effective interface between their CIMS functions and those of other agencies involving incident controllers from different agencies (see **Figure 14.1**).

14.2.1 Education and training

CIMS training should be a part of the professional development programme for all organisations with emergency management roles and responsibilities.

Training should be delivered on a joint agency basis to reinforce the need for inter-agency collaboration and understanding.

14.3 National administration of CIMS.

National administration is undertaken by the Joint Agency Steering Committee for CIMS, chaired by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM).

CIMS is developed and maintained through:

- ongoing senior management commitment to CIMS and to CIMS training;
- joint planning and review of CIMS applications to incidents, multi incident events;
- establishing professional development programmes to NZQA unit standards working with the sector and the Fire and Rescue Service Industry Training Organisation (FRSITO);
- promoting the adoption of CIMS within all emergency service providers.

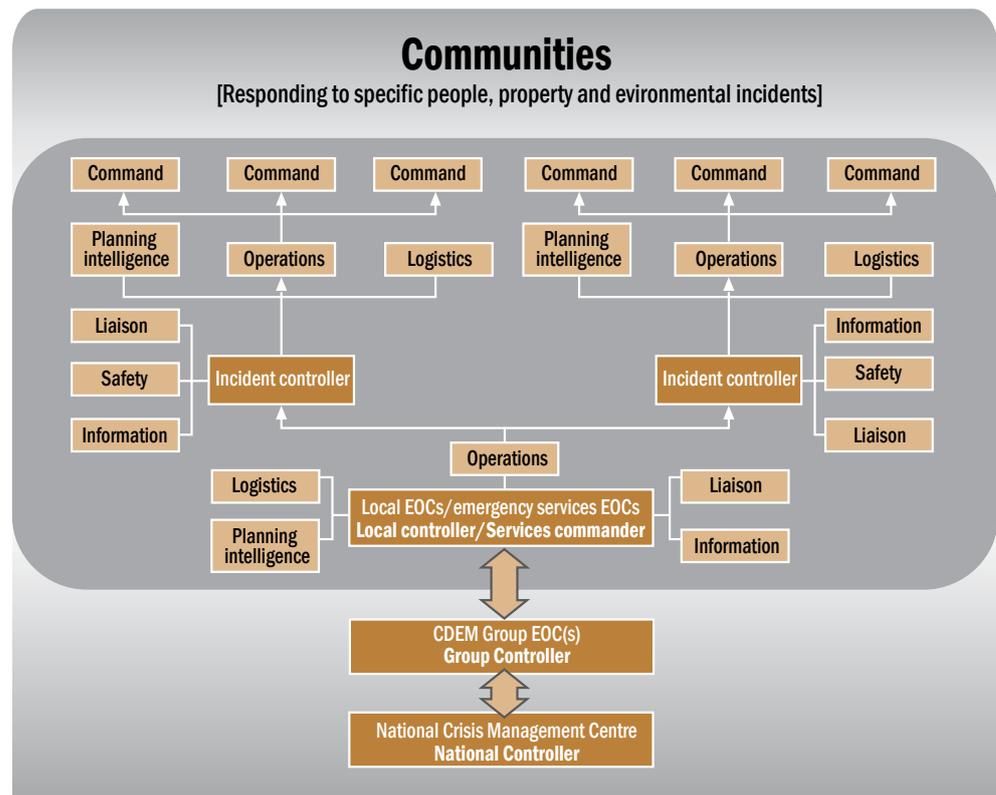


Figure 14.1: Example of a multi-incident CIMS structure and interface for CDEM co-ordination

14.4 References and links

Other documents

- *The NZ Co-ordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) – Teamwork in Emergency Management*; New Zealand Fire Service Commission (1998); ISBN 0-908920-32-6¹.
- For CIMS training modules/programmes, refer to the FRISTO website (www.frsito.org.nz/products/cims.html).
- The FRISTO and MCDEM websites (www.frsito.org.nz, www.civildefence.govt.nz) offer general information.
- *Response Management: Director's Guideline for CDEM Group and Local Controllers [DGL06/08]*; Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (2008) ISBN 978-0-478-25481-5 (www.civildefence.govt.nz).

1 A revised set of CIMS guidance material has been developed and will be published in 2009 (www.civildefence.govt.nz)

