

Community Response In a Disaster



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Introduction:

After a disaster

An event leading to a civil defence emergency is likely to seriously threaten the physical and emotional well-being of large numbers of people, including the rescuers that being relied on. Immediately after an event, emergency services and civil defence staff will have to respond to the most critical demands.

Individuals may suffer bereavement, physical injury, and separation from families. They may experience personal losses of clothing, household and other property. Communities may be affected by severe damage to public utilities (power, telephone, water, gas and sewerage) and transport.

As a community, **be prepared to cope on your own for up to three days, or more.**

It could be several days before services are restored and outside help is available, and rescue and recovery organisations are able to function and respond. Even then, access may be limited.

Damaged infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and rail lines, will take longer to restore.

This is when you will be most vulnerable. **Get ready now to protect yourself, your loved ones and your community.**

Past experiences have shown that communities have an inbuilt resilience and that local communities generally respond well to the initial impact of a disaster.

The immediate response to such an event is the initiation of life saving and other measures to ensure the safety of your community.

The following guidelines may be useful to co-ordinate and plan your initial response, but remember:

There are no rules; there are no right and wrong answers

There are just different outcomes and different approaches

USE COMMON SENSE!

CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The local CDEM is a joint arrangement between Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty District Councils. It employs one full time and one part time staff, responsible for planning, preparation, public awareness and training. It works closely with the emergency services and other agencies.

The range of events against planned and prepared for includes earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, storms, floods, tornadoes, major fires, water shortages, chemical and fuel spillages or explosions, major transport accidents, landslides, agricultural emergencies and pandemics. Such events are normally responded to by the usual emergency services (Police, Fire, Ambulance etc), however when the event is too big for these services to manage without further assistance, a civil defence emergency may be declared.

A declaration for this area is done by the Mayor of Western BOP, or another delegated person, (In Civil Defence matters, the Mayor acts for both councils). A Civil Defence Controller then takes overall charge of the management of the emergency and co-ordinates the responses made by all the other services and agencies. The Controller can use emergency powers if necessary and can call on all the resources available within the community to assist.

THE THREATS

Regional Hazards

Civil Defence is required to consider any and all hazards that may lead to a declaration of a state of local emergency. These hazards must be significant enough to be beyond the ability of emergency services to cope.

The most likely hazards of the Bay of Plenty region to reach this threshold are the major natural hazards:

- Volcanic eruptions or a threatening eruption from any one of the volcanic centres of the region, or adjacent to the region.
- Earthquakes of high-magnitude can occur within any of the seismic (earthquake) fault belts of the region, or from sources adjacent to the region.
- Flooding or other storm-related damage throughout the region.
- Tsunami impact on the coastline of the region.

It is possible that other, technological (man-made) hazards could also cause major impacts on parts of the region.

Such impacts could be generated by:

- Failure of a hydro, water storage or natural dam
- Explosion of a large fuel storage or industrial facility
- Fire in a toxic chemicals storage or manufacturing area, possibly including a bulk carrier of one kind or another, leading to high-volume gas release.
- Catastrophic transport accident, including aircraft crash within an urban area.

Earthquakes

Earthquakes are always possible in our area, which is strewn with known earthquake faults.

Because of the unstable nature of our ground structure, earthquakes have the potential to be our most disastrous threat.

Unless we have had personal involvement with a major earthquake, it is difficult to imagine the enormity of the damage and destruction that can occur.

The plate activity that created the Taupo Volcanic Zone is responsible for the region's fractured surface crust. These faults are found in two extensive belts.

The table shows the average return period in years for moderate to strong earthquake shaking for principal settlements in the Bay of Plenty region. After model of Smith & Berryman (1992).

Location	MM>6	MM>7	MM>8
Tauranga	10	42	180
Rotorua	8	42	180
Whakatane	5	36	150

The modified Mercalli Scale (MM) is the measurement of intensity of earthquake shaking that would be felt based on a scale of 1 – 12, where 12 is the maximum value. MM6 is a shaking intensity that would be felt by all, causing alarm, but probably creating only minor damage in the area most affected.

Tauranga can expect to experience such shaking on average every 10 years, Rotorua every 8 years and Whakatane every 5 years.

MM8 shaking causes serious damage to poor-quality buildings and some damage to well-built buildings. Such shaking can be expected to affect each of the three main towns in the region about once every 150 – 180 years.

Volcanic Eruptions

- The area is fringed by potential volcanic activity.
- Mayor and White Islands, Mauao (the Mount) and the most hazardous, the Okataina area.
- The patterns of the past indicate that any major volcanic activity could have devastating effects.

The Bay of Plenty region contains one of New Zealand's most important areas of potential volcanic activity, the Okataina Volcanic Centre. Immediately southwest of the region lies the Taupo Volcanic Centre, which links with the volcanic cones of Ruapehu and Tongariro.

The complete volcanic zone running from Mt Ruapehu to White Island, 50 kilometres off the region's coastline, is called the Taupo Volcanic Zone (TVZ). The TVZ runs straight through the centre of the Bay of Plenty region, taking in the major urban areas of Rotorua and Kawerau, and fringing Whakatane township.

- Environment Bay of Plenty is developing Floodplain Management Strategies for major floodplains. Measures in these plans will go beyond the traditional structural measures to include planning controls, flood warning and flood hazard awareness and preparedness.

Tsunamis

- Tsunamis are high speed waves and can be caused by undersea earthquakes, large seafloor landslides, volcanic eruptions, large coastal or lakeside landslides and very occasionally by meteorites. The disturbance causes waves to radiate out from the event source.
- The Pacific warning system would give warning of any generated from around the Pacific Basin.
 - You would have 13 hours warning if generated in Sth America
 - 4 minutes warning from Mayor Island
- Our greatest threat comes from waves from a close in under sea earth movement.
- Tsunami waves can travel at speeds of around 500 kph (the speed of a jumbo jet) and have significant wave lengths (the distance from crest to crest).
- Low lying areas within the harbour are probably more at risk than the ocean – front areas of Mt Maunganui to Otamarakau, because of the shelving nature of the ocean floor and the sand dunes.
- Whereas the surges through the harbour entrances could affect the inner harbour.
- Local warning signs:
 - A strong earthquake
 - An unusual change in the level of the sea
 - A roaring noise like a jet
 - If you are on the coast and become aware of any of the warning signs, move quickly away from the water's edge to higher ground.

In deep water the height of a tsunami can be less than 50cm but as it reaches shallow water (such as a continental shelf or near the coast) it is lifted up by the seafloor causing it to slow down. The tsunami can rapidly become a large wave as the back of the wave continues to press forward – building up the wave on the coast.

The damage from tsunamis can occur as a result of inundation (flooding roads, buildings and land), the impact of the moving water (erosion, structural damage) and debris impacts (debris carried by the wave moving inland and receding).

Nature of the Tsunami threat

Tsunamis have not generally been perceived as a particular threat to the Bay of Plenty. Eleven tsunamis are recorded in the historical record (since 1840) – all of less than three metres. However, recent work indicates that tsunami may be more of a threat than previously thought.

Sources for tsunamis can be classified by their distance from the areas that may be impacted:

- Local – e.g. eruption of Mayor Island or White Island, or fault movement within the offshore Taupo Volcanic Zone.
- Regional – e.g. volcanism in the Tonga/Kermadec system or landslide in the Hikurangi Trough.
- Distant – e.g. South American earthquake.

Hazardous Substances

- The most likely emergency we will have to deal with.
- Are found in our industrial areas (Greerton, Judea, Mt Maunganui) and in petrol stations.
- Problems at any of these installations could result in the evacuation of the area.
- The industrial area at Mt Maunganui contains a number of installations which handle or process a variety of hazardous substances:
 - 600 tons chemicals produced every day at Mt Maunganui
 - Has the capacity to store 2,000 tons of chemicals
- Bay Fertilisers may hold at any one time 450 tonnes of sulphuric acid.
- I.C.I. Large quantities of caustics, ammonia, methanol, etc
- Tankers containing these substances and petroleum products probably drive through your main street every day
- 2 tankers of hydrochloric acid travel from Morrinsville to the Mount every day
- Chemical / fuel spillage or explosions possible

Other Threats include:

- **Major Fires**
- **Water shortage**
- **Major transport accidents**
- **Landslides**
- **Agricultural emergencies** (outbreak of Foot & Mouth etc)
- **Epidemics** (low vaccination rates)

Determine the location of a safe Venue

Ensure that the facility is available and suitable to set up as a Welfare Centre to meet your community's needs (i.e. adequate size with facilities to assemble people and equipment).

Take into account such hazards as unsafe buildings, power lines down, leakage or spills from gas mains and petrol stations. Consider any large venue with toilets, showers, kitchen facilities etc such as a school, local hall, and rugby or sports club.

Contact the owner and arrange access. Check to see what facilities are functional and are operational, i.e. water, kitchen, toilets etc.

Familiarise yourself with the complex and determine a functional and workable layout, then allocate various areas.

Some functions within the Welfare Centre may not be established immediately

Give priority to immediate needs: shelter, first aid, warm clothing, and basic catering.

As there may be no power, water or sewerage, it may be desirable for cooking, eating and sleeping to be communal activities to conserve resources and to provide comfort.

During the day, providing the buildings are safe, clean up activities can begin once people's immediate needs have been addressed.

Some form of organising committee is essential

How it is formed and who it involves depends on the situation at the time.

Develop new groups to meet fresh needs.

Not everyone may choose to take part in any such organised activity. (It is the right of the individual whether or not to take part).

Direct volunteers to set up and prepare the centre for evacuees as quickly as possible. Enlist whatever help is available. Depending on numbers and the situation, appoint a leader and supervisors.

Delegate as appropriate and necessary.

Brief volunteers as they arrive.

Assess the situation Discover what has happened.

- What structures still exist?
- What is the extent of the damage?
- What are your capabilities?
- Where can you access resources?
- What specific help do you require?

Alert the official organisations

- Establish and maintain contact with Civil Defence Emergency Operations Centre by whatever means are available: phone, fax, cell phone, handheld radio, email, etc
- Give an initial situation report then send regular updates. Advise them of any seriously injured or trapped people. Notify of any urgent concerns or major changes immediately.
- If warranted or appropriate this information can be passed on to the Public Information manager for broadcast over the local radio station.
- If you are unable to contact EOC, inform any of the emergency services and request that they pass on the message. (Police, fire, ambulance)

Listen to the radio for information

Initiate search and rescue activities

- Check who is missing (neighbourhood support groups may be able to assist) and carry out any rescue that may be necessary. Fuse any tools that people may have in their garages, vehicle, etc. If the rescue is too involved or dangerous seek help.

Try to prevent or minimise further risk to life or damage to property.

Organise debris removal.

Initiate morale boosting activities.

The Community Welfare Centre may need to provide the following Areas:

Reception Area:

- Take names
- Gather information & assess situation
- Identify skills (doctors, nurses, first aiders, childcare, tradesmen, (plumbers, carpenters etc))
- Identify immediate needs
- Enlist volunteers

Registrations in Welfare Centre:

All persons on registering in a Welfare Centre will receive an identification bracelet which entitles them to meals, clothing, bedding, and other services available in a Welfare Centre.

First Aid:

- Appoint any specialist personnel top Fist Aid section.
- Liaise with emergency services and EOC for help & supplies.

Clothing:

- Liaise with Welfare Co-ordinator in EOC for a supply of clothing and blankets as required, to ensure that everyone is warm and dry.

Food:

- Ensure that hot drinks and light refreshments are available. More substantial food may be required if people are to remain at the Welfare Centre for longer periods of time.
- Liaise closely with Welfare Manager in EOC for supplies.
- If you have no power or cooking facilities arrange to collect barbeques, gas cookers, gas lanterns etc.
- Collect all perishable foods and vegetables from fridges, pantries etc. Once perishable food is finished open freezers and begin to use contents. Use tinned food last of all.

Extra care for the more vulnerable evacuees:

A crèche to care for unaccompanied children and to assist families with young children will need to be set up.

An area may also need to be established to assist and care for elderly and frail evacuees.

Security:

Establish whatever security measures are required. Patrols of unsecured homes may be necessary.

Accommodation:

Establish what accommodation is available in your area if it is unsuitable or impractical to remain at the Welfare Centre overnight. Hotels, motels, cabins, camping grounds, lodges, maraes etc. Liaise closely with Welfare Manager in EOC. If sleeping at the Welfare Centre collect bedding – mattresses, blankets, sleeping bags.

Pets:

Establish plan to cater for evacuees pets outside the Welfare Centre.

SUPPLIES AND RESOURCES

What is available? What do you need?

Where possible, request all assistance from the Welfare Manager at Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for any urgent supplies, resources or equipment you need.

When a Civil Defence Emergency is declared the local controller or any person authorised on his behalf is able to requisition supplies as required when such supplies or equipment are urgently necessary for the preservation of human life.

The Welfare Manager has the authority to delegate the requisitioning of supplies and approval of expenditure, if this action is justified and appropriate. Such approval must be in writing and signed.

If this assistance is not available immediately, or you are totally isolated, you will need to meet these needs from within your local community.

Think about lighting, food, water, cooking facilities, first aid supplies, heating, bedding, clothing, blankets, and anything that may be of use.

It may be necessary to form recovery parties to obtain supplies of the above items from residents' homes, local shops, businesses, hire firms, etc.

Send a group (minimum of two and preferably the house owner) to each house to turn off all power and gas, and to set upright any freezers and fridges. Check for structural damage and rope off any building if in any doubt of its soundness. Do not enter any building that is obviously unsound.

Obtain owners consent to enter any land or buildings or to remove any equipment.

Payment and Expenses – Good records are vital!!!!!!!

You **must** keep a written record of all requisitions and purchases in order to establish eligibility for payment and reimbursement. This applies for businesses, organisations and individuals. Work closely with the Welfare Manager regarding ALL items purchased.

Without such details, costs **cannot** be reimbursed.

Particular care should be taken to keep a clear record of who authorises any expenditure and why, in order to simplify any follow up action.

Storing Water

Water for drinking will be the highest priority. The average adult requires a minimum of three litres per day. Additional water is required for cooking.

Water for washing and dishwashing need not be boiled, but add some household disinfectant.

Hot water cylinders are full of water, there is often a tap on the bottom of the tank and a pipe leading outside that can be used to extract the water.

Collect rainwater.

Streams may be contaminated and should not be used until declared safe by the Health Authorities.

Swimming and spa pools can be used for washing and cooking. Boil for five minutes before drinking.

Soft drinks and mineral water can supplement fluid intake.

After an earthquake, water from taps can be contaminated and should be purified for drinking.

How to purify water

- Boil vigorously for 5 minutes
- Purification tablets – available from chemists, camping and outdoor suppliers
- Household bleach – 2-4 drops per litre, ½ to 1 teaspoon per 20 litres.

Toilets

Where there is a likelihood of disruption to services for more than a couple of days, take care when choosing a site to construct temporary facilities. It is important to ensure they are located in places where they are not likely to contaminate ground water.

Moving back home

If you have sustained damage in your area, you may not be able to re-inhabit your homes until they have been inspected for structural, electrical, water and sanitary damage by qualified persons.

You may not be able to begin repairs until an insurance assessor has made a report.

This does not mean that you cannot begin clean-up activities. It may be prudent however, to take photos of the damage before you start to clean up. If you have any concerns, you may wish to check with the insurance council first.

Declarations:

Civil Defence / Emergency Management is a joint arrangement between Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty District Councils.

The Mayor of Western Bay of Plenty (or alternate) is authorised to declare a Local Emergency.

Homeless or in need of welfare care – Numbers – Locations – Special needs etc
You may also be able to provide reports on:

Building Damage

Estimate % of buildings: -
Totally Destroyed
Badly damaged
Probably unsafe
Damaged but probably safe
Minor or no damage

Utilities

Electricity
Water
Drainage / sewerage
Gas
Special problems (i.e. gas leaks)

Transport / Access

Blocked / unsafe roads & bridges
Best access (to incident sites, etc)

Communications

Telephones & mobiles
Radios, faxes, etc

Recovery Action

Normal services operating
What is fixed or being done

**Effective Assistance in an Emergency is Entirely Dependent
on the Provision of Timely and Accurate Information**

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF STRESS

While everyone involved in a Civil Defence emergency will undoubtedly be under pressure, and are quite likely to be stressed, be on the look out for anyone showing signs of undue stress, or burnout, which could cloud their judgement, decision making and effectiveness.

Physical warning signs:

Headaches
Insomnia
Tiredness
Palpitations
Profuse Sweating
Tight and painful muscles, backache
Constipation, indigestion
Skin rash
High blood pressure
Dizziness
Stuttering
Dry mouth

Mental warning signs:

Poor concentration & memory
Difficulty in finishing tasks
Irritability
Depression
Impulsive Behaviour
Inability to relax
Anger, fear
Paranoia
Apathy
Nervous tension

Queasiness or diarrhoea
Nightmares

Stress can lead to:

Asthma attacks and respiratory problems
Heart attacks
Migraines

Individual Obligations:

- Never put yourself or others in a situation where the rescuer needs to be rescued (this applies to your mental welfare as much as your physical safety)
- Know your physical and mental limitations
- Recognise when you are getting close to your limit of coping and let others know
- Recognise when you need to call for help

We all have a ceiling or limit to our ability to cope with trauma. Everyone involved in a Civil Defence emergency should be included in a mandatory debriefing. Quite often it is the person who needs help the most, who is last able to ask for it.

Emergency Survival Kit:

In most emergencies, you should be able to stay at home or at your workplace. In this situation, you may have to rely on your Emergency Survival Kit.

The Emergency Kit should include:

Emergency items

- Torch with spare batteries
- Radio with spare batteries (check all batteries every 3 months)
- A change of clothes for all family members (wind and waterproof clothing, sun hats, and strong outdoor shoes)
- First aid kit and essential medicines
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Pet supplies
- Toilet paper and large rubbish bags for your emergency toilet
- Face and dust masks

Food and water for at least three days

- Non-perishable food (canned or dried food)
- Bottled water (at least 3 litres per person, per day for drinking)
- Plan how to get water for washing and cooking (check your hot water cylinder, pond, toilet cistern if it is free of chemicals)

- A primus or gas barbeque to cook on
- A can opener
- Check and replace food and water every twelve months.
- **Supplies for babies and small children**
- Food, formula and drink
- Change of clothing and nappies
- Toys or favourite activity

Assemble everything you need for your Emergency Survival Kit and place it somewhere that is easy to get to in an emergency. Make sure everyone in your house knows where your Emergency Survival Kit is kept. If you prefer to keep some of your Emergency Survival Kit items in the house for everyday use, make sure you know where to find them quickly when an emergency occurs.

Getaway Kit

In some emergencies, such as a flood or volcanic eruption, you will need to evacuate and take your Getaway Kit with you. **Don't forget**, you will also need to consider how you will care for your pets during an evacuation. Everyone in the house should have a Getaway Kit. This kit should include:

- Essential items from your Emergency Survival Kit

Family documents

- Birth and marriage certificates
- Drivers licenses and passports
- Financial information (insurance policies, mortgage information, etc)
- Family photos
- Cash, cheque book, or credit cards

Personal items

- Towels, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper and sanitary items
- Hearing aids, glasses, mobility aids for elderly or vulnerable members of your house
- Change of clothing

Household Emergency Plan

There are many types of disasters that could damage roads and disrupt your ability to travel. 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
- The best place to store Emergency Survival Items. Make sure everyone knows where these items are, and who is responsible for checking essential items.
- Where each person's Getaway Kit will be so they can take it with them
- How to turn off the water, gas and electricity in your home or business
- How to contact your local civil defence organisation for assistance during an emergency

Get your home ready

Here are other measures that household members can take to reduce the impact of a disaster and recover quicker.

- Check with your local council and Civil Defence Emergency Management Group about the warning system in your local community and make sure you know what actions you must take when you hear this warning
- Learn First Aid and Fire Safety Techniques.
- Make sure your home is quake-safe.
- Ensure your insurance cover is adequate and up to date
- Consider becoming a volunteer in your community
- Avoid purchasing property that is at a high risk of damage from hazards. Your council can provide hazard information, or you can seek advice from qualified experts

CARING FOR SICK OR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

If you, or a member of your household or community has a disability, make arrangements now with a family member, friend or neighbour to help in an emergency.

Hearing impairment

People with hearing impairment may not hear warning systems or radio broadcasts. Make arrangements to be sure that someone will notify a hearing impaired person in the event of an emergency.

Sight impairment

People with sight impairment could experience difficulties if they have to evacuate or go to an unfamiliar Civil Defence Centre. Arrange a 'buddy system' so they will have someone to help them cope.

Asthma and respiratory problems

An asthma sufferer or someone with a respiratory disorder may be affected by volcanic ash, dust or the stress of an emergency. If you are caring for someone with these conditions, make sure you have plenty of medicines and dust masks in your Emergency Survival and Getaway Kits.

Special food needs

If you are caring for someone with special food needs, make sure you include food for them in your Emergency Survival Kit.

Mobility impairment

You will need to include mobility aids in your [Emergency Survival Kit](#) if you or someone you are caring for has difficulty with mobility. This will help the person cope if they have to evacuate to a different area.

Communication Section:

For Radio and Telephone Operators

Phonetic Alphabet

ALFA	JULIET	SIERRA
BRAVO	KILO	TANGO
CHARLIE	LIMA	UNIFORM
DELTA	MIKE	VICTOR
ECHO	NOVEMBER	WHISKEY
FOXTROT	OSCAR	XRAY
GOLF	PAPA	YANKEE
HOTEL	QUEBEC	ZULU
INDIA	ROMEO	

The 24 hour Clock

Usual Terms	24 hour written	Said
5 past midnight hours	0005	zero, zero, oh 5
½ past midnight	0030	zero, zero, 30 hours
1 o'clock in the morning	0100	Oh 100 hours
2 o'clock in the morning	0200	Oh 200 hours
7 mins past 9 in the morning	0907	Oh 9 oh 7
10 o'clock in the morning	1000	10 hundred hours
12 o'clock midday	1200	12 hundred hours
10 to 3 in the afternoon	1450	14, 50 hours
25 past 4 in the afternoon	1625	16, 25 hours
9pm	2100	21 hundred hours
20 to 12 at night	2340	23, 40 hours
Midnight	2400	24 hundred hours

HOME PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

This handout provides information to help you in the event of any emergency.

As a first step be aware of the threats which could affect you and the effect these could have. Emergencies might be a major and affect the wider community, such as floods, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions; or they might be local and affect you and your immediate surroundings, i.e. fire, leaking gas pipes or potential industrial hazards nearby.

Establish an Emergency contact list and update phone numbers regularly. Your list may include: Fire, Police, ambulance, Civil Defence, Doctor, hospital, and neighbours. Note anyone with specialised skills or occupations that may be useful in emergency situations, i.e. doctors, nurses, or people with a first aid certificate together with plumbers, electricians, carpenters etc.

At Home:

Develop an emergency plan which includes these points

- Where to shelter in an earthquake, flood or storm
- Prepare an emergency survival kit & update when necessary
- Ensure all family members know how to turn off water, gas, electricity
- Plan an escape route for all family members in the event of a fire or emergency evacuation and designate a safe assembly point outside.
- Know the location of your nearest Civil Defence Post, usually your nearest primary school.
- Install smoke detectors & replace batteries on a regular basis.
- Learn how to control small fires.
- Learn first aid

In Your Street:

Join or form a neighbourhood support group

You and your neighbours will have skills and resources that can be vital in an emergency. Start discussing today what you can do to assist each other. Contact the Police for advice.

KNOW WHAT TO DO

Earthquakes

Before an earthquake occurs:

- Secure heavy furniture to the wall or floor including your hot water cylinder
- Place heavy items near the floor
- Put strong catches on cupboards
- Check your chimney is secure
- Check your household insurance

During an earthquake

- Take cover under a table or brace yourself in a doorway
- Do not attempt to run outside
- Do not look for your pets until the shaking stops
- If you are driving, pull over and stop, stay in your vehicle

After an earthquake

- Check those around you and help if necessary
- Put out small fires. Evacuate the building if fire out of control
- Report damage to your insurance company
- If an emergency has been declared, advise Civil Defence of any damage
- Listen to your radio for information and advice

Tsunamis

A tsunami is a series of sea waves generated by underwater earthquakes or landslides. Tsunami warnings will be issued through the Police and Civil Defence organisations, and through radio and television broadcasts. (There will not be enough time to issue a warning if a Tsunami is generated close to our coastline.)

When a tsunami threatens:

- Turn on your radio and follow instructions
- Take your "getaway kit" if you are told to evacuate
- Leave the area immediately if you are on the beach or near a river when a strong earthquake occurs.
- Go at least 1½ kilometre inland or 35 metres above sea level or if in a multi level building, to the top floor.
- Don't go to the beach or a river to watch the waves come in!!

Volcanoes:

If volcanologists agree that a life-threatening eruption is likely to take place, a Civil Defence Emergency will be declared and the danger area evacuated.

During an eruption:

- Listen to your radio for information and advice
- Save water in your bath, basins, and containers at an early stage in case supplies become polluted.
- Stay indoors (with your pets) as much as possible.
- Wear mask and goggles if you go outside, keeps volcanic ash out of your lungs and eyes.
- Keep gutters and roof clear of ash – heavy deposits can collapse the roof
- Take your “getaway kit” if you have to evacuate. Remember to turn electricity, gas and water off at the mains.
- Don’t go sightseeing.
- Don’t leave home unless advised to by Civil Defence.

Floods:

Are the most common cause of Civil Defence Emergencies

When a flood threatens

- Listen to your radio for information and advice and follow instructions
- Disconnect electrical appliances
- Move valuables, clothing, food, medicines & chemicals above the likely reach of floodwater
- Take your “getaway kit” if you have to evacuate
- Turn electricity, gas and water off at the mains
- Don’t go into floodwaters alone
- Don’t go sightseeing
- Don’t drink floodwater, it could be contaminated

Storms:

When a strong wind warning is issued:

- Listen to your radio for information
- Bring pets inside and move stock to shelter
- Secure outdoor furniture, lightweight sheds, rubbish bins etc
- Put tape across large windows to prevent them from shattering

During the storm

- Open a window on the lee side of the building (the side away from the wind) this will relieve pressure on the roof.
- Close the curtains to slow down flying glass or other loose objects. Use a mattress for added protection
- Stay away from doors and windows
- Stay away from metal and electrical fixtures
- Don’t walk around outside
- Don’t go driving unless absolutely necessary

After the Storm

- Avoid dangling and broken power lines. Report these immediately
- Contact your local council for advice about cleaning up debris