



Rārangi Community Emergency Readiness and Response Plan 2023



Why do we have an emergency plan?

Like the rest of New Zealand, Rārangī can be affected by a range of hazards. Residents are encouraged to make their own plans, and to discuss how to remain safe in an emergency and be as independent as possible. Our community may need to support ourselves for up to 10 days before assistance arrives. If we are well prepared, we will be better able to help ourselves and each other while emergency services are dealing with the most severely affected parts of Marlborough.

This plan contains:

- A short description of Rārangī and our people
- Some information about what to do in an emergency
- Information about key hazards and risks
- Information about assets and resources that we may be able to use in an emergency

A one-page summary called Get Ready Rarangi is attached to this plan. It contains hints and tips about emergencies.

Rārangī people



Rārangī (the place where the sun rises)

This map is indicative only. People from a wider area may consider themselves part of the Rārangī community.

Rārangī (the place where the sun rises) is on the East Coast of Marlborough, within Cloudy Bay. The land was initially subdivided for settlement in 1920 by Chaytor and Co. Ltd, with the first advertisement for sections at Rarangi appearing in the Marlborough Express on 25 November 1920.

At the north end of the long sand and gravel beach, a rocky headland rises up to the flanks of Mt. Robertson. Coastal broadleaf forest grows on the rugged hillside. Along the foreshore where there also used to be coastal forest there are radiata pines which shelter the settlement from the worst of

the Pacific storms. To the north of the settlement there is a sea cave with glow worms and two walking tracks, including the Pukatea/Whites Bay Track, and a very short track to Monkey Bay¹.

The Rārangī community is a mixture of older people and those with families, and people who have lived there for many years as well as those who have moved there more recently. Some people travel into Blenheim to work and most children travel to Tuamarina, Blenheim or Picton to attend school or pre-school. The majority of homes are privately owned.

Rārangī has a fire station and attached community hall, a golf course and a Department of Conservation campsite that is well-used in the summer months. The beach and nearby Puketea Whites Bay are popular with visitors for walking (particularly Rārangī beach) and swimming at Puketea Whites Bay. The Wairau Diversion is a popular fishing spot.

More recently, the viticulture industry has expanded into the area and there are significant numbers of vineyard workers coming and going from the area each day, particularly during harvest and pruning.

What should I do in an emergency?

Emergencies can happen anywhere and sometimes there's no warning. It's important to know what to do in an emergency, whether you are at home or somewhere else.

In an earthquake

All 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. An earthquake may also result in landslides and damage to lifelines (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 your head and stay there 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 warning.

Tsunami

All of coastal Marlborough including Rārangī 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. In general, residents of Rārangī are well-prepared to evacuate in response to a natural warning of potential tsunami ('long or strong get gone' messaging).

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).

¹Extracted from <https://www.marlboroughonline.co.nz/marlborough/information/geography/towns-settlements/rarangī/>

This alert will be sent using the Emergency Mobile Alert. If you are advised to evacuate, you should do so as soon possible.

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

Severe weather, including flooding

The Wairau River has a history of flooding and significant surface flooding between Rārangī and Tuamarina can close roads and damage properties. This can mean that the Rārangī settlement can become isolated for brief periods of time. Storms and flooding can also result in temporary road closures across the Marlborough region and can therefore restrict travel for Rārangī residents.

Take notice of weather bulletins and warnings from MetService, Waka Kotahi and Marlborough District Council. 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 EM will issue evacuation notices to areas that may be affected by flooding and these notices may be supported by radio, social media and Antenna. If you are advised to evacuate, you should do so as soon possible.

Wildfire

The Rārangī beachfront and reserve is dry grassland with the potential for fire and the hills between the settlement and Pukatea Whites Bay present a fire risk. A wildfire could have a significant impact on the area, closing roads and requiring people and their animals to evacuate.

Fire response is led by Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ). A wildfire can 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).

Biosecurity

A biosecurity emergency, particularly one that affects farming or viticulture would have a severe impact on residents outside the Rārangī settlement itself and could restrict movement in and out of the area. It may also affect employment for some residents.

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. This plan is due to be revised in 2023/24.

If you need to evacuate

If you're not sure about whether you should evacuate in an emergency and you feel unsafe, don't wait for a warning. Take note of natural warning signs. These are your first and best warnings for any emergency.

If you do 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

If you need somewhere to go, the evacuation centre for Rarangi is the Tuamarina school hall. If Rārangī is isolated we may be able to set up the Rarangi Community Hall as a Community Emergency Hub.

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

about where you would go if you cannot remain home; this could be to friends, family or whānau.

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 most mobile phones. The alerts are designed to keep people safe and are broadcast to all capable phones from targeted cell towers.

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). The Rārangī District Residents' Association (RDRA) also shares information on its Facebook page. 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 app from Marlborough District Council also gives you notifications and alerts for places you care about and is not just for emergencies.

VHF radio: There are VHF radios at the Rarangi Community Centre and Tuamarina School and handheld radios that can be used by community members. The VHF radios have mobile aerial kits and can be connected to a 12-volt battery (such as a car battery) if necessary. Marlborough Emergency Management can also broadcast on Marlborough Nelson Marine Radio Channels 63 and 65 in an emergency.

Community noticeboards: there are community noticeboards at Tuamarina and Rārangī that can be used to share key information when other communication channels are not available.

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 online.

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

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

People who could be severely impacted in an emergency

Emergencies affect us all. 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 who are separated from their parents by the emergency.
- 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 live in Rārangī and work elsewhere, but are unable to return home in an emergency
- People who are visiting Rārangī and become stranded by an emergency, including campers, walkers, swimmers and people fishing
- New residents without established local networks
- People who have few personal resources or with few social connections.

Our assets and resources

Rārangī 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.

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

Assets	Can be used to support...
Alternative water supplies through individual water tanks and swimming pools (for firefighting).	People, animals and property.
Small tools – chainsaws, water pumps	Access to damaged buildings and other structures, repairs, clearing debris.
Earthmoving companies and equipment	Local repairs and access
Open space	Alternative space for animals if they need to be moved from nearby farms.
Tuamarina School	Communication through VHF radio, ability to set up a community emergency centre. Defibrillator on site.
Aircraft, boats, vehicles	Privately owned, may be able to assist in reconnaissance.
FENZ equipment	Including monsoon buckets for fire-fighting
Community hall	Meetings and coordination space, defibrillator on site.

Resources	People supporting people
Skilled people	Including doctors, nurses, tradespeople, people with animal-handling skills
FENZ volunteers	First responders with access to emergency communication networks, equipment and specialised skills.
Rārangī District Residents Association	Active community organisation able to share information, find out what is needed in an emergency and support the community.
Community emergency team	Skilled and experienced team able to set up a community emergency centre, communicate through VHF and liaise with Marlborough Emergency Management to seek support for the community.

Community emergency centres

A community emergency centre or 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 concerns and the consent of the building owner, we can open a community emergency centre at the Tuamarina School or the Rārangī Community Centre.

There are VHF radios at the Tuamarina Hall and the Rārangī Community Centre, to be used to provide Marlborough Emergency Management with critical information in an emergency.

Animals in emergencies

People in the Rārangī community have a range of animals, from farm production animals to domestic pets, horses and other animals. When an emergency affects animals it will also affect their owners and carers.

Your animals are your responsibility and need to be included in the plans you make for yourself and your household. Make sure you microchip your pets and register them with the New Zealand Companion Animal Register. The Ministry for Primary Industries has extensive resources to help you with planning.

If you have lost a pet, or find animals that do not belong to you:

- contact Animal Control on 03 520 9033
- look on www.lostpet.co.nz
- list your missing animal on the Facebook group Pets Lost & Found in Marlborough
- ask other people in your neighbourhood to keep an eye out for missing animals

Remember – if it's not safe for you, it's not safe for your animal.

Find out more

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

Learn about animals in emergencies at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/animals/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-emergency-management/preparing-animals-for-emergencies/>

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>.

If you prefer to have any of this information in hard copy, please contact Marlborough Emergency Management through Marlborough District Council, on 03 520 7400.