

Hawkes Bay Lifelines Group Introduction to Lifelines in HB





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Key Members



For more information on the Hawkes Bay Lifeline Utility Group, or information on civil defence and emergency management in the Hawkes Bay region, contact:

Hawkes Bay CDEM Group

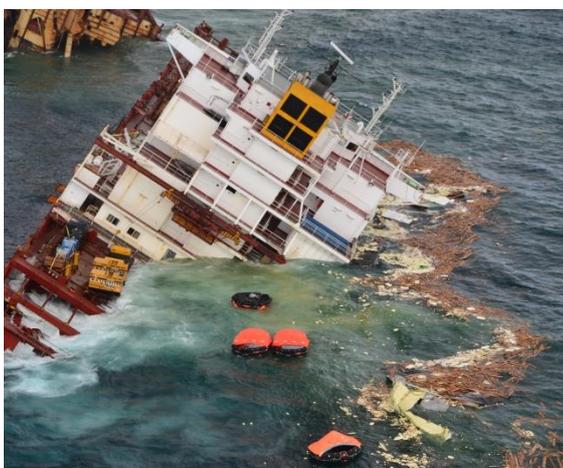
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<http://www.hbemergency.govt.nz/about-us/lifeline-utilities>

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Lifeline utilities are organisations that provide essential services to the community such as water, wastewater, transport, energy and communications.

The Hawkes Bay Lifeline Utilities Group is a volunteer technical forum established in 2004, which enables engineering and physical risk management planning, and identifies areas of interdependency.



The Hawkes Bay Lifeline Utilities Group works together to identify, analyse, and reduce the long term risks to life and property, as well as develop operational systems and capabilities before an emergency or disaster happens.

The impact of the loss of essential lifeline utility services was illustrated during the Auckland power crisis, and the Maui gas crisis in 2012. These events were caused by the failure of a single service. If a large scale event, such as a substantial earthquake or tsunami, were to hit the region, the failures could be more widespread and have a severe impact on lifeline utilities.

The goal of the Lifeline Utilities Group is to help members of the group meet their obligations under the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002, and to coordinate projects which will enable all lifeline utilities to better respond to an event.

Lifeline Utilities & Civil Defence Emergency Management

All local authorities, emergency services and partner agencies are required by law to support Civil Defence Emergency Management response in their area. They are also required by law to continue to operate (even if at a reduced level) during an emergency. This means that these organisations need to have their own emergency response procedures in place to ensure they meet these requirements.

The Lifeline Utilities Group is one of a number of advisory groups who meet regularly to discuss Civil Defence and Emergency Management issues, and offer advice to the Coordinating Executive Group on their areas of expertise.

The chairperson of the Lifeline Utilities Group is a member of the Coordinating Executive Group. Support to this role will be provided through the Civil Defence Group. This support will help to coordinate projects, the flow of information, and activities of the Lifeline Utilities Group on behalf of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

The advisory groups are a source of experienced personnel who provide specialist advice on operational planning when identifying and analysing risks to people and property, and developing operational systems to respond to an emergency.

The advisory groups ensure effective liaison between Civil Defence and Emergency Management and key stakeholders in the community. These groups are a pathway to developing networks within a sector.



The Role of Lifeline Utilities Group Activities

Organising the implementation of projects that reduce the vulnerability of Hawke's Bay lifeline utilities, and improve disaster preparedness planning for the Hawkes Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

- Informing and assisting lifeline utilities by providing best practice guidelines, and the latest developments from New Zealand and overseas.
 - Building effective relationships between utilities in the region.
- Facilitating a regional-level risk management process through regular contact between members of the Group and emergency management agencies.
- Motivating the Group participants by providing an analysis of international events and disasters that affect lifeline utility organisations.
- Advocating the importance of lifeline utilities to the community.
- Coordinating with other regional Lifeline Utilities Groups.

Response and Recovery

When responding to, or recovering from an emergency, lifeline utility coordination is directed by the Lifeline Utilities Coordinator. This Coordinator manages the flow of information between lifeline utilities, and Civil Defence Emergency Management agencies.

Lifeline utilities provide information and advice about service disruption, response activities, priorities, and expected developments. These are provided to a central point, which is usually the Civil Defence Emergency Management Emergency Coordination Centre.

This information is analysed, and collected into a regional lifeline utility situation report which covers all affected services. The information is then distributed to all lifeline utilities, and includes other relevant information that can inform their decision making, and provides a holistic regional perspective.

The Hawkes Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Controller and Emergency Coordination Centre staff is given critical lifeline utility information, which aids decision making and priority setting. Civil Defence Emergency Management support is provided to lifeline utilities to assist in the rapid restoration of lifeline utility services.

Coordination Protocols

Coordination protocols for responding to, and recovering from an emergency, have been prepared by the Hawkes Bay Lifeline Utilities Group. These protocols formalise and define the coordination process between lifeline utilities and the Hawkes Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group during an event.

These protocols aim to define and establish centralised lifelines utilities coordination to ensure the response and recovery processes are properly implemented.

Meetings

Meetings are held to discuss the business of the Hawkes Bay Lifeline Utilities Group, to report on the progress of projects and financial reporting, and presentations for the education of members are delivered.

The groups intention is to also hold a joint annual forum with the Gisborne Lifeline Forum, as both regions have many similarities and interdependencies.

Membership

Hawkes Bay Lifeline Utility Group is a voluntary organisation that is open to representatives from Hawkes Bay Regional

Council, territorial authorities, lifeline utility organisations and other entities.

The group aim to identify lifeline utilities that are not currently members, who could make a positive contribution to the reduction of community vulnerabilities. Hawke's Bay Lifeline Utility Groups are encouraged to have representation at the meetings, which helps to maintain the momentum, and increase the knowledge and experience of the group members.



Sectors Involved

The Hawkes Bay Lifeline Utility Group is made up of a number of organisations from the following sectors:

- Fuel Companies
- Communication companies
- Territorial Authorities (water, wastewater, stormwater and local roads)

- Transportation (state highway, rail, Ports & air)
- Electricity
- Gas or Natural Gas

Benefits of Membership

Hawkes Bay Lifeline Utility Group members are involved through their participation in regular meetings, receiving Hawkes Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group material, attending the annual combined forum, and actively participating in Hawkes Bay Lifeline Utility Group projects.

This participation results in the following benefits:

- Access to best practice risk management concepts and procedures for network utility and transportation sector lifelines
- Access to research and outcomes, and the ability to influence and participate in research topics.
- Access to Civil Defence and Emergency Management staff to answer queries, and participate in training and exercises.
- Enhanced ability to identify and deal with interdependency issues with other lifeline utilities
- Receive assistance to comply with the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002
- Sharing costs by coordinating projects with other utility providers that would be expensive and less effective if developed individually
- Access to workshops and exercises organised by the Hawkes Bay Lifeline Utilities Group, and the Group Emergency Management Office.
- Ongoing forums to keep regular contact with related agencies in the sector to

exchange information to improve risk mitigation and preparedness.

Commitment required from Members

- Attend all meetings, or provide an alternative representative to attend on your behalf.
- Ensure that any information provided through the group is treated as confidential and only used to meet the approved Hawkes Bay Lifeline Utility Group objectives.
- Follow up on actions from meetings, including the delegation of tasks to other members.
- Maintain an effective group and response capability by contributing resources and technical expertise.
- Promote Lifeline Utility Group projects with your own organisation and other lifeline utility organisations.
- Participate in projects and planning that will increase the collective resilience of the Hawkes Bay region.
- Enable hazard and risk management processes at regional level by meeting other members of the group, and emergency management agencies.
- Promote the importance of lifeline utilities to the community.

