Samoa’s Emergency Radio Network & Emergency Siren Network

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Disaster Management Section
NEOC
Outline

- Background Information
- Emergency Radio Network (ERN)
- Emergency Siren Network (ESN)
Background Information

Networks were installed mid 2013 and launched in 2014

*Why do we have these networks in place;*

- **Emergency Siren Network (ESN)** - to warn the public about disasters that can strike without warning at any time such as; Tsunami, volcanic eruption, fire, floods and cyclones.

- **Emergency Radio Network (ERN)** - to improve and provide timely communication before, during and after a disaster between Response Agencies, affected communities and NEOC.
Location of the Communication Room

Communication Room at NEOC

Emergency Siren Network

Emergency Radio Network
EMERGENCY SIREN NETWORK

LOCATION
• 23 Sirens in place from Saleaumua-Mulifanua

TESTING
• First Monday every month at 3pm

ACTIVATION
• Activate from NEOC
• Can be manually Activated in the village

3 SIREN TONES
1. Testing (25sec)
2. Warning
3. All Clear
Sirens are mounted on 3 different structures:

- **16 on EPC Poles**
- **5 on Tripod Posts**
- **2 on Churches**
EMERGENCY RADIO NETWORK

5 Sites in Savaii

8 Sites in Upolu
Types of Radios use

Handheld/Portables- Display & Non Display

Base Radio
Install in vehicles & offices

Channels for Operation
Channel 1
Channel 2- Emergency Only
Network Monitoring

Emergency Siren Network

Status of the Sirens
- Green: Ready
- Red: Activated on site

Emergency Radio Network

Site Main Power status
- Green: Power is on
- Red: Main Power off
Users of the ERN

DMO have programmed and installed radios for the following agencies both in Upolu & Savaii:

- NZ High Commissioner’s Office
- Fire & Emergency Services Authority
- Ministry of Police
- National Health Services
- Land Transport Authority
- Samoa Red Cross
- Samoa Water Authority
- Tafaigata Prison.
## Usage of the Networks during Peace Time

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National Events ERN was used

- SIDs in 2014
- Common Wealth Youth Games 2015
- Rugby Matches between Manu Samoa-
  All Blacks 2015
- Georgia 2016
- Tonga 2016
Source of Power for the Networks

- Both Network are reliant on power provided by EPC
- ERN however is connected to a backup battery and this battery can operate for 8hrs if main power (EPC) is off
- Another Back up power supply for the ERN are the Digicel generators installed on site
- ESN relies on the ERN if needed to be activated centrally from NEOC
What if BOTH Networks are down?

- Resume back to traditional method ie; ringing of church bells etc
- Activation of Village Response Plans under the CDCRM Programme – where village mayors, women’s representatives, village response teams play their roles in response to a disaster.
Conclusion

Main Purpose of the two Network is to save LIVES by;

- Effectively warning the public in time to evacuate to safe locations
- Effectively response to affected populations in a timely manner during and after a disaster
- Effectively coordinate response in a less chaotic fashion

“Communication is a critical component of Disaster Risk Management in Samoa”
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