Exercise Evaluation Report

2018 Avalanche CNI

Location: Central North Island

Date: 13/08/20118S

Report version: 1

Evaluator(s): *Kip Mandeno – IMT Evaluator*

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Contents

Executive Summary

An Avalanche SAREX occurred in August 2018 and involved a significant number of organisations, professional personnel land volunteers. The key target was to create as best as possible a real-time exercise that allowed for a local and wide area response. This includes the a from Taranaki ACR, Airforce and several commercial Operators and local SAR teams.

The SAREX was complex and no doubt challenging to organise with as much learning being had during planning as there was for each participant on the day. It was a well planned and well-executed event allowing participants to the experience a response to a mass casualty time critical event in high hazard environment.

This allowed IMT to be exposed to the stresses of a rapid response event with little time to get organised. From this, a number of recommendations have been made that will hopefully aid IMT development and response to similar mass casualty events in the Central North Island.

1. Recommendations

1. Continuation of relevant real-time training and scenario-based learning through SAREXs.
2. Ongoing regular review of pre-plans against current recreation trends and changes in demographics.
3. Development of a larger *mass casualty* response plan that supplements the current one-page document and can work across multiple similar events.
4. Ongoing training for IMT in handling a rapid response to mass casualty or time-critical events such as Avalanches or similar that can occur in the local area.

2. Introduction

A multi-agency exercise was planned to test the response of ground teams and IMT in real time for an avalanche event. The Exercise was planned by local Police and various local operators to provide a realistic as possible Avalanche Site.

The site was established on Mount Tongariro in the Tongariro National Park and staged from the Chateau at Whakapapa Village. The IMT was staged in the Taupo Police Station with communication via radio to field teams.

All activities were designed to reflect a real event in real time to test a broad range of systems and processes for responding to, a time critical event.

3. Background

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3.1 Background to the Exercise

Avalanche SAREXs have been conducted routinely within the Central North Island to test and maintain readiness for an event that may involve a single person to a multi-person response. The very nature of avalanche events means a response has to occur in the fastest time possible and with a high degree of safety.

All responders need regular exposure to avalanche practices and techniques. Supporting agencies such as Air Force, St John and the IMT will be exposed to an event and environment they may not be typically familiar with so maintaining exposure to the support they will be required to give is an important function of these regular SAREXs

3.2 Dates, location, organising agency(s), key people

- **Date of Exercise**
    - 13 August 2018
- **Location**
    - Tongariro National Park
- **Exercise Director**
    - Conrad Smith (NZ Police)
- **Exercise Field Team:**
    - Site Controller/ Evaluation: Andrew Hobman,
    - Med Evaluation: Dr Petra, Kate Hazelton,
    - Site Safety Exercise: Peter Zimmer

3.3 Participating organisations

- NZ Police
- Avalanche NZ
- LandSAR ACR Teams – RARO, Taranaki, Dogs
- LandSAR Turangi
- LandSAR Ruapehu
- St John Ambulance
- Mid West Helicopters
- Greenlea Rescue Helicopter Taupo
- Department of Conservation
- RNZAF 3SQN
- Conrad Smith (NZ Police)
- Andrew Hobman (Avalanche NZ)
- Barry Shepherd (NZ Police)
- Pete Zimmer (LandSAR)

3.4 Exercise aim

To practically test and evaluate the Ruapehu and Taupo Avalanche Response Plans and the readiness and response of participating agencies. This extends to the Incident Management Team, Search and Rescue Teams, Helicopter Operators and Pre Hospital Trauma Care.

3.5 Exercise objectives

- Test and evaluate the effectiveness and accuracy of the Ruapehu and Taupo Avalanche Response Plans including the call out systems and process.
- Test and evaluate the readiness and response of the field teams and other resources, including management of the incident site, personal search and digging skills, appropriate equipment, appropriate patient management and safe working around helicopters.
- Test and evaluate the readiness and response of the Incident Management Team, including application of CIMS, resource tracking, information management and forward planning.
- To improve coordination and effectiveness between the responding agencies including consistency of search and rescue techniques, common resources, communication methods, meeting key personnel and working with other responders.
- To document and communicate the learnings and recommendations to the New Zealand Search and Rescue sector, in a timely manner.

Scenario set-up in field one day prior with final set-up the morning of SAREX

- Call out made from the field with SAREX run in real time until completion.
- Teams flown to field in realistic response times.
- Avalanche search and rescue techniques applied to find and dig out victims.
- Patients to be appropriately managed from the site, according their injuries.

3.6 Exercise Scenario

A backcountry avalanche incident involving multiple people who are caught and buried. The search and rescue response will follow the Ruapehu and Taupo Avalanche Response Plans call out procedures and apply CIMS structure and principles.

4. Evaluation Methodology

4.1 The agreed outcomes of the evaluation activity

Carry out observation of the IMT and its function in a real-time scenario.

4.2 Evaluation scope

The scope of this evaluation was limited to the operation of the IMT & the ICP

4.3 Aspects of the exercise observed, what was not observed

All aspects of the IMTs function was observed during the course the SAREX and measured against the relevant KPIs of the IMT in relation to the field outcomes. Prior to the event, the IMT carried out a team briefing and general discussion of the function of the IMT in an event of this nature, this formed an important part of the assessment process.

No observation was carried out in the field however field team KPIs could not be achieved without the appropriate actions of the IMT and these formed the basis of this report.

4.4 The process followed in preparing and submitting the report

The Exercise Director provided a comprehensive and detailed plan for the exercise reviewing activities on the day against this document provided a clear and detailed assessment process.

There was no need to follow up or carry out investigations outside of the SAREX.

5. Findings

The exercise met the desired outcomes of the SAREX and all KPIs through good planning and staging which enabled what felt like a real-time response for the IMT with the necessary pressure and strains of a live operation. It should be noted that the observation occurred over a very short period of time by the nature of the SAREX. The callout occurred at 1014 and by 1230 the site was largely clear. These findings and observations are made and consequently, the IMT did not have time to mature beyond the reflex tasking phase which is to be expected in this type of event.

The IMT recognised early on that the tracking, managing and planning aspects of the response were going to be a challenge. This a key area of issue for IMT used to a "*typical*" local response, for example, a search to changing modes to a rapid response rescue event is often a difficult step for even a highly competent Incident Management Team.

Understanding this shift in task loading in the IMT was not initially recognised at the beginning of the Operation and was slowly picked up on during the event as it progressed. As expected, the IMT took time to move from a typical Plan and Do mode of operation to a respond and resource.

Rescue events by its very nature are reflex tasking orientated and place a high demand on the IMT. The IMT used a basic system of different coloured sticky notes and a whiteboard grid of locations to track resources. This was an effective and simple procedure to track multiple resources and teams at short notice. Alongside this SAR track was used as a log of events and it became clear early on to the IMT that it would not serve an operational benefit but would be a useful review tool if required. It must be recognised that events of this are log critical from start to finish as it is likely that a negative outcome will occur form an Avalanche and questions will be asked of the response, a strong and robust log will help to understand and demonstrate what actions were taken.

Radio traffic is extremely busy in these types of events and all radio operators should have a scribe with them and preferably be a 3-person team to allow for breaks and concentration breaks. Alongside of this the Scene Controller should be similarly supported onsite with additional personnel

Location of all the various elements of the event was not gathered early on increasing some confusion in the IMT. Avalanches by its very nature will attract a significant number of very specific locations that need controlling and planning for having these sites as marked up as a wall chart as part of the preplan will aid this. It will also help to organise thoughts for the Planning and Intel role of IMT who are often left wondering what to do in a rapid response event. Planning for these events needs to include sites for Triage, Morgue, SAR Crew, Medical, Forward Base, Landing Zones, etc. Tongariro NP is reasonably well placed in having three main locations that would serve this purpose and can be pre-planned for in advance. This will aid the process of initiating a real event and assist SAR crews in knowing what to expect.

Part of the pre-plan should identify the ideal team size, roles and location of each element of an Avalanche SAR. The one-page pre-plan provided a good initial starting block but would be challenged by a big operation as the complexity increases.

A key area picked up on during the operation was the loss of intel from a witness. All survivors/witnesses are critical informants and once hot debriefed on the hill they then should be then formally debriefed offsite by an assigned person from IMT.

Casualty tracking & mortality issues should be regarded as a critical management task in these events. Early on the patients were given numbers and referred to this way over the radio. This process was effective in managing confidentially and expectations, for relatives etc and to prevent potential media risks. There was some open chatter about deceased persons etc, and this should be strongly managed and controlled by IMT with the deceased decisions managed and communicated by an appropriately qualified person.

It was observed that the role of P&I was largely ignored in the first hour as the reflex tasking and information deluge flooded the IMT. This can be expected, and P&I needs to avoid being drawn onto the response phase as much as possible to focus on the needs of the event after the “first hour”. A well planned “next stage” would have been pivotal if the search phase had continued for missing persons.

A key KPI of the SAREX was well met with roles & resources such as the IMT, Scene Controller, Heli Operators, Air Force and all the other various multi-agencies involved working well together. IMT largely allowed skilled people to do their task without interfering once direction had been given and responded to their requests.

Safety formed a key concern for the IMT with weather checked and roles on site being well communicated with follow up on any concerns or uncertainties of actions in the field. There was constant and ongoing dialogue around who was where and doing what. In these types of events it is easy to lose track of many different parts. It was good to see a constant effort in this area.

6. Conclusions

Overall the SAREX was well run and well planned which meant that the key KPI of running it in real time was well achieved with targets met.

The pre-plan for an Avalanche SAREX was a simple straightforward document that gave good direction but relied on the IMT being highly skilled. This could be developed to a larger parkwide resource to strengthen the response to a number of potential scenario events.

This resource could identify the location of all the various elements required for command and control of a major event and could be in the form of a single park map. This will help to achieve a higher level of control early on and support what is typically a very lightweight IMT as an event gears up.

In general the IMT on the day performed at a high level of competency with the ability to flex with the situation and maintain a level of control relevant ot the situation and not try to over control the highly dynamic field situation.

Ongoing training in these types of scenarios for the IMT even at a paper scenario level will help them to be more dynamic and flexible to changing scenarios.

7. Appendix

REFER: Central North Island Avalanche SAREX 2018 planning documents

Central North Island Avalanche SAREX 2018

Contents

Background

From a risk management perspective, an Avalanche Search and Rescue (SAR) response contains many factors that increase the complexity, risk and safety of an operation. Avalanche rescue response:

- Is a time critical, medical emergency
- Requires highly skilled teams to assess and manage the avalanche and other alpine hazards
- Uses multiple helicopters, operating, loading and unloading people in an alpine environment
- Are low probability/high consequence events that rescuers and management do not experience often
- Have the potential to be multi-causality events requiring high numbers of responders
- Involve multiple agencies

These *Red Flags* should be considered and prepared for in the response planning and operational management throughout the event.
Key components to increase the chances of a safe and successful operation include:

- Robust planning, reviews and updates
- Competent Field and IMT personnel
- Regular and realistic training

The Central North Island is a popular destination for skiers, climbers, hunters and walkers with many activities taking place above the snow line. Any time that there is snow on the ground and the slope angle is step enough (between 30°- 45°), there is a chance of triggering an avalanche. Natural avalanches can regularly release in terrain at these angles and run significant distances through much lower angled terrain.

There is a well-documented history of very large natural avalanches crossing easy access walking tracks and involvements from human triggered events in the Central North Island.

Both Central and Bay of Plenty Police Districts have a prime responsibility to respond to Avalanche incidents within their respective policing boundaries primarily inside the Tongariro National Park. Due to Police boundaries dissecting Mt Tongariro, Mt Ngauruhoe and Mt Ruapehu it is imperative that the two Police districts work together and share resources to ensure the best coordinated rescue outcome possible. The SAR response is generally primarily from the LandSAR affiliated Ruapehu Alpine Rescue Organisation, then supported by the Taranaki Alpine Cliff Rescue Team, with Incident Management Team (IMT) support from Police and local resources. The primary role of these groups is to provide a rapid response to an avalanche and other incidents that may occur in the mountains.

There is high value in running realistic large scale, inter district training exercises to increase the various agencies level of experience and proficiency, ability to work together and test the Response Plans.

Trends and predictions:

- Sharp increase in sales of backcountry touring equipment to recreational skiers and snowboarders.
- Increase in the number of people hunting and tramping in alpine terrain in the shoulder seasons.

- Increase in irregular weather systems that deliver high volumes of precipitation and often accompanied by strong winds, creating unpredictable avalanche conditions.

Response needs: Day and night, all weather, alpine terrain ability to provide:

- SAR response for multiple people caught and or buried in an avalanche, including vehicles and buildings.
- SAR response capability for assessing the avalanche hazard and managing the risk, using avalanche rescue equipment, working around helicopters in an alpine environment.

Asset assessment:

- Response plans developed and updated annually. Plan tested in 2012
- Response teams undertake annual training in personal search skills and working with helicopters.
- Limited experience of actual avalanche events

SAREX Need:

There is an increasing likelihood of an avalanche incident involving multiple burials due to increasing use of backcountry terrain and large weather events.

This will require experienced, well trained and well equipped responders to maximize the chance of a successfully operation and minimize risk

Purpose

Exercise Aim: To practically test and evaluate the Ruapehu and Taupo Avalanche Response Plans and the readiness and response of participating agencies. This extends to the Incident Management Team, Search and Rescue Teams, Helicopter Operators and Pre Hospital Trauma Care.

Objectives:

- Test and evaluate the effectiveness and accuracy of the Ruapehu and Taupo Avalanche Response Plans including the call out systems and process.
- Test and evaluate the readiness and response of the field teams and other resources, including management of the incident site, personal search and digging skills, appropriate equipment, appropriate patient management and safe working around helicopters.
- Test and evaluate the readiness and response of the Incident Management Team, including application of CIMS, resource tracking, information management and forward planning.
- To improve coordination and effectiveness between the responding agencies including consistency of search and rescue techniques, common resources, communication methods, meeting key personnel and working with other responders.
- To document and communicate the learnings and recommendations to the New Zealand Search and Rescue sector, in a timely manner.

Key Performance Indicators:

The KPIs for the Field Teams and IMT can be found in the evaluation resources - appendix X

SAREX KPI

Exercise objectives	Exercise Key Performance Indicators
Test and evaluate the effectiveness and accuracy of the Ruapehu and Taupo Avalanche Response Plans including the call out systems and process.	A well organized and safe SAREX is run that allows teams to perform to their ability, work with other responders and have a fair and consistent evaluation. All attending personnel are aware of the expectations and evaluation criteria ahead of the exercise. Evaluators are appropriate for the task, well briefed and provided resources to record actions and timings.
Test and evaluate the readiness and response of the field teams and other resources, including management of the incident site, personal search and digging skills, appropriate equipment, appropriate patient management, safe working around helicopters.	
Test and evaluate the readiness and response of the Incident Management team, including application of CIMS, Resource tracking, logs and recording, forward planning.	
To improve coordination and effectiveness between the responding agencies including consistency of search and rescue techniques, common resources, communication methods, meeting key personnel and working with other responders.	A cold debrief is held, shortly after the exercise, involving the participating agencies or organisations to identify issues and make recommendations towards the final report.
To document and communicate the learnings and recommendations to the New Zealand Search and Rescue sector, in a timely manner.	A full report is produced and findings are communicated to the sector.

Exercise details

Scenario:

A backcountry avalanche incident involving multiple people who are caught and buried. The search and rescue response will follow the Ruapehu and Taupo Avalanche Response Plans call out procedures and apply CIMS structure and principles.

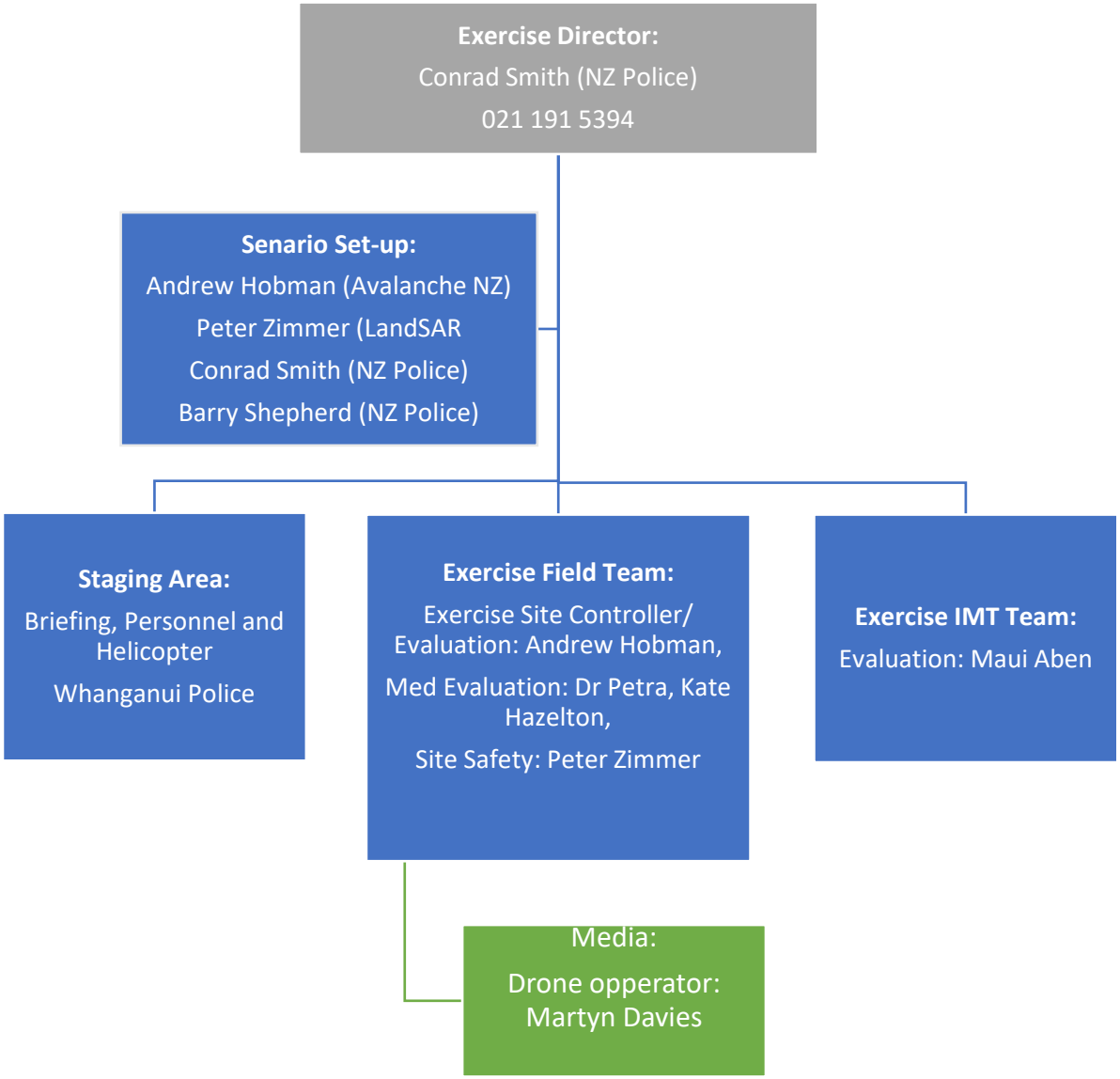
- Scenario set-up in field one day prior with final set-up the morning of SAREX
- Call out made from the field with SAREX run in real time until completion.
- Teams flown to field in realistic response times.
- Avalanche search and rescue techniques applied to find and dig out victims.
- Patients to be appropriately managed from the site, according their injuries.

Date:
Monday the 13th August 2018.

Location:
Tongariro National Park

Response Lead Agency: New Zealand Police	**Exercise Planning:** Police with assistance from the Exercise Co-ordination Team
Exercise Coordination Team: Conrad Smith (NZ Police) Andrew Hobman (Avalanche NZ) Barry Shepherd (NZ Police) Pete Zimmer (LandSAR)	**Exercise Evaluation:** Field: Andrew Hobman Angela Guy Zoe ? IMT: Maui Aben
SAR Participating Agencies: NZ Police (Ruapehu, Whanganui, Taupo, Turangi, Manawatu, Taranaki) LandSAR (RARO, Taranaki ACR, Turangi, Ruapehu) RAL staff Department of Conservation Midwest Helicopters Greenlea Rescue Helicopter Taupo St John Ambulance RNZAF	**Budget Provider:** NZSAR

Exercise Organisational Structure



Exercise General Rules

On Monday the 13th June the SAR personnel from the Central and Bay of Plenty Police District will participate in a full scale Avalanche Search and Rescue Exercise involving members of:

NZ Police
Avalanche NZ
LandSAR ACR Teams – RARO, Taranaki, Dogs
LandSAR Turangi
LandSAR Ruapehu

St John Ambulance
Mid West Helicopters
Greenlea Rescue Helicopter Taupo
Department of Conservation
RNZAF 3SQN

Outline

The exercise will be conducted in 3 phases:

Phase 1- Briefing**:** A briefing will be held at the Staging Area/Helicopter Pad. All field exercise participants will need to be on standby at these locations. When participants arrive at their respective locations they need to sign in, using the form provided, then bee on standby to receive a full exercise brief from Staging Area Co-ordinators. This will cover safety, the rules for the exercise and provide them with sufficient information with which to successfully participate in the exercise.

Phase 2- Exercise: The Exercise will start once a call has been received by the Police SAR Duty Officer and will be initiated as per the local Avalanche Response Plan with an initial Reflex Tasking stage. As soon as possible, the Incident Control Point (ICP) will be established at the Taupo Police Station and a full Incident Management Team (IMT) set up.

> The Exercise will be run in 'real time' and tasks undertaken as per a real event. Teams will be transported to site at realistic intervals to match their arrival times in the region, given a real event. An Avalanche Site Coordinator (ASC) will need to be established and the site managed using CIMS, appropriate resource allocation and search techniques. The Exercise will conclude when the final victim and the rescue teams have been transported from site and back to the Staging Area.

Phase 3- Debrief: A 'hot' debrief on the day's activities will be carried out on completion of the exercise, with the aim of identifying:

- What went well
- What did not go well
- If you could do it again what, if anything, would you change

Participants are encouraged to be open and honest during debrief and to relay constructive criticism if deserved.

A full 'cold' debrief will be conducted in the weeks following the exercise.

Conduct of Exercise

The exercise will be conducted by an Exercise Coordination team lead by the Exercise Director, Senior Constable Conrad Smith, NZ Police.

The Exercise Coordination team will facilitate the various scenarios and will be responsible for:

- Setting up the scenario
- Initiating the exercise
- Coordinating the use of any role players.
- Managing the safety of the monitors, any role players, media and interested by-standers.

- Monitoring and evaluating the performance of the responding teams and providing guidance and or tuition on operational matters when required.
- Managing the overall safety of the exercise including monitoring for any safety related issues and halting all activities if any arise.

The exercise will be conducted as follows:

Sunday 12 August

- Liaise with local resources on current snowpack/ weather conditions and planning for the weekend.
- At 0900 hours Andrew Hobman, Conrad Smith, Pete Zimmer will scout possible locations with Mid West Helicopters. Note: The time will be dependent on the weather and availability of the helicopter. Pick up will be from the closest road end or safe pick up point to the likely exercise location. If the weather does not allow flying, transport will be by a Police vehicle and foot.
- Once a suitable location has been found, the group will be put on the ground to set up the site. Depending on the location the helicopter will either shut down and wait or leave the site and the team will walk out. Note: All team members must be equipped and prepared to walk out, with additional supplies to spend the night.
- The set up will entail digging holes for the victims, breaking up the surface snow to replicate avalanche debris and recording the victim locations and perimeter of the debris with GPS.

  Equipment required:

  Steel Shovels, picks, breaker bars

  Avalanche safety equipment, Alpine clothing and footwear, Ice Axe, Crampons, Hemet, Harness, rope and anchors, overnight gear (not planning on using this)

Monday 13 August

- At 0700 hours Exercise Field Team (Andrew Hobman, Conrad Smith, Pete Zimmer) return to the site, with Mid West Helicopters, to finish preparations. Note: The time will be dependent on the weather and availability of the helicopter. Pick up will be from the closest road end or safe pick up point to the exercise location.
  - Final set-up will involve:
    - preparing the victims (one piece ski suits, filled with snow and first aid manikin head/ torso, and transceivers)
    - Burying the victims
    - Laying out clues
    - Marking the perimeter with Spray paint

- At 0900 hours safety briefing for all personal being deployed - or potentially deployed into the field by helicopter, followed by a general briefing for the day. To take place at Staging Area/Helicopter pad.
  - IMT staff assemble at Taupo Police Station on Story Place, Taupo, between 0800hrs and 0900hrs.
- Once the set-up is complete a call will be made to Police Communications Centre shift manager **04 472 1487** to report an incident and initiate a SAR response.

The exercise will run in 'real time' as per the local plans. However, due to the limited flying time available, SAR response teams will assemble at predesignated pick up areas close to the exercise location. Pick up times will be managed by an Exercise Coordination Team member to reflect a realistic response time (See Response Time Table #3)

- The scenario has been designed to be as realistic as possible, so all participants need to prepare and undertake tasks as per best practice. Role playing witnesses will be available for interviews. Complete, accurate and reliable communication and documentation of information and tasks is required.

- SAR Agencies will communicate using VHF radios, face to face or by phone. Radio call signs and frequencies will be advised by the IMT in accordance with the communications plan. Police Central Communications have already been informed.

- The exercise will be conducted using CIMS principles with all members of the IMT having assigned roles and responsibilities – vests will be worn to identify the functional unit to which they belong. The Field Team should also apply CIMS principles on site including span of control.

- It is expected that members of the IMT will perform those tasks required of their assigned role under CIMS but may be rotated under the advice from the Exercise Director.

- The Exercise is also a learning exercise, so all personnel are encouraged to seek clarification from the Director or Co-ordination Team if they are unclear. Where a wider group or team discussion is required, to fill a learning gap or realign the team's efforts with search management best practice, a Time-Out facility may be used.

- As each victim is recovered, a medical condition will be communicated to the rescuers by a member of the Exercise Co-ordination Team and their injuries must be fully managed according to current best practice. Where possible victims will be packaged and evacuated from site, with an appropriate attendant, by helicopter. Once the helicopter has left the scene the victim and attendant can be dropped at the staging area, effectively removing both from the exercise.

- The Exercise will conclude when the final victim and rescue teams has been evacuated back to the Staging Area and stood down by the Incident Controller.

- The Exercise can be halted at any time by the Exercise Director, Exercise Coordinator, Exercise Site Controller, Safety Officer, or any other support staff who feel that safety is at risk.

- A 'Hot' Debrief will be conducted as soon as possible following the exercise at the Safe Forward Point or convenient location.

Key Contacts		
Exercise Director	Conrad Smith	021 191 5394
Exercise Site Controller/ Evaluation:	Andrew Hobman	027 446 2626
Site Safety	Peter Zimmer	027 479 1926
Staging Area	Arthur Tito	021 191 5373

Safety

The Exercise participants will need to take responsibility for their own safety during the SAREX. The organising team will plan and organise the event to minimise risk to the participants, however due to the nature of the environment it will be necessary for the participants to remain risk-aware and act with care when traveling in an alpine environment and performing specific tasks.

The exercise well use, 'simple' or 'challenging' terrain, as classified in an Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale (ATES) assessment as long as the avalanche advisory for the terrain is LOW or MODERATE.

Each morning the Exercise Director will facilitate a meeting/discussion to consider all hazards in respect to participant and evaluator safety, including weather conditions, snow pack conditions and other terrain users.

Evaluation, considerations and decisions must be documented.

- Snow Stability Checklist
- Hazard Evaluation and Risk Management planning form
- Daily Activity Briefing Checklist

The exercise will be held in any weather as long as it does not unduly put people at risk.

Andy Hoyle will be in charge of overall Exercise Safety.

Participant responsibility:

- Wearing and /or carrying suitable clothing and equipment for the environment, including over-night gear.
- Carrying enough food and water.
- Being aware of their safety and that of others at all times.
- Wearing avalanche safety equipment.
- Following the Exercise Director and Co-ordination Team's directions at all times.

The emphasis during the entire Exercise is **SAFETY ALWAYS.**

- At no time should anyone take any unnecessary risks that could endanger any Exercise participants or cause damage to any helicopter or equipment. Any accidents or incidents that occur need to be reported to the Safety Officer as soon as possible.

- Any safety issues arising during the SAREX will be managed according to the respective groups Health and Safety plan.

- All groups and any other Agency or Group participating in the Exercise are directly responsible for their own personnel.

- In the event of a real emergency taking place on the day - the call on the radio will be prefixed with **"NO DUFF NO DUFF"**, followed by the details

- All normal Radio channels will be monitored and the exercise channel (to be advised) will be used for all SAREX communications.

- Communication between Exercise Co-ordination teams will be via cell phone.
- Standard Operating Procedures must be followed at all times.
- Each Participant needs to complete a contact form to acknowledge they have received this brief and to put their contact details down. Participants need to sign in and out if leaving the exercise.

Participant briefing

The Exercise Director must ensure that participants are fully briefed prior to undertaking the exercise including the following considerations

1. The activity and environment:
2. The activity plan:
3. The Hazard Evaluation and Risk Management:
4. The communication plan:
5. Equipment:
6. First aid information:
7. Any potential emergencies:
8. The emergency plan and procedures:

Transport

All Field and Staging Area personnel, excluding Taranaki participants, will need to use Police and private vehicles to make their way to Whakapapa Village for the Exercise Safety Briefing. From there, field personnel will be conveyed by helicopter (AS350B, MD500 and NH90 aircraft) to the Avalanche site.

There is a finite amount of flying hours available, so the IMT will need to be judicious with deployment of teams.

Administration and Logistics

Meals

Any food required will be the responsibility of attending personnel, except for lunch will be available at the debrief after the exercise.

Accommodation

This will be provided to those who need it.

Exercise Evaluation

The Exercise will be evaluated by independent personnel and a written report published by NZSAR and communicated to all attendees.

This is not an assessment of individuals. It is to provide learnings for future training and operations.

The Evaluation team is also there to provide patient injury information as victims are extracted from the avalanche. They will be readily identifiable as non-participants.

The evaluation team is:

- Field operations – Andrew Hobman (Avalanche NZ)
- Patient care and information – Angela Guy, Zoe ??
- IMT operations – Maui Aben (Police)

PARTICIPANTS LOG

Name	Contact Phone Number	Participating Group	IN/OUT

Name	Contact Phone Number	Participating Group	IN/OUT