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Should I stay or should I go?

It's not always easy to know whether you should leave home in an emergency, so if you're confused, you're not alone!

If it's safe to stay home, you don't need to leave, so make sure you have emergency supplies and talk to you friends, whānau and neighbours about how you can support each other.

Here are a few reasons why you may need to leave home, depending on the type and severity of an emergency. These include:

- Your house is at immediate risk: fire, flood or tsunami – get out and stay out until you are told by emergency services that it is safe to return.
- Your home is severely damaged: the event has damaged the structure of your house so badly that you can't stay there. In the case of a flood, your house may be unsafe because it has been contaminated by sewage.
- You are advised or directed to evacuate: you may be advised or directed to leave your home in the event of a distant source tsunami (for example, a tsunami originating off the coast of South America); a fire threatening your neighbourhood or a pending flood.

If you live near a river, keep an eye on the Floodwatch smartmap on the Marlborough District Council website.

If you do have to leave home in an emergency, plan to stay with family or friends. Have your grab bag ready and encourage your children to prepare their own grab bags.

Don't forget your animals. If you have pets, include a copy of their vaccination certificates and registration numbers in your grab bag. Make sure you have a cage or a lead handy and think about how you could safely evacuate livestock (including horses) if necessary.

Staying home?

After a large earthquake stay at home unless you need to leave for your own safety. Get together with neighbours and friends for support.

You may be asked to stay in your house if there is a serious risk from a gas leak or chemical spill nearby. You could also be asked to avoid public places during a pandemic.



In an emergency, stay informed by listening to your radio, following the advice on the Marlborough District Council's social media and sharing information with those around you.

If you receive an alert from the **Emergency Mobile Alert system**, follow the instructions.

The animals went in two by two...

Many of us noticed the emphasis given to animal welfare in the Nelson fires early this year.

Let's face it; our animals are important to us whether we're farming or have a single canary at home. New Zealand is a nation of animal lovers so we need to be ready to include animals when we plan for emergencies.

Animals are your responsibility, so think about how you'll care for your animals in an emergency and include them in your plans. Your plans should cover staying at home in an emergency as well as times when you may need to leave. Important things to think about are:

Transport – if you need to evacuate, can you take your animals with you? How could you move stock to higher ground before a flood? Can you safely catch frightened animals?

Food and water – do you have food and water for your animals as part of your emergency supplies? If you have a pet on a prescription diet, find out how much your vet has in stock and keep an extra supply available at home.

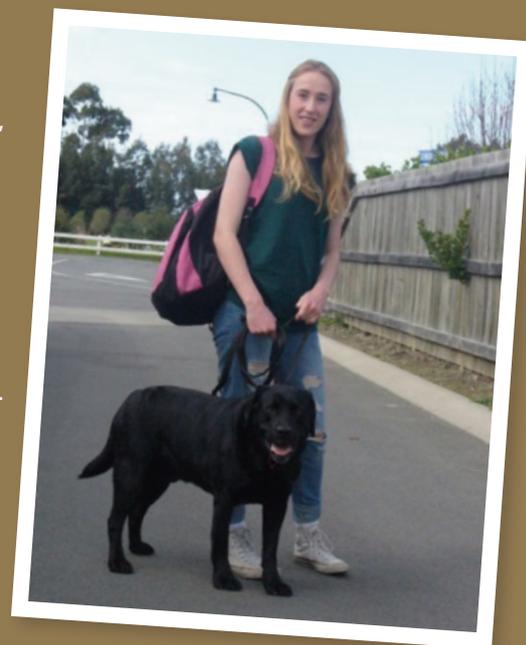
Shelter and containment – how can you provide access to shelter? Remember that fences may be damaged as a result of floods, earthquakes or fire.

Health – if your pup is taking medication, or if you have ewes ready to lamb, what can you do to safeguard their health? Animals can be injured in an emergency, so find out what you might need to deal with common injuries.

Alternative accommodation – keep a copy of animal health records (including vaccination certificates) in your grab bag. That'll make it easier for your animals to stay somewhere else during an emergency.

Although animals can be rescued in an emergency, it's always better if that situation doesn't have to arise. It's distressing for people who leave animals behind and are unable to safely return. We have some very skilled animal rescue teams in New Zealand, and they need to keep themselves safe, too.

If you'd like to know more, there's some really comprehensive information available from the Ministry for Primary Industries and from the SPCA.



Down to business

One thing we all have in common is the need to use a toilet!

It's not always the easiest thing to talk about, but in an emergency you could be without your usual toilet for some time. It's worth taking the time to find out a bit more about the alternatives. These include:

- A 'long drop' toilet
- Lining your existing toilet with a plastic bag and disposing of the waste
- A two-bucket toilet
- An emergency compost toilet

Our clever colleagues at Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office have some great information on emergency toilets and emergency hygiene.

Find out more here <https://getprepared.nz/personal-preparedness/how-to/emergency-toilet>

There's an example of an emergency animal plan on the back page of this newsletter.

Find out more at

www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/animals-in-emergencies/
www.sPCA.nz/advice-and-welfare/article/animals-in-emergencies

Taking to the road

Some of you will have made it to the Alpine 8 Roadshow public talk back in April. This was a fantastic event delivered by the team working on the science of the Alpine Fault.

It also provided a chance for us to remind our communities about the steps they can take to prepare for any emergency, including a large event. This graphic gives a snapshot of the communities and people engaged in April's roadshow.



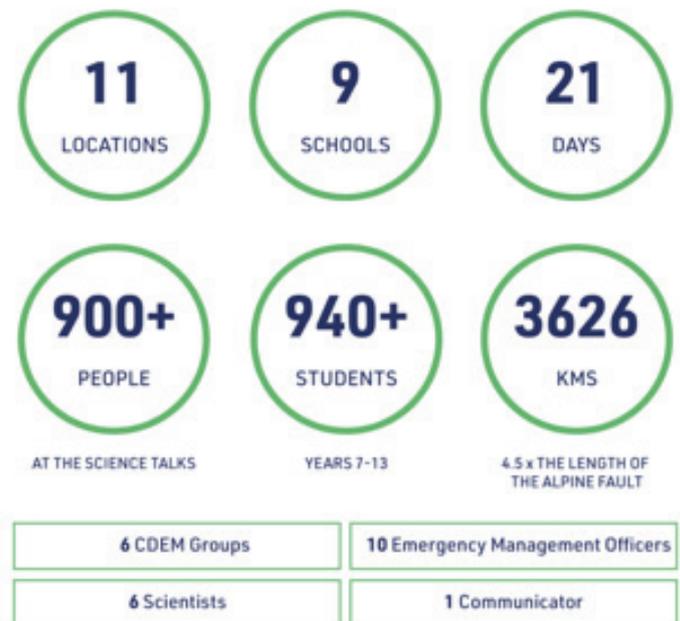
Please see the AF8 website for more details www.projectaf8.co.nz

AF8 Facebook page for updates: @AlpineFault8



It's not just our communities who need to plan for an emergency that will impact on our entire region; it's all of us. The Marlborough CDEM Group is also planning for a large earthquake, right from how we find out the impacts on our region, through to recovery. Planning doesn't give us a 'rule book' for an emergency, but it does help us know more about the potential impacts of an event and the resources that are available to help us respond and recover.

Sharing the Science Beneath Our Feet



Ask us!

Is it safe to go to the top of a tall building in a tsunami?

No. Unless they have specifically designed for refuge in a tsunami, buildings are often severely damaged by both the preceding earthquake and subsequent tsunami waves.

Remember, if an earthquake is 'long or strong, get gone'. Go high or as far inland as you can.

Feel free to ask questions!

Just email us at Catherine.Coates@marlborough.govt.nz and we'll publish your question and our response in the next edition of the newsletter.



Myth

Cruise ships could provide accommodation for people displaced by an emergency.

Busted

Cruise ships already provide accommodation to their passengers. In an emergency, we will aim to return cruise ship passengers to their vessel as soon as possible, so that they can leave the area.

Protect your Animals in an Emergency

Planning for Pets

Same as you do with your family's Emergency Survival Kit, think first about the basics for your pets – food, water and warmth.

Think about having two Emergency Survival Kits

Home Kit – contains everything you may need to stay at home for up to three days.

Getaway Kit – more portable and lightweight for when you need to leave quickly.

Make sure your kits are easy to grab in a hurry, and that everyone in the house knows where they are, including a neighbour.

Check your kits from time to time for expiry dates to ensure supplies stay fresh – particularly food, water and medicine items.

Replace water every six months for freshness.

If where you are isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your animals.

Prepare for your Animals – checklist

Emergency Survival Items

- Food:** Store at least five days of non-perishable pet food (canned or dried) in an airtight or waterproof container - remember the can opener! And try to keep their food the same as what you normally feed them to avoid possible stomach upsets.
- Water:** Store at least five days of water, additional to your family needs. Animals can drink more water than usual when stressed.
- Medicines:** Store any extra medical supplies and special dietary needs or supplements in a waterproof container.
- Veterinary/medical records:** Store copies of any medical and vaccination records in a waterproof container. Include your vet's name and phone number, in case you have to board or place your pets in foster care.
- First Aid Kit:** In addition to your family needs, store extra cotton bandage rolls and tape, scissors, tweezers and latex gloves. Talk to your vet about any specific first aid requirements, like antibiotic ointment and saline solution (separate to your family's kit).
- Blanket/bedding:** Familiar items, like favourite blanket or toy can help reduce stress for your pets.
- Sanitation:** Include pet litter and litter box and any other useful items, like newspapers, paper towels, poo bags, gloves and household bleach (to dilute).

Identification

- ID tag:** Add an ID tag to your pet's collar that clearly shows their name, your name, phone number and (if room) your address. Include a backup in your Emergency Survival Kit.
- Registered and microchipped:** Make sure your pets are microchipped and that dogs are registered and wearing their current registration tag. And that your personal details are up to date on relevant microchip databases, including next of kin or someone outside of your household. Store a copy of all documentation in your Emergency Survival Kit.

In the 2011 Canterbury earthquake 80 percent of microchipped animals were reunited with their owners versus 20 percent for non-chipped animals.

- Photograph:** Store a current photograph of your pets in a waterproof container, including notes on any distinguishing features, name, sex, age, colour and breed. Also include a photograph of you and your pets together to help prove ownership if you get separated.
- Save information online:** For easy access from wherever you are, save all your important information - microchip, photographs, medical, veterinary and contact details - online e.g. Dropbox, mobile phone or web/gmail.

Equipment

- Cage/carrier:** For safe transportation and to prevent your pet from escaping. The cage/carrier should be sturdy e.g. made from metal or plastic, not cardboard which may disintegrate if it gets wet. It should be large enough for them to stand comfortably, turn around, lie down and have adequate ventilation. Your pet may have to stay in the cage/carrier for a period of time so include bedding, blankets and any favourite toy to reduce stress levels.
- Lead/harness/muzzle:** For dog control in the event that they become stressed and try to escape in an emergency situation. Make sure the device is sturdy and has an ID tag attached. Dogs may need to be muzzled. Even if your dog is friendly, emergency personnel may refuse to handle them unless they're restrained.

Safe Shelter Places

If you need to evacuate you must take your pets. They're part of your family and it's not okay to leave them behind. If it's not safe for you to stay, it's not safe for them or those who may try and rescue them. Pets may not be allowed in public emergency shelters – check with your local civil defence centre. If not, you need to plan for a safe house or animal shelter that you and your pets (or just your pets) can go to.

- Safe House:** Plan for a family member or friend – who has cared for your pets in the past – to care for your pets if you can't.
- Safe Shelter:** Make a list of pet friendly shelters e.g. kennels, catteries, motels that allow pets, local vet centres. Your local council may be able to help you with this. Keep a list of their contact details and a copy in each of your Home and Getaway Kits.

At most places you'll need to provide veterinary records before they'll accept pets. Some shelters may waive their 'no pet' policy if your pet is housed in a sturdy cage/carrier.

Make a reservation as soon as you think you might have to evacuate your home.

- Pet carer details:** Put the full name, address and phone number of the person caring for your pets in a waterproof container inside your Emergency Survival Kit. Your household should also know this information and have it saved as well.
- Emergency Survival Kit locations:** Let the person caring for your pets – and a neighbour – know the location of your Home and Getaway Kits. In the event you're not home when a disaster strikes, they can feed and attend to your animals in the interim.
- House access:** Let the person caring for your pets – and a neighbour – know where the spare house key is located. Or give them their own key in the event your hiding place is destroyed in an emergency.
- Post emergency communications:** Have a plan to communicate with the person caring for your pets after the emergency event

Have a practise run

Practise getting your family and pets to the designated safe place in your house - ideally where your Emergency Survival Kits are kept.

See how quickly you can evacuate and practise it from time to time to see if you can make improvements. Also try it in the dark. Particularly helpful if the emergency event happens at night and there's a power cut.