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REGIONAL CIVIL DEFENCE

CANTERBURY SNOW EVENT

JUNE 2002



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- Received snow warning Friday 14 June
- Fortunate snow started to fall later in day on Monday 17th
- Most farmers had fed out in advance of storm



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ASHBURTON (Cont)

- Neighbourhood Support
- Priorities for road clearance



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ASHBURTON (Cont)

- Farmers emergency relief committee
 - only really involved in snow raking over following week
 - run from member's home
 - limited co-ordination with Council
 - Identification, movement problems.



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SELWYN

- Opened CD headquarters
- Rural town water supply issues



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COMMUNICATIONS

- Rural areas dependent on junction boxes. Batteries only good for 8 - 12 hours when power off. (Power off in many rural areas for 3 or more days).
- Phones still gave normal 'Engaged Tone'. Voice mail etc still operated.



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LESSONS

- **Control.** Open a headquarters and open it early as a co-ordination point for affected parties.
- **Communications.**
 - Be pro-active in ascertaining what is going on
 - Know what alternate communications, public and private are available in patch



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- Very heavy, wet snow.
- Seven times heavier than normal
- 2.5 tonnes on one weigh bridge
- Major damage to trees
- Rural power lines badly affected

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LESSONS (Cont)

- Roads.
 - Have pre-determined, agreed priority order for re-opening roads.
 - Keep everybody informed
- Identification

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- Snow Raking
 - Use of helicopters
 - Volunteers need to be:
 - Physically and mentally fit for task
 - Properly equipped
 - Thoroughly briefed
 - Well supervised
 - Discipline

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TIMARU

- Opened Headquarters
- Some co-ordination

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MACKENZIE

- Did not open HQ
- Rung around, few reported problems.
- Contractors and road clearance
- Snow raking organised by Agriculture NZ Timaru representative

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ASHBURTON

- No headquarters opened
- Accommodation
 - Ashburton Information Centre
 - Police asking for billets over radio
 - Red Cross - 37 overnight