

He wāhanga tō tātau katoa i roto i te iwi manawaroa aituā
We all have a role in a disaster resilient nation

Tirohanga Whānui – Te Whakamahere Aumangea ā-Hapori

Community Resilience Planning – overview



When a disaster strikes, it is often community members who are the first to respond and offer assistance. Practical help for people in need comes mostly from neighbours, whānau and friends living nearby or existing local community groups, faith-based organisations and volunteer organisations, such as Neighbourhood Support, Lions, Rotary, Salvation Army, Residents Association or sports clubs. Further assistance can come from social or interest groups you identify with or belong to.

The agencies that respond to the emergency, such as Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Police, Ambulance, and Auckland Emergency Management (who co-ordinate reduction, readiness, response and recovery activities across Auckland) are better able to prioritise their disaster response work if communities also act for themselves and others. We need to work together for the safety and wellbeing of all.

Auckland Emergency Management encourages all communities to come together and talk about local hazards and risks, how to get ready and plan what you will do during an emergency.

No one knows your community¹ better than you and the people in it. Auckland Emergency Management encourages all communities to come together and talk about how to get ready and plan what you will do during an emergency.

Creating a Community Resilience Plan

The community resilience planning process provides a chance for people in the community to come together, get to know each other better, and develop a Community Resilience Plan (CRP).

The intent of a Community Resilience Plan is to:

- Enable, empower and support individuals and communities to take ownership of their own emergency preparedness
- Increase the resilience of a community to hazard impacts
- Promote problem solving and encourage self-sufficient communities through strong social networks and a culture of mutual help
- Reduce the reliance on first responder agencies and Auckland Emergency Management following an emergency.

Ideally all communities located within high-hazard areas and communities with people who may be less resilient and more affected by a disaster (e.g. elderly, children, people living with a disability or those isolated in rural communities) should create a CRP.

Your CRP is a living document; it is understood and used by all to inform their ongoing emergency resilience-building activities and is owned and updated by the community (who are best placed to keep the local information accurate and relevant).

1 A community is a group of people who:

- live in a particular area or place ('geographic' or 'place based' community);
- are similar in some way ('relational' or 'population based' community); or
- have friendships, or a sense of having something in common ('community of interest').

People can belong to more than one community, and communities can be any size. With increasing use of social media and digital technologies, communities can also be virtual.

The *Community Resilience Plan Checklist* and *Community Resilience Plan Template* guide communities on developing their own CRP. Auckland Emergency Management community resilience staff are available to help facilitate the resilience planning process with communities if they wish.

He hātepe waihanga i tō Mahere Aumangea ā-Hapori The process to create your Community Resilience Plan

A Community Resilience Plan document is written by members of a particular community for that community to use. The community meets to discuss and identify:

- Their community make up and what the critical needs of the community may be
- Their local hazards and risks, and what impacts these may have on their community
- What knowledge/mātauranga skills and resources they have to reduce these impacts
- Emergency preparedness measures, including measures to increase social connectedness
- How they could work together following an emergency event, including:
 - o How they communicate with each other and communicate with Auckland Emergency Management (for finding out information about the community, how they are faring, and to allocate resources accordingly), and gather appropriate contact information
 - o Community assets and the emergency contact details the community has access to that can assist in an emergency response (physical resources – e.g. supermarket, camping ground, and human resources – e.g. tradespeople, medical personnel)
 - This should be contained in a more detailed document with private names and numbers, held by a local community organisation.
 - o Community emergency hubs where people could gather during an emergency to support each other and coordinate their community response
 - o If applicable, evacuation routes and safe areas
- What they would want to retain or rebuild following a major emergency event
- Identify projects that could be undertaken now which would increase the community’s resilience.

This planning process is ideally led by the community, with support from Auckland Emergency Management if required.

‘Tē tōia, tē haumatia Kia rite, kia mau’

‘Nothing can be achieved without a plan, workforce, and a way of doing things. Be prepared to take action.’

If the whole community is not invited to participate in the process, care must be taken to ensure the people involved are representative of the community in terms of age, gender, and culture. Ensure people have the opportunity to provide their input to any draft plan.



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