# Wakefield Community Emergency Response Plan

*October 2025*

## *COMMUNITY EDITION*

ADAPTIVE RESILIENCE SOLUTIONS

WAKEFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

# official map

## Key Contacts

**Wakefield Fire Station**
Address: 4 Pigeon Valley Road - Phone: 111

**Wakefield Police Station**
Address: 9 Clifford Road , Wakefield - Phone 111

**Wakefield Playcentre**
Address: 16 Treeton Place - Phone 5417097

**Wakefield School**
Address: 66 Edward Street, Wakefield - Phone 5418332

**Wakefield Medical Centre**
Address: 12 Edward Street, Wakefield - Phone 035418911

**Wakefield Pharmacy**
Address: 4 Edward Street, Wakefield - Phone 035418418

**Wakefield Kindergarten**
Address: 20 Whitby way, Wakefield - Phone 0211609434

# PLAN ACTIVATION

The local CDEM group & emergency services representatives have the authority to activate the plan.

The Nelson Tasman Emergency staff & relative agencies should be contacted.

- Nelson Tasman Emergency Management –
  - Office – 5469500
  - Duty officer – 086831669 – 24 hours
- Nelson City Council – 5460200 – 24 hours
- Tasman District Council – 548400 – 24 hours

# DECLARATIONS OF EMERGENCY

- A declaration of emergency is NOT required to activate this plan. This plan might be used if there is a threat of an emergency or event i.e. weather or to support emergency services i.e. – evacuation

- In the Nelson Tasman region, a declaration of emergency can only be made by the Mayors or Deputy Mayors of the two councils or elected representatives if they are not available.

- Emergency Mobile Alerts are messages about emergencies sent by authorized emergency agencies to capable mobile phones. They are designed to keep people safe.

- The alerts can be targeted to areas affected by serious hazards. They will only be sent when there is a serious threat to life, health, or property, and, in some cases, for test purposes.

- To get Emergency Mobile Alerts, you need a phone capable of receiving Emergency Mobile Alerts. The phone also needs to have cell reception and up-to-date software. You don’t have to download an app or subscribe to a service.

# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HUB
# (CIVIL DEFENCE CENTRE)

**St John Worship Centre – 120 Edward Street - Phone: 5418883**

IIn the event of an emergency NTEM may activate a CDC. St John Worship Centre is the most likely venue for Wakefield however if this building is deemed unsuitable for the emergency other options maybe looked at. NTEM will not always be in a position to activate a CDC in Wakefield.

If activated by Emergency Management the centre will endeavour , in time have support services onsite such as:

- Public Health representatives
- Ministry of Primary Industries
- Red Cross
- Ministry of Social Development
- Police
- Insurance Council
- Iwi

# COMMUNITY LED CENTRE

**Wakefield Community Hall – Whitby Road - Phone:**

In the event of an emergency the community may, independently of Emergency Management open a centre to support the community. This is community led and supported.

## Difference between both:

| Feature | Civil Defense Centre | Community-Led Centre |
|---|---|---|
| Leadership | Nelson Tasman Emergency Management | Local community groups or NGO's |
| Purpose | Emergency shelter, support needs assesment, & information | Community support & resilience |
| Funding | Public/Government-funded | Donations, grants, community funds |
| Personnel | Trained, police vetted personel & support of other government agencies and partners | Volunteers & local leaders |
| Flexibility | Follows strict protocols | More adaptable & locally responsive |
| Use in Crisis | Shelter, information, & support | Ongoing support & gap-filling |

# PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to outline the emergency plan for the general Wakefield area. This will be held by Civil Defence, NZ Police & Fire, and Emergency New Zealand to be used in the event of a natural disaster or other event that will directly impact the town of Wakefield.

**The purpose of this plan is to ensure the Wakefield Community.**

- Is aware there is an emergency plan and where to access it
- Encourage resilience throughout the community with preparedness
- Able to assist & respond in the event of an emergency
- Encourage community awareness to assess risk to life and property
- Enable the community to better transition from a response to a recovery phase with minimal disruption.

This document aligns with parts of the government recommendations to Emergency Management as outlined in the October 2024 report by Hon Mark Mitchell – Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery.

1. Put people and their communities at the heart of an integrated emergency management system. The government must write into law a community-led emergency management model that explicitly recognizes the knowledge and capability of Iwi Māori businesses and local communities. Communities must be included in planning and response and educated about how to prepare for emergencies.
2. Develop a comprehensive warning system for the public that covers all natural hazards and works when digital technology fails.
3. Amend the 3-day self-sufficiency guideline so people are prepared to be self-sufficient for up to 2 weeks, especially in isolate communities..
4. Bulk up investment in reduction and readiness activities, including the existing fund communities can apply to, to support their readiness and resilience efforts.

# BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- Working with the community to encourage self–reliance for up to 2 weeks.
- Ensuring all people within the community know where to find reliable information before they need it.
- Ensure the community is aware of National Warning systems that are available
- To have community groups/Individuals able to safely respond to an event
- Able to assess Risk & Protect life and property
- As a community work together to move from Response to Recovery

Wakefield cannot rely on a response by external services such as Civil Defence, Fire and Emergency, St Johns, and Police on the day or coming days after a disaster. The community must be in a position to work together and achieve what is required until more formal systems are put in place.

Although this plan has been sponsored by Nelson Tasman Emergency Management, this document and the arrangements described are owned by the Wakefield community and reviewed yearly or as required.

The Wakefield community with assistance from Nelson Tasman Emergency Management is responsible for

- Updating the content of the plan to reflect the Wakefield community.
- Testing & exercising the plan and its components
- The plan activation.
- Ensuring the public plan is available to the general public & updates are notified.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

- **Radio Stations** – For the broadcast of urgent public messages:
  - More FM 92.8
  - Brian FM 105.6
  - Classic Hits FM 89.8
  - Fresh FM 104.8
- **Websites:**
  - www.nelsontasmancivildefence.co.nz
  - www.adaptiveresiliencesolutions.co.nz
  - Rainfall - www.tasman.govt.nz/environment/water/rainfall
  - Weather - www.metservice.com/rural/nelson
- **Antenno App** – TDC info regarding hazards, closures, and for reporting problems

# EVACUATIONS OPTIONS (PETS)

**Elite Cat Boarding – 236 Lord Rutherford Road South – Brightwater**
Managers: Christine & Wattie Mortimer – 5423993 , 0277247708
elitecatboarding@gmail.com
Capacity: 30/40 cats
Generator & 2 week petfood supply.

**Pethaven boarding kennels & Cattery – 81 Trass Valley Road – Wakefield**
Managers: Chris & Phil – 5418656 , 0225418656 , petshaven@xtra.co.nz
Capacity: 30/50 animals
Generator & 2 week petfood supply

# LARGE ANIMALS

Have a plan with friends, family, and neighbours for where your livestock can be shifted

Here is some advice about caring for animals affected by flood available on the Ministry for Primary Industries website.

# HAZARDS

## Flooding – Medium / High risk

Concern – increased gravel level in the river, increased risk of low-lying flooding & debris build-up under bridges.

Climate change – increase in extreme weather events.

Bridges Compromised by flooding and debris leaving residents isolated:

**South**

- Pigeon Valley
- Baigent Valley
- Holt Valley
- Trass Valley
- State Highway 6 – Wai-iti
- Quail Valley

**North**

- Barton Lane
- Brightwater Bridge – light band road -State Highway 6

**Blue** predicted river course, future flooding up to 2031 ( source NCC river flood mapping)

## Reduce potential flood damage

If you have a house or another building in a flood-prone area, take steps to reduce potential flood damage:

- Install non-return valves in drainage pipes, to prevent sewage backing up into the house.
- Reduce water ingress:
  - Fit water-resistant door and window frames
  - Install ready-made flood defences, such as flood barriers
  - Use waterproof sealant on external walls

- On your property's ground floor, avoid fitted carpets, wooden skirting boards, and normal (non-water-resistant) plaster. These will be damaged by floodwater and will need replacing. Choose instead ceramic tiles for floor covering and skirtings, water-resistant lime plaster or cement render, and water-resistant paint on internal walls.

- In kitchens and bathrooms, raise cupboards up on stilts, so that water can flow beneath them. Avoid chipboard or MDF units, which will be damaged by floodwater – install stainless steel, plastic, or marine plywood kitchen and bathroom units, which can be wiped down after flooding.

- Raise the height of electrical sockets to at least 1.5 meters above ground floor level, to prevent floodwater damage.

- Position any main parts of heating or ventilation systems upstairs or raised well above ground level.

- Purchase a portable pump, or install an automatic pump, to remove flood water. Pumps can keep the floodwater level low inside.

## Readiness: Get prepared to respond to floods

- Make and practice your emergency plan, make a grab bag , and have emergency supplies in case you need to evacuate.

- Find out from your local emergency group or regional council what the flood risk is in your area and know how to stay informed.

- Stay up to date with the latest weather information from, New Zealand's National Weather Service.
  - Pay attention to Watches and Warnings.

## Response: What to do during a flood

- Put safety first. Don't take any chances. Act quickly if you see rising water.

- Floods and flash floods can happen quickly. If you see rising water, do not wait for official warnings. Head for higher ground and stay away from floodwater.

- Do not try to walk, play, swim, or drive in floodwater: even water just 15 centimeter's deep can sweep you off your feet, and half a metre of water will carry away most vehicles. Flood water is often contaminated and can make you sick.

- Help others if it is safe to do so, especially people who may require special assistance.

## If flooding is possible in your area

- Be ready to act quickly. Floods and flash floods can happen quickly and without warning
- Be prepared to evacuate and keep your grab bag close.
- Leave mobile phones on and charged so you can receive Emergency Mobile Alerts.
- Listen to the radio for updates, and check the TDC website or Nelson Tasman Emergency Management Facebook.
- Listen to emergency services and local Civil Defence authorities and follow any instructions regarding evacuation of your area.

## Get your whare/home or business ready:

- Move valuable and dangerous items, including electrical equipment and chemicals, as high above the floor as possible. Use watertight containers to store important items.
- Lift curtains, rugs, and bedding off the floor.
- Secure outdoor possessions including outdoor furniture and trampolines that can be swept away in floodwaters.
- Clear debris and leaves from external drains and gutters.
- Take photos of your ground floor rooms and outdoor areas, for insurance purposes.
- If you can, attach sheets of waterproof plastic around exterior doors using duct tape.
- Consider using sandbags to keep water away from your house or other buildings.
- Move vehicles to higher ground, or park vehicles in garages, if you can.
- Help neighbours who may need assistance.

If you have been evacuated, it may not be safe to return home even when the floodwaters have receded.

Listen to emergency services and local Civil Defence authorities and don't return home until they tell you it is safe to do so.

## Protecting pets and other animals

- Bring your pets indoors as soon as possible. Ensure you keep control of your pets.
- Confine pets to one room. Pets may try to run if they feel threatened. Keeping them inside and in one room will allow you to find them quickly if you need to leave.
- Get pet carrier boxes and leashes ready.
- Where possible, move livestock to higher ground.
- Take your pets with you when you evacuate – if it is not safe for you, it is not safe for them. Leaving them behind may endanger you, your pets, and emergency responders.
- **Consider an early evacuation of pets and other animals. Waiting to evacuate animals until the last minute can be fatal for them and dangerous for you.**

## Using sandbags

Sandbags can be used to divert water away from your house or other buildings. They can be used to:

- Block doorways, drains, and other openings into properties
- Weigh down manhole covers, and garden furniture
- Block sink, toilet, and bath drains to prevent water backing up

**Sandbags require time and effort to fill and place, so they need to be filled and placed in advance of flooding**, rather than in the middle of a flood or a storm. They also won't stop water coming from under a house, through floorboards or other access points.

If you don't have sand, any fine material including soil can be used. You can also use pillowcases as makeshift sandbags.

Filling the bags:

- Fill bags with sand or any other fine material. Don't use gravel or rocky soils as they will let the water through.
- It's easiest if two people are involved - one to hold the bag and the other to shovel the sand in.
- Only fill bags to half or two-thirds full. This gives the sand room to expand as it absorbs the water.
- Don't tie or seal the bag when you put it in place, fold the flap into a triangle and tuck it under the bag.
-

Placing the bags:

- Clear any debris from the area where the bags will be placed.
- If you can, put a large sheet of heavy-duty waterproof plastic between the sandbags and the building or surface.
- Place your first row of sandbags lengthwise and flat to the ground, butting each end to the next, folding the open end of the sandbag underneath.
- Place bags in layers like a brick wall, overlapping each row. Place the second row of sandbags on top staggering the joints.
- Stamp bags firmly into place to eliminate gaps and create a tight seal.
- Bags can be placed like this to a height of three layers, if further height is required, place sandbags behind to add strength to your wall.

## During a Flood

Stay Out of Floodwater

- Never try to walk, swim, drive through, or play in floodwater.
- Many flood deaths occur when people attempt to drive through water or play in high water.
- Even slow-flowing, deep water or fast-flowing, shallow water can knock you off balance. Just 15 centimetres of moving water can sweep you off your feet.
- Keep children away from floodwater. it's not safe for them.
- Don't put yourself at risk to take photos or videos.
- Always assume floodwater is contaminated. It may contain farm run-off, animal or human sewage, and chemicals. It may also be electrically charged from downed or underground power lines.
- If you come into contact with floodwater, wash your hands, clothes, and anything else that's been touched thoroughly.

If You Are Driving

- Never drive through floodwater. Most flood-related deaths happen in vehicles.
- If you reach a flooded area, turn around and go another way. Avoid flooded roads, fords, and areas prone to sudden flooding.
- If your vehicle stalls in floodwater, abandon it immediately and move to higher ground.
- Driving through floodwater can also endanger others — it creates waves that may wash into nearby properties, vehicles, or pedestrians.

## Recovery: After a Flood

Returning Home

- If you've been evacuated, don't return home until Civil Defence or emergency services say it's safe.
- Stay up to date with the latest weather information from New Zealand's National Weather Service — further flooding or severe weather may still be possible.
- Avoid damaged areas so emergency crews can do their work safely. You'll also avoid hazards such as contaminated water, damaged roads, landslides, and mudflows.
- Look before you step. Floods often leave behind debris like nails or broken glass, and mud-covered floors or stairs can be very slippery.

## If Your Property is Damaged

- Guidance may differ depending on the type of event and local impacts — for example, flood advice may differ from earthquake or severe weather advice.
- If you've been affected, contact your insurer or insurance broker as soon as possible to lodge a claim and find out how they can help.
- Take photos of any damage. Before and after shots are especially helpful.
- Ask your insurer whether you can claim for:
  - Being unable to live safely in your home (whare)
  - Loss or damage to property
  - Business interruption caused by the event
- Your insurance company will guide you through the claim process and explain what to do next.

## Urgent repairs and recovery

- Do not do anything that puts your safety at risk or causes more damage to your property.
- Always wear protective gear, including gloves and masks, in case you're exposed to hazardous material.
- Do what you need to do to make your whare/home safe, sanitary and weather-tight but if possible don't do non-essential repairs. Record the work you have done.
- Get essential services repaired and keep copies of invoices.
- Damaged sewage and effluent systems are health hazards. Contact a certified drainlayer or plumber to fix damaged septic tanks, leaking pipes, cesspools, pits, effluent and leaching systems as soon as possible.
- Contact your local council about any sewage or effluent system damage past the footpath.
- Take photos and videos of any damage and note down the details of valuable items.
- If it's safe, don't dispose of anything until you've spoken to your insurer as it will help speed up assessments of your claims.
- Be sure to take photos of perishable or unsanitary items before you dispose of them.
- The Natural Hazards Commission Toka Tū Ake has partnered with insurers to provide a single point of contact for residential insurance customers. You should contact your insurer to claim for damage from natural hazards.
- To be eligible for Natural Hazards Cover due to natural disaster damage, you must have a home insurance policy that includes fire cover, with a private insurance company when the natural disaster damage occurs (most do).

## For renters

- If you rent your property, contact your landlord and your contents insurance company as soon as possible.. Only undertake essential repairs and record the mahi/work done. Be sure to take photos and keep a copy of the bills paid.
- Take photos of any damage. It will help speed up assessments of your claims.

## If your rental property is destroyed or seriously damaged

- Tenants and landlords can find information about their rights and obligations at tenancy.govt.nz.
- Landlords are responsible for maintaining the property in a reasonable condition. This includes paying for any damages to the property caused by a natural disaster. Tenants are not responsible for any damage to the property or clean up following a natural disaster.
- If the property is destroyed, or part of it is so seriously damaged that it can't be lived in, the rent should reduce accordingly depending on the specific circumstances.
- Landlords and tenants are encouraged to talk together to consider and agree on viable options in continuing or ending the tenancy.

## Making a claim

- If you have been affected by an event, you should contact your insurer as soon as possible to ensure the claims process is as easy and efficient as possible.
- There is plenty of time to make a claim with the Natural Hazards Commission Toka Tū Ake or your private insurer. The sooner you get in touch, the sooner they can help you get the claim process underway to help you get things back to normal.

## Emergency and Temporary accommodation for unsafe residential property/buildings

- If you need to leave your property, friends and whānau/family may be able to help. You can also contact your local CDEM group for advice about emergency accommodation.
- TDC may issue a “Section 124” Building Act notice if a residential building is deemed to be dangerous and poses a risk to people’s health and safety.
- If your whare/home or building is not safe or is uninhabitable because of damage, contact your insurer to discuss whether your insurance will cover the cost of alternative accommodation.

## Salvaging family/whānau collections

- Damaged books, photographs, and other precious belongings may be able to be saved.

## Talking about clean-up and removal

- Organisations and individuals supporting clean-up efforts should be mindful of the language they use when referring to people’s damaged property and belongings. It can be upsetting for people to hear their damaged personal belongings referred to as “waste”. Instead, use terms like “damaged items” or “damaged belongings”.

## Cleaning up after a flood

- It is important to clean and dry your house and everything in it. Floodwater may contain sewage and other hazardous materials which can contaminate your whare/home.
- If your gas meter has been affected by water or debris, contact your gas supplier.
- Always work safely when cleaning up after a flood:
- Protect yourself by wearing a properly fitted P2- or N95-rated mask, goggles, gloves, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and gumboots or work shoes.
- Cover any open cuts, scratches grazes, and wounds with waterproof plasters or dressings.
- Always wash your hands thoroughly after each clean-up session and before handling food.
- Wet furniture and surfaces get mouldy after a couple of days, making the air in your whare/home unhealthy. Mould may make some people with asthma, allergies, or other breathing problems sick.
- Talk to your doctor or another medical professional if you have questions about cleaning or working in a whare/home that has been flooded.

- If there is a large amount of mold, you may want to hire professional help to clean up the mould.
- Make your whare/home safe and sanitary, but don't do non-essential repairs. Keep children and animals away from previously flooded areas until they have been cleaned and made safe.
- Follow advice and instructions from your local council and your local Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.
- Take photos and videos of the damage and anything that needs to be thrown away before starting the clean-up, for insurance purposes.

## Cleaning up inside

- Clean up, drain, and dry inside as quickly as possible. Take out everything that is wet and that can be moved – floor coverings, furniture, bedding, clothing, etc., and put them outside to dry when the weather is fine.
- Check for trapped water and mud in wall cavities, as well as under shower trays, baths, benches and bottom shelves. You may have to chisel out some bricks at the bottom of brick veneer walls.
- Open all doors and windows, and use heaters (e.g., hot air blowers for under-floor space). Do not use outdoor gas appliances, such as patio heaters, indoors.
- Do not light fires in brick fireplaces for at least 2 weeks, and then use only small fires until the firebricks have dried out.
- Consult an engineer if there are signs that the house has moved on its foundations. Signs can include buckled floors, new cracks in walls, or out-of-shape door frames.
- Remove skirting, if necessary, and cut out softened plasterboard in damaged areas. Consult an expert such as an insurance assessor or builder.
- Replace wall linings and floor coverings only after the building is completely dry.
- Leave redecorating for at least 3 months after finishing the repairs, to prevent the risk of mould, blistering, and peeling.
- If you have insurance, contact your insurer to lodge a claim and understand how they can help. They may undertake some of these steps for you as part of your claim.

## In the kitchen

- Discard wooden items such as chopping boards and spoons, plastic utensils, and baby bottle teats and dummies, if they have come into contact with floodwater. There is no way to safely clean them.
- Clean any other cooking, eating and kitchen utensils that have come into contact with floodwater:
- Wash in hot soapy water.
- Rinse thoroughly in safe water, then disinfect by immersing for 1 minute in a solution of 500 ml (about 2 cups) of plain, unperfumed, household bleach in 10 litres of water.
- Rinse again in safe water.
- Alternatively, boil all utensils for 1 minute and let cool.

## In bedrooms and living rooms

- You will need to throw away mattresses and other large items that have been soaked with floodwater. Foam rubber mattress or pillows may be able to be washed, disinfected and dried in the open air.
- Get rid of contaminated clothing, carpets, upholstered furniture, toys and bedding, unless they can be cleaned and disinfected.

## Mould

- Wet furniture and surfaces get mouldy after a couple of days, making the air in your whare/home unhealthy. Mould may make some people with asthma, allergies, or other breathing problems sick.
- If mould has developed on surfaces, take extra care when cleaning.
- Clean the mould off as soon as possible to reduce exposure to mould spores.
- Wear protective clothing and a properly fitted mask such as a P2/N95 disposable respirator or half-face respirator with P2 filters.
- Use soap and water to clean the surface then apply a commercial mould product or household bleach solution.
- For large areas contact a mould removal specialist.

## Drying your whānau/family collections

- Books, photographs and other precious belongings are at risk of water and mould damage following a flood.

## Cleaning up outside

- First clear the access to the building – the rest of the section can come later. It's easier to clean up outside once the outside has dried naturally, too.
- Use a shovel to remove surface contamination. Place it at the edge of your section, ensuring it doesn't block drainage channels. If you need assistance with disposing of flood debris, check with your local council to see if they have arrangements for flood debris disposal.
- The best way to make your outside areas safer is to rely on natural processes such as sunlight, drying and wind. Leave garden surfaces and lawns exposed to the air and sunshine to dry out naturally. Make drainage holes with a fork to aerate.
- If the outside area is heavily contaminated with sewage, use garden lime to disinfect the area. Garden lime can be bought from a garden shop. Follow the instructions on the label.
- Hard surfaces, such as driveways, can be cleaned and disinfected with 1 litre of household chlorine bleach in 10 litres of cold water (a household bucket). Leave the disinfectant on for 30 minutes, then rinse with clean water.

## Asbestos safety after a flood

- Any buildings and structures built before 2000 may have asbestos in them. Asbestos was used in a wide range of building materials, such as cladding, roofing, flooring, electrical components, and insulation material.
- When homes and other buildings containing asbestos are damaged during floods, the asbestos-containing materials can become eroded, disturbed, broken, or friable. This can cause a health risk to people living or working on the property, and the community.

- When damaged asbestos-containing materials are wet, they are not as dangerous, but once dry they can cause a risk to health if fibres are released that can become airborne and be inhaled.
- If you believe the damaged structure contains asbestos contact a licensed asbestos assessor or licensed asbestos removalist before returning to the building.

## Food safety

- Floodwater can carry bacteria that can contaminate food.
- Throw away all food and drinking water that has come in contact with floodwater, including things stored in containers. It is impossible to know if containers have been damaged and the seals compromised.
- Do not eat garden produce if the soil has been flooded. Clean up and remove debris and sprinkle gardens with lime.
- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated. Follow any boil water notice instructions from your local authorities.

## Silt

- Flood waters can deposit large quantities of silt. When the silt dries the surface layer can become airborne when disturbed by wind, vehicles or clean-up activities.
- Dust generated from airborne silt can affect people's health. It can irritate the eyes and upper airways, and for those with underlying heart or lung conditions such as asthma it can worsen symptoms. Infants, young children and the elderly are also more vulnerable to health effects from air pollution.
- Silt may contain toxic substances and pathogens (disease-causing microorganisms).
- Take a common-sense approach to protect your health. If dust levels are high and you can see, smell or taste dust in the air, or visibility is reduced, it is a good idea to take precautions:
- If possible, keep the surface of the silt wet, or cover it to prevent it drying and blowing around. Alternatively, use barriers to protect the silt from the wind.
- If possible, stay indoors and close windows and doors when dust levels are high. You may also need to seal openings such as cat doors and air vents to keep silt out.
- If dust exposure can't be avoided wear a properly fitted P2 or N95 mask. If you do not have one, a surgical mask will provide some protection.
- Avoid exercising outside.
- Heat pumps and air conditioning units (HVAC systems) can continue to be used. HEPA filters will be most effective at removing fine particles but will block more rapidly and will need to be cleaned more frequently. Check and clean HVAC filters regularly.
- An indoor air purifier, fitted with a HEPA filter, will also help improve indoor air quality.
- Clean indoors regularly using mops and damp cloths to remove dust.
- Avoid sweeping and dusting as it kicks dust into the air, and only use a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter.
- Drive slowly within silt-impacted areas – slower is better and will result in less dust. Aim for under 10km/h.
- If you are worried about what dust is doing to your health, call Healthline 0800 611 116. Call 111 if anyone has trouble breathing.

## Removing silt

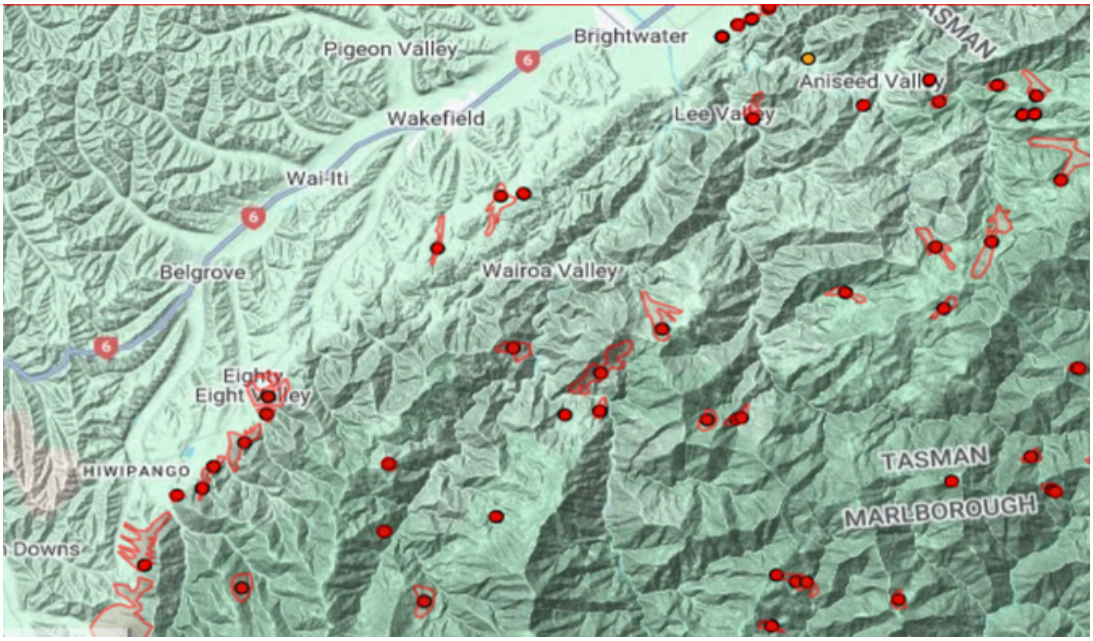
- Not all silt needs to be removed. Generally, in open areas where silt is less than 15mm deep you won't need to remove the silt. It will gradually disappear in the weeks following the floods, assisted by the effects of wind and rain.
- Follow advice and instructions about removing silt from your local council and local Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.
- Always work safely when cleaning up silt:
- Protect yourself by wearing a properly fitted P2- or N95-rated mask, safety glasses or goggles, gloves, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, and gumboots or work shoes.
- Cover any open cuts, scratches, grazes and wounds with waterproof plasters or dressings.
- Always wash your hands thoroughly after each clean-up session and before handling food.
- Avoid digging deep trenches with high sides when cleaning up silt. Silt and debris can collapse easily without warning. Collapsing trenches can injure or kill people.
- If silt is deeper than one metre, create stepped trenches rather than digging straight down, to reduce the risk of collapse.
- The Worksafe website has information about working safely when digging or moving silt.

## Pets and other animals

- Keep pets and other animals away from flood water. It may be contaminated with biological waste, pathogens (disease-causing microorganisms) or chemicals.
- Advice about caring for animals affected by flood is available on the Ministry for Primary Industries website.
- Following a major flooding event and periods of ongoing rainfall there is an increased risk of livestock contracting diseases.
- Advice for farmers, whenua Māori entities and lifestyle block owners is available on the Ministry for Primary Industries website.

## Landslips - Medium risk

Landslide locations ( source GNS science data) Medium risk – An increase in weather events may push this into high risk.




**RED dots indicate potential landslide areas:**

*Eighty-eight valley
*Church Valley Road
*Gibbs Valley
* Bridge Valley
* Mead Road - Brightwater
* Aniseed Valley - Brightwater

## Reduction: Reduce the impacts of landslides

- Some areas are at a higher risk of landslides – including areas with existing old landslides, steep slopes, drainage channels on steep slopes, stream and riverbanks, or coastal cliffs.
- The best option is not to build or develop on unstable or hazardous/higher risk sites. Seek expert advice from a chartered professional geotechnical engineer if you are planning on excavating or building on steep slopes or believe the site may be affected by landslides. Council Land Use Planning plays an important part in this.
- Be aware that landslides on another property could affect you – for example, if you are in the path of a landslide runout.
- Find out from your council if they have information on landslide hazard and risk, if there have been landslides in your area before, and where they might occur again.
- Areas that are prone to landslide often include existing (old) landslides, steep slopes, streams or riverbanks or coastal cliffs.
- If you have a slope on your property, check drains are clear and adequate, and that retaining walls are in good condition.
- Learn the warning signs for unstable ground:
- Small slips, and rockfalls.
- Subsidence at the bottom of slopes.
- Doors and window frames that start to stick, or gaps developing around them.
- Outside fixtures like steps, decks and verandas moving or tilting away from your house.
- New cracks or bulges on the ground, road or footpath.
- Trees, retaining walls or fences that start to tilt.
- Be alert when driving, especially where there are embankments along roadsides. Watch the road for collapses, mud and fallen rocks.
- Review your insurance regularly.

## Readiness: Get prepared to respond to landslides

- Make and practise your emergency plan, have a grab bag and emergency supplies.
- Regularly inspect your property, especially after long dry spells, earthquakes or heavy rainfall.
- Look for signs of instability: doors and windows that start to stick, gaps appearing, decks moving or tilting away from the house, new cracks or bulges on the ground, leaning trees or fences, slope movement, etc.
- Watch the land around where you live for signs of increased threat. Look at the hillsides around your home for any signs of land movement (like rockfall, small landslides or debris flows) and any trees that start to “tilt” over time.
- Watch the patterns of storm water drainage on slopes near your home, and especially the places where runoff water converges, increasing flow over soil-covered slopes. Noticing small changes can alert you to an increased threat of a landslide.
- If you notice any of these changes, seek professional advice as soon as possible. There may be some problems you can fix yourself, but many will require expert help.
- Other things you can do:
- Keep gutters, downpipes and drains free of dirt, leaves and other blockages. Trim back or remove vegetation blocking drains and gutters.
- Inspect swimming pools regularly for leaks.
- Regularly empty septic tanks.
- Check retaining wall drainage for blockages and water build-up behind the wall.
- Regularly check and clear drains.

## Response: What to do if you think a landslide is about to happen

- Recognise the warning signs and act quickly
- Landslides can occur without any warning signs. Be aware of the potential for landslides, particularly in the weeks after potential triggering events, such as heavy rainfall, earthquakes, and previous landslides.
- Some warning signs before landslides occur:
- Small slips, rock falls, and sinking land, at the bottom of slopes.
- Sticking doors and window frames, which may mean the land is slowly moving under the house.
- Gaps where window frames are not fitting properly.
- Steps, decks, and verandas, moving or tilting away from the rest of the house.
- New cracks or bulges on the ground, road, footpath, retaining walls and other hard surfaces.
- Tilting trees, retaining walls, or fences.
- If you see a landslide, move quickly out of its path and stay away from it. It is important to recognise the warning signs and act quickly.
- If you learn or suspect that a landslide is occurring, or is about to occur in your area:
- Evacuate immediately if it is safe to do so. Seek higher ground outside the path of the landslide. Getting out of the path of a landslide or debris flow path is your best protection.

- If you cannot leave safely, move out of the path of the debris. The side of your house furthest from the landslide is likely to be the safest location within the property.
- Take your pets with you, and move livestock to safe paddocks, if you can do so without endangering yourself.
- Alert your neighbours. They may not be aware of the potential hazard. Advising them of a threat may save their lives. Help neighbours who need assistance to evacuate if you can do so without putting yourself in danger.
- Contact your local council or technical expert. Local council engineers or other geotechnical engineers are the people best able to assess the potential danger.

## What to do if a landslide occurs

- If you see a landslide, move quickly out of its path and stay away from it.
- If lives are in danger, evacuate immediately and dial 111. Alert your neighbours if you can do so safely. If you can't get outside, move away from the slide area and dial 111. Stay away from the landslide area. Further landslides may occur.
- Check for injured and trapped persons and animals near the landslide, without entering the landslide area. Direct rescuers to their locations.

## Recovery: What to do after a landslide

- Further landslides may occur, so stay away from the affected area.
- Look for broken utility lines (power, telephone) and report them to appropriate authorities. Reporting potential hazards will get the utilities turned off as quickly as possible, preventing further hazard and injury.
- The Natural Hazards Insurance Act 2023 may provide residential property owners Natural Hazards Cover for damage caused by landslides to residential properties, outbuildings, land within eight metres of buildings and outbuildings, access-way land, and a range of other structures and utilities. The Natural Hazards Commission Toka Tū Ake has partnered with insurers to provide a single point of contact for residential insurance customers. You should contact your insurer to make a claim for damage from natural hazards. Full details are available at naturalhazards.govt.nz.

# Earthquake

## Reduce the impacts of earthquakes

- Make your home safer. Fix and fasten objects that could fall and hurt you in an earthquake.
- Review your insurance regularly. Having insurance cover for your home and contents is important to help you get back on your feet if you suffer damage in a disaster.

## Get ready before an earthquake

- Work out what supplies you might need and make a plan together.
- Practise Drop, Cover and Hold at least twice a year. You can do this when the clocks change and by taking part in New Zealand ShakeOut. It's important to practise the right action to take so that when a real earthquake happens, you know what to do.
- Identify safe spaces to **Drop, Cover and Hold** within your home, school, work and other places you often visit.
- Somewhere close to you, no more than a few steps away, to avoid injury from flying debris.
- Under a strong table. Hold on to the table legs to keep it from moving away from you.
- Away from windows that can shatter and cause injury. And from tall furniture that can fall on you. Protect your head and neck with your arms.
- Not in a doorway. In most homes, doorways are not stronger than any other part of a house and a swinging door can cause more injury.

## What to do during an earthquake

- Drop, Cover and Hold is the right action to take in an earthquake. It:
- stops you being knocked over
- makes you a smaller target for falling and flying objects, and
- protects your head, neck and vital organs.
- Do not run outside or you risk getting hit by falling bricks and glass.
- If you are near the coast remember, Long or Strong, Get Gone.
- Drop, Cover and Hold until the shaking is over.
- If the earthquake lasts longer than a minute or is strong enough to make it difficult to stand, move quickly to the nearest high ground or as far inland as you can out of tsunami evacuation zones.

## What to do after an earthquake

- Expect more shaking. Each time you feel earthquake shaking, Drop, Cover and Hold. More shaking can happen minutes, days, weeks, months and even years following an earthquake.
- Check yourself for injuries and get first aid if necessary.
- Do not run outside. It is frightening to stay in a building immediately after an earthquake, but it is much safer than going outside. An earthquake is not like a fire. You do not have to evacuate a building straight away unless it is showing obvious signs of distress or you are in a tsunami evacuation zone.
- Turn off water, electricity and gas if advised to. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window, get everyone out quickly and turn off the gas if you can.
- If you see sparks, broken wires or evidence of electrical system damage, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box if it is safe to do so.

- If you can, put on protective clothing that covers your arms and legs, and sturdy footwear. This is to protect yourself from injury by broken objects.
- If you are in a store, unfamiliar commercial building or on public transport, follow the instructions of those in charge.
- Use social media or text messages instead of calling to keep phone lines clear for emergency calls.
- Keep control of your pets. Protect them from hazards and protect other people from your animals.
- Check on your neighbours and anyone who might need your help.

### If your property is damaged

- Do not do anything that puts your safety at risk or causes more damage to your property.
- Contact your insurance company as soon as possible.
- If you rent your property, contact your landlord and your contents insurance company.
- Take photos of any damage. It will help speed up assessments of your claims.

## Storms

- Storms can happen any time of the year. They can bring strong winds, heavy rain or snow, thunder, lightning, tornadoes and rough seas. Find out what to do before, during, and after a storm.
- Reduce the impacts of storms
- Prepare your property for high winds. Strong winds can lift large, heavy objects and send them crashing into homes. Anything not secured may become a projectile.
- Regularly inspect and trim trees and shrubbery. Strong winds frequently break weak tree limbs and throw them at great speed. They can cause damage and injury.
- Review your insurance regularly. Having insurance cover for your home and contents is important to help you get back on your feet if you suffer damage in a disaster.
- Get ready before a storm
- Keep up to date with Met Service weather forecasts.
- Work out what supplies you might need and make a plan. Have materials and tools ready to repair windows, such as tarpaulins, boards, and duct tape.
- Identify a safe place in your home to gather during a thunderstorm. This should be a place where there are no windows, skylights, or glass doors. These could break in strong winds or hail and cause damage or injury.
- Know which paddocks are safe if you have livestock. To prevent risks from lightning, move livestock away from:
- floodwaters
- landslides
- power lines, and
- isolated trees.
- Be aware that storms can trigger floods and landslides. Make sure you know how to respond.

## What to do during a storm

- When a storm is forecast
- Bring inside or tie down anything that strong winds could break or pick up. If you have a trampoline, turn it upside down to minimise the surface area exposed to wind.
- Remove any debris or loose items from around your property. Branches and firewood can become missiles in strong winds.
- Bring pets indoors. They can get unsettled by storms and it is more comforting and safer for them to be with you.
- Check on your neighbours and anyone who might need your help.

## During a storm

- Stay inside. Don't walk around outside. Don't drive unless necessary.
- Close exterior and interior doors and windows. Pull curtains and blinds over windows. This could prevent injury from flying glass if the window breaks.
- Stay informed during an emergency. Listen to the radio or follow your Civil Defence Emergency Management Group online. Follow the instructions of civil defence and emergency services.
- Avoid bathtubs, water taps, and sinks. Metal pipes and plumbing can conduct electricity if struck by lightning. Use your water from your emergency supplies.
- Unplug small appliances that may be affected by electrical power surges. If you lose power, unplug major appliances. This will reduce the power surge and possible damage when power is restored.

## What to do after a storm

- Keep listening to the radio or following your Civil Defence Emergency Management Group online. They will give you information and instructions.
- Check for injuries and get first aid if necessary.
- Help others if you can, especially people who may need extra help.
- Contact your local council if your house or building has been severely damaged. Ask your council for advice on how to clean up debris safely.
- Stay alert for extended rainfall, flooding, landslides and debris hazards, especially when driving.
- If your property is damaged
- Do not do anything that puts your safety at risk or causes more damage to your property.
- Contact your insurance company as soon as possible.
- If you rent your property, contact your landlord and your contents insurance company.
- Take photos of any damage. It will help speed up assessments of your claims.

**Severe weather warnings**
Met Service provides land-based severe weather alerts. These are issued through a system of Outlooks, Watches and Warnings.
**Outlooks — stay alert**
Outlooks provide a 'heads up' that bad weather is coming in the next 3–6 days but there is some uncertainty about what might happen and where. Stay alert to the forecast and be prepared that you may be affected.
**Watches — stay alert**
Watches are used when severe weather is possible, but not imminent or certain. When a Watch is in place, stay alert and keep an eye on your local forecast for updates.
**Orange Warnings — take action**
Orange warnings are used when bad weather will meet Severe Weather Criteria. This could be heavy rain, strong wind or heavy snow.
When there is an Orange Warning, be prepared and take action as appropriate as there could be some disruption to your day and potential risk to people, animals and property. The majority of warnings issued by Met Service will be orange.
**Red Warnings — take immediate action, act now!**
Red warnings are used for extreme weather events that are likely to have significant impact and disruption. This could be for weather like heavy rain, strong wind or heavy snow from events like cyclones.
When there is a Red Warning, act now. Immediate action is needed to protect people, animals and property. Be prepared to follow the advice of official authorities and emergency services.

## Wildfire: Medium / High risk of a repeated wildfire event as seen in 2019 – Pigeon Valley fires

Wakefield is surrounded by forestry, most bordering farm properties.

Always check whether it's safe to light a fire and if you'll need a fire permit at checkitsalright.nz.

- Make and practice your emergency plan, and have a grab bag and emergency supplies. This should also include your pets and/or livestock.
- Practice good fire safety when doing anything that could cause a spark.
- Plan your escape route. When planning your route, you won't always know what direction the fire is coming from. It's important to have more than one way out.
- Identify a safe zone that is clear of vegetation in case you can't evacuate and have to shelter in place. You may need to shelter in place on your property or in your community. A safe zone might be somewhere that has:
- large areas of concrete,
- well-maintained short grass, or
- large volumes of water. (community water tanks)
- **Know how you will stay informed**. Emergency services will always try to alert you to an approaching wildfire. But there may not be time to issue an official warning.
- Be aware of what is happening in your area. Particularly if you see or smell smoke on a hot or windy day, because fire can move very quickly.

## Smoke

- Smoke contains substances that are harmful to health.
- Smoke can make it hard for some people to breathe. Inhaling smoke may cause coughing, shortness of breath and throat irritation.
- Smoke can irritate the eyes, causing a stinging sensation.
- People with medical conditions, pregnant women, young children and the elderly may be particularly at risk from inhaling smoke.
- Smoke can make it hard to see when you are driving. Some roads may be closed.
- Smoke can interfere with powerlines, making them dangerous to be near.

## If smoke is present

- Watch for signs of a wildfire, especially smoke, flames and loud noises including explosions.
- Stay inside and close windows and doors as smoke could be harmful.
- Turn off air conditioning units.
- Keep respiratory medication within easy reach.
- Reduce outdoor exercise.
- Avoid driving through smoke if you can. If the smoke is too thick to see through, it is unsafe to go through. Otherwise, turn your headlights and hazard lights on and drive slowly.
- Watch out for firefighters working in the area.

## Fire in your vicinity – be prepared to leave

- Be prepared to leave if there is a wildfire near you. Conditions can get worse quickly.
- Burning embers can be blown by the wind and start new fires up to several kilometres away from the main fire.
- If your life or property is in danger, call 111 immediately.
- Some roads may be closed or impacted.
- Power, mobile phone services and internet may be impacted.
- Stay informed – listen to your local radio station and follow your local Fire and Emergency District Facebook page – there is one for every region of New Zealand.
- Watch out for firefighters working in the area.
- Do not fly drones around the fire. Drones affect aerial firefighting operations.

## Preparing to leave

- Leaving early is the safest and best option. The later you try to leave a threatened area, the more likely you are to be in danger – both there and while you are evacuating. Don't wait for an official order to leave if you are concerned for your safety.
- If you find it hard to move quickly, or you and others in your household are elderly or dependent on others, you should always plan to leave early.
- Prepare to leave so you can go quickly if the wildfire gets close:
- Decide where you and your household will go. Plan how you will get there. Check for local road closures on your council's website and for state highways at www.nzta.govt.nz. Have a back-up plan in case your preferred route is blocked. Never try to bypass roadblocks or go off-road to "get around a fire".
- If you do not drive, call your support service, a family member or a friend to organise transport.
- Check your grab bag has a mobile phone charger, enough clothes for five days, important documents (like ID, passports, and photos), medicine, cash, and keys.
- Bring your pets inside so they are ready to leave. Have pet carriers/leads ready.
- If you have time, prepare your property before you leave:
- Close all windows, doors and vents.
- Turn on lawn sprinklers around your house to wet the ground.
- Bring doormats and outdoor furniture inside or move them away from the house.
- Block downpipes at the top and fill the gutters with water if you can.
- Move flammable items away from your house if you can.
- Your water tank could be contaminated by debris, ash, fire retardants, or dead animals.
- If you collect water from your roof, disconnect the downpipes to your water tank.
- Check on neighbours and help others if you have time and it is safe to do so

## Evacuation order

- Firefighters may not be able to control or stop the fire. Do not expect emergency personnel at your door telling you to leave.
- An evacuation order may be issued with immediate effect or with a very short notice period.
- Power, water, and mobile phone services may stop working.
- Smoke will make it hard to see and breathe. The smoke will sting your eyes.
- It will be hot and loud. You may hear explosions nearby.
- The sky will be dark.
- You could be isolated.

## What to do if you are ordered to evacuate

- Leave immediately if you are ordered to evacuate. Your life could be at risk. It will soon be too dangerous to drive.
- You will put the lives of emergency services personnel at risk if you choose to remain and later call for help.
- Take pets and important belongings with you if they are close at hand but don't spend time looking for them.
- Go to a place away from the emergency warning area. Plan how you will get there. Tell others where you are going.
- Check for local road closures on your council's website and on state highways at www.nzta.govt.nz.
- Have a back-up plan in case your preferred route is blocked.
- Never try to bypass roadblocks or go off-road to "get around a fire".
- Wear protective clothing and stay hydrated.
- Keep medications with you.
- Stay informed – listen to your local radio station and follow your local Fire and Emergency District Facebook page – there is one for every region of New Zealand
- Do not fly drones around the fire. Drones affect aerial firefighting operations.

## What to do if you have to shelter in place

- Your life is in danger. You need to seek shelter immediately to survive.
- Do not try to leave. Driving now could be deadly.

## The place where your shelter should be:

- Inside a building.
- On the opposite side from the approaching fire.
- In a room with multiple escape points. Make sure you always have two ways out of the room you are in.
- Put on protective clothing like closed-in shoes, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt made of cotton or wool. Avoid synthetic clothes that can melt if exposed to high heat.
- Close windows and doors. Seal any gaps with wet towels.
- Check for embers inside. Put them out quickly with water.
- Have plenty of water with you and drink lots to stay hydrated.
- Keep vital medications with you.
- Do not try to leave before the main fire-front has passed, it is too dangerous.
- As the fire approaches and passes, the safest place will change so be ready to move quickly.
- Keep pets safe inside. Move them when you move. Give them water.

## Stay informed if you can:

- Listen to your local radio station.
- Keep checking the Fire and Emergency District Facebook page for your area.

## Drought

- If your area is experiencing a drought, you can contact your local council for more information. A drought is caused by a lack of water in an area and can affect water usage and increase fire risk.
- The Ministry of Primary Industries is responsible for classifying droughts.

## Criminal acts and terrorism

- Always call 111 if there is a serious risk to life or property. New Zealand is a relatively safe place but we are not crime free. It is important you take precautions to look after yourself.
- New Zealand Police assist in various emergency management and national security situations. They are responsible for law enforcement and crime prevention. They also help maintain public safety.
- Call 105 to report things that have already happened and don't need urgent Police assistance.

## Animal and plant pests and diseases

- The Ministry for Primary Industries leads New Zealand’s biosecurity system. This includes responses to the outbreak of animal and plant pests and diseases.
- The Ministry for Primary Industries also leads New Zealand’s food safety system. It protects the health and well-being of consumers here and overseas.

## Pandemic

- A pandemic happens when a virus spreads quickly and affects a country or many countries around the world. When this happens, many of us can become very sick.
- The Ministry of Health is the lead agency for planning for and responding to pandemics in New Zealand.