

# Seddon Community Emergency Response Plan

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**2022**

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## Top tips

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Take note of natural warning signs. These are your first and best warning for any emergency.



Note that Marlborough does not have civil defence sirens. Fire sirens are not used to warn of a civil defence emergency.

## Stay safe, stay informed

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We all need reliable information in an emergency. Here's some of the ways you can get the information you need.

**Emergency Mobile Alert (EMA):** The Emergency Mobile Alert system enables messages about emergencies to be sent by authorised emergency agencies to capable mobile phones. The alerts are designed to keep people safe and are broadcast to all capable phones from targeted cell towers.

**Radio:** Listen to the radio for updates and warnings. If you don't have power, use a battery powered radio, a car radio or listen in online.

Marlborough Emergency Management can broadcast live on Brian FM in an emergency. For Seddon and the Awatere Valley, listen to Brian FM on 104.3fm

**Social media:** social media is a great way to share information. Try to stick to sources that provide validated information, such as Marlborough District Council's facebook™ or twitter™ feeds or information from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

**Antenno:** The Antenno app from Marlborough District Council also gives you notifications and alerts for places you care about. Antenno is not just about emergencies.

**VHF radio:** There is a VHF radio at Seddon School. This enables information to be provided to Marlborough Emergency Management if there are no other means of communication in an emergency. The radio has a mobile aerial kit and can be moved to other location if necessary.

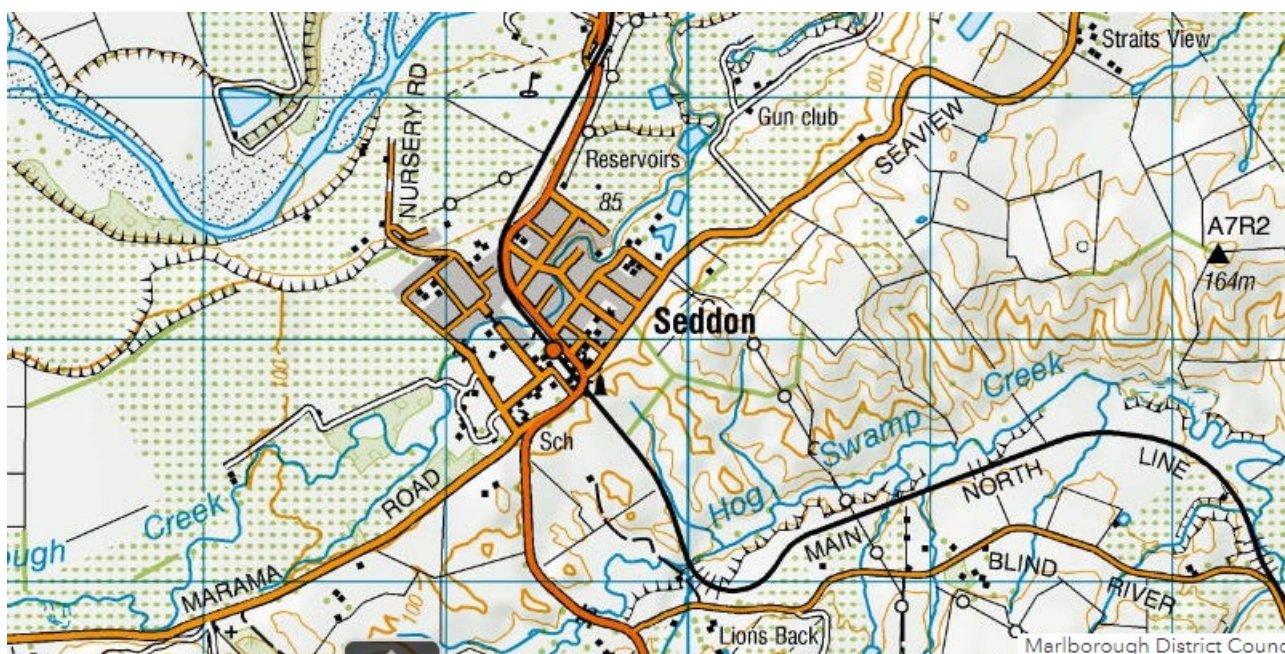
Marlborough Emergency Management can also broadcast on Marlborough Nelson Marine Radio Channels 63 and 65. Avoid using these channels in an emergency unless life is at immediate risk; every time you use that channel, someone else can't.

## Community response planning

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In an emergency, people in Seddon may need to support themselves for up to 10 days before assistance arrives. If our community is well-prepared, we're more likely to be able to look after ourselves and others in an emergency. This plan contains:

- A short description of Seddon and our people
- Information about key hazards and risks
- Information about assets and resources
- Advice about places where the community can gather (community emergency centres)



## Hazards and risks

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The history of Seddon includes references to bushfires, floods and earthquakes and these events still present a risk to the area today.

### Earthquake

All of New Zealand is subject to the effects of earthquakes. Marlborough has an active fault system and could be impacted by major faults such as the Alpine Fault and an earthquake on the Hikurangi subduction zone.

Seddon and surrounding areas experienced damaging earthquakes in 2013 and 2016 and although some people are still struggling as a result, in general the community has a good insight into the things they will need to do to look after themselves in an emergency.

An earthquake may also result in landslides and damage to lifelines (power, water, communication, roads).

## **Tsunami**

Seddon is not at risk of direct impact from tsunami. However, a tsunami arising from a rupture on the Hikurangi subduction zone would be likely to affect the entire Marlborough East Coast. Tsunami activity can also impact on the ability of people to travel to and from Seddon.

## **Storms and flooding**

The Awatere River has a history of flooding but does not impact on Seddon itself. Flooding may affect properties along the Awatere River, although the amount of low-lying land in the area means that the impact of flood is relatively minor. Storms and flooding can result in temporary road closures across the Marlborough and can therefore restrict travel for Seddon residents.

## **Fire**

Seddon and the Awatere Valley are dry regions, with extensive areas of grassland and vineyards. A wildfire could have a significant impact on Seddon, closing roads and requiring evacuations of people and animals. A fire near to Seddon could result in people evacuating into Seddon itself, placing extra demand on services.

## **Biosecurity**

A biosecurity emergency, particularly one that affects farming or viticulture would have a severe impact on Seddon.

## **Other hazards**

The impacts of the 2020 COVID-19 emergency continue to be felt in Seddon, affecting the local economy as well as individuals.

Other hazards that could affect our region (such as a terrorist attack) are set out in the Marlborough Civil Defence Emergency Management Group's plan (<https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/civil-defence-emergency-management/about-us>)

## **Seddon people**

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Seddon is on State Highway 1, 25 kilometres south of Blenheim on the main route between Blenheim and Kaikoura. It has a resident population of just over 500 people. A changing population of around 500 RSE workers live in and near the town for much of the year, and more RSE workers come into the area on a daily basis.

The broad geographic area for the Seddon Community Response Plan is on the map above. These are not fixed boundaries, as a specific emergency may impact on a wider area.

Seddon is at the centre of the Awatere Valley, initially focused on pastoral agriculture and since the 1990s emerging as one of New Zealand's prime grape-growing and wine-making areas.

People come into Seddon and the surrounding area each day to work and to attend school, while some residents travel to Blenheim for work. There are several holiday areas including Marfells Beach and local camp grounds, each of which can add to the local population in summer.

Seddon and the surrounding area has a diverse community, ranging from older people who have lived in the area all their lives, to young families moving into Seddon to take advantage of comparatively low cost housing. While there are strong local networks, some of which have strengthened since the 2013 and 2016 earthquakes, new residents or people living in temporary rental accommodation, are less likely to have strong social networks.

Seddon has a fire station and a full primary school with a roll of approximately 135 pupils, meaning that children come into Seddon township from the surrounding area, each day.

## **People who could be severely impacted in an emergency**

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Emergencies affect all of us. Depending on the nature, extent and timing of an emergency some people can be more affected than others. Although it can be hard to generalise, such groups include:

- Children at school, particularly those who have parents living or working outside of Seddon
- Older people with few social connections and/or in poor health (including people with drug or alcohol addiction)
- People with health conditions who are dependent on access to lifesaving treatment (e.g. renal dialysis).
- People who work in Seddon and live elsewhere, but are unable to return home in an emergency
- People who are visiting or travelling through Seddon and become stranded by an emergency, including people who are camping
- New residents without many resources or local networks
- People who have few personal resources.
- Farmers unable to reach home to care for stock.

## **Our resources**

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Seddon has a range of assets ('goods and services') that can be used to support the community in an emergency.

We also have a community with a wide range of skills that make us resilient in the face of an emergency (our resources)

### **Assets**

This is an indicative list only and there are inevitably a wider range of assets in our community. Not all these assets will be available or accessible in an emergency and some are dependent on a continued supply of electricity or fuel. In all cases, the owner/operator of the business MUST be consulted prior to the use of any of their goods or services.

It's important to remember that Marlborough Emergency Management does not pay for the use of assets in an emergency unless those assets are specifically commissioned or contracted by Marlborough Emergency Management.

<b>Assets</b>	<b>Can be used to support...</b>
Alternative water supplies at school, community water tank, rivers and dams, swimming pools	People and animals
Local fuel supplies	South Fuels, Premiere Auto Care, diesel on vineyards
Small tools – chainsaws, water pumps, spray	Fire-fighting, access to damaged buildings and other structures.

equipment	
Earthmoving companies and equipment	Local repairs and access
Large buildings	Places to meet or shelter, including school, community hall, Delegats & Yealands wineries
Seddon School	Communication through VHF radio, alternate power supply (solar)
Aircraft	Can assist in reconnaissance - helicopters, planes, drones

Resources	People supporting people
Skilled people	including doctors, nurses, ambulance staff, teachers, ESL teachers, tradespeople, people with animal-handling skills
Fire fighters	First responders
Community groups	Smart + Connected, Neighbourhood Support, Community Emergency Team, school community, Awatere Joint Christian Venture, the Seddon Lions Club, Rugby Club, Golf Club – all means of working together to share information, find out what is needed in an emergency and support the community.

## Community emergency centres

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A community emergency centre (sometimes called a community hub) is somewhere people can go for information and to be with other people. It is not a civil defence centre and should not be used for emergency accommodation. The centre will have a resource kit and a pavement sign, and will be able to seek advice, support and resources from Marlborough Emergency Management.

Depending on the emergency, any safety considerations and the consent of the building owner, we can open a community emergency centre at the Seddon School, the Community Hall or another facility.

There is a VHF radio at the Seddon School and this can be used to provide Marlborough Emergency Management with critical information in an emergency.

## Find out more

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Take a look at SmartMaps on the Marlborough District Council website for information about tsunami inundation zones around Marlborough <https://maps.marlborough.govt.nz/smartmaps>

Go to Get Ready for more information about how to get ready for an emergency at home, at work and at school [www.getready.govt.nz](http://www.getready.govt.nz)

Read about the Marlborough civil defence emergency management group and find information that might help you <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/civil-defence-emergency-management>.