



Media Release

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Prepare your household during Get Ready Week

21-27 September is Get Ready Week in New Zealand, and this year's theme is 'What would you do?'

"Selwyn has experienced a number of emergencies in recent years including earthquakes, flooding, windstorms, fire and snow," says Selwyn District Council Emergency Management Officer Ryan O'Rourke.

"As part of Get Ready Week we are encouraging Selwyn families to think about what they would do in different emergency situations."

To help people prepare their homes and families for emergencies, the Council has developed a new video showing how you can plan for an emergency at home by putting together a household emergency kit and a household plan.

The short video features Rolleston couple Dave and Kelly and two year old Elijah talking about their household emergency preparations.

It is recommended that all New Zealand households have an emergency kit which provides supplies for at least three days including bottled water, non-perishable food, a can opener, a first aid kit, a torch and any essential medical supplies their family will need at hand.

Mr O'Rourke says families who already have a kit should regularly check everything is still able to be used and replace any water, food, batteries or medication near expiry.

"In Selwyn, power outages are common, especially in rural areas so it is a good idea to think about what preparations you can make now to ensure you can cope with this. This could include having something safe to cook on or having a generator," says Mr O'Rourke.

"Developing a short household emergency plan with information on where you can go if you can't get home how you would communicate with each other is also very helpful. Then if you can't contact children or other family members they can feel confident they know what arrangements are in place."

The new video and advice about preparing your family is available online at www.selwyn.govt.nz.

Ends

Photos attached:

From left (1) Carrie Jones – Dakers and Ara Dakers of Southbridge and (2) Stephanie Pearce, Will Pearce and Will Hamilton of Kirwee are some of the Selwyn families who have emergency kits. The families won the kits by signing up to the Selwyn Gets Ready website during August. It is recommended that all households have an emergency kit including bottled water, non-perishable food, a can opener, a first aid kit, a torch and essential medical supplies.

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