



Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future

Survive tsunami

Preparation is the key for those living or visiting the area of New Zealand most at risk from a local or distant source tsunami. The East Coast is in a vulnerable position for such a natural disaster, but Wairoa District Council Emergency Management Officer Tim Allan said there is plenty people can do to prepare themselves should a tsunami strike. "One of the most important steps to take is to have an evacuation plan in place for yourself and your family. It could be that you only have a few minutes to react, so everyone needs to know exactly what to do," he said.

With this in mind, Mr Allan has been working with Hawkes Bay Regional Council computer modelling to develop detailed evacuation plans for coastal communities within the district.

Key risk areas are generally well known, but the modelling provides greater detail to see how tsunami of various heights and strengths could impact both coastal and inshore areas.

Once the plans are complete, they will be distributed within the relevant communities to ensure that everyone knows the quickest route to safety.

While distant source tsunamis allow time for official warnings, natural warning signals are of key importance in response to local source tsunami. The first wave may arrive within minutes.

When experiencing any of the following signs, go immediately to high ground or as far inland as possible.

Natural Tsunami Warnings

- A strong earthquake that makes it hard to stand up, or a weak, rolling earthquake that lasts a minute or more.
- A sudden rise or fall in sea level.
- Loud and unusual noises from the sea.

Move immediately to the nearest high ground, or as far inland as you can.

Do not wait for an official warning. Instead, let the natural signs be your warning and take action.

Once evacuated, listen to a radio station for information from local Civil Defence about any further action required. Wait for the official all clear before returning.

Radio frequencies to tune into are:

1278AM 630AM
1368AM 684AM

For more information about tsunami, visit www.geonet.org.nz/tsunami or www.gns.cri.nz

If you'd like to know more about an evacuation plan for your community, contact Tim Allan on (06) 838 7309.



Mahanga 10m tsunami model ... an example of the models being used by Wairoa District Council to develop evacuation plans for coastal settlements.

Festive season safety reminders

Creating a safe and happy holiday environment for the Wairoa District is the responsibility of the whole community. To help achieve this aim Council would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of a few areas of compliance and general health and safety that often come under pressure during the summer months.

Compliance officers will be out and about throughout the holidays to offer assistance where required.

Fire

A restricted fire season is in place for the area east of SH2 from Nuhaka and Morere, including the entire Mahia Peninsula, which means no open fires are to be lit in that area without a permit. This includes everything from barbecues and hangis, to large burn-offs. There is no cost attached to getting a permit – it's just a matter of calling into the Council offices on Queen Street. It may take up to three days to get the permit, so plan ahead. Restrictions are expected to be place on the rest

of the Wairoa Rural Fire District early in the New Year. In the meantime, people are advised to exercise extreme caution when lighting fires due to the increasingly dry conditions.

Animals – pets and stock

Providing shelter, food and water are the basic requirements for responsible pet ownership. People are reminded to consider these needs, paying particular care not to leave pets in cars in the summer heat. Those going on holiday need to make sure arrangements are in place to care for pets that are left behind.

Dog owners also need to remember that their pets are usually territorial and might need to be kept in check when visitors arrive.

Please remember that leashes are required when walking dogs in public places.

Farmers are reminded that in the interests of public safety, permits are required to graze stock on the roadside, or if stock is to be on public roads for more than a 24 hour period (eg droving). These are available from

Council offices on Queen Street.

Water

Households relying on tank water need to be vigilant about avoiding contaminated water in the summer months. A simple way to ensure water is clean is to add a small quantity of Janola (common household bleach) to destroy harmful bacteria. The following quantities are recommended:

Tank Size	Quantity of Bleach
1,000 litre	60ml
5,000 litre	330ml
10,000 litre	660ml
20,00 litre	1330ml

This form of chlorine treatment is unlikely to kill Giardia and Cryptosporidium, which require a filter capable of filtering down to 1 micron. Boiling water for 10 minutes will kill all harmful micro-organisms.

For the diary:

Council Meetings:

February 14
March 13
April 10
May 8
June 12
July 10
August 14
September 11
October 9
November 13
December 11

Council Forum:

February 28
March 27
April 24
May 22
June 26
July 24
August 28
September 25
October 23
November 27

Meetings and forums are held in the Council Chambers in the Queen Street offices and are open to the public, unless otherwise specified.

Refuse recycle times

Mahia

Refuse collection: Dec 30, Jan 3, Jan 6, Jan 9 and Jan 13
Recycling (11am-2pm, Kaiwaitau Rd): Jan 1, Jan 8, Jan 15.

Wairoa Township

Refuse collection: Jan 3, Jan 10.
Recycling collection: Jan 4, Jan 11

Frasertown

Refuse collection: Dec 29, Jan 5, Jan 12.
Recycling collection: Jan 4, Jan 11.

Ruakituri

Refuse collection: Dec 29, Jan 5, Jan 12.
Recycling: Jan 1, Jan 15.

Kotemaori

Refuse collection: Dec 30, Jan

6, Jan 13.

Recycling: Jan 1, Jan 15.

Nuhaka

Refuse collection: Jan 3
Recycling: Jan 1, Jan 15.

Landfill

Closed Jan 1. Otherwise, open daily 11am-5pm (except Thursday, open 9am-3pm).

Wairoa District Council wishes everyone a happy festive season

Please note, the office will reopen at 9am, Monday, January 9. For urgent matters, phone 838 7309.

For more information phone 838 7309 or visit www.wairoadc.govt.nz