

Storms - Before the Storm (if warned):

- Pick up rubbish outside and put smaller rubbish bins indoors.
- Secure outdoor furniture and fittings
- Apply tape to windows to prevent flying glass

During the Storm

- Stay clear of large exposed windows and if possible open a window on the side of the building away from the wind.
- During an electrical storm, stay away from metal and electrical fixtures.

Earthquake

- If inside stay inside and if outside, stay outside. If in a vehicle, stay in it.
- Do not use lifts and avoid stairs.
- Move away from windows, buildings, powerlines, trees or anything that could fall on you. Take cover. Crouch beside a solid structure.
- When shaking stops, proceed with caution and look out for live wires and other hazards. Expect after shocks. More things may fall.

Tsunami

When a Tsunami warning is issued - follow the instructions that are given (via television or radio or your local Police/Civil Defence organisations).

- Know the Civil Defence warning signal for your area
- Know how to reach the nearest safe ground - go at least 1 km inland or 35 metres above sea level.
- Do not go to a river or beach to watch the waves come in.
- Do not evacuate your home unless told to do so. If told to evacuate do so immediately and take your emergency kit with you.
- Know how to turn off electricity and gas supplies at the mains.

Volcanic Eruption

- If outside, go inside and if inside stay inside
- Protect yourself from inhaling volcanic dust and gaseous fallout.
- Close doors and windows, turn off air-conditioning units to outside, mask your face with whatever is immediately available.
- Save water in containers at an early stage - supplies can become polluted.

Disaster Survival Kit: Important family documents (eg birth certificates) and photographs, personal hygiene items, blankets/clothing, radio and batteries, torch and batteries, toilet paper, energy snack bars, bottled water, hats, strong shoes, can opener, canned/dried food, special glasses, hearing aids, medicine/tablets, etc.
A back pack type bag may be best as it can be carried several different ways and may be easier to keep hands free.

Civil Defence Emergency Procedures

General Information

- Listen to the radio for Civil Defence instructions.
- Do not use the telephone unless you are in urgent need of assistance.
- After any disastrous event, have your building checked for structural safety. If in doubt stay out.
- Following a disaster, when outside avoid dangling and broken power lines.

Flooding

Floods are the most common cause of a Civil Defence emergency in New Zealand. Assume that you will have to cope with a flood at some time.

- Check with your local Council to find out about the worst flood in your locality and how high it rose. Calculate where such a flood would reach in your home.
- Know how to reach the highest ground as quickly as possible.
- Keep important documents, equipment and chemicals above possible flood level.

During a Flood

- Switch off any electrical equipment affected by flooding
- Remove anyone in danger to a place of safety

After a Flood (a few hints)

Floodwaters can carry bugs that cause disease from the ground surface, septic tanks and sewerage systems. These can contaminate food. Contact a Doctor if you are unwell. Let someone know of any conditions that could be dangerous or could encourage the spread of disease.

- Boil all eating/cooking utensils for 3 minutes.
- Destroy all unpackaged food and food items packed in paper, cardboard or non-water-proof material.
- Get rid of all foods needing refrigeration when they have been unrefrigerated for more than two hours.
- Save foods in waterproof, airtight containers (eg tins) but make sure they are thoroughly cleaned before opening.
- Cook all food thoroughly and only cook enough for each meal.
- DO NOT SAVE LEFT OVERS!!
- Boil water before drinking.