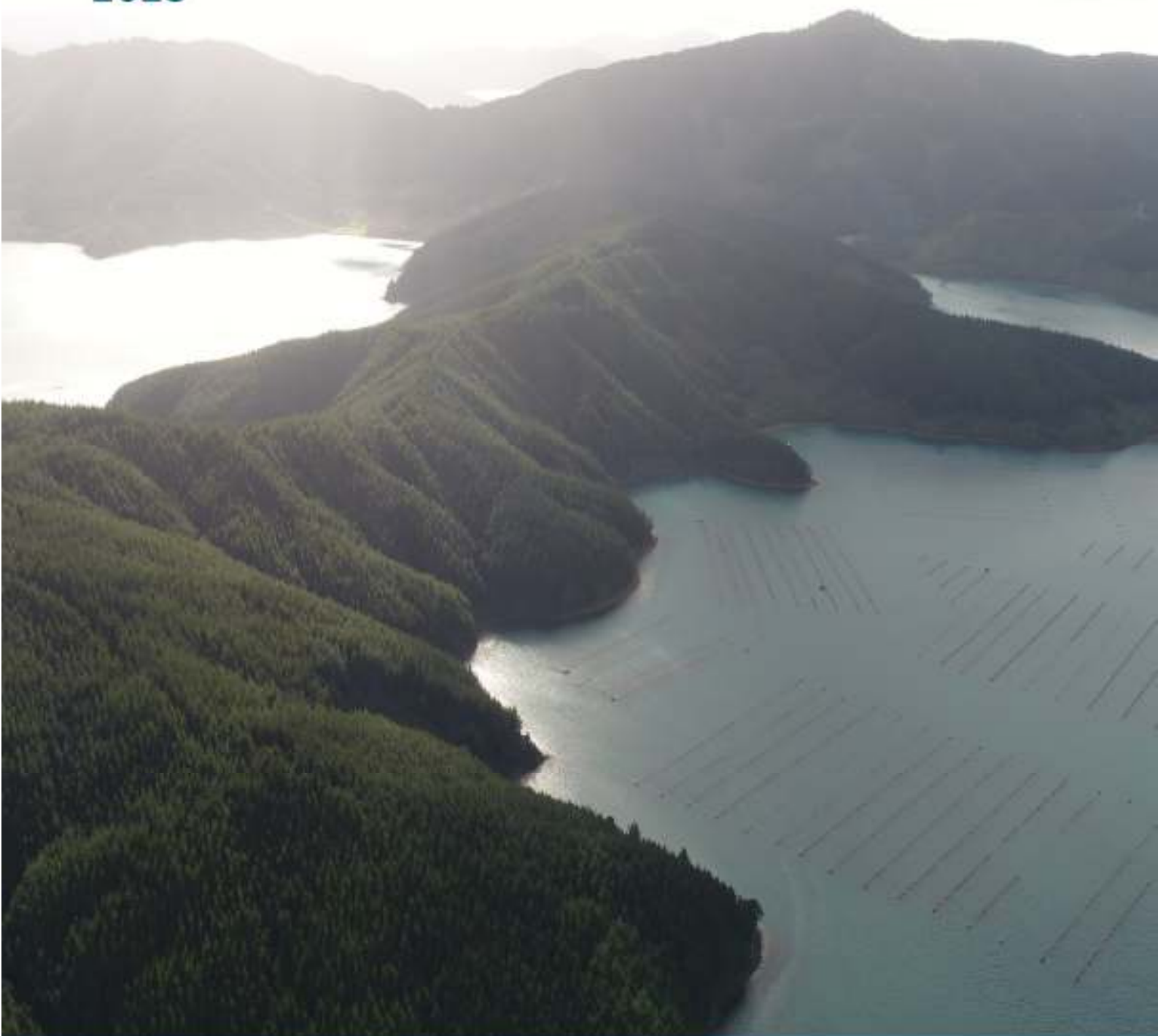




Te Whanganui / Port Underwood Community Emergency Readiness and Response Plan

2023



Introduction

This plan was developed based on input from representatives of the Port Underwood community. It reflects the interest of people living in that part of Marlborough, in becoming more resilient to emergencies.

The plan is published in the Marlborough District council website and is publicly available. It will be reviewed at regular intervals. It can be updated at any time.

Why do we have an emergency plan?

Like many other places in Marlborough and across New Zealand, Port Underwood can be affected by a wide range of hazards. Residents and visitors should be aware of these hazards and are encouraged to talk about their plans to ensure they remain safe in an emergency and are able to be as independent as possible until additional help is available.

While Port Underwood is part of the Marlborough Sounds, its location means that it is not always able to be accessed by sea. In the event of an emergency involving one of the hazards below, the area may be isolated for a time.

This plan is intended to set out the things that the Port Underwood community can use to be better prepared to get through an emergency. We may need to support ourselves for a week or more¹ before assistance arrives. If we are well prepared, we will be better able to help ourselves and each other in that period in which it takes external support to arrive.

This plan contains:

- A short description of Port Underwood and our people
- Information about key hazards and risks
- Information about assets and resources that we may be able to use in an emergency

Port Underwood people

Te Whanganui / Port Underwood is a sheltered harbour at the north-east of Te Koko-o-Kupe / Cloudy Bay on the east coast of the Marlborough Sounds.

Māori from Rangitane and other iwi have lived in and around Port Underwood since arriving in Aotearoa New Zealand, with evidence of a large Māori population prior to European arrival. Early industries in the area were sealing and whaling and have been followed by fishing, aquaculture, and forestry.

The area is now home to a small group of permanent residents, and the Port Underwood Association represents residents, ratepayers, farmers, marine farmers, forestry owners and bach owners. While some bach owners visit their property relatively often, other holiday accommodation is primarily used for holiday rentals by visitors who are often unfamiliar with the area. This means that people staying or working in Port Underwood may not be aware of the hazards that could affect them and may be less able to support themselves.

¹ The length of time for which communities may need to support themselves will vary, depending on the emergency and the damage to infrastructure that occurs as a result. Initially, assistance will be directed to the most severely impacted parts of the region.

Household preparedness

Every household should be as prepared as possible for an emergency. Take the opportunity to talk about contingency plans for your response to an emergency. Emergencies can happen without warning, can occur at any time of day and in any weather. This means ensuring that you and your household have sufficient food and water and where possible, essential medications to last up to 10 days. Talk with other people in your household about their plans, thinking about:

- What do I need to have with me at my home/ holiday home?
- Where will I go if I can't get home or back to my holiday home?
- What will we do without electricity?
- What will I do if the water tank bursts?
- Can I make an emergency toilet if the septic tank breaks/slips?
- Does everyone in our household know what to do in an emergency?
- Is our property in the tsunami inundation zone and where can I go if I need to evacuate?

On the next page there is a template that will help you with some basic planning. You can also develop an online plan by going to www.getready.co.nz.

Where am I?

Mark your property on the attached map.

Our RAPID number is:

Our nearest jetty is atand has the jetty number



What should I do in an emergency?

Emergencies can happen anywhere and sometimes without warning.

Know what to do in an emergency, whether you are at home or somewhere else.

Be aware that normal telecommunications may not be available in an emergency. You may not be able to contact the people you are concerned about, and you may not be able to seek help. AM and FM radios may be the only source of information for some time. Texting is often more accessible than phone calls. Think about having one or two people you can text to confirm that you are safe and arrange for them to share that message. Check on your neighbours if you can, sometimes face-to-face communications are the best way to go.

If your phone is working call 111 If lives or property are at immediate risk. If you need other help in an emergency, call Marlborough District Council on 03 520 7400.

In an earthquake

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

An earthquake may result in landslides and damage to critical infrastructure (power, water, communication, roads) as well as to individual property.

- Drop, cover, hold or if you're outside, drop and cover.
- If you are in bed, cover your head and stay there.
- If you have limited mobility and are sitting or if you use a walking frame or wheelchair – lock the wheels and sit, cover, stay until the shaking stops.



If an earthquake is long or strong (lasts for more than one minute, or you're unable to stand) it may result in a tsunami. You should evacuate as far inland as possible, or as high as possible. Do not wait for a formal evacuation warning.

Tsunami

Coastal Marlborough is at risk of tsunami. Evidence suggests that the most significant tsunami hazard for the East Coast of Marlborough is the southern part of the Hikurangi subduction zone. Look at the tsunami inundation maps on Marlborough District Council's website here <https://maps.marlborough.govt.nz/smartmaps> and find out whether your property is at risk of inundation. If you do not have access to the internet at your property, consider looking at the maps when you are next in town or visit your local library and use their computer.

There is no evidence to suggest that the Marlborough Sounds (including Port Underwood) are protected from tsunami. The narrow and steep nature of the inlets and bays throughout the Sounds may result in increased 'run up' of tsunami in some areas. Even if there is no risk of land inundation, take notice of any warnings to stay off beaches and out of the sea. Tsunami activity can result in abnormal wave activity, including surges and strong currents.

Part of your emergency planning should include thinking about where you could go in the event of a tsunami. For example, if you only have 10-15 minutes to evacuate after a long or strong earthquake, does your preferred evacuation route take you through low-lying areas? Is there somewhere else you could go? The map on page 4 and online maps may help you find the safest evacuation route.

If you are warned of a tsunami

In the case of tsunami risk to the South Island's East Coast from an earthquake in the Pacific Ocean or South America, an alert will be issued by the National Emergency Management Agency (the NEMA).

Marlborough does not have civil defence sirens. Fire sirens are not used to warn of a civil defence emergency, including tsunami.



Agency (the NEMA).

This alert will be issued using the Emergency Mobile Alert (EMA, see Stay safe, stay informed on page 7). If you are advised to evacuate, you should do so as soon possible.

Severe weather including flooding

Storms and flooding often result in temporary road closures across the Marlborough region and can therefore restrict travel for Port Underwood residents within the area to and from Port Underwood. Very heavy rain and flooding can also result in landslides that threaten property and roads.

Take notice of weather bulletins and warnings. Avoid travel if you are advised to do so and stay away from rivers and streams and from areas that are affected by flooding. If necessary, Marlborough Emergency Management can issue evacuation notices to areas that may be affected by flooding and these notices may be supported by radio, social media and Antenno. If you are advised to evacuate, you should do so as soon possible.

Wildfire

Much of Port Underwood is surrounded by native bush or forestry. A wildfire could have a significant impact on the area, closing roads and requiring people and their animals to evacuate. Ensure your house or bach has working smoke alarms and take steps to minimise your fire risk.

Property owners can take steps to reduce the risk of fire affecting their property by ensuring defensible space around buildings and through using planting that is more resistant to fire. More information about how to do this is available through the Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) website, at <https://fireandemergency.nz/outdoor-and-rural-fire-safety/>.

Fire response is led by FENZ and may be supported by Emergency Management. This may result in roads being closed and you could be asked to evacuate. An evacuation notice can be issued by EMA and supported by other means such as radio or door-knocking (time and resources permitting). Be aware that your fire evacuation route may not be the same as the route you would take in a tsunami.

Biosecurity

A biosecurity emergency, particularly one that affects farming, forestry or viticulture would have a severe impact on residents and businesses in Port Underwood either directly or because of movement restrictions in and out of the area.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is the lead agency in a biosecurity response and may include other agencies such as Te Whatu Ora National Public Health Service in an event such as shellfish biotoxin alerts. You can subscribe to receive information, including email alerts from MPI at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news/subscribe-to-mpi/>

Other hazards

Other hazards that could affect our region (such as a terrorist attack) are set out in the Marlborough Civil Defence Emergency Management Group's plan².

If you need to evacuate

You may need to evacuate your property in an emergency (fire, tsunami, landslide) so think about where you could go to be safe. When you evacuate, make sure that your planned evacuation route doesn't take you into danger. For example, you should not drive on badly damaged roads and you may need to think about whether the best route for tsunami evacuation takes you through low-lying areas that could be affected by tsunami activity.

If you need to evacuate your home take your grab bag, any essential medications and your pets if you can do so safely. Part of developing your emergency plan should involve thinking about where you would go if you cannot remain home or return home.

A grab bag is a backpack that contains the items you need to remain safe if you cannot stay home in an emergency. Make one for each family member and include items such as:

- A bottle of water
- Snacks such as muesli bars
- Cellphone charger
- Sunhat, a beanie and a rainjacket
- Copies of important documents
- A torch and spare batteries
- Items you need for your pets
- Specialist items for babies

It can be hard to store extra supplies of essential medication, so make it easier to remember by keeping your medication somewhere you can grab it before you leave. There's more information about grab bags on the Get Ready website.

If you are not sure about whether you should evacuate and you feel unsafe, do not wait for a formal evacuation warning.

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

² <https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/civil-defence-emergency-management/about-us>

Stay safe, stay informed

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 do not have power, use a battery powered radio, a car radio or listen online.

RNZ National 567 AM or 101.7 FM

Newstalk ZB 92.1 FM

Radio Live 95.3 FM Blenheim and 92.3 FM Picton

The Hits 96.9 FM Blenheim and 89.1 FM Picton

More FM 92.9 FM Blenheim and 94.7 FM Picton

The Breeze 89.7 FM Blenheim and 98.7 FM Picton

Brian FM Marlborough CDEM can broadcast live on Brian FM in an emergency:

- 100.9FM – Blenheim
- 104.3FM - Seddon & Awatere Valley
- 105.9FM - Picton
- 100.1FM - Havelock

Social media

Social media is a great way to share information if you have internet connection. If you are a Facebook user, there is a local Facebook Community Group that has been established for the benefit of residents, bach owners and business owners in the Port Underwood area. The purpose of this Group is to enable the rapid spread of information about the area for the benefit of its members. The Facebook Group can be found as Marlborough Port Underwood – Te Whanganui.

When using social media, try to stick to sources that provide validated information, such as Marlborough District Council's Facebook or information from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). To learn how to share information through Council social media, go to the Marlborough District Council website and click on 'social media'.

Antenno

The Antenno mobile app from Marlborough District Council is a free two-way platform. It allows Council to send alerts, information and notification posts to its communities and provides the ability for people to report issues. Issue reports can be raised by anyone who has the app installed. They can include photographs, GPS location, brief details and information about the person reporting the issue. Marlborough District Council can send a response to the person making the report.

Antenno relies on cellular network capability.

VHF radio

Marlborough Emergency Management can broadcast information on Marlborough Nelson Marine Radio Channels 63 and 65 in an emergency.

If you do not have a boat or a VHF radio base station, find someone in your bay who does. This may be your best source of information for a while.

People who could be more affected by an emergency

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:

- People who live in Port Underwood and work elsewhere, and are unable to return home in an emergency
- People working in Port Underwood who are unable to return home in an emergency
- People who are visiting or travelling through Port Underwood and become stranded by an emergency, including day visitors, campers, people renting accommodation in the area and boat users.
- People in poor health or who are living with a disability
- People with health conditions who are dependent on access to lifesaving treatment (e.g.,renal dialysis).
- People who have few personal resources or with few social connections.

Our assets and resources

Like most communities, Port Underwood 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.

Assets	Can be used to support...
Alternative water supplies through individual water tanks.	People, animals and to protect property from fire
Small tools such as chainsaws, water pumps	Access to damaged buildings and other structures, repairs, clearing debris.
Varying launching ramps. Jetties in some bays, but not all.	Access to residents and visitors for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welfare and building checks• Evacuation of people/animals• Helicopters and marine craft

Oyster Bay wharf.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of relief (food, water, medicines, fuel)
Open space	Alternative space for animals if they need to be moved from nearby farms.
Boats, quad bikes and other vehicles	<p>Privately and commercially owned, and may be able to assist in reconnaissance and evacuation.</p> <p>Many boats are equipped with VHF radio that can be used for emergency communications.</p>

Marlborough Emergency Management does not pay for the use of assets in an emergency unless that organisation specifically commissions the use of those assets.

Resources	People supporting people
Skilled people	Including tradespeople, long-term residents with expert knowledge of the area, experienced commercial and recreational boat-users.
Port Underwood Association	Active community organisation able to share information, find out what is needed in an emergency and support the community.

Supporting each other in an emergency

Although we talk about the Port Underwood community, in fact we are a group of small communities (and sometimes individuals) within various bays or areas.

Some people who are not familiar with Port Underwood may expect to be able to go to a community emergency centre (or a civil defence centre). There is no single building in Port Underwood that can readily accessed for the purpose of a community emergency centre, and it is expected that people will gather in small groups at private dwellings.

Your first contact in an emergency is usually your neighbour. This will extend to smaller communities (groups of neighbours or individual bays) checking on each other and providing support.

Supporting others in an emergency may mean sharing resources (including shelter / living space), providing reassurance and advice, and facilitating communication and access to reliable information wherever possible.

Animals in emergencies

People in the Port Underwood community have a range of animals, from farm production animals to domestic pets, horses, and other animals. Bach visitors may bring pets with them on holiday.

