

Civil Defence

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

New Zealand faces a broad range of natural hazards due to our diverse landscape, extensive coastline, active geology, and reliance on primary production.

Effective civil defence is essential in reducing the risks presented by these hazards. We need to ensure that our communities are prepared for disasters, that our emergency services are ready to respond, and that local populations and economies can recover quickly from such events.

Though there are some well-established “on the ground” structures and organisations, not enough has been done to ensure there is response capability in every community.

National will improve the effectiveness of New Zealand's civil defence capabilities and strengthen our communities so they can better cope with the natural hazards they face.

OUR PRINCIPLES

- Strengthening our communities.
- Ensuring people, property, and livelihoods are better protected from natural hazards.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SEE › Our web page on [Local Government](#).

NATIONAL'S PLAN

1. Improving Disaster Recovery

Investigate ways of making sure New Zealand families affected by natural disasters are better equipped to rebuild their lives and homes.

2. Enhancing Response Capacity

- Advance national co-ordination of public alerting systems.
- Make better use of information technology for emergency management.
- Encourage joint delivery of civil defence emergency services to enhance capability and improve efficiencies.
- Investigate ways to improve and strengthen the ability of our armed forces to assist in civil defence emergencies.
- Work more closely with community groups to ensure that emergency response capability is developed where necessary.

3. Setting Standards, Providing Certainty

Require civil defence groups to publicly report on their emergency preparedness every year.

4. Future-Proofing Development

Ensure an assessment of the impact of natural disasters is incorporated into infrastructure planning and development.