

Maungaraki Emergency Guide

Wellington is a volatile region with earthquakes, storms, flooding, and slips being fairly routine. It is what we love about being here – the views, the pelting rain and howling winds, the odd rumble of an earthquake or swirl of snowflakes if we are lucky. It is challenging but it is good feeling the rawness of nature up here in Maungaraki and, much as we grumble at times, most of us enjoy those moments of nature at its finest.

If a large and sudden event occurs your main goal is to look after your family, provide food, shelter, water and meet your health needs for close to 10 days. After a few days, some help will trickle in - maybe Army and water trucks. Worst case scenario may be you have to collect your day's ration of water from Lower Dowse Drive and get this home on foot over broken roads, slips and crumpled footpaths. Turning the taps on, flushing the loo, using a phone or having electricity may not happen for days or weeks. You will need supplies at your home to keep you hydrated, fed, warm, sheltered and safe for the days, weeks or even months it takes to get things back to semi-normal. Christchurch's earthquake taught us that lesson.

Have a look around your home. What do you need to make things easier? Think back to the stories of Christchurch and consider what you would need to do if the same happened here.

- **What is your family's plan of action?**
- **Do your children know what to do?**

Have a family plan and go over this each year when the kids go back to school or start at a new one.

Let them know the plan, the neighbours and the friends who will be there for them.

1. First and foremost focus on uniting your family and checking your home.
2. Meet the immediate needs and start setting up your home for the days ahead.
3. If possible, check on your neighbours – work together as a team to help each other.
4. If you need help (or can offer first aid, rescue equipment, 4-wheel drives, a hug) go to the emergency Hub.
5. Be aware that you may be the first person to arrive.

EMERGENCY HUB – Maungaraki School/Community Centre and also at St Aidan's.

Manned by local volunteers until more qualified staff arrive.

The Hub has a plastic box with manuals to help guide the volunteers, including pens, paper, lanyards & instructions. It also has radio communication.

IT DOES NOT HAVE – Food, First Aid Supplies, Tents, Blanket, Cooking, Cutlery, Crockery or any supplies – these are things you need to have at home.

IT OFFERS – Help, Support, Comfort and Shelter if you need it or can offer to give it.

IT IS A PLACE WHERE WE AS A COMMUNITY SOLVE OUR LOCAL ISSUES

If you don't need help there's no need to go to The Hub

Maungaraki Baptist Church will also probably open as soon as possible to provide shelter and support. This all depends on the nature of the emergency, the state of the buildings and who can come down and volunteer. The Emergency Hub could very well be in the school field, the Village Green or at the church.

There is a Large Water Tank at the Emergency Hub at the Community Centre on Dowse Drive which can be opened by the volunteers as an extreme last resort days after the event. The expectation is that every resident has enough stored water to meet their needs for a minimum of 10 days.

SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

Keep a comfy pair of shoes, a jacket, a water bottle and life straw plus anything else you will need in your car and/or at your workplace. You may need to walk home or spend an unexpected day/night away from home. Recent local events that we need to learn from to prepare for in the future:

- * **Mid-August 2011 heavy snow meant people couldn't drive up the Western Hills – they walked after abandoning their cars on the motorway and the 150 bus stopped running as did the trains.**
- * **16th August 2013 at 2:31pm the Lake Grassmere 6.6 earthquake shut down the regional train lines and there weren't enough buses to get everyone home – so many people walked home from Wellington.**
- * **May 2015 at 4pm flash flooding in Cornish St closed both the railway line and the motorway stranding 30,000 commuters. People had to stay overnight in Wellington with their children staying with friends.**

THINGS TO CONSIDER TO BE PREPARED IN ADVANCE

(much easier to plan ahead than think on your feet at 3am in the morning when there is no power, the dog is barking, the kids want cuddles and there is no internet to tell you what happened)

1. **FAMILY & PETS** - Unite, meet immediate needs and ensure their safety
2. **WATER** - store water, get water tanks, buy LifeStraw's (google those) for Christmas/birthday gifts. Buy water carriers and water filter jugs stored where they can be reached. **Ideally you need 5 litres per person per day for 10 days and ways of carrying that water home if need be.**
3. **SHELTER** - tents/tarpaulins. Small tents for the kids for Christmas gifts? Tramping tents for you and a nice little camp stretcher while you are at it. No need to be a martyr.
4. **FOOD** - How will you feed your family for a few weeks? Don't plan on going to the shops or takeaways - they may or may not be open depending on the situation. If the roads are gone the food won't get delivered, if the power and gas are gone they can't cook or store food. The owners will have their own concerns to contend with
5. **COOKING EQUIPMENT** – BBQ and portable gas cookers. Time to build that pizza oven you have always wanted. Buy camp cookers and spare gas canisters. You will need to boil water.
6. **SLEEPING** - Sleeping bags for family members for birthday presents
7. **LIGHTING** - solar power lights, wind up torches, lots of options. Haul out the solar Christmas lights or buy that cute solar power gnome ornament you have secretly always wanted.
8. **CELL PHONES** - coverage may disappear for a few days. Electricity may be gone for weeks. Have a way to charge them (solar charging packs, your car, portable chargers).
9. **WATER/SEWAGE** - lines could be ruptured and broken for months. How do you shower? Where will you go to the loo? www.getprepared.nz has good ideas for this rather pressing need.
10. **HEALTH NEEDS** - Do you have enough medicine to last you a week?
11. **HYGIENE** - Find ways to keep yourself and your cooking/eating utensils clean.

Who are Emergency Hub Volunteers?

If you know first aid, can think on your feet, organise or take orders or have a 4 wheel drive, skills, muscles, can write, can read, can use a radio, then there will be a job for you! If you have specialised practical skills, enjoy team work or have some really useful equipment then come to the Hub. If you are a caring kind person who is willing to help someone who is scared, hurt, needing a lap, a hug or cup of tea - come down.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Wellington Regional Emergency Management (WREMO) will be running training days for community members to gain knowledge of the system and how to be involved should the Emergency Hub need to be activated. Keep an eye out for dates.

Here is a fun link that might help you figure out where you would fit in: [Get Prepared – Get involved.](#)