

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/9885370/CTV-rescuers-cleared-of-blame>

Main points of the Coroner's report

- Shortcomings in the search and rescue effort did not contribute to the deaths of the eight trapped.
- More people, more resources, better communication and a better structure would have improved the situation overall and may have improved the chances of saving more lives.
- At least five of the trapped were still alive 12 hours after the earthquake at 12.51pm on February 22
- The disaster revealed failures of planning, preparation and scene management by the NZ Fire Service.

Criticism of Fire Service

- Fire Service management failed to establish an incident controller at the site and failed to establish a control point.
- No protocols in place for stations to follow in earthquake situation.
- Stations lost contact with communications centre and did their own thing.
- When communications restored officers talking over each other because separate channels not used for main sites.
- Only one concrete cutter (provided by a local retailer) was on site in the first 12 hours and no core drills (a drill specifically designed to remove a cylinder of material) were available until the next day.

- Overall control was split between the east and west side of the collapsed building. Those in charge of the east side did not know a sophisticated listening device and a concrete cutter was being used on the west side.
- Urban Search and Rescue taskforces from Auckland and Palmerston North were delayed because of transport and stowage difficulties.
- Fire Service advised Civil Defence international help was not required which meant local commanders were detained with other duties instead of helping at the CTV site.

