



WEST COAST EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

GROUP

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Big year for emergency management training

2022 has been a busy year for emergency management training across the CIMS and specific function courses.

The Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) provides the model or structure for the command, control and coordinating a response to an event that can be scalable. The CIMS course trains those involved in any part of incident management, providing them with the knowledge and skills needed to apply the CIMS principles to a range of emergency response scenarios.

This year, West Coast Emergency Management had 120 people complete the CIMS training.

Claire Brown, Group Manager for the West Coast Emergency Management Group, said that interest had been high by many new recruits across the region.

“Every year our Emergency Management team offers training to help increase the capability of our Emergency Operation Centres and our Community Response Groups. Not only have we had an excellent take-up of our CIMS training, these staff have gone on to enhance their skills by completing the function courses.”

The specific function courses include planning, logistics, public information management, controller, intelligence and operations.

“Over 140 staff undertook the function specific training, some completing more than one course as they had enjoyed the initial CIMS training,” said Ms Brown. “This is a wonderful achievement for the West Coast, standing us in good stead as we build our response capability.”

Over 250 people attended training in the last year: 44 in Buller, 167 in Grey and 56 in Westland. People often attend courses on the dates that suit regardless of the district. This resulted in a large number attending courses in Grey compared to the other two districts.

Courses are attended by a mix of people including Council staff, community volunteers, and staff from other agencies such as Police, FENZ, Health and Department of Conservation.

Ms Brown has put a call out for more people to come forward.

“If you would like more information on these courses or how to volunteer, you can contact us via our website www.westcoastemergency.govt.nz or by contacting your local council.”

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Image: Participants in CIMS training in Franz Josef