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Daily situation reports to inform the national operation were produced initially by the NCMC and from 26 February by the CRC. These reports include running totals of building assessments by placard category for commercial and residential buildings. The CRC Situation Reports were complemented by CRC Action Plans that include references to proposed building assessment operations.

## 5.0 SUMMARY

The response to the 22 February Christchurch earthquake was on a scale unprecedented in New Zealand. In keeping with New Zealand's CDEM arrangements the initial response was managed under the authority of a Local Controller utilising the resources of local emergency services, Christchurch City Council and communities. Following the declaration of a state of national emergency on 23 February for the area of Christchurch City, the Director of CDEM was appointed National Controller and assumed responsibility for managing the response.

Under the authority of the National Controller, the CRC was established in the Christchurch Art Gallery and aimed to provide a structure to co-ordinate and control the necessary resources and capabilities drawn from a wide range of agencies from the national, regional and local levels. Directed by the National Controller, the management of the majority of the functions in the CRC was undertaken by local staff and supported by Christchurch City Council systems and processes. The Operations and Plans directorates were each led by a senior manager from Christchurch City Council or the Canterbury CDEM Group with staff drawn from Christchurch City Council employees or contractors, or by local authority officials seconded or volunteering from another region (including from within the Canterbury CDEM Group), and citizen volunteers.

Evaluation of earthquake-damaged buildings was identified as a priority function in the 22 February earthquake response to provide for the safety of the emergency services involved in rescue and recovery operations, to provide safe access to other damaged areas, and where practicable to provide access to buildings for residents and in some cases to enable businesses to recover critical material. The building safety evaluation was managed and delivered through the Operations function in the CRC. Christchurch City Council-led field inspections of buildings began on Friday 25 February, supported by the Department of Building and Housing and subsequently involving over 350 volunteer engineers mobilised from around the country. Building evaluations were undertaken for commercial buildings in the cordoned central business district, as well as for critical facilities and routes outside the city centre. Building assessments of residential houses were also undertaken as part of the welfare-oriented *Operation Suburb*. Building assessment data by address was held and managed by the Christchurch City Council. Summaries of building assessments by placard category for commercial and residential buildings are contained in the daily CRC situation reports issued by the National Controller.