



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE – 11 June 2024

West Coast prepares for National CDEM Exercise Rū Whenua this week

West Coast Emergency Management, Council staff and volunteers are getting ready to take part in national exercise Rū Whenua this Wednesday to prepare and test their current procedures in anticipation of an Alpine Fault earthquake event (AF8).

The exercise is being led nationally by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and West Coast CDEM and the district councils will be activating three Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) and an Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) led by West Coast Regional Council operating in two shifts from 8am to 7pm.

The exercise will run through an AF8 scenario with a simultaneous national and regional response that will assess preparations, communications and recovery procedures following widespread impacts from the event.

Acting CDEM Group Manager Cindy Fleming says the exercise will allow West Coast CDEM to identify any gaps in their current processes and procedures and build their capacity.

“It’s critical we review the exercise in a true-to-life situation to help us focus on future CDEM systems and future preparations,”

“It’s really essential we evaluate all possibilities so we’re adequately prepared for an AF8 event here on the West Coast, this exercise will help us develop those systems to their best ability.”

West Coast CDEM will also be testing their new emergency management software program, D4He, which has been rolled out across the West Coast.

ENDS -

Media contact:

Cindy Fleming | Acting CDEM Group Manager | West Coast Regional Council | P 0211092298