



# Get ready

## Know your hazards



**Auckland  
Emergency  
Management**  
Tokonga Mate Ohotata o Tāmaki Makaurau







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# Get ready

## Know your hazards

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland faces various hazards that can strike at any time or with limited warning. While natural hazards like floods and severe weather are more frequent, others such as earthquakes, tsunami, and volcanic eruptions occur less often but could result in major impacts. All these hazards can affect you, your property, and your community.

Understanding these risks can help you prepare and stay safe. Use this booklet to explore the most impactful hazards that could affect Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland or use our hazard viewer to see which risks could affect your home or workplace.



### Know your hazards

Check Auckland Emergency Management's Hazard Viewer for your whare/home, work and schools [aucklandemergencymanagement.govt.nz/stay-informed](https://aucklandemergencymanagement.govt.nz/stay-informed)

Visit [aucklandemergencymanagement.govt.nz/hazards](https://aucklandemergencymanagement.govt.nz/hazards) for further hazard information.





# Hazard Factsheet: Power Outage



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**All electricity lines should be treated as live and dangerous. Stay away from them and do not attempt to move trees that are in contact with lines.**

**Conserve phone battery by limiting mobile calls and data use.**

## Food illness and prevention

Take care with food from your fridge and freezer to avoid food poisoning. Eat perishable foods first and then the contents of your freezer. Try to minimise the number of times you open your freezer door.

After more than two days without power, highly perishable foods may not be safe to eat.

- Throw out rotten food quickly so it doesn't spoil other food in the fridge.
- You can still eat food like raw vegetables, cheese, and bread.
- Dispose of any food from the freezer which has thawed out and been at room temperature for over two hours.
- Do not refreeze food that has defrosted.
- If the frozen food still has ice crystals and the packaging is intact, then it can be refrozen. If you are unsure, have a closer look and smell. If the colour has changed, it has a slimy texture or if it smells off, do not eat.
- Eating food that has gone off can cause food poisoning.
- Maintaining hygiene around food preparation and cooking requires more thought than normal.
- Always wash and dry your hands before preparing food. If water is in short supply keep some in a bowl with disinfectant.
- Ensure all utensils are clean before use.
- Cook food thoroughly.
- Pets are just as likely as humans to become ill by eating unsafe food. If you are boiling water to drink, do the same for your pets.

Report electricity outages to Vector on **0508 832 867**.

Report trees down on public land to Auckland Council on **(09) 301 0101**.

## Heating, lighting and cooking

**DON'T** use unsafe ways to heat your home. Only use fireplaces that have been safety checked and follow the manufacturer's advice when using gas heaters.

**NEVER** use outdoor gas heaters inside or try to use your BBQ for indoor heating.

**DO** boil water on your camp stove or BBQ for hot water bottles. Wear extra layers of clothing and use extra blankets, close internal doors and curtains to retain heat.

**DO** use camp stoves or your BBQ outside and make sure food is cooked thoroughly before eating. Use battery-powered lanterns or torches instead of candles to prevent fire. If using a generator, ensure you have enough fuel.

## Electric Hot Water

In some parts of Auckland, electric hot water is on a separate line network to power which means you may have power but no hot water. If your hot water cylinder is not hot after six hours of the hot water line being reconnected, contact Vector on **0508 832 867** or Counties Power on **0800 100 202** for advice.







# Hazard Factsheet: Severe Storms



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Storms are a combination of many different hazards occurring at the same time, including high winds, heavy rain and coastal inundation.

Tāmaki Makaurau can experience storms all year around, including tropical cyclones that track down from the tropical latitudes in summer, and strong polar blasts that come up from the 'Roaring 40s' and southern latitudes in the winter.

Low atmospheric pressure associated with storms, combined with high tides or strong winds, can cause coastal inundation. Widespread storms can cause additional hazards, for example heavy rain can trigger flooding and landslides.

How we are impacted by severe storms will change as we experience the impacts of climate change.

Rainfall and wind speeds associated with severe storms may become more intense in the future as global temperatures rise.

## During a storm

- Listen to advice provided by Auckland Emergency Management and emergency services.
- Put your emergency plans into action.
- Close your windows. Pull curtains and blinds over windows to prevent injury from flying glass if the window breaks.
- Take extreme care with items that may conduct electricity if your whare/home is struck by lightning.
- Using electric lights is safe during a severe storm but unplug your appliances.
- Turn off air conditioners and heat pumps which can be overloaded by electricity surges from lightning.
- If you live in an old house with metal plumbing, avoid using bathtubs, water taps and sinks as these may conduct electricity.

Stay informed on Weather Watches and Warnings via MetService's email or app:  
[metservice.com/warnings/home](https://metservice.com/warnings/home)







# Hazard Factsheet: Flooding



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During wet weather, stormwater naturally flows overland to the lowest point. When the stormwater network reaches capacity after heavy rain, or there is a blockage, greater volumes of water flow overland and may cause flooding.

The geography of Tāmaki Makaurau means that most flooding is flash flooding which occurs rapidly after intense rainfall.

Floods are dangerous when:

- water is very deep or travelling fast

- floodwaters have risen quickly
- floodwater contains debris (such as trees or building materials)
- floodwater is contaminated by raw wastewater or other biological contaminants.

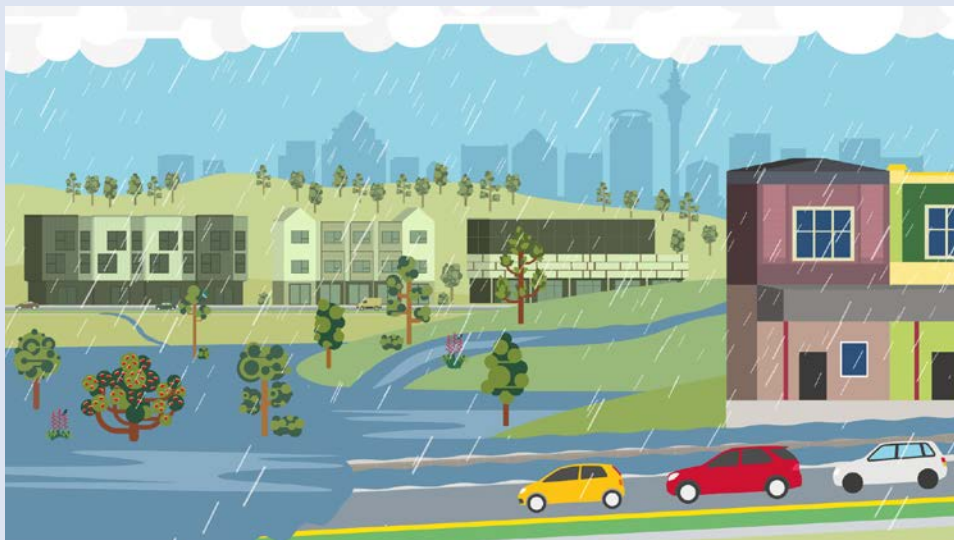


**Go to Auckland Council  
Flood Viewer to see  
impacts near you**



## What is a flood plain?

Flood plains are areas predicted to be covered by flood water during heavy rain. They occur in low-lying areas and next to streams and rivers, including where streams were historically piped.

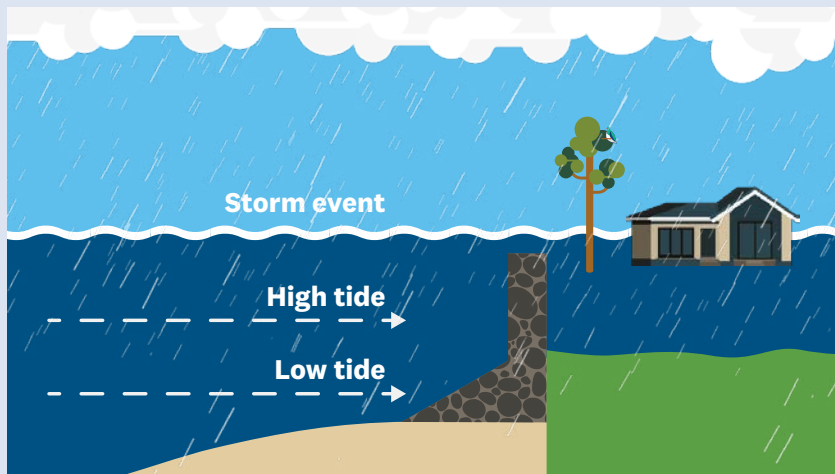


## What is a flood-prone area?

Flood prone areas are low-lying areas where water can become trapped and collect during heavy rain, especially if the stormwater outlet reaches capacity. They can occur naturally or be created by changes to the land.

## What is an overland flow path?

An overland flow path is the natural course water takes across the land. During heavy rain an overland flow path can become a temporary, fast-flowing stream.



## What is coastal inundation and storm surge?

These occur when normally dry, low-lying land is flooded by the sea. Coastal inundation is more likely during storms as the sea level at the coast rises due to strong winds, lower air pressure, heavy rain, and larger waves. High tides can cause flood waters to encroach further inland.

Coastal inundation and storm surge can cause scouring and erosion of landforms. Tāmaki Makaurau’s coastal cliffs are especially susceptible to erosion by both coastal inundation and severe storms. This in turn can lead to landslides.

## During a flood

- Keep away from flood waters.
- Do not put yourself at risk to take photos or videos of the flood.
- If water is coming into your where/home, turn off the electricity at the mains. Before you turn the power back on, get an electrician to check it is safe to before doing so.
- If you have been evacuated, it may not be safe to return to your where/home when the floodwaters have receded. Listen to the emergency services and Auckland Council and don't return to your where/home until they tell you it is safe to do so.
- Always assume that flood water is contaminated. Flood water may also be electrically charged from damaged electricity lines.
- If you come into contact with flood water, thoroughly clean hands with anti-bacterial soap

or hand sanitiser and wash any clothes or property with hot water, detergent and a household disinfectant bleach solution. See Te Whatu Ora’s guidance on ‘Cleaning up safely after a flood’:

[arphs.health.nz/assets/Uploads/Resources/Healthy-environments/Flooding/Flood-advice\\_-\\_cleaning-up-ARPHS.pdf](https://www.arphs.health.nz/assets/Uploads/Resources/Healthy-environments/Flooding/Flood-advice_-_cleaning-up-ARPHS.pdf)

- **Never try to drive through flood waters.**
- If your vehicle stalls while driving near flood water, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

To report flooding, call Auckland Council on **(09) 301 0101**.

If flooding is on a highway or motorway, call the NZ Transport Agency | Waka Kotahi on **(09) 969 9800**.



# Hazard Factsheet: Thunderstorms and Tornados



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High intensity thunderstorms are formed when warm moist air rises rapidly into unstable conditions in the atmosphere.

Some thunderstorms can cause tornados. These are usually isolated and short lived but pose a major danger to property and life in their path.

Forecasting thunderstorms is challenging. They can produce localised flooding and damage buildings, trees, and cause injuries and deaths.

Met Service classifies a severe thunderstorm as: rainfall of **25mm/hr** or more, hailstones of **20mm** or more in diameter, gusts of wind of **110km/h** or stronger, damaging tornados of at least **116km/h** windspeed.

**During a thunderstorm or tornado** take shelter immediately. If you are inside, move to an interior room or hallway without windows, on the lowest floor putting as many walls as you can between you and the outside. Stay away from windows and exterior doors. For added protection, get under something sturdy such as a heavy table or workbench. If possible, cover your body with a blanket, mattress or sleeping bag, and protect your head with your hands.

**If you are outdoors during a tornado**, lie down flat in a nearby gully, ditch or low spot on the ground, where the wind and debris will blow over you, protecting your head with an object or with your arms.

**If you are in a car during a tornado**, pull safely onto the shoulder of the road, stop, and get out. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car. Lie down flat in a nearby gully, ditch, or low spot on the ground. Do not get under your vehicle.

**Places and objects to avoid during a thunderstorm** are tall structures such as towers, trees, or hilltops. Lightning normally strikes the tallest objects in the area as well as open or exposed spaces (such as exposed sheds or construction sites). Avoid any electrically

conductive objects such as metal fences, clothes lines and electricity and telephone lines. Machinery or objects that have metallic contact with the ground such as tractors should also be avoided.

**If you are in a car during a thunderstorm** pull safely onto the shoulder of the road and stop, making sure you are away from any trees or other tall objects that can fall on the vehicle. Turn your hazard lights to alert other drivers that you have stopped. Stay in the vehicle with your windows closed. You are safer from lightning in a vehicle than out in the open. Avoid contact with metal or other conducting surfaces inside the vehicle to reduce your chance of being shocked.

**If you are outdoors during a thunderstorm** and hear distant thunder or see a flash of light, get indoors immediately. Avoid gazebos, rain or picnic shelters and other flimsy outdoor structures. These offer little protection from large hail, can be struck by lightning, and are often blown around in strong winds. A sturdy building is the safest location during a severe thunderstorm.

If you cannot find any suitable shelter, as a last resort, find a low-lying, open place away from single large trees, poles, or metal objects. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding. If you are physically able to, crouch low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees and your head between your knees. Minimize your body's surface area and minimize your contact with the ground. Lightning currents often enter a victim through the ground rather than by a direct overhead strike.

If you are boating, fishing or swimming, get to land, get off the beach, and find shelter immediately.

**Call 111 immediately if someone is struck by lightning.**

Stay informed on Weather Watches and Warnings via MetService's email or app: [metservice.com/warnings/home](https://metservice.com/warnings/home)





# Hazard Factsheet: Landslides



High intensity or prolonged rain fall, earthquakes, flooding or other hazards can lead to landslides.

Investigate the risk of a landslide by doing the following:

- Regularly inspect your property if you are located on or near a slope for any indication of movement, especially after heavy rain fall or an earthquake. Signs of instability include doors and windows that start to stick, gaps appearing, decks moving or tilting away from the house, new cracks or bulges on the ground, leaning trees or fences, slope movement.
- Look at the hillsides around your where/home for any signs of land movement (like rockfall, small landslides or debris flows and unusual cracking) and any trees that start to tilt over time.
- Watch the patterns of storm water drainage on slopes near your where/home especially the places where runoff water converges. Noticing small changes can alert you to an increased threat of a landslide. Most small landslides are caused by water runoff so changes in water runoff patterns can indicate ground movement.
- If you are near a stream or waterway, be alert to any sudden increase or decrease in water flow, and to a change from clear to muddy water. Such changes may indicate landslide activity upstream.

If you notice any of these changes, seek professional advice as soon as possible.

**If you suspect that a landslide is occurring, or is about to occur in your area:**

- Evacuate immediately if it is safe to do so. Seek higher ground outside the path of the landslide.
- If you cannot leave safely, move out of the path of the debris. The side of your house furthest from the landslide is likely to be the safest location within the property.
- Alert your neighbours. They may not be aware of the potential hazard so advising them of a threat may save their lives.
- Help neighbours who need assistance to evacuate if you can do so without putting yourself in danger.
- Contact Auckland Council. Council engineers or other geotechnical engineers are the people best able to assess the potential danger.

**If a landslide occurs:**

- Stay away from the landslide area as further ones may occur.
- Put your emergency plans into action.
- If safe to do so, check for injured and trapped persons and animals near the landslide, without entering the landslide area. Direct rescuers to their locations.







# Hazard Factsheet: Volcano Eruption



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Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland could be affected by a volcanic eruption from both inside and outside of the Auckland rohe/region.

The Auckland Volcanic Field contains 53 known volcanic centres.

While scientists consider the probability of an eruption from the Auckland Volcanic Field occurring within our lifetimes to be low, the field is active and the consequences of a future eruption in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland would be highly impactful.

Some of the hazards associated with an eruption include hot, fast-moving ash and debris clouds (base surges), ash fall, volcanic gasses, earthquakes, volcanic bombs as well as lava flows.

Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland may also be affected by volcanic eruptions outside of the rohe/region, for example the central volcanic zone near Taupō and central plateau volcanoes like Ruapehu, by ash fall and disruption to lifeline utilities such as Auckland Airport.

Stay informed on volcanic alert levels on GeoNet's website or app:  
[geonet.org.nz/volcano/aucklandvolcanicfield](https://geonet.org.nz/volcano/aucklandvolcanicfield)

## If ash fall is forecasted

- Go to your whare/home to avoid exposure to, and driving during, ash fall.
- If you have respiratory or heart conditions, keep your relief and preventer medication handy, and use as prescribed. If you have any concerns, call your doctor.

## Steps to take to keep ash out of your house

- Set up a single entry/exit point for your house. Place damp towels by the door to prevent ash being tracked indoors on your shoes.
- Close all remaining doors, windows, and other entry points, such as cat doors and air vents.
- Shut down heat pumps and air conditioning units, to prevent ash from being blown indoors, and to prevent ash from damaging the units by clogging filters and corroding metal.

- Cover electronics and leave covered until the indoor environment is free of ash.
- Cover spa pools and swimming pools.
- Disconnect downpipes from gutters to allow ash and water to empty from gutters onto the ground.
- Disconnect roof catchment rainwater storage tanks from downpipes to prevent contamination.
- Seal any openings in water storage tanks.
- Cover any open gully traps or drains with a sheet of plywood or similar to prevent ash from entering the wastewater or stormwater systems.
- Cover vegetable gardens with tarpaulins to prevent ash contamination.

## During ash fall

- Stay indoors and keep pets with you.
- Do not attempt to clear ash from your roof while ash is falling. Ash is unstable, hire a professional to remove ash from your roof.
- Avoid non-essential driving. If you must drive, drive slowly, maintain a safe following distance behind other traffic, use headlights on low beam, and avoid using wipers as ash can scratch windcreens.
- **Do not** use un-flued gas heaters indoors while your house is sealed to keep out ash, as there is a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- **Never** use outdoor gas appliances indoors.
- Do not wash ash into drains.

## Protecting your health

- Reduce your exposure to ash, gases and aerosols by staying indoors. This is particularly important for high-risk groups such as children, older adults and those with pre-existing respiratory conditions, such as asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), or chronic bronchitis.

**If you have been prescribed preventer medication, ensure you take it as advised by your doctor. Keep your reliever medication with you at all times.**



- If you have to go outside, wear protective clothing: an N95 mask, goggles without side vents, strong footwear, gloves and clothing that covers your skin.
  - Be aware that masks can make breathing more difficult for some people. Speak to your doctor if you are unsure if you should wear a mask.
  - Masks do not fit smaller children well, so may offer little protection. Keep children indoors.
  - Do not wet masks as evidence shows this makes no difference to filtration efficiency.
  - Further information on respiratory protection in ash fall, including how to fit a dust mask correctly, is available on the International Volcanic Health Hazard Network (IVHHN) website.
- Do not wear contact lenses, because trapped ash can scratch your eyes. Wear glasses instead.
- Contact your doctor or Healthline on 0800 611 116 if you have any concerns. People experiencing asthma symptoms should not ignore them. Seek medical advice as soon as possible. A severe asthma attack can vary in severity and can be life threatening. If there are signs that someone's condition is deteriorating, call **111**.
- If working in or around volcanic ash, i.e. during cleanup operations, limit exposure to the ash and gases by using PPE including:

- A well-fitting, industry certified face mask such as a N95 (or P2) mask is best. Other COVID-style masks provide less protection from ash entering your respiratory system.
- Eye protection such as fitted goggles to limit ash contact with eyes.
- Long sleeves, trousers, closed toe shoes and gloves to limit contact of ash with the skin.

## Protecting vehicles

Ash may damage vehicles by clogging filters, corroding metal surfaces, and causing abrasion damage to windscreens, paintwork, and moving engine parts.

- Keep vehicles under cover.
- Remove ash from car paintwork and windscreens by gently brushing with a soft brush. Avoid rubbing as this can cause abrasion damage.
- Clean or replace air and oil filters regularly (every 80-160 kilometres in heavy ash or every 800-1600 kilometres in light ash).
- Apply lubricants and grease more frequently and check for wear regularly.

**Further information on protecting vehicles and other machinery from ash fall is available on the International Volcanic Ash Impacts website.**







# Hazard Factsheet: Earthquakes



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While technically classed as being a 'low seismic hazard' area, Auckland does have active faults in South Auckland.

Recent mapping by GNS Science has identified three new faults in the Franklin area: Paerata, Pukekohe and Aka Aka Faults. More research is required to understand the hazard that these faults pose.

Two well-known faults, the Wairoa North and Wairoa South Faults, mark the edge of the Hunua Ranges. Scientists estimate the Wairoa North and Wairoa South faults may be able to generate an earthquake up to magnitude 6.7. This is unlikely to cause widespread damage across Auckland, however there may be localised impacts near the faults themselves.

## During an earthquake

- **DROP** down on your hands and knees. This protects you from falling but lets you move if you need to.
- **COVER** your head and neck, or your entire body if possible, under a sturdy table or desk if it is within a few steps of you. If there is no shelter nearby and cover your head and neck with your arms and hands.
- **HOLD** on to your shelter, or your position to protect your head and neck, until the shaking stops. If the shaking shifts your shelter around, move with it. If there is no shelter near you, crawl to an inside corner of the room away from large furniture, and cover your head and neck with your hands and arms.

**Do not stand in a doorway.  
Do not run outside which risks you getting  
hit by falling bricks, glass and debris.**

## Drop, Cover, Hold:

- stops you being knocked over
- makes you a smaller target for falling objects
- protects your head, neck and vital organs.

When in bed, stay, cover and hold.

When in a car, pull over and wait.

**If the earthquake lasts longer than a minute or is strong enough to make it difficult to stand, move quickly to the nearest high ground or as far inland as you can out of tsunami evacuation zones. Long or Strong, Get Gone.**





## After an earthquake

- Expect more shaking. Each time you feel earthquake shaking, Drop, Cover and Hold. More shaking can happen minutes, days, weeks, months and even years following an earthquake.
  - Check yourself and others for injuries and get first aid if necessary.
  - Turn off water, electricity and gas if advised to. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window, get everyone out quickly and turn off the gas if you can.
  - If you see sparks, broken wires or evidence of electrical system damage, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box if it is safe to do so.
  - If you can, put on protective clothing that covers your arms and legs, and sturdy footwear. This is to protect yourself from injury by broken objects.
  - If you are in an unfamiliar building or on public transport, follow the instructions of those in charge.
- Use social media or text messages instead of calling to keep phone lines clear for emergency calls.

Stay informed about earthquakes via Geonet's website or app:  
[geonet.org.nz/earthquake](https://geonet.org.nz/earthquake)



Figure 9: Figure showing faults within the Auckland region (note that the Paerata, Pukekohe and Aka Aka Faults require more research to understand their risks, as recent mapping has just recently identified these features).



# Hazard Factsheet: Tsunami



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Tsunami are series of ocean waves that can cause significant destruction along coastlines. They are usually caused by underwater disturbances such as earthquakes, landslides or volcanic eruptions that create waves which travel out in all directions. These waves can appear small and travel at high speeds across the deep ocean, but slow and grow in height and destructive power as they approach the coast.

All New Zealand's coastline, including Auckland, is at risk from tsunami due to our position in the Pacific Ring of Fire. This is a geologically active area surrounding the Pacific Ocean marked by frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions because of the collision and subduction of the earth's tectonic plates.

The National Emergency Management Agency separates tsunami into three types, depending on where they form, with each type creating unique challenges:

- Distant source tsunami: generated across the Pacific Ocean like in Chile, Alaska, or Japan, which could take 14 hours or more to arrive.
- Regional source tsunami: generated from the southwest Pacific like Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu, which could take between one and three hours to arrive.
- Local source tsunami: generated very close to New Zealand, which could arrive in minutes.

**If you are near the coast, you need to act immediately if you experience any of the following:**

**FEEL** a strong earthquake that makes it hard to stand up, or a weak rolling earthquake that lasts a minute or more.

**SEE** a sudden rise or fall in water level.

**HEAR** loud and unusual noises from the water.



## HOW A TSUNAMI WORKS

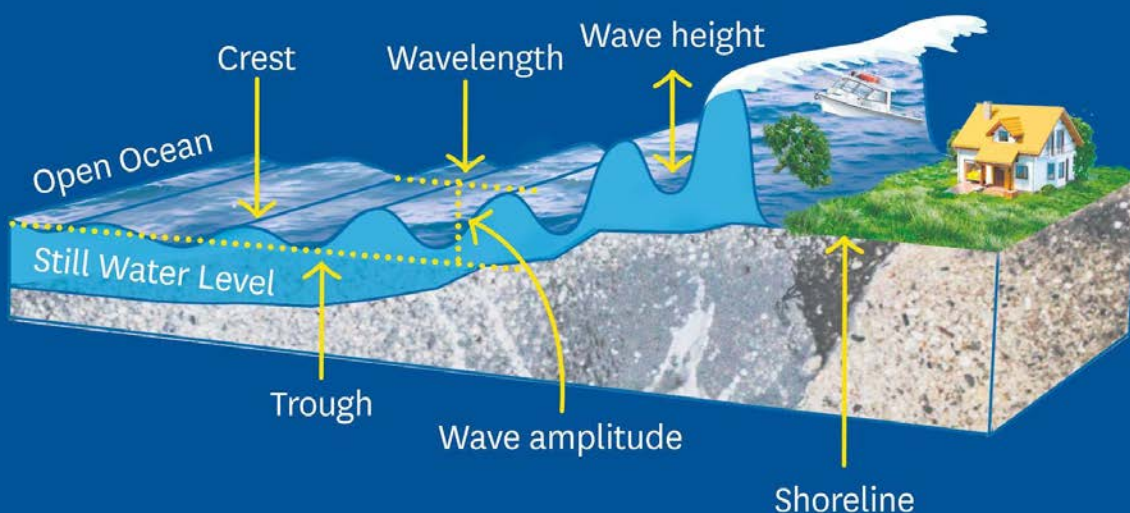


Figure 10: How a tsunami wave changes as it moves from the open ocean on to land. Source: NEMA



**Move immediately to the nearest high ground or as far inland as you can, out of tsunami evacuation zones. Do not wait for official warnings.**

Immediately follow the advice of any emergency warning. Do not wait for more messages before you act.

- Walk, run or cycle if you can and remember your grab bag. This reduces the chances of getting stuck due to damaged roads or traffic congestion.
- While evacuating, be aware of other hazards. For example, a large local earthquake may damage electricity lines and bridges and create liquefaction and landslides.
- Do not return until an official all-clear message is given. Tsunami activity can continue for several hours, and the first wave may not be the largest. If there was an earthquake, expect aftershocks that may generate another tsunami.

If you live near the coast but are not located in a tsunami evacuation zone, you do not need to evacuate. Your whare/home could be a safe location for friends and whānau/family who need to evacuate.

Tsunami can be very dangerous for boats and their crews.

#### **Tsunami dangers for boats include:**

- Strong and unpredictable currents and surges that can affect ports and marinas even during small tsunami.
- Grounding of vessels, as water levels can suddenly drop.
- Capsizing due to incoming surges, complex coastal waves, and surges hitting grounded boats.
- Collision with other boats, docks, debris and changes to the seafloor such as movement of sand bars, wrecks, reefs and boulders.



**A tsunami could be generated at any time** – Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides and meteor impacts are all unpredictable events that may generate tsunami.

**There may be very little warning time for a tsunami** – Depending on the source location, there may be very little warning time.

**There may be more than one wave** – Tsunami waves, unlike normal beach waves, have very long wavelengths (distance between successive waves) which can range from several kilometres to over 400km long.

**The first wave may not be the largest** – A tsunami is a series of waves and the first wave to reach the shore may not be the largest.

**Tsunami waves may continue for some time** – Tsunami waves may continue to arrive for up to 24 hours and these may arrive at intervals of five minutes to an hour.

**Tsunami waves may run many kilometres inland** – Particularly in low-lying areas, tsunami waves may flood inland and up rivers for many kilometres.

## **Know your tsunami evacuation zones**

A tsunami evacuation zone is an area that you may need to leave if you feel a long or strong earthquake, or if there is an official tsunami warning.

Make sure you know where to go, whether you are at whare/home, at work or out and about.

Search for your whare/home, work or school address on the Auckland Emergency Management Hazard Viewer to find out if they are in a tsunami evacuation zone.

In Auckland we have two types of tsunami zones – red, and yellow – based on the areas that can be affected in different sized tsunami.

**Red** is a shore and marine threat zone: This includes the shore and adjacent low-lying areas most likely to be affected by a tsunami. You should avoid this area following any tsunami alert for the Auckland rohe/region until you are told it is safe to return.

**Yellow** is a land threat zone and is the area that would need to be evacuated. You should evacuate this area if directed, or if you notice any natural warnings, until you are told it is safe to return.



# Hazard Factsheet: Urban Fires



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**Dial 111 immediately if there's a fire.**

## Household preparedness and safety prevention of home fires

[escapemyhouse.co.nz](http://escapemyhouse.co.nz) (Fire Emergency NZ)

Households need to continually assess their home environment for fire safety and fire prevention, by regularly checking heat and ignition sources such as indoor fireplaces, electric and gas heaters, electric blankets, clothes dryers, garage and tool shed areas (i.e. for flammable fluids, gases or materials), entertainment and cooking areas (e.g. hot coals from outdoor BBQs) and electrical sources such as batteries, chargers, power-cords and multi-plugs (for wear, unsafe use and overloading).

Make sure you have fire extinguishers in the kitchen and other areas where you may need them (e.g. the laundry, garage and tool sheds) and make sure that you and your household know how to use them.

## 3 Steps to survive a fire in your whare

Typically, there are just 3 minutes to get out of a house fire before it becomes un-survivable. In the toxic black smoke, instincts can fail, and the house becomes foreign in the blackness.

Having an early warning, planning two ways out and agreeing on a safe meeting place means a household is much more likely to make it out.

A simple, 3-step plan for households should be;

1. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, hallway and living area (and check them regularly).
2. Plan two ways out. In the event of a fire, try to alert others while exiting promptly – yell “Fire, Fire, Fire” – and if you live in close proximity to others, knock on people’s doors if you can.
3. Agree on a safe meeting place. Once safely outside, DO NOT go back inside! If there is no fire crew outside, dial 111 and ask for Fire.





## Fire preparedness and prevention for workplaces and apartment

In workplaces and for apartment dwellers, there are universal fire preparedness and prevention measures and requirements of the workplace management/ landlord, building manager, body corporate or safety committee. Some questions you may want to consider include:

- Does your building have designated fire wardens?
- Find and read your fire action notice; make an escape plan, starting with knowing where all the fire exits are for your floor, and which is closest to you.

- Know evacuation procedures for the building, e.g. does the whole building evacuate at once or in stages; where are the assembly areas?
- Will anyone need help to leave?
- Does the building have fire extinguishers or fire hose reels? Has there been training on how to use them?

### In the event of a fire

- Exit the building using the stairs, do not use the lifts.
- As you exit, try to alert other people on your floor, while exiting promptly: yell 'FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!' and knock on any doors that remain closed if you can; activate the fire.





# Hazard Factsheet: Wildfires



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## Dial 111 immediately if there's a fire.

Fire moves extremely fast – have a plan to ensure you and your whānau know what to do in a fire and how to get out safely.

Embers can travel for more than two kilometres and ignite fires, dependent on the wind direction.

Wildfire travels faster uphill. Properties on a steep slope or at the crest of a hill are at the greatest risk.

Fire Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) is the lead agency for fire emergencies.

- Move vehicles to a safe location.
- Move lightweight garden furniture, door mats and other outdoor items indoors.
- Wet down the sides of buildings, decks and plants close to your whare/home in the likely path of the wildfire.
- Move animals and livestock to a well-grazed or ploughed area.
- Close windows, doors, and vents. Shut blinds. Seal gaps under doors and windows with wet towels.

**Remember, life is more important than property. Always make sure you have your escape planned before tackling a fire and don't put yourself or others at risk. Leaving early is always the safest option.**

**Don't rely on an official warning to leave. Wildfires can start quickly and threaten lives and whare/homes within minutes.**

Stay informed about wildfires including the current fire season, fire types and on how to reduce risks of a fire getting out of control on the FENZ website: [fireandemergency.nz](http://fireandemergency.nz) or [checkitsalright.nz/reduce-your-risk/protecting-your-property](http://checkitsalright.nz/reduce-your-risk/protecting-your-property)

For more information and advice on keeping animals safe from wildfires, go to: [mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/26533-Animalsaffected-by-fire-Advice-for-livestock-lifestyleblock-horse-and-pet-owners](http://mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/26533-Animalsaffected-by-fire-Advice-for-livestock-lifestyleblock-horse-and-pet-owners)

If a wildfire is near your property:

- Turn on sprinklers, fill the gutters with water, and wet down materials like firewood that may fuel the fire.

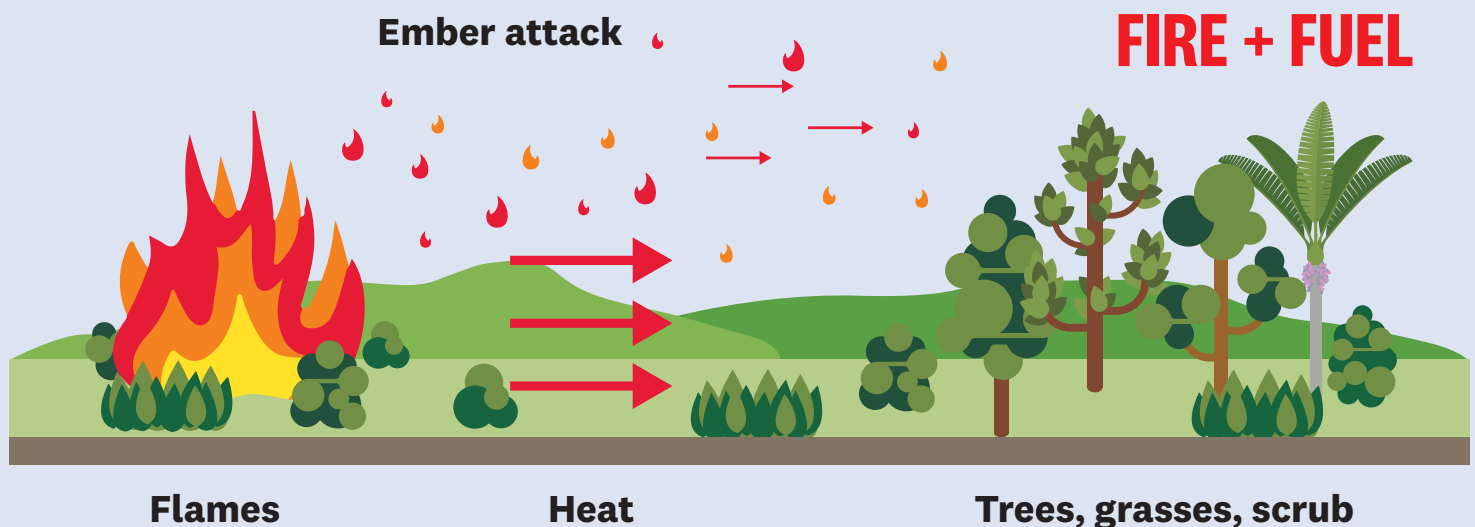


Diagram demonstrating how fires grow and spread.





# Hazard Factsheet: Biological emergency (Outbreaks, Epidemics, Pandemics)



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- A pandemic is an outbreak of an infectious disease that spreads across a very large rohe/region, multiple countries, or worldwide.
- Outbreaks and epidemics affect local areas and rohe/regions. The direct impact on human life can be immense, with vulnerable populations, including older people and those with underlying health conditions, being particularly at risk. Epidemics among animals, such as Foot and Mouth Disease, can also affect people's activities.
- The risk and impacts of a pandemic or large epidemic extend beyond the immediate health crisis. Many services like education, transport, work, health care and community services are disrupted.
- Social interactions are limited or strained, with physical distancing measures and lockdowns impacting social gatherings, cultural events, and everyday life.
- The Ministry of Health is the lead agency for human pandemics. Auckland Emergency Management assists in providing regional inter-agency coordination of welfare support.

## During an outbreak, epidemic or pandemic

### In a pandemic you may need to stay at whare/home because:

- you are sick
- you are caring for sick whānau/family
- community actions to prevent spread of the infection are needed.

### Hygiene - keeping clean:

- Washing and drying your hands properly for at least 20 seconds with soap or an alcohol-based rub. Drying hands well is important. Wash and dry hands after coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose, wiping children's noses, visiting the toilet, or looking after sick people.
- Keep your coughs and sneezes covered. Put tissues straight into a covered, lined rubbish bin or a plastic bag.
- Try to stay a metre away from sick people to reduce the spread of infection. Consider having those who are unwell stay in one part of the house if practical and be cared for by a single person.
- Ensure there is good ventilation to any areas where people are unwell.

Stay informed with key health information on the National Public Health Service website:  
[arphs.health.nz](https://www.arphs.health.nz) and [adhb.health.nz](https://www.adhb.health.nz)



Auckland Emergency Management  
Hazard Fact Sheets

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