

Makahika 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 stark reminders 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 there is no emergency but the matter needs to be reported, then call 105 (Police communication – non urgent).

The designated Civil Defence Centre for the Makahika Community is the Makahika

Outdoor Pursuits Centre, 865 Gladstone Road, RD1 Levin.

 368 9347

There is a Civil Defence VHF Radio capability at Makahika, where contact could be maintained with the Emergency Operations Centre at Horowhenua District Council in an emergency.

Organisation	Phone	Local Contact
Levin Police	105	
Levin Fire Brigade	111	
Horowhenua Health Centre	06) 366 0888	
Health line	0800 611 116	
Health line	0800 611 116	
Horowhenua District Council	(06) 366 0999 (24 hr)	
Horizons Regional Council	0508 800 800 (24 hr)	

How to stay informed

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

- **Radio Live** (93.8FM)
- **The Breeze** (98.6FM)
- **More FM** (104.2FM 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.

What are 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

During summer all fires may be the subject of either restrictions or prohibited as deemed by authorised Fire and Emergency New Zealand personnel.

During a restricted fire season, a permit is required before any fire may be lit in the open, this includes all rubbish fires and incinerators.

The burning of plastic, rubber and chemicals are prohibited at all times.

 To 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

Hazards specific to Makahika

Slips

The main access road leading to the Makahika community is prone to large slips due to the steep terrain. This effectively isolates the community. An alternate route is available via the privately owned Trig Track until a long term solution can be found.

Storms/high winds.

The Makahika community is in close proximity to pine plantations with over head power lines, increasing the risk of power outages caused by fallen trees.

Severe earthquake.

To due to remote location and steep inclines, the community is at risk of prolonged isolation after a severe earthquake.

Rural fire.

The Makahika community is surrounded by pine forest which is susceptible to fires especially during the summer fire season.

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 seven 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 person's 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:

The recovery phase of a civil defense emergency is the rebuilding phase of an affected community and as such community consultation forms a critical role in this process.

It is critical for the community to return to a “normal” life as soon as possible after a major emergency to ensure the psychosocial welfare is maintained.

There are many different ways that this can be ensured and your local civil defense officer will be happy to discuss what is important for the community with you preferably before an emergency happens.

The Makahika Community have requested that priority be given to rebuilding the following after a significant event:

- Community centre
- Community park with Barbeque facilities
- Roads.



