

Lifestyle Block Emergency Preparedness Handbook Hawke's Bay



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Acknowledgment.

This booklet was originally produced and distributed by Auckland Emergency Management and altered by Wellington Regional Emergency Management.

It has been altered with permission to suit Hawke's Bay.

Emergencies can happen at any time and when you live on a lifestyle property, you might have to deal with them on your own until outside help arrives.

This handbook gives you detailed advice on how to prepare for an emergency, what to do and who to reach out to. Now's the time to create a detailed emergency plan to keep you, your whānau and animals safe. You'll find all the help you need right here.

Team effort to keep you safe

The information in this handbook has been developed by key organisations who understand rural emergencies and have developed specific guidance to help you.

Hawke's Bay Emergency Management (HB CDEM)

Hawke's Bay Emergency Management works in partnership with emergency services and other organisations to prepare for and coordinate an effective response and recovery to emergency events in Hawke's Bay.

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

The Ministry for Primary Industries is charged with overseeing, managing and regulating the farming, fishing, food, animal welfare, biosecurity, and forestry sectors of New Zealand's primary industries. During emergencies, MPI provides information on emerging issues from the primary sector and coordinates an animal welfare response.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ)

Fire and Emergency New Zealand is an integrated fire and emergency services organisation providing a wide range of vital services for communities. Its principal objectives are reducing the incidence of unwanted fires and the associated risk to life and property, protecting and preserving life, and preventing or limiting injury, damage to property, land and the environment.

Farmer's Mutual Group (FMG)

FMG is a specialist rural insurer, offering advice and insurance to farmers, growers, lifestyle block owners, businesses and those living in rural and provincial New Zealand. They are able to help rural communities prepare and recover from unexpected events, better understand their risks and how to reduce them where possible, and make sure they have the right cover in place.

Thank you

Thank you to MetService, Rural Support Trust, Healthy Waters, Dairy NZ, Rural Directions, Red Cross, Geonet, Beef + Lamb New Zealand, Farmlands, Federated Farmers, Helping You Help Animals (HUHA), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Ministry of Health, Kate Brennan from lifestyleblock.co.nz and Hawke's Bay Rural Advisory Group (RAG) for their valuable comments and contributions.

The Lifestyle Block Emergency Preparedness Handbook was published by Auckland Emergency Management (AEM), Farmers Mutual Group (FMG), Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) in January 2023. This handbook is not copyright and may be reproduced with acknowledgement.

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Section 1: Introduction

- What's in this handbook
- Potential hazards and emergency situations on your property
- Emergency alerts and warnings
- Get to know your neighbours and networks

What's in this handbook and how will it help you?

Living on a lifestyle block gives you the space to live the way you'd like to, but it does come with added responsibilities and potential hazards. This handbook gives you practical, detailed information on how to prepare, plan and recover from emergencies. You'll learn how to make your property more resilient to emergency events, with step-by-step advice on how to make a plan and what to do in specific events.

Every emergency has its own challenges, but most can be overcome if you know what to do and act early. So, let's get started.

Emergency events that could impact your property

An important first step to being prepared is knowing which emergency events could affect you. This will help you create an emergency plan that is relevant for your whānau, your property and any animals you may have.

While every property is different, emergencies that could affect you include:

- Earthquakes.....47
- Tsunami 52
- Severe weather and storms..... 56
- Tornadoes.....59
- Flooding60
- Fire.....65
- Drought.....76
- Volcanic Eruption80

It's a good idea to talk to your neighbours to find out if and how emergency events (like severe weather) have impacted your area in the past.



Go to the hbemergency.govt.nz website and look at the hazards that can affect Hawke's Bay. Take note of any that may affect your property.

Emergency alerts and warnings

In an emergency, alerts and warnings are often issued to tell people to take a specific action if there's a danger to lives or property. The emergency alerts and warnings will be specific about what action to take, such as 'evacuate'.

Alerts and warnings can be sent out in several ways:

Emergency Mobile Alerts

Emergency Mobile Alerts are emergency messages sent by authorised emergency agencies to mobile phones. The alerts are broadcast to all capable phones from targeted cell towers to areas affected by serious hazards. They're only sent when there's a serious threat to life, health or property, or in some cases, for test purposes.



See more information about **Emergency Mobile Alerts** at bit.ly/emergency-mobile-alert

Media

In an emergency, the media will provide regular updates. Listen to the radio and follow trusted news sites.

- Newstalk ZB HB 90.3FM or 1278AM
- The Hits 89.5FM (Wairoa 99.7FM)
- The Breeze 97.5FM
- More FM 88.7FM
- Central FM on 106FM or 105.2FM (Dannevirke)
- Wairoa 88FM
- Radio New Zealand News 101.5 FM or 630AM
- Radio Live 106.3FM or 1368AM
- Radio Kahungunu 94.5FM or 765AM

Social media

Follow Hawke's Bay Emergency Management on Facebook

[**@HB Emergency Management**](#) and Twitter [**@hbemergency**](#)



Download the **Red Cross Hazard App** at bit.ly/hazard-app



Informal warnings

Informal warnings might come from friends, family, neighbours, workmates, community Facebook pages and other social media. Remember, you might need to verify the information.

If you have the time, always reach out to your neighbours, whānau and friends to make sure they've heard the alerts and warnings.

Weather warnings

It's important to stay updated on weather events, especially if your property's susceptible to flooding.

MetService (**metservice.com**) provides land-based severe weather alerts through a system of Outlooks, Watches and Warnings - depending on the certainty and severity of the event.

When a Watch is in place, stay alert and keep an eye on your local forecast for updates. Watches are used when severe

weather is possible, but not imminent or certain. Severe Weather Warnings for heavy rain, strong wind or heavy snow, are classified into two categories: Orange Warnings or Red Warnings.

Orange Warnings

An Orange Warning means you need to be prepared to take action as there could be some disruption to your day and a potential risk to people, animals and property.

Red Warnings

A Red Warning means you need to act immediately to protect yourself, your whānau, animals and property from the impact of the weather. This is reserved for only the most extreme weather events.

Watches and Warnings are also issued for severe thunderstorms which may bring torrential rain, large hail, squally winds or possibly a tornado. Unlike other warnings that normally have a longer lead-time, thunderstorm warnings are issued when severe storms are observed on the weather radar, so the time to prepare and take shelter could be less than one hour.

The Red Cross Hazard App is an excellent way to receive all watches and warnings from MetService for your current or specified location.



Get to know your neighbours and networks

It's important to know your neighbours and the support networks you can tap into.

A support network includes all sorts of people like your immediate neighbours, whānau, other lifestyle block owners, online groups, local community groups, your vet and members of the wider rural community.

If anyone from your support network will be working with you on the property in an emergency, make sure they know what their job is and that they're able to do it safely and competently. Emergencies will always be challenging, so it's good to remember that emotional support is just as important as physical and financial support. Be kind and supportive to others and you'll see it come back to you in spades.

If you're reasonably new to an area, it's also a good idea to talk regularly with your neighbours, including local farmers, who've lived in the area for longer. They'll have great information on things that've happened in the past. These are some handy questions to ask:

- What events or emergencies have happened in the area in previous years?
- What do you think might happen this year?
- Where are the best places to source additional feed and water?
- Would you be willing to look after my animals in an emergency, if I couldn't?

When you get to know your neighbours, you're more likely to feel comfortable looking out for each other, especially during and after an emergency. Share contact details so you can get in touch if needed. Tell them about your emergency plan and ask about theirs, and find out who can help you and who might need your help in return.

If it doesn't already exist, think about setting up a community phone tree so you can quickly check on all your neighbours and make sure everyone's safe.

Important contacts

In an emergency

Dial **111** if:

- there is a fire or medical emergency
- someone is badly injured or in danger
- there is a serious risk to life or property, or
- you've come across a major public disruption, like trees blocking a road or a dangerous situation that's happening now or has just happened.

Hawke's Bay Councils

For council information and assistance

06 845 9210 Hawke's Bay Regional Council

06 857 8060 Central Hawke's Bay District Council

06 835 7579 Napier City Council

06 838 7309 Wairoa District Council

06 871 5000 Hastings District Council

Health services (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week)

Healthline **0800 611 116**

Lifeline - Free call and/or text the services below any time for support from a trained counsellor

- Free call or text **1737**
- Lifeline **0800 543 354** or text **'Help'** to **4357**
- Suicide Crisis Helpline **0508 828 865**
- Youthline **0800 376 633** or text **234** for people under 18

Skylight Trust (9am–5pm) provides counselling services and support through grief, bereavement, trauma etc **0800 299 100**

Rural Support Trust **0800 787 254**

Ministry of Social Development

For financial and emergency accommodation assistance..... **0800 559 009**

Waka Kotahi NZTA

For road conditions and closure go to nzta.govt.nz



Ministry for Primary Industries

For animal welfare advice or assistance..... **0800 008 333**

Federated Farmers

For support and assistance in sourcing water and supplementary feed, finding a safe place to contain your stock or pasture advice..... **0800 327 646**

Feed Suppliers

Call **0800 BEEFLAMB (0800 23 33 52)** or **0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969)** for feed planning and coordination assistance.