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Conference looks at nuke aftermath

THE aftermath of nuclear war is being considered in a special Ministry of Civil Defence conference in Marton this week.

The meeting is focusing on the effect of lower temperatures or so-called nuclear winter in the Southern Hemisphere caused by a nuclear strike in the Northern Hemisphere.

The scenario is one of several posed in a report by Dr Wren Green for the Planning Council last August.

Conference spokesman Tom Roache said no official guidelines existed for authorities, including civil defence, to follow in the event of a nuclear emergency.

The three-day meeting, which ends tomorrow at the ministry's training school, would explore how civil defence and other services could respond to the nuclear winter threat.

"We won't touch on fallout or radiation problems ... that could be looked at later," Mr Roache said.

"Civil defence sees a nuclear threat as one of many man-made threats that need consideration."

Dr Green was one of the speakers at the meeting, which involved about 65 people from government departments, local bodies, and health services.