



ARE YOU READY?

A guide to emergency preparedness in Selwyn



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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Over recent years we've all become very aware that we live in an environment which is susceptible to all kinds of natural disasters.

We've also been reminded of how simple things can make a huge difference to us and our families when emergencies happen.

It's important that everyone has plans about how they will respond. If you needed to leave your house right now, where would you go? What would you take? If you were stuck at home without power or running water what would you need to do?

As we have seen during recent events like the global pandemic, knowing your neighbours and having a strong community are a huge part of getting through emergencies. One of the best things you can do to be better prepared is to get to know your neighbours – they are likely to be your first support following an emergency event, or they may need your help.

This booklet provides useful information to help you plan for a range of emergency situations that you, your family, and community may find yourselves caught up in.

Please take the time to read it with your whānau and other members of your household and make use of the information as you plan for events that we hope we won't have to face.

Sam Broughton
Mayor of Selwyn



MAKE A PLAN

In New Zealand emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere, and often without warning. Floods, storms, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other hazards can disrupt our lives, damage property and cause serious harm.

When an emergency does happen, Civil Defence and emergency services will be busy helping the people who need them most.

It's up to you to make sure your family, and the people you care about, know what to do, and you all have what you need to get through on your own.

The good news is, it's really easy to get ready now.

TOP FOUR WAYS TO PREPARE



RIGHT NOW

Sign up for emergency alerts from Selwyn Gets Ready (more information on page 19).



TONIGHT

Complete the simple Emergency Plan for your household (more information on page 21).



THIS WEEKEND

Store some water – the more you can store the better (more information on page 8).



NEXT WEEKEND

Get to know your neighbours, they may be your first source of support (more information on page 18).



WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

IF YOU CAN'T GET HOME

Where will you meet if you can't get home (local and out of town)? Who will pick up the kids if you can't?

IF YOU CAN'T GET HOLD OF EACH OTHER

Who will you check in with? (Consider choosing someone out of town in case local phone lines are overloaded.)

IF YOU ARE STUCK AT HOME

Do you have emergency supplies?* Food and drink for three days or more (for everyone including babies and pets)? Torches and a radio with batteries? First aid kit and medical supplies? They don't all need to be in one place, but you may need to find them in the dark. Do you know how to turn off water, power and gas?

IF YOU HAVE NO POWER

How will you cook, stay warm, see at night? Do you have spare cash in case ATMs are not working? Do you have enough fuel in case petrol pumps are not working?

IF YOU HAVE NO WATER

Do you have enough stored drinking water? What will you cook and clean with? What will you do if your toilet couldn't be used?

IF YOU HAVE TO LEAVE IN A HURRY

Do you have a getaway bag* for everyone? At home, at work, in the car?

**See page 20 for more information*



STUCK AT HOME

In most emergencies it's best to stay in your own home if it is safe to do so. But that may mean being without power and water or any way to get supplies for three days or more.

Do you have enough food? What about family members who need medication? Do you have enough food for pets to get through too?

GET READY

1. Your emergency supplies don't have to be in a kit, but you might have to find them in the dark. Make sure everyone knows where the torches and batteries are.
2. If the power is out, eat the food from your fridge, then freezer, then cupboards. It's a good idea to have extra food that doesn't need cooking.
3. Get to know your neighbours. In an emergency they may need your help or you may need their help, and you may be able to band together to get through.

TOP TIP

Keep up to date with emergency information by listening to a radio (get one with batteries), and checking your local council and/or Civil Defence group's websites and social media. Always follow the instructions of Civil Defence and emergency services.

Selwyn District Council – [selwyn.govt.nz](https://www.selwyn.govt.nz)

Canterbury Civil Defence Group – [cdemcanterbury.govt.nz](https://www.cdemcanterbury.govt.nz)



CAN'T GET HOME

In an emergency public transport may not be able to operate, roads may be closed, and streets or neighbourhoods might be blocked off. If you can't take your normal route home, how will you get there? Who will you go with? Where will you meet up if your street is a no-go zone?

GET READY

1. Agree on a meeting place if you can't get home. It might be the school, a friend's place, or with family.
2. If you work away from home, find workmates who live in your area. In an emergency you could travel together.
3. Have a getaway bag at work or in your car, with walking shoes, warm clothes, some snack food and a bottle of water. A torch, batteries and radio are useful too.

TOP TIP

Give the school or day care a list of additional people who can pick the kids up if you can't get there.



HAVE TO EVACUATE

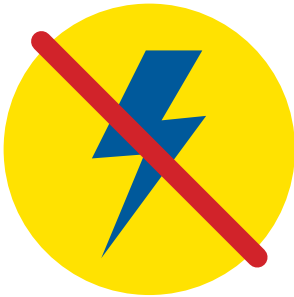
In an emergency, some houses, streets and neighbourhoods may not be safe to stay in and you may have to leave home in a hurry. If your street was evacuated where would you go? What would you take? What about pets? Do you have neighbours who might need your help?

GET READY

1. Have a getaway bag ready for everyone in your family with warm clothes, a bottle of water, snacks, copies of important documents and photo ID. Remember any medications you might need and keep your first aid kit, radio and batteries somewhere you can grab them in a hurry.
2. Decide where you will go (make sure everyone in your family knows, in case you're not all together). Your evacuation place will probably be with friends or family, so make sure they know your plans.
3. If you live in a tsunami zone, make sure your evacuation place is outside of the zone (a map of Selwyn's tsunami evacuation zone is on page 15).

TOP TIP

If you have to leave home, take your pets with you. If it's not safe for you, it's not safe for them. Make sure your evacuation place will take your pets or have the contact details for kennels, catteries and pet-friendly motels.



NO POWER

What would you do if the power was out for days? How will you see, cook, keep warm? Power cuts could affect EFTPOS and ATM machines, so make sure you have some cash at home, or enough supplies to see you through three days or more.

GET READY

1. Make sure you have torches and batteries, either in your emergency kit or somewhere everyone can find them in the dark.
2. Have a stock of food that doesn't need to be cooked (canned is good) or something to cook your food on (bbq, camp stove). Don't forget food for babies and pets.
3. If the power goes out, eat the food from your fridge first, then your freezer, before you eat the food in the cupboard or your emergency kit.
4. Have a solar or battery powered radio so you can keep up with the latest news and alerts. Know which radio stations to tune in to for information during an emergency.

TOP TIP

RADIO STATIONS

The following radio networks may carry Civil Defence information and advice in an emergency

Magic Talk – 99.3 FM/738 AM

More FM – 92.1 FM

National Radio – 101.7 FM/675 AM

Newstalk ZB – 100.1 FM/1098 AM

Plains FM – 96.9 FM

The Hits – 97.7 FM



NO WATER

Imagine having no water for three days or more. What would you drink? How would you wash, cook, and clean?

GET READY

1. Keep your empty plastic water and soft-drink bottles, give them a good clean and fill them with water – you need three litres of water for each person for each day that you are without water. Don't forget to store water for pets and animals too.
2. You can keep drinking water for up to a year if you add non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach when storing (half a teaspoon for every ten litres of water and don't drink for at least half an hour after mixing). Do not use bleaches that contain added scent or perfume, surfactants or other additives — they can make people sick.
3. Remember to store water for cooking and cleaning as well. You can use the water in your hot water cylinder, but store some extra in large plastic containers.

NOTE – Do not use plastic bottles that have had milk or fruit juice in them. Milk protein and fruit sugars cannot be adequately removed from these containers and provide an environment for bacterial growth when water is stored in them.

TOP TIP

You can also fill plastic ice cream containers with water and keep them in the freezer. These can help keep food cool if the power is off and can also be used for drinking.



NO INTERNET OR PHONE

If the phone and internet lines were down how would you keep in touch, arrange to meet up, keep up with news and weather alerts? In most emergencies it's best to stay in our own homes, so make your home your meeting place and have an alternative in case you can't get there.

GET READY

1. Talk to your family about how you will get in touch and where you will meet up in an emergency if the phone lines and/or internet are down.
2. If you have kids, make sure you know the school/day care's emergency plans and give the school names of additional people who could pick the kids up if you can't get there.
3. Have an out of town contact that everyone knows about (sometimes when local phone lines are overloaded you can still reach people outside your area). Get everyone to check in with your out of town contact by text or online messaging in an emergency if you can.
4. Keep a written list of important phone numbers.

TOP TIP

In an emergency phone lines can become overloaded quickly. Keep them clear so emergency calls can be made and, if you can, use text or online messaging to keep in touch.



LEARN ABOUT HAZARDS

In New Zealand we have a lot of natural hazards. Earthquakes, floods, landslides, snow, storms, tsunamis, volcanic activity, and other hazards can happen any time and often without warning.

For more information on what to do before, during and after each hazard, visit getready.govt.nz

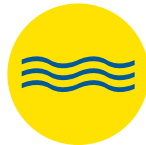
The following pages highlight some of the main risks for Selwyn.



EARTHQUAKE



SEVERE WEATHER



FLOODS



TSUNAMI



WILDFIRE



EARTHQUAKE

Each year New Zealand has over 150 earthquakes that are large enough to be felt. A large damaging earthquake could happen any time and can be followed by aftershocks that continue for a long time.

An earthquake on the Alpine Fault is likely to be one of the most significant disasters that could affect the Selwyn district. Information about an Alpine Fault earthquake can be found at af8.org.nz

DURING AN EARTHQUAKE

- If you are inside, drop, cover and hold – do not run outside or you risk getting hit by falling masonry and glass.
- If you are outside, move no more than a few steps away from buildings, trees, streetlights and power lines, then drop, cover and hold.
- Stay there until the shaking stops.
- Many injuries happen after the shaking stops, be careful of broken glass and sharp objects.

TOP TIP

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 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, cover your 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.

DROP



COVER



HOLD





SEVERE WEATHER

Storms can happen any time of the year. They can bring strong winds, heavy rain or snow, thunder, lightning, tornadoes and rough seas. Storms can affect wide areas, damaging property and disrupting services. The MetService puts out severe weather warnings through news services and on their website [metservice.com](https://www.metservice.com)

DURING A STORM

- Secure, or move inside, anything that can be broken or picked up by strong wind (like garden furniture or trampolines).
- Close exterior and interior doors and windows. Pull curtains and blinds over windows. This could prevent injury from flying glass if the window is broken.
- Stay inside. Don't walk around outside and avoid driving unless absolutely necessary.
- Bring pets indoors. Many animals are unsettled by storms and it is more comforting and safer for them to be with you.
- Listen to the radio and follow the instructions of emergency services.



FLOODS

Floods happen frequently and can cause a lot of damage. They become dangerous if the water is very deep or travelling very fast or the water has risen very quickly, or if they contain debris like tree branches and sheets of iron.

Floods and flash floods can happen quickly. If you see rising water do not wait for official warnings. Head for higher ground and stay away from floodwater.

DURING A FLOOD

- Do not try to walk or drive through flood water.
- Move valuable or dangerous items as high as you can off the floor.
- Always assume that flood water is potentially contaminated. Ensure hands, clothes and property are thoroughly cleaned after contact with flood waters.
- Listen to the radio and follow the instructions of emergency services.



TSUNAMI

A tsunami is a series of waves usually caused by large earthquakes. All of New Zealand's coast line including Selwyn is at risk of tsunami. A tsunami wave can grow to become a fast moving wall of water and debris.

KNOW THE NATURAL WARNING SIGNS AND TAKE ACTION

For a local source tsunami, which could arrive in minutes, there won't be time for an official warning. It is important to recognise the natural warning signs and act quickly.

If you are near a shore and experience any of the following, move inland.

- Feel a strong earthquake that makes it hard to stand or a long earthquake that lasts more than a minute.
- See a sudden rise or fall in sea level.
- Hear loud or unusual noises from the sea.

DURING A TSUNAMI WARNING

- Do not go sightseeing. Never go to the shore to watch for a tsunami.
- Listen to the radio and follow the instructions of emergency services.
- Stay away from at-risk areas until the official all-clear is given.

TOP TIP

**REMEMBER
LONG OR STRONG,
GET GONE.**

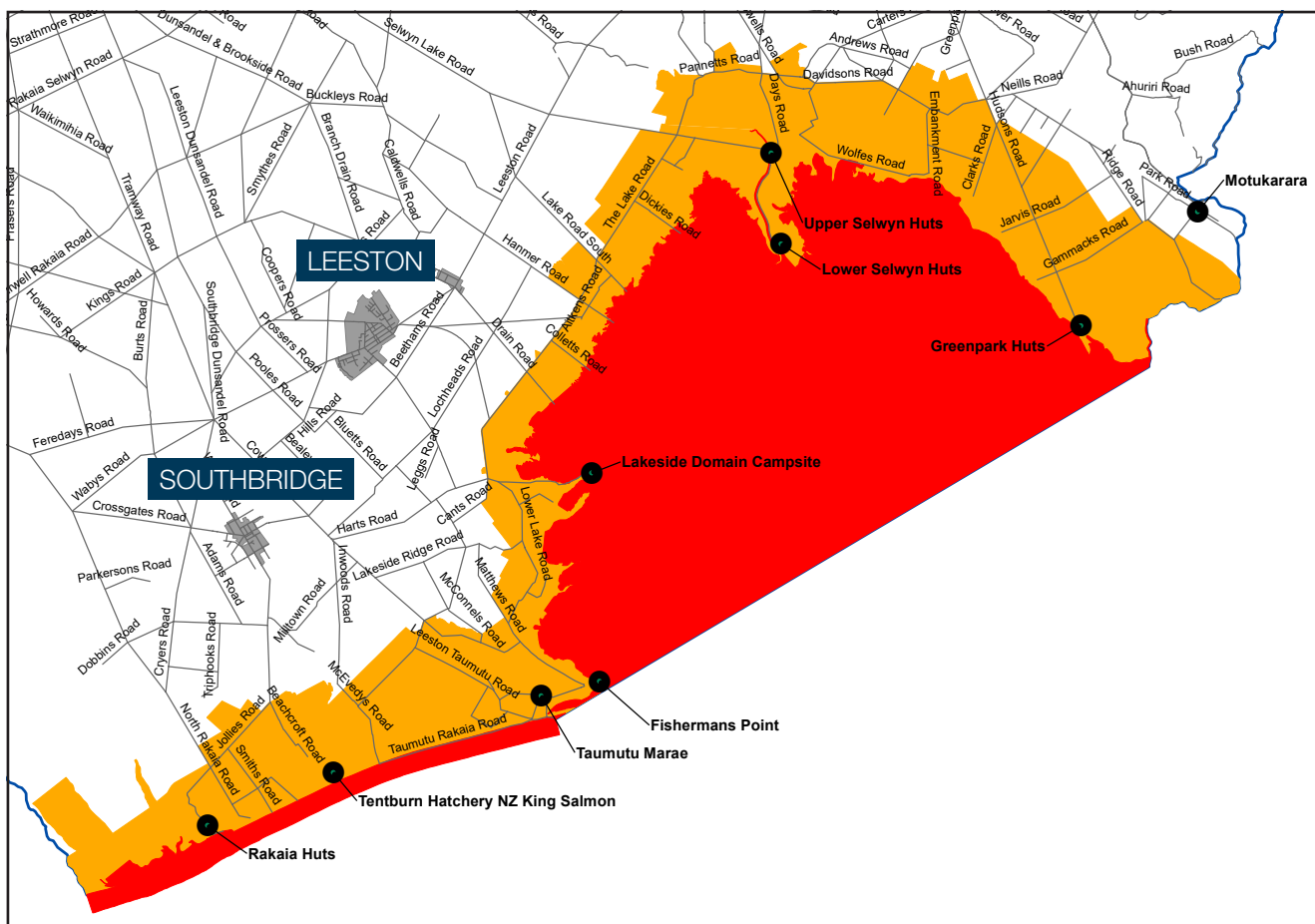


SELWYN TSUNAMI ZONES

Orange zone – In the event of a major tsunami the orange zone may need to be evacuated.

Red zone – In a smaller tsunami that does not require evacuations, people may be advised to stay out of the red zone because of strong and unpredictable currents at the coast, on the lake, and at river mouths.

Further information is available on the Council website selwyn.govt.nz/tsunami





WILDFIRE

There are many benefits to living in the country, however, you will have a higher risk of fire due to the increased presence of nearby vegetation. The way wildfires spread depends on the amount of vegetation available to be burnt, weather conditions (temperature, humidity and wind speed) and topography – the steeper the slope, the faster the fire will advance. Wildfires are most common between November and March when conditions are generally drier and temperatures higher.

GET READY

- Make sure your driveway clearance is at least four metres wide and four meters high and there is adequate turning space for fire trucks.
- Make it easy for emergency services to find you by making sure your RAPID rural property identification number is on your gatepost and clearly visible from the road.
- Ensure there is access to an adequate supply of water for fire trucks. Make sure your garden hose is connected and is long enough to reach around the house.
- Make sure your machinery and equipment is properly maintained and in good working order. Check there are no birds' nests in or around your machinery — they are a common cause of machinery fires.
- Dispose of ash in a metal container or wet down with water. Ashes can stay hot enough to start a fire for up to five days.

For fire season status and outdoor fire rules visit [fireandemergency.nz](https://www.fireandemergency.nz)

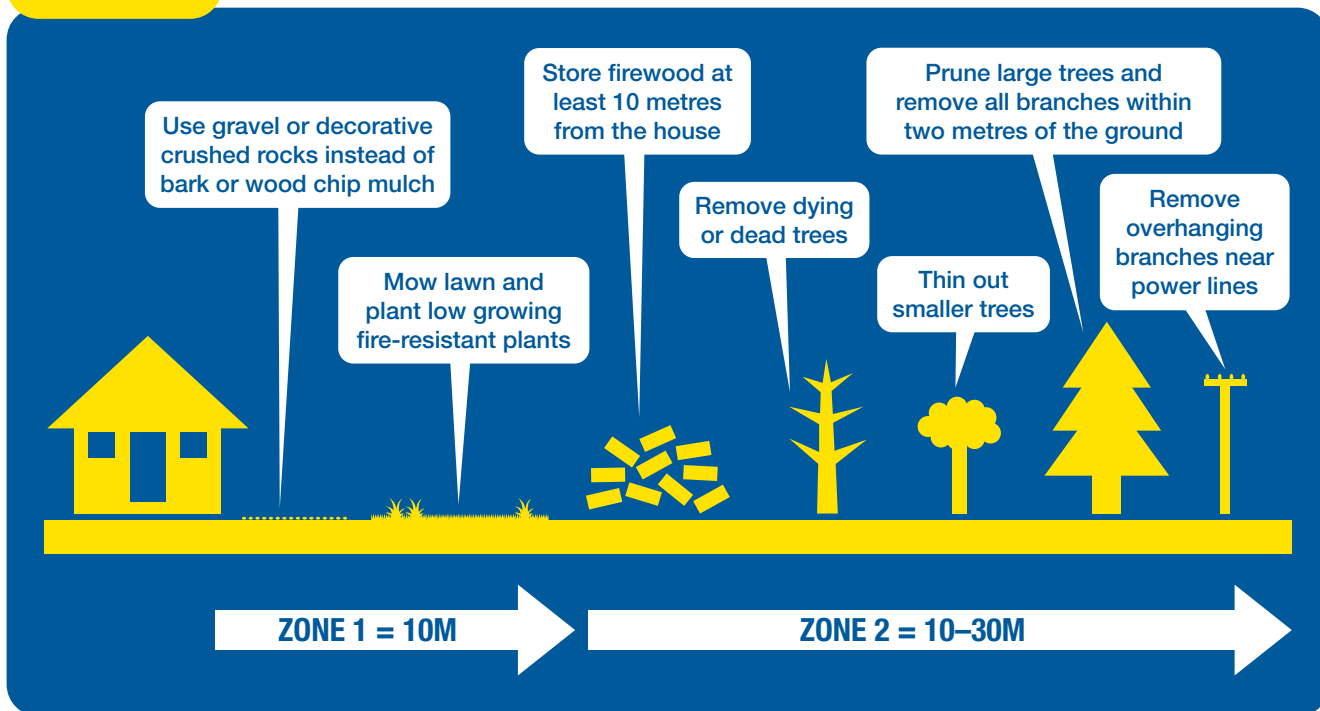




SAFETY ZONE

Creating a safety zone around your rural property can slow the spread of fire and give firefighters more space to fight the fire. Your safety zone should be free of materials that could easily ignite. The greatest fire risk to your home is when embers from a wildfire are carried by the wind. Keep roofs and gutters clear of dead leaves, debris and pine needles.

TOP TIP





GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS

You can be more prepared for an emergency by simply getting to know your neighbours, they may be your first and best source of support. When neighbours know each other they are better able to look after one another. This is especially important during and after a disaster.

Connect with people on your street so in an emergency you can:

- Make sure everyone is safe and looked after, especially those who might need extra help (people living alone or the elderly)
- Share resources and skills to support each other.

TOP TIP

Council has funding available for those in the community who want to get to know their neighbours. Whether you'd like to run a mid-winter Christmas party, a street summer sports competition or an international cuisine evening with your neighbours, Council currently has funding available and are offering a subsidy of up to \$75 per street gathering through their Meet Your Street Funding. For more details and to apply, visit selwyn.govt.nz/meetyourstreet





SIGN UP TO SELWYN GETS READY

Selwyn Gets Ready is a free emergency alerting system for Selwyn residents, which sends text and email alerts to subscribed households in the event of an emergency like a tsunami, wildfire, boil water notification or severe weather. Most messages are sent via email, however urgent messages that require immediate action will come via text as well.

It is also used for identifying who may need extra assistance in an emergency or who may have skills and resources to help support their neighbours.

Sign up at selwyn.getsready.net

SELWYN GETS READY

EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

STUCK AT HOME

In an emergency you could be stuck at home for three days or more. You probably have most of the things you need already. You don't have to have them all in one place, but you might have to find them in a hurry and/or in the dark.

- Water for three days or more — make sure you have at least nine litres of water for every person
- Food including canned or dried and a way to cook it (camping stove or gas BBQ)
- Toilet paper, large plastic buckets, and liners for an emergency toilet
- Torch, radio, and batteries

HAVE TO EVACUTE – GETAWAY BAG

In an emergency, some houses, streets and neighbourhoods may not be safe to stay in and you may have to leave home in a hurry. Have getaway bags ready for everyone in your family including pets.

- Warm clothes, walking shoes, and raincoat
- Water and snacks (remember babies and pets too)
- Torch, radio, batteries, and phone charger
- First aid kit, hand sanitiser, and essential medications
- Copies of important documents and photo ID (could be on a USB)
- Cash (small notes)

MAKE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

IF WE CAN'T GET HOME?

Where will we meet if we can't get home (local and out of town)?

Local:

Out of town:

WHO WILL PICK UP THE KIDS?

If you are not able to pick the kids up, who will?

Name:

Phone number:

Name:

Phone number:

IF WE CAN'T GET HOLD OF EACH OTHER?

Have an out-of-town contact that everyone knows about (sometimes when local phone lines are down you can still reach people outside your area). Get everyone to check in with your out of town contact by text or online messaging in an emergency if you can.

Name:

Phone number:

Name:

Phone number:



Resources are available in a number of different languages at getready.govt.nz/prepared/resources

Selwyn District Council
Emergency Management

2 Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston
PO Box 90, Rolleston 7643

0800 SELWYN (735 996)

www.selwyn.govt.nz

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SELWYN GETS READY

