



caring about you & your environment

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Report to Environment Committee
from Debbie Cunningham, Emergency Management Officer

Hazard Fact Sheets

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about hazards and emergency management education materials that have been produced.

2. Background

The WRC holds a huge amount of hazard information including scientific reports and maps. We make this information available to the territorial authorities and the public.

In 2001 a communications and marketing strategy was written for hazards and emergency management information. Some of the key outcomes suggested were:

- hazard and emergency preparedness information should be linked together i.e. if a person finds out about a hazard they should also get preparedness advice.
- hazard information should be available in language that is understandable (not scientific jargon) and be visually appealing.
- the different types of hazard information should be presented in the same format.
- we need to consult with the territorial authorities to find out their information needs.
- we need to work together across Council departments in producing the work e.g. communications, flood protection, resource policy, emergency management, environment co-ordination.

3. **Hazard Fact Sheets**

One of the projects detailed in the strategy is the production of the Wellington Regional Council Hazard Fact sheet series. Ten fact sheets have been produced. They cover general earthquake hazard, specific earthquake hazard for Wellington, Hutt Valley, Kapiti and Porirua, landslides, hazardous substances, petroleum hazards, tsunami and wildfire.

The hazards fact sheets serve two main purposes. First, they communicate the hazard information we hold. Secondly, they provide advice about how people can protect themselves from the hazards or mitigate the damage that may be caused.

The territorial authorities and many WRC Council departments were involved in preparing the fact sheets.

The fact sheets are double sided A4. They use illustrations and photographs where possible, and the language is suitable for 10 year olds.

On the recommendation of the Council's Communications Department, we have started with a small print run to ensure we will not have excess if there is a change in the Council's brand.

It is expected that more fact sheets will be added to the series as we complete new hazard research. For example, the next fact sheets are likely to be for meteorological hazards and earthquake hazard in the Wairarapa. WRC Flood Protection department will also contribute information to a flood hazard fact sheet.

Copies of the fact sheet are available for perusal in the Councillor's lounge prior to the meeting.

4. **Communication**

The fact sheets will be distributed through the territorial authorities and directly to some specific target audiences, including schools.

The fact sheets will be made available as soon as the electronic versions have been posted on the updated hazards and emergency management WebPages. This is expected before the end of June.

At the same time, postcards advertising the fact sheets will be distributed with the Hazards Update newsletter produced by the Resource Policy Department. This newsletter goes out to many individuals and organisations with an interest in hazards and emergency management.

5. Recommendation

That the report be received and the contacts noted.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission:

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