

Ōhau Community Response Plan



Introduction

The Horowhenua District comprises 1,063 km² of land. Horticulture and dairying are now the main forms of primary industry in the district, and secondary industries in Horowhenua include manufacturing (especially clothing manufacture) and food processing. Much of the area was once an extensive wetland and the centre of a substantial flax industry. It has been progressively drained and converted to productive but flood-prone farmland, with a mixture of loam and peat based soils. The District faces a wide range of natural hazards which have potentially significant effects. The floods of 2004 and 2015 and extreme wind event of 2008 are a stark reminder of this.

In an emergency, civil defence co-ordinates a wide range of groups and agencies to:

- Help prevent loss of life.
- Help the injured and relieve distress.
- Help return the community to normal

Civil Defence is all about people helping people. It involves communities working together to take care of its needs in an emergency event.

If there is an emergency, everyone needs to be self-reliant and prepared to survive in their own homes for at least three days without assistance from emergency services.





Emergency Response

In the event of any emergency, the 111 emergency number is the first call that should be made.

Do not be reluctant to dial 111 where a serious situation is emerging.

Call 111 in case of:

- Fire
- Medical problems
- Person/s in danger
- Risk to life or property

- If you're not sure whether the situation is an emergency call 111 and ask. The police will help you to work out what to do.
- If you're not sure what type of help you need, or if you believe more than one emergency service is required, you will be put through to the Police.
- Calls are received by an Emergency Communications centre in Wellington, Christchurch or Auckland. You will be asked a number of questions. It is important to remain calm and patient – emergency services will not have the advantage of local knowledge and require as much information as possible to accurately locate your position for the fastest possible response.
- If you are calling from a land line, your location will only be identifiable to the operator if you are a Telecom customer and it is not a confidential number.
- If you are calling from a cell phone you must give the communications centre clear details of your location – the communications centre cannot identify where a call is coming from.

The operator will ask you the following questions:

- The exact address of the emergency situation
- Your name
- RAPID RURAL number
- Property name
- Nearest cross road reference
- Phone number you are calling from
- Any other information such as GPS coordinates (Latitude and Longitude), landmarks, geographical features and other information that may help emergency services to locate you.

Tip:


Try to use proper place names (don't assume local knowledge) and if you are on the move, give highway, bridge names or other geographical features as reference points.

Your local emergency network

In an emergency residents should always in the first instance dial 111 for help and then access their local networks.

If non urgent then call 105 (Police communications – Non urgent).

The designated Civil Defence Centre for the Ōhau Community is the Salvation Army Centre, Durham Street, Levin.

 06 363 8331

Organisation	Phone	Local Contact
Levin Police	105 (non urgent)	(06) 366 0500
Levin Fire Brigade	111	(06) 367 5800
Horowhenua Health Centre	(06) 3660888	
Healthline	0800 611 116	
Horowhenua District Council	(06) 3660999 (24 hr)	
Horizons Regional Council	0508 800 800 (24 hr)	

How to stay informed

In an emergency, information and updates will be supplied to local radio stations throughout the course of the event including:

- **Radio Live** (93.8FM)
- **The Breeze** (98.6FM)
- **More FM** (104.5FM or 92.2FM)
- **Classic Hits** (97.8FM)
- **Newstalk ZB** (100.2FM or 927AM)
- **Radio NZ National** (101FM or 1449AM)
- **Beach FM** (106.3FM)
- **Coast FM** (95.9FM)

The Horowhenua District Council website www.horowhenua.govt.nz will also provide information in the event of a local emergency.

Useful Websites

Local information: www.horowhenua.govt.nz
www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaDC

Regional information: www.horizons.govt.nz
www.facebook.com/civildefencemanawatuwanganui

Highway information: www.nzta.govt.nz

Road information: www.aaroadwatch.co.nz

Weather information: www.metservice.co.nz

Earthquake information: www.geonet.co.nz

Civil defence information: www.getready.govt.nz

Neighbourhood support: www.ns.org.nz

Tip:

A battery powered or wind-up radio is essential during an emergency where power may be cut.

Ensure you have a supply of spare batteries.

Emergency Mobile Alerts

Emergency Mobile Alert uses a dedicated signal, so it's not affected by network congestion. This can make Emergency Mobile Alert more reliable in an emergency when mobile phone traffic or people accessing websites could overload the network.

The alert will be broadcast to areas affected by serious hazards for a set period of time. Any capable phone entering this area during the broadcast period will receive the alert.

It is expected around one third of phones will initially be able to receive the alerts. This number is expected to rise substantially over time as people replace their phones with newer models. Emergency Mobile Alert capable phones should work on all mobile networks in New Zealand.

Fire Permits

A Prohibited Fire Season (total fire ban) is in place 365 days a year on Horowhenua beaches.

- To check the Fire Season status or obtain a fire permit please contact Fire and Emergency New Zealand at firepermit.horowhenua@fireandemergency.nz.
- Further information can be found at <http://www.checkitsalright.nz>.

An important part of being prepared is knowing your hazards, so you can plan ahead

Natural Hazards facing the Horowhenua District

- Storms generating heavy localised rainfall and high winds over sustained periods.
- Fire risk in summer is high with major forestry and popular beaches
- Earthquake, severe shaking can lead to liquefaction
- Tsunami
- Storm surge from the sea.

Flooding

The main flooding hazard in Ōhau is from the Ōhau river and tributaries.

Severe Earthquake

Like the Horowhenua District Ōhau is at risk from a severe earthquake.

Fire in Rural Areas

Although there are many benefits to living in the country, rural property owners face a higher risk of fire than city dwellers.

If a fire starts it may not be detected as quickly as possible and emergency services take longer to respond because of the greater travel distance.

To protect your property from fire we recommend:

- Installing smoke alarms
- Preparing a Household Emergency Plan
- Keeping the grass green and mown or grazed around your home
- Creating a safety zone around your home of at least 10m by clearing any dead or dry material and replacing flammable plants and trees with low flammable species
- Making sure your property is clearly signposted with your RAPID rural property number
- Installing multipurpose dry powder extinguishers in your house and out buildings
- Keeping a garden hose connected and make sure it is long enough to reach around the house
- Storing firewood and other flammable material away from your house
- Safe handling and storage of gas or liquid fuels
- Disposing of ash safely in a metal container.



If a disaster happened now, would you be ready?

Due to its location and environment, New Zealand faces many potential disasters. In some cases, such as weather related or volcanic disaster, there may be time for a warning. But an earthquake or a tsunami close to land could strike without warning. All disasters have the potential to cause disruption, damage property and take lives. So it's vital that you prepare now.

While we have plans to manage the consequences of major emergencies, experience shows that most people will have to look after themselves and those they are with. We recommend being self-sufficient for at least three days.

The better prepared you are, the safer and more comfortable you and those you care for will be.

Emergency preparedness starts at home, **have a plan**, remember you and your loved ones could be anywhere when disaster strikes, at home, at work, at school, in the car, at the sports field. Get your family or household together and agree on a plan.

In your plan you will need to work out;

- Where to shelter in an earthquake, flood or storm
- How and where you will meet up during and after a disaster, remember you may be at work, your children may be at school
- The best place to store emergency survival items and know who is responsible for checking essential items
- Where each persons Getaway Kit will be and what will be in it.
- How to turn off the water, gas and electricity in your home
- How to contact your local civil defence organisation for assistance during an emergency.

 **You can download your family plan from the website** www.getready.govt.nz



Important items to have on hand

Water

Three litres per person per day for drinking

Non perishable food

Canned or dried with a manual can opener

Essential medicines

Torch/es

With spare batteries or self charger

Radio

Either battery powered or self charge

Cellphone

Plug that can charge off a car battery via 12v or cigarette lighter socket(s)

First Aid Kit

Phone

Plug in phone that doesn't require power

Gas BBQ or primus with sufficient fuel

Toilet paper and large plastic bags for an emergency toilet

Pets

Remember your pets need emergency supplies too

Sufficient warm clothes and blankets or sleeping bags



Suggestions - from some Christchurch Residents

For your Civil Defence Survival Kit

- Know beforehand where to meet each other, and stay there.
- Check neighbours if you can - even if you think they will be okay.
- Always keep your car half full (at least) - queuing for petrol is not fun.

Consider adding these items to your kit:

- A wind-up torch/radio is superior by far to one with batteries (we would have been lost without this, as we had no power for a week).
- Water and water purification tablets (you really do use a lot of water).
- Antiseptic wet wipes (don't waste your water on washing dirty hands - and they do get dirty quickly).
- Antiseptic hand sanitiser.
- Medicines plus first aid (don't let your prescriptions run too low, as it can be quite a job to get more during the first week or so - plus keep some with you if you can).

- Photos of each family member plus pet (and copies to give out).
- Food - try to put in things that don't require water added, or boiled in water.
- Emergency sweets - barley sugar or chocolate (for shock).
- A means to cook - portable BBQ or Primus (plus matches/lighter).
- Makeshift toilet - bucket plus bag liner (what about making a planter-box with a hole cut in the bottom. Use with potted plants now, turn it over to use with a bucket in an emergency).
- A note for your door e.g.
 - 22 February 2011*
 - The Peterson family are okay*
 - Bill Peterson 027 1122336*
 - Sue Peterson 027 3344997*
 - Frank and Tim*
- Pack of cards or knucklebones or other small game to pass the time, especially if you are stuck in an emergency centre.

Recovery:

Recovery means the coordinated efforts and processes used to bring about the immediate, medium and long-term holistic regeneration and enhancement of a community following an emergency (CDEM Act 2002). Recovery encompasses the community and four environments: social, economic, natural and built environments.

Recovery should:

- Support the cultural, emotional and physical well-being of individuals and communities
- Minimise the escalation of the consequences of emergencies
- Reduce future exposure to hazards and their associate risks – i.e. build resilience
- Take opportunities to regenerate and enhance communities in ways that will meet future needs (across the social, economic, natural and built environments).

Communities lie at the core of recovery. Every recovery vision, outcome, relationship and activity should have the community at the core of its purpose.

Following emergencies, the very fabric of society and the relationships within the affected communities depend on an effective and efficient process of recovery. Recovery is a complex social process and is best achieved when the affected community exercises a high degree of involvement in setting priorities for recovery.

In addition, recovery extends beyond just restoring physical assets or providing welfare services. Successful recovery recognises that both communities and individuals have a wide and variable range of recovery needs and that recovery is only successful where all are addressed in a coordinated way.

Recovery is a process that can last weeks or months but can also extend for years and possibly decades.

Organisations involved in recovery need to recognise the commitment that will be required to ensure adequate human and physical resources for recovery, as well as the resumption of business-as-usual services during medium and long-term recovery.

At a recent community meeting the Ōhau community advised council that they would like to see priority given to rebuilding the following community facilities to assist the community in the recovery phase:

- Community Hall
- Parks with Barbeque facilities
- School.

