



NZ-RT9 Upper Hutt Community Rescue



Above: Members of RT9 begin rigging a reeving highline by which to remove victims from site during Exercise Pegasus, September 2004.

In brief...

Upper Hutt Community Rescue was formed by a group of volunteers in the Upper Hutt area in 1995.

Registered in June 2004.

NZ-RT9 has the ability to provide technical rope and swiftwater rescue support to other emergency services.

In addition to USAR operations the team provides community based services such as first aid training, first aid at events as well as communications and assisting with running Emergency Operation Centres.

Designation: NZ-RT9
CDEM Group: Wellington
Team Size: 15-20

NZ-RT9 Capability Matrix

Rope	✓✓
Confined Space	
Medical	✓
Canine Search	
Flood	✓✓
Storm	
EOC	✓
Welfare	
Communications	✓✓

About NZ-RT9

Upper Hutt Community Rescue (UHCR) was formed in 1995 out of a community-initiated response by a group of individuals who saw the need to provide the Upper Hutt community with a dedicated and unique volunteer rescue team that would be able to meet the ever-changing needs of the community. The perceived need was recognised with the restructuring of Civil Defence rescue teams. In 1996 the team was registered as an incorporated society.

The team's first call-out was to the Hutt River floods in 1998 and again in 2000. In 2001 they were called out to the Silverstream fires, and in 2002 to the Paraparaumu Golf Open (following threats of disruption aimed at Tiger Woods). The team responded to the Paekakariki landslides and a fire in Pinehaven in 2003. In February 2004 Upper Hutt Community Rescue was activated three times by the Upper Hutt City Council Emergency Management Office as a result of flooding and the closing of the Rimutaka Hill Road. The team also took charge of the evacuation of 1000 competitors in The Big Coast cycle event when inclement weather forced the race to be cancelled. In a twelve-month period, the team responded to over 300 hours of emergency response deployment.

In tandem with its response capability, UHCR also provides regular assistance at community events in the form of first aid, communications, crowd control and event management. The most memorable of these was the provision of first aid services at the Sweetwater's Festival in January 1999. Last year the team provided over 750 hours of first aid and community service at concerts, sporting events and Christmas parades.

The team has received several certificates of appreciation and letters of thanks for various events that they have attended, including one from the Mayor of Upper Hutt.

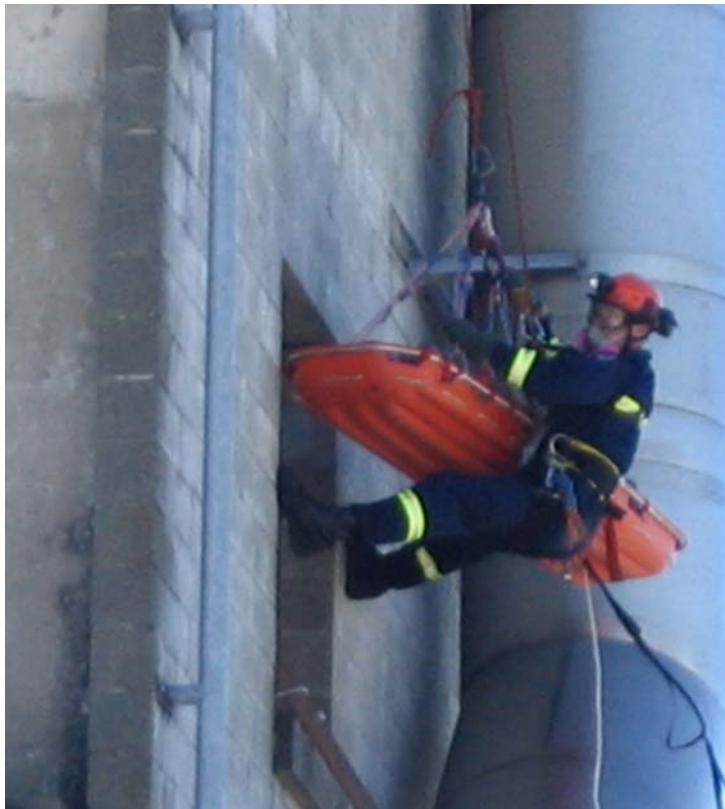


Team Registration

To become a viable and effective rescue and response team, Urban Search and Rescue was seen by the team as an essential extension to their capabilities in dealing with disasters and emergencies.

“The registration process for NZ-RT9 was a fairly painless exercise that confirmed we were capable of obtaining a nationally recognised status. The benefits of being registered range from recognition by professional agencies, through to the confidence of our team members in their own duties.” Says Team Leader Derek Brenchley.

“The registration process was very systematic and thorough. A major benefit for the Wellington CDEM Group is that the process has resulted in a network of operating procedures and systems that are common to all the regional teams. The process enabled us to implement systems that we didn’t have before, and highlighted areas that we can improve on.” Says Communications Manager Vicky Blair.



Above: A victim is removed from a building by means of a tendered stretcher lower during Exercise Pegasus. Several members of NZ-RT9 are trained as Rope Rescue Specialists.

Top Right: In addition to the technical skills that NZ-RT9 carry out, USAR is still a core function. Team members remove a victim from a building through non-technical means, during training.

Additional Cache List

(Additional to required kit for USAR Response Teams)

- Specialist Rope Rescue Equipment
- Medic Backpacks
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
- Medical Resus Kit and O2 therapy equipment
- Community Emergency Kit
- UHF Radios (Handheld and Vehicle Base sets)
- Trunked Radios (Handheld and Vehicle Base sets)
- Scoop stretchers and Road Stretcher
- 4WD van fitted with winch and stretcher compatible
- Power tools (hammer drills, reciprocating saws etc)

For further information on NZ-RT9 contact

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In our next **Fact Sheet #23 NZ-TF1** we profile Palmerston North based Task Force 1.