

# Dargaville

NORTHLAND

## Community Response Plan



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## The key hazards in Dargaville

- **Flooding**
- **Major Storms**
- **Fire/Chemical Hazard**
- **Influenza Pandemic**



### Flooding

Floods can cause injury and loss of life, damage to property and infrastructure, loss of stock, and contamination of water and land.

Floods are usually caused by continuous heavy rain or thunderstorms but can also result from tsunami and coastal storm inundation. A flood becomes dangerous if:

- the water is very deep or travelling very fast
- the flood waters have risen very quickly
- the floodwater contains debris, such as trees and sheets of corrugated iron.

Getting ready before a flood strikes will help reduce damage to your home and business and help you survive.



### Major storms

Major storms affect wide areas and can be accompanied by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder, lightning, tornadoes and rough seas. They can cause damage to property and infrastructure, affect crops and livestock, disrupt essential services, and cause coastal inundation.

Severe weather watches and warnings are issued by the MetService and available through the broadcast media, by email alerts, and online at [www.metservice.co.nz](http://www.metservice.co.nz)





## Fire / Chemical Hazard

Hazardous chemicals are sometimes accidentally released during a fire or crash.

Emergency responders are trained to identify and provide appropriate guidance to the public during such events.

If you suspect that a chemical substance has been released in a building, avoid breathing any of the fumes, evacuate and dial 111.

For information on fire danger, fire season status and requirements for fire permits visit [www.havingafire.org.nz](http://www.havingafire.org.nz)



## Influenza pandemic

An influenza virus capable of causing a pandemic is one that people have no immunity to, that can easily spread from person to person, and is capable of causing severe disease. We all need to be prepared for a pandemic in order to help prevent spread and look after ourselves as best we can.

Here are a few simple things you need to do to prepare for a pandemic:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Wash and dry hands often
- Keep away from others and stay home if you become unwell

- Regularly disinfect common surfaces like phones, handles, taps, toys etc
- Put together an emergency plan and kit
- Keep paracetamol and ibuprofen handy for reducing fever and aches and pains.
- Think about things to do if your family have to stay home for a week or so i.e. books, games movies.

# get ready...



## CREATE AND PRACTICE Household Emergency Plan

**YOUR HOUSEHOLD** Address

Name <input type="text"/>	Phone numbers <input type="text"/>
Name <input type="text"/>	Phone numbers <input type="text"/>
Name <input type="text"/>	Phone numbers <input type="text"/>
Name <input type="text"/>	Phone numbers <input type="text"/>
Name <input type="text"/>	Phone numbers <input type="text"/>

**1.** If we can't get home or contact each other we will meet or leave a message at:

Name

Contact details

Name (back-up)

Contact details

Name (out of town)

Contact details

**2.** The person responsible for collecting the children from school is:

Name

Contact details

**3.** Emergency Survival Items and Getaway Kit

Person responsible for checking water and food

Items will be checked and replenished on:

(check and replenish at least once a year)

The Getaway Kits are stored in the

**4.** The radio station (inc AM/FM frequency) we will tune in to for local civil defence information during an emergency

**5.** Friends/neighbours who may need our help or who can help us

Name

Address

Phone

Name

Address

Phone

**6.** On a separate sheet of paper draw a plan of the house showing places to shelter in an earthquake or storm, exits and safe assembly areas and where to turn off water, electricity and gas.

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS FOR POLICE, FIRE OR AMBULANCE CALL 111**

Local Police station <input type="text"/>	Water Supplier <input type="text"/>
Medical Centre <input type="text"/>	Gas Supplier <input type="text"/>
Insurance Company <input type="text"/>	Electrician <input type="text"/>
Vet/Kennel/Cattery <input type="text"/>	Plumber <input type="text"/>
Electricity Supplier <input type="text"/>	Builder <input type="text"/>
Council Emergency Helpline <input type="text"/>	

# get ready...



## CREATE Emergency Survival Kit

In most emergencies you should be able to stay in your home. Plan to be able to look after yourself and your household for at least three days or more. Assemble and maintain your emergency survival items for your home as well as a portable getaway kit in case you have to leave in a hurry. You should also have essential emergency items in your workplace and in your car.

### Emergency Survival Items

- Torch with spare batteries or a self-charging torch
- Radio with spare batteries
- 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



## Getaway Kit

Everyone should have a packed getaway kit in an easily accessible place at home and at work which includes:

- Torch and radio with spare batteries
- Any special needs such as hearing aids and spare batteries, glasses or mobility aids
- Emergency water and easy-to-carry food rations such as energy bars and dried foods.
- First aid kit and essential medicines
- Essential items for infants or young children such as formula and food, nappies and a favourite toy
- Change of clothes (wind/waterproof clothing and strong outdoor shoes)
- Toiletries – towel, soap, toothbrush, sanitary items, toilet paper
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Face and dust masks
- Pet supplies.

## HOW TO Stay in touch

### RADIO STATIONS

Newstalk ZB  
1026AM & 1215AM

The Hits  
95.6FM

More FM  
91.6FM

Radio Live  
100.7FM

Big River FM  
98.6FM

National Radio  
101.2FM

### Alerts to your phone

Two alerting platforms are used by Northland Civil Defence (and other official agencies) to send alerts about severe weather, tsunami or other emergencies.



The Red Cross Hazard App



Emergency Mobile Alerts

Both options are free to users although smartphones need to be of certain capability to be able to receive them.

We recommend that if possible, people take advantage of both.

To find out more, visit:  
[www.nrc.govt.nz/cdalert](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/cdalert)

### WEBSITES

Log on to one of the following websites for more information

[www.nrc.govt.nz/civildefence](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/civildefence)

[www.facebook.com/civildefencenorthland](http://www.facebook.com/civildefencenorthland)

[www.geonet.org.nz/tsunami](http://www.geonet.org.nz/tsunami)

[ptwc.weather.gov/?region=1](http://ptwc.weather.gov/?region=1)

[www.ngdc.noaa.gov/hazard](http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/hazard)



## Warning systems - if visiting coastal areas

### Tsunami warnings

Warning messages and signals about a possible tsunami can come from several sources – natural, official or unofficial.

#### Natural warnings

For a local source tsunami which could arrive in minutes, there won't be time for an official warning. It is important to recognise the natural warning signs act quickly.

#### Official warnings

Official warnings are only possible for distant and regional source tsunamis. Official warnings are disseminated by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management to the national media, local authorities and other key response agencies. Your local council may also issue warnings through local media and other local arrangements.

#### Unofficial or informal warnings

You may receive warnings from friends, other members of the public, international media and from the internet. Verify the warning only if you can do so quickly. If official warnings are available, trust their message over informal warnings.

### For further information

Turn on a radio, television or computer and search for information on council websites and social media sites (Facebook and Twitter). You can also go straight to Civil Defence Northland Facebook page [www.facebook.com/civildefencenorthland](http://www.facebook.com/civildefencenorthland) or also [www.nrc.govt.nz/civildefence](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/civildefence)

If you don't have access to any of these, contact someone you think may have.

Follow instructions given by the media and spread the word to people you think may be at risk.

### Telephone tree

A phone tree is a network of people organized in such a way that they can quickly and easily spread information amongst each other. Telephone Trees can be used to inform the community in the event of a Civil Defence emergency response and be based on a street, neighbourhood, social group, family or whanau structure



### Evacuation methods

Civil Defence warnings to this area will be by the following methods.

- Warnings via radio
- P.A. systems on emergency service vehicles
- Local procedures. e.g. phone trees





## Floods

### BEFORE A FLOOD

- Find out from your local council if your home or business is at risk from flooding. Ask about evacuation plans and local public alerting systems; how you can reduce the risk of future flooding to your home or business; and what to do with your pets and livestock if you have to evacuate.
- Know where the closest high ground is and how to get there.
- Develop a Household Emergency Plan. Assemble and maintain your Emergency Survival Items for your home as well as a portable getaway kit. See page 6 for details.
- Check your insurance policy to ensure you have sufficient cover.

### AFTER A FLOOD

- It may not be safe to return home even when the floodwaters have receded. Continue to listen to your local radio station for civil defence instructions.
- Help others if you can, especially people who may require special assistance.
- Throw away food including canned goods and water that has been contaminated by floodwater.
- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated. If in doubt, check with your local council or public health authority.
- Look for and report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.
- If your property is damaged, take notes and photographs for insurance purposes. If you rent your property, contact your landlord and your contents insurance company as soon as possible.

### DURING A FLOOD OR IF A FLOOD IS IMMINENT

- Listen to your local radio stations as emergency management officials will be broadcasting the most appropriate advice for your community and situation.
- If you have a disability or need support, make contact with your support network.
- Put your household emergency plan into action and check your getaway kit. Be prepared to evacuate quickly if it becomes necessary.
- Where possible, move pets inside or to a safe place, and move stock to higher ground.
- Consider using sandbags to keep water away from your home.
- Lift valuable household items and chemicals as high above the floor as possible.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks and storage containers with clean water in case water becomes contaminated.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities as it can help prevent damage to your home or community. Unplug small appliances to avoid damage from power surges.
- Do not attempt to drive or walk through floodwaters unless it is absolutely essential.





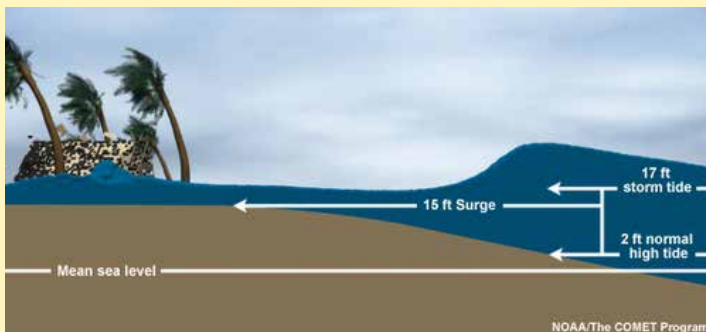


## Major storms

### BEFORE A STORM

- Develop a Household Emergency Plan. Assemble and maintain your Emergency Survival Items for your home as well as a portable getaway kit.
- Prepare your property for high winds. Secure large heavy objects or remove any item which can become a deadly or damaging missile. Get your roof checked regularly to make sure it is secure. List items that may need to be secured or moved indoors when strong winds are forecast.
- Keep materials at hand for repairing windows, such as tarpaulins, boards and duct tape.
- If you are renovating or building, make sure all work complies with the New Zealand building code which has specific standards to minimise storm damage.
- If farming, know which paddocks are safe to move livestock away from floodwaters, landslides and power lines.

### WHEN A WARNING IS ISSUED AND DURING A STORM



*How a storm surge affects the land.*

- Stay informed on weather updates. Listen to your local radio stations as civil defence authorities will be broadcasting the most appropriate advice for your community and situation.
- Put your household emergency plan into action and check your getaway kit in case you have to leave in a hurry.
- Secure, or move indoors, all items that could get blown about and cause harm in strong winds.
- Close windows, external and internal doors. Pull curtains and drapes over unprotected glass areas to prevent injury from shattered or flying glass.
- If the wind becomes destructive, stay away from doors and windows and shelter further inside the house.
- Water supplies can be affected so it is a good idea to store drinking water in containers and fill bathtubs and sinks with water.
- Don't walk around outside and avoid driving unless absolutely necessary.
- Power cuts are possible in severe weather. Unplug small appliances which may be affected by electrical power surges. If power is lost unplug major appliances to reduce the power surge and possible damage when power is restored.
- Bring pets inside. Move stock to shelter. If you have to evacuate, take your pets with you.





## AFTER A STORM

- Listen to your local radio stations as emergency management officials will be broadcasting the most appropriate advice for your community and situation.
- Check for injuries and help others if you can, especially people who require special assistance.
- Look for and report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.
- Contact your local council if your house or building has been severely damaged.
- If your property or contents are damaged take notes and photographs and contact your insurance company. Inform your landlord if there is damage to the rental property.
- Ask your council for advice on how to clean up debris safely.

## LANDSLIDES Warning signs

- Small slips, rock falls and subsidence at the bottom of slopes.
- Sticking doors and window frames.
- Gaps where frames are not fitting properly.
- Outside fixtures such as steps, decks, and verandahs 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.

## Tornadoes

Tornadoes sometimes occur during thunderstorms in some parts of New Zealand. A tornado is a narrow, violently rotating column of air extending downwards to the ground from the base of a thunderstorm. Warning signs include a long, continuous roar or rumble or a fast approaching cloud of debris which can sometimes be funnel shaped.

- Alert others if you can.
- Take shelter immediately. A basement offers the greatest safety. If underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room without windows on the lowest floor. Get under sturdy furniture and cover yourself with a mattress or blanket.
- If caught outside, get away from trees if you can. Lie down flat in a nearby gully, ditch or low spot and protect your head.
- If in a car, get out immediately and look for a safe place to shelter. Do not try to outrun a tornado or get under the vehicle for shelter.



## Fire / Chemical Hazards

### BEFORE A FIRE

To protect your property from fire, we recommend:

- Installing smoke alarms and testing them regularly.
- Designing an escape plan and practicing it.
- Keeping the grass green and mown or grazed around your home.
- Storing firewood and other flammable material away from your house.
- Safe handling and storage of gas or liquid fuels.
- Maintaining machinery and equipment in working order.
- Disposing of ash safely in a metal container and using approved incinerators.

### CHEMICAL HAZARDS

Emergency response to a chemical spill depends on whether the spill poses a threat to health, property and/or the environment. Here are some things to consider when a chemical has been released:

- Evacuate the immediate area
- Call 111 and ask for the Fire Service
- People who have been exposed to chemicals may require decontamination and medical monitoring.
- Listen for any official information and follow instructions.

Most incidents of a disaster magnitude will involve large quantities of hazardous materials



### DURING A FIRE

- Crawl low and fast to escape smoke. 'Get Down, Get Low, Get out.'
- Shut doors behind you to slow the spread of fire
- Meet at the planned meeting place.
- Once out, stay out - never go back inside.
- Phone the Fire Service from a safe phone.

#### Tell the Fire Service

- house number
- street
- nearest intersection
- suburb and city
- rural ID number if you have one



## AFTER A FIRE

- Nothing can really prepare you for the impact of a fire or other emergency on your family and property. Even a small fire or flood can make you feel helpless and unsure of what to do next. This is entirely understandable. The New Zealand Fire Service regularly sees home owners faced with the same distressing situation. Here's some guidance on the important things you need to do now that the unimaginable has happened.
- Do not enter your damaged house unless you have to and have been advised it is safe to do so. The Fire Service will check the water, electricity and gas supplies and either arrange to have them disconnected or advise you what action to take.
- If you can't enter your home, you'll need to arrange accommodation. You may need to stay with family, friends or in a motel for at least one night, and longer if the house has been seriously damaged.

### When your house is safe and you are allowed back:

- Try to find your identification, insurance information, medication information, eye glasses, hearing aid, wallet and valuables
- If the house is too badly damaged to live in, board up openings to discourage trespassers
- You may need to arrange security patrols to protect it from burglary
- Keep receipts for expenses resulting from the fire, such as accommodation or clothes
- Get supplies of medicine or eye glasses.

## Have you considered installing sprinklers?

Home sprinklers will protect your family, home and contents from the threat of fire - 24 hours a day.

Sprinkler technology has come a long way in a short space of time. The cost of including home sprinklers into a new house or adding them as part of major renovations is probably a lot cheaper than you think.

Home sprinklers use the same domestic plumbing as your kitchen taps and can be installed by a qualified plumber in less than two days.

More importantly though, sprinklers provide the fastest possible means of extinguishing fires in rural homes.

For more information visit [www.fireandemergency.nz](http://www.fireandemergency.nz)

## Fire seasons

There are three fire seasons you should be aware of:

**Open fire season** - a fire permit is not required to light a fire in the open air.

**Restricted fire season** - in this season a fire permit from your local Rural Fire Authority is required before you can light a fire in the open air.

**Prohibited fire season** - means a total fire ban is in place. Lighting fires in the open air is not permitted.

For the current fire season and to apply for fire permits contact your local Rural Fire Authority or visit [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz)





## Plan activation process

These instructions are for members of the Dargaville community response group and emergency services for initiating their pre-planned roles.

### DO THIS

- Arrange to meet at the Dargaville Police Station
- Liaise to determine what actions should be taken
- Consider who will be affected and where
- Activate community warning systems i.e. phone tree, emergency vehicle PA's
- Consider the location of a control point / centre
- Consider the establishment of Civil Defence Centres
- Notify the emergency operations centre (EOC) of what actions have been taken by phoning the Kaipara District Council

## Civil Defence Community Centres

*Please note that the Northern Wairoa Memorial Hall (Town Hall) is no longer a Civil Defence Centre.*

**Anglican Church Grounds**

**58 Hokianga Road, Dargaville**



## Roles and responsibilities

The role and responsibilities of the emergency services is clearly defined by legislation. In the event of this plan being activated due to an emergency event occurring, the roles and responsibilities of community groups are set out as below.

### POLICE

Maintain law and order  
 Protect life and property  
 Assisting the coroner  
 Coordinating movement control  
 Search and rescue

### FIRE SERVICE

Fire-fighting responsibilities  
 Containment of releases and spillages of hazardous substances  
 Urban search and rescue  
 Limitation of damage  
 Redistribution of water for specific needs

### ST JOHN AMBULANCE

Provision of emergency medical care

### CIVIL DEFENCE RESPONSE GROUP

Liaise with civil defence and emergency services to initiate and assist in a response to a civil emergency, disseminate warnings and identify and make arrangements for welfare centres if required

### COASTGUARD

Coordination of Marine Rescue  
 Provision of alternative communication if required via VHF and SSB



## Emergency contact information

Do not call 111 for information and advice. Calling 111 unnecessarily may put others who are in a genuine emergency situation at risk.



Dial 111 (Emergencies Only)

Dargaville Central Police Station 09 439 3400  
[www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)



Dial 111 (Emergencies Only)

Dargaville Fire Station 09 439 8068  
[www.fire.org.nz](http://www.fire.org.nz)



\*500 from your mobile

VHF Marine 66 & 84  
[www.coastguard.org.nz](http://www.coastguard.org.nz)



**St John**

Dial 111 (Emergencies Only)

Dargaville Ambulance Station 09 439 8444  
[www.stjohn.org.nz](http://www.stjohn.org.nz)

Rural Fire Enquiries 09 438 9539

[www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz)



0800 002 004  
[www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz)



0800 727 059  
[www.kaipara.govt.nz](http://www.kaipara.govt.nz)



0800 362 468  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)



[www.civildefence.govt.nz](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz)



[www.aaroadwatch.co.nz](http://www.aaroadwatch.co.nz)



[www.metservice.com](http://www.metservice.com)



0800 10 40 40  
[www.northpower.com](http://www.northpower.com)



## For further information:

### LOCAL COUNCIL

Kaipara District Council  
**0800 727 059**  
[www.kaipara.govt.nz](http://www.kaipara.govt.nz)

Whangarei District Council  
**0800 932 463**  
[www.wdc.govt.nz](http://www.wdc.govt.nz)

Far North District Council  
**0800 920 029**  
[www.fndc.govt.nz](http://www.fndc.govt.nz)

Northland Regional Council  
**0800 002 004**  
[www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz)

### CIVIL DEFENCE SITES

Northland Civil Defence  
[www.nrc.govt.nz/civildefence](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/civildefence)  
[www.facebook.com/civildefencenorthland](https://www.facebook.com/civildefencenorthland)

Ministry of Civil Defence  
[www.civildefence.govt.nz](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz)

Urban search and rescue  
[www.usar.govt.nz](http://www.usar.govt.nz)

Be prepared  
[www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz](http://www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz)  
[www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz)  
[www.happens.nz](http://www.happens.nz)

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

Rural Fire Enquiries  
[www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz)

New Zealand Police  
[www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz)

Fire & Emergency New Zealand  
[www.fireandemergency.nz](http://www.fireandemergency.nz)

St John Ambulance  
[www.stjohn.org.nz](http://www.stjohn.org.nz)