

Get Ready, Rarangi

Emergencies can happen without warning. Every household in Rarangi should have their own emergency plan, and be prepared for the hazards that could affect us. These include fire, flood, earthquake and tsunami. The more prepared we are for an emergency, the more comfortable we will be when it happens.

Think about where you would go if you need to evacuate or can't get home – the best time to think about it is before an emergency happens.

If an earthquake is long (lasts for more than a minute) or strong (you're struggling to stand) Rarangi may be at risk of tsunami. Do not wait for an official warning – evacuate immediately. Go as far inland as you can, or as high as possible. Don't try to return home until the tsunami risk has passed. If a tsunami is expected from a regional or distant source, warnings can be sent by EMA, broadcast on Brian FM and other radio stations, on Antenna and through Marlborough District Council social media.

If you need somewhere to go, the evacuation centre for Rarangi is the Tuamarina school hall. If Rarangi is isolated we can set up the Rarangi Community Hall as a Community Emergency Hub.

So, what is a strong earthquake?

Felt by all. People and animals are alarmed, and many run outside. Walking steadily is difficult. Furniture and appliances may move on smooth surfaces, and objects fall from walls and shelves. Glassware and crockery break. Slight non-structural damage to buildings may occur.

From Geonet <https://www.geonet.org.nz/earthquake/intensity>

Flooding

Flooding is New Zealand's most common emergency. It can occur quickly and may prevent you from getting home, or from leaving home. If you see rising water don't wait for an official warning, head for higher ground. Stay away from floodwater; don't try to walk, swim or drive through it.

Preparing for an emergency

At home

You probably have most of the things you need already at home. You don't have to have them all in one place, but you might have to find them in a hurry and/or in the dark.

- Water for up to a week — make sure you have at least three litres of water per day, for every person. This will be enough for drinking and basic hygiene.
- Long-lasting food that doesn't need cooking (unless you have a camping stove or gas barbecue) and food for babies and pets.
- Toilet paper and large plastic buckets for an emergency toilet.
- Work gloves and a properly-fitted P2 or N95 mask.
- Supplies including food and water for your pets or other animals in your care.

If you have special dietary needs, make sure you have enough to last you. Don't forget that you and your neighbours can help each other by sharing supplies too. By looking after yourself and your household, you'll also be helping emergency services focus their limited resources on the people who need the most help.

At work

Make sure you have supplies at work including sturdy walking shoes, a waterproof jacket, a torch, snack food and water. Connect with those who live in the same area and you can work together to get home during an emergency.

In your car

Plan ahead for what you will do if you are in your car when an emergency happens. A flood, snow storm or major traffic accident could leave you stranded in your vehicle for some time.

Keep essential emergency survival items in your car. If you are driving in extreme winter conditions, add:

- a brush
- a shovel
- tire chains
- windshield scrapers, and
- warm clothing.

Store a pair of walking shoes, a waterproof jacket, essential medicines, snack food, water, a phone charger lead and a torch in your car.

Keep up to date with weather and road information when planning travel.

Grab bags

Have grab bags ready for everyone in your family. A grab bag is a small bag with essential supplies. Each bag should have:

- Walking shoes, warm clothes, raincoat and hat
- Water and snack food (remember babies and pets too)
- Hand sanitiser and face masks
- Portable phone charger
- Cash
- Copies of important documents and photo ID

Remember any medications you might need and keep your first aid kit, torch, radio and batteries somewhere you can grab them in a hurry. If you have special dietary needs, make sure you have the food you need in your grab bag too.

Find out more at: www.getready.govt.nz and at www.marlborough.govt.nz

My notes
