



Media release

Thursday 5 June 2014

Civil Defence Staff put to the test

Selwyn District Council staff took part in a civil defence exercise last week to test their ability to cope with a significant weather event.

Exercise Pandora was based on major rainfall affecting most of the district. In the exercise, around 20 Council staff and several community response teams practised activating the Council's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to respond to the impact of rural communities being cut off by slips, towns requiring evacuation, power outages, flooding and water supply problems.

Selwyn Civil Defence and Emergency Operations Controller Douglas Marshall says the exercise gave council staff the opportunity to activate the EOC in Rolleston to practise how response activities to a significant weather event could be coordinated. "By practising how to respond to such an event, we can ensure the people involved have a chance to familiarise themselves with the EOC environment and think through the different aspects of emergency response so they are better prepared to cope with a real emergency," says Mr Marshall.

The exercise is the latest in a series of emergency response exercises the Council has participated in. "Last year we took part in an exercise where we were required to respond to a large earthquake affecting the West Coast," says Mr Marshall.

"Selwyn covers a very large area and there are a number of emergencies that may need to be responded to so it's good for staff to be prepared for a variety of scenarios through training."

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