

5.5 Emergency Management

What we do

We manage the day-to-day functions of Emergency Management, ensuring that Council is able to respond to events that affect our district. We work with our communities to provide awareness of their local hazardscape so that they can make better informed decisions, are better prepared to respond to and recover from an emergency event that may impact them or the district.

We establish, manage and maintain district and regional partnerships to ensure that Council can deliver a coordinated response to, and the district can recover from an emergency event that has occurred: prior, during and afterwards.

Why we do it

To meet statutory requirements and community expectations to provide an active and responsive emergency management service.

To prepare and empower communities to become more resilient, informed about their hazardscape and better prepared to take action and look after each other.

Contribution to Community Outcomes

Emergency Management contributes to the following community outcomes:

A place to belong and grow

- by educating the community about Emergency Management and the part they play in Civil Defence, and ensuring residents are supported and able to act if an emergency occurs.
- by starting education about emergency preparedness early in life, ensuring the next generation is more resilient.

A future planned together

- by working with the community to plan for emergency situations. This ensures residents and businesses are prepared and confident in our district's ability to deal with emergencies.

A prosperous, resilient economy

- Council is actively involved in local, regional, and national emergency management exercises, and giving confidence in our ability to respond and recover.
- by hastening economic recovery from emergency events through community and Council coordination and planning.

An environment to be proud of

- by understanding and reducing impacts of natural hazards in our district.
- by ensuring that all the five environments are catered for in recovery. The five environments are: social, built, economic, rural, and natural.

Infrastructure fit for the future

- by giving effect to the Manawatū-Whanganui Emergency Management Group Plan, New Zealand Critical Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessment and Regional Critical Infrastructure Plans to understand and plan for hazards, including flood mapping and active fault line mapping. We can use this knowledge to inform future infrastructure planning.
- Learnings from 'Lessons Learnt' from local impacts of historic events. We can use this knowledge to inform future local infrastructure planning.

Value for money and excellence in local government

- by coordinating responses to and providing information about emergency situations.
- by working in partnership with local agencies, businesses, and communities in preparedness for response and recovery to an emergency.
- by being an active participant and partner in the Manawatū-Whanganui Emergency Management Group.
- by collaborating with nearby territorial authorities and Horizons Regional Council to maximise our Emergency Management effectiveness through shared resourcing.

How we do it

Emergency Management works to increase Council and the public's awareness of the districts hazardscape. We work to increase knowledge of how an emergency event may impact them and the district and how best to prepare and recover from this.

Emergency Management works with the districts Community Committees and relevant community organisations and strategic partners to promote emergency management in neighbourhoods across the district and the wider community.

To support Council and the communities' preparedness Emergency Management undertakes an emergency management exercise programme.

We fulfil Council's statutory obligations under the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Act (soon to be replaced by the Emergency Management Act) by actively promoting and working towards the 4 Rs of Emergency Management: Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery.

We fulfil the public's expectation that Council will, in conjunction with our partner agencies, provide leadership in the case of a natural or other disaster that necessitates a coordinated, multi-agency response. We will engage with and support iwi and community driven initiatives within the Manawatū District to support vulnerable community members during events.

We give effect to the Manawatū-Whanganui Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan which focuses on:

- Risk reduction
- Identifying risk reduction initiatives
- Risk information exchange
- Risk reduction programming
- Flood plain mapping and modelling
- Risk reduction programmes for business, communities, and care facilities
- Readiness, response, and preparedness education
- Information activity through marketing opportunities with the support of our national organisation

As a Council, we are represented in committees and groups including:

- Joint Civil Defence and Emergency Management Committee
- Coordinating Executive Group
- Local Emergency Management Committee (MDC coordinated)
- Local Welfare Forum
- Regional Emergency Management Professionals

What we are keeping an eye on

- If public views emergency management as a central and local government responsibility, there may be a lack of self-reliance and preparedness amongst the community. Council can mitigate this through education and ensuring public are aware of their own role in emergency preparedness.
- The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events is forecast to increase over time. The availability of funding is the biggest constraint on Council's ability to recover from extreme weather events, and to enhance the resilience of our infrastructure to future events.
- Guidance and greater central government direction is needed when it comes to coastal planning, managed retreat and where existing settlements are already exposed to significant natural hazard risks.

Levels of Service

Level of Service 1		You can expect Council will be prepared to assist the community in the event of an emergency					
		Baseline	Actual 2022/23	Target 2023/24	Target 2024/25	Target 2025/26	Target 2026-34
Measure 1	% of Incident Management Team personnel trained to at least intermediate level of the Integrated Training Framework for Emergency Management Manawatū	2019/20 75%	90% achieved	≥75%	≥75%	≥75%	≥75%
Measure 2 (New)	% of survey participants involved in the development, delivery or review of Community Response and	New in 2024/25	N/A	N/A	New (Y1)	≥2024/25	≥2024/25

	Recovery Plans that are satisfied with the level of education and information provided by Council.						
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Assets and Portfolio

Thunderbird 1 (Emergency Operations Centre Trailer)

3 x Starlink Units

3 x VHF Radio Repeater Stations

VHF Radio hardware

Funding Split

100% General Rate (CV)

Interesting Facts and Figures

16 Community Response and Recovery Plans have been delivered and are active within our communities.

Upgrades to Council's radio network are underway.

Capital Projects

- Rapid Deployment Airshelter and generator for Rapid Deployment Emergency Response and Operation Centre

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