

Waimāero Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood

Community Governance Team

SEVERE WEATHER COMMUNITY READINESS RESOURCE



This resource is intended to assist community groups and residents in the Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood area to find relevant information about preparing for severe weather events, particularly floods and storms.

Please note that this resource is not designed as a 'go to' guide during an emergency. The [Christchurch City Council's website](#) and [Newsline](#) site will serve as useful portals to finding information on the current situation, including road closures. Nor is it intended to substitute official advice available through [Civil Defence Emergency Management](#) (CDEM) and [MetService](#).



Severe Weather

- what is it and how does MetService keep you informed?

- ⇒ It's weather that has the potential to seriously disrupt your day and could cause harm to you, your property or your possessions.
- ⇒ The term is used to cover 'heavy rain', 'heavy snow', 'strong winds', and 'thunderstorms' and we use specific criteria and thresholds to define when these events are severe.
- ⇒ MetService will issue a warning if criteria is expected to be reached.

How far in advance is severe weather forecast?



- ⇒ Typically, MetService will issue advice six days out from potential severe weather through our 'Severe Weather Outlook'. This applies to rain, wind and snow. The **Outlook** is a 'heads up' that although we can see something coming, there is some uncertainty about what might happen and where.
- ⇒ As an event gets closer and we can be more specific about severe weather timing, location and intensity, we will issue a **'Watch'** (with colour-code Yellow) or a **'Warning'** (with colour-code Orange or Red depending on the severity of the event).
- ⇒ Thunderstorms are different. They form incredibly quickly and are less predictable days in advance so our 'heads up' Outlook for a thunderstorm is, at best, 36 hours before the event. Because a severe thunderstorm has the potential to have significant impact and disruption, a Thunderstorm Warning will always be Red.

Information from MetService - click here to see more: [Severe Weather Warnings and Watches](#)

Wet Weather & Flooding Information Resources

Click the tiles below to learn on what can be done before and during wet weather events:

When to get in touch with us

Surface flooding can look alarming but our stormwater network is designed to cope with heavy rain.

How we respond

How the Christchurch City Council responds to wet weather and flooding events.

What you can do

What you can do before and during a wet weather or flooding event.

If your house is flooding

Getting help to evacuate

Severe Weather Warnings colours are changing



All watches will be **yellow**

Watch
Stay alert



The majority of warnings will be **orange**

Orange Warning
Take action



Only the most significant warnings will be **red**

Red Warning
Act now!

Find out more at
metservice.com/SevereWeather



Click the logos below for more in-depth information these agencies provide on flooding in the area.



If you are in immediate danger or need assistance to evacuate, call **111**.

Flooding FAQs

Flooding issue in your neighbourhood?

If there are flooding issues you'd like to report contact the Council on (03) 941 8999, 0800 800 169 or on [Snap Send Solve](#) (an app where you can report an issue or fault).

We ask that people please do not call the Contact Centre during significant rain events simply to report flooding on the roads. The roads will cope with water ponding on them and it will drain away once the rain stops. It is important that we keep Council's Contact Centre phone lines available for those who genuinely need help.

Staying informed about flooding?

- ⇒ The Council will update information on [Newsline](#) and through [Council social media channels](#) during events.
- ⇒ An interactive map for general information on potential flood hotspots is available at this [link](#).
- ⇒ ECan Flood Controllers monitor river levels and flows throughout the Canterbury region. Current flood warnings can be found at this [link](#).
- ⇒ Current river flood alerts and live river flooding data can be found at this [link](#).

Getting hold of sandbags?

- ⇒ The Council does not provide sandbags to residents.

What support is available for affected residents?

- ⇒ The Council may not immediately set up Civil Defence Centres but will keep a close eye on the situation as it evolves. Civil Defence teams may be on stand-by in case they are needed and any homes need to be evacuated.
- ⇒ Council contractors will work across the city monitoring the roads and the stormwater network. They will be ready to close roads where flooding occurs.

What can you do to help?

- ⇒ Prepare by checking grates and gutters outside your property are clear of leaves.
- ⇒ Avoid parking in low lying areas, e.g. near rivers.
- ⇒ Treat all flood waters as contaminated.
- ⇒ Keep in contact with family, friends and neighbours. Ensure you have an evacuation point planned e.g. a friend's or family member's house.

Floods are New Zealand's number one hazard in terms of frequency, losses and declared Civil Defence Emergency Management emergencies.

It's really important not to walk, play, swim, or drive in floodwater. Even water just 15 centimetres deep can sweep you off your feet, and half a metre of water will carry away most vehicles. Flood water is also often contaminated and can make you sick.

Often there is some warning before a significant weather event. It's important to pay attention to official public messaging - keep an eye out for updates on radio, television and social media. But remember that floods and flash floods can happen very quickly, so put safety first and don't take any chances. If you see rising water, don't wait for official warnings - head for higher ground and stay away from floodwater.

Severe Weather Readiness

Severe weather, including floods, storms and landslides, can isolate households and knock out heat, power and communication services.



Snow can also have a significant impact. It only takes a few centimetres of snow on a road to make driving dangerous. In large quantities, snow can grind regions to a halt by disrupting communications, transport and supply lines, hampering the operation of emergency services, and increasing the risks to the most vulnerable members of the community.

Assemble and maintain [emergency survival items](#) for your home, work and vehicle, so you can be self-sufficient for at least three days.

If you can, consider buying emergency heating equipment to reduce your reliance on power sources during an emergency. Have a back-up plan if your health depends on your power supply.

Floods, storms, and other hazards may mean you have to evacuate your home. Assemble and maintain a [getaway kit](#) in case you have to leave in a hurry. Include long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, a warm jacket, and sturdy shoes. The most common injury following emergencies is cut feet.

If severe weather is threatening your region, keep listening to radio or television stations and follow the instructions of local civil defence emergency management officials.

The safest place to be during high winds is indoors. Postpone outdoor activities if a wind advisory or high wind warning has been issued. High winds can bring down trees and power lines and can turn unsecured objects into dangerous projectiles.



Check the area immediately surrounding your home for unsecured objects or potentially dangerous conditions. Bring inside loose, lightweight objects. Anchor objects that would be unsafe outside, such as gas grills or propane tanks. Close up and secure patio umbrellas. Secure retractable awnings.

Use caution when walking or driving high profile vehicles during periods of high winds. Avoid elevated areas such as roofs, as wind speeds may be higher above ground level. Watch for flying debris.

Avoid anything that may be touching downed lines, including vehicles or tree branches. Puddles and even wet ground can conduct electricity in some cases.

Turn your refrigerator and freezer to a colder setting. If you lose power, items that need refrigeration will stay cooler for longer. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to prevent food spoilage.

Check on friends, relatives, and neighbours, especially older adults and people with disabilities, access and functional needs, or health conditions. Help them to prepare if needed.

If you lose power and have a disability or access and functional needs or use Life Sustaining Equipment (LSE) and need immediate assistance, **please call 111.**

Significant Heat Events - Significant heat events are another form of severe weather community groups and residents would do well to not underestimate with the risks these events present to individual health. They can increase the risk of fire, physical injuries, and infrastructure failure.

MetService defines a significant heat event in Canterbury when two consecutive days are set to meet or exceed the threshold, which for Christchurch is 28 degrees Celsius. It is important to note that of the 11 of the 12 highest recorded temperatures on record in NZ occurred in Canterbury.

What CDEM do when there is an emergency

When an emergency happens, Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) may monitor the situation, support or direct other agencies, and coordinate emergency response activities. Sometimes they may need to activate an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

An EOC is a place where CDEM work collaboratively with other agencies to respond to an emergency. The EOC may perform tasks like coordinating other emergency services, providing important public information, controlling access to dangerous areas, and ensuring the availability of water, food and temporary accommodation for those in need of these as a result of the emergency.

Civil Defence Centre (CDC)

A Civil Defence Centre is a place that may be set up as part of an emergency response and run by CDEM to provide support to those needing urgent help. A CDC is also open to members of the public who are unable to stay at home or elsewhere, such as with friends and family.

There are a number of buildings across Christchurch that could be used as CDCs, but the location and number of Centres will depend on the size of the event and how communities need to be supported.

If a CDC is opened, the location will be communicated via [official sources](#).



Working with Community Organisations

Local community groups play an important role in building community resilience and can receive support from Council to enhance their knowledge in this area.

The **Civil Defence and Emergency Management** team can enhance groups' emergency preparedness through a talk or workshop, which can be booked online at this [link](#).

- ⇒ The **General Preparedness** talk covers the top hazards and risks that we face in Ōtautahi Christchurch, tips and tricks as to how you and your whānau can be more prepared, and where best to get information during an emergency. The talk is approximately 1hr long, with time for questions.
- ⇒ The **Community Response Planning** workshop is aimed at supporting your community group or organisation plan what actions you could take during or after an emergency. The interactive workshop will get you thinking about what resources you already have within your community, how you can use them, and who else you can connect to for further support.

Your local **Community Governance Team** maintain connections with key community organisations and liaison people, including ensuring that Council communications are getting through during events and, where they can, link community groups with relevant areas of Council.

The Community Development Advisors for the Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood area are listed below if community groups wish to make contact about being linked into their networks:

- ⇒ Natalie Dally, Community Development Advisor: natalie.dally@ccc.govt.nz
- ⇒ Karen Boag, Community Development Advisor: karen.boag@ccc.govt.nz