

Waihi Beach, Athenree and Bowntown

Community Guide to Emergencies



Hazards in your area



Fire

Fires can be started from a variety of natural causes including floods and earthquakes causing electrical shorts, volcanic activity, lightning strikes, and high winds causing power lines to arc. Low rainfall and drought can also cause an increase in the number of rural fires started. Deliberate lighting of fires is another potential fire source that cannot be overlooked.

What to do

- Make sure you have an escape plan.
- Make sure your house has working smoke alarms.
- Apply for a permit if lighting an open fire in a restricted season.
- If you see a fire, smell smoke, or your smoke alarm goes off remain calm, drop to the floor, and get out of the building or away from the fire. Then call 111 from a safe location.



Earthquake

An earthquake is a sudden, rapid shaking of the earth caused by the breaking and shifting of rock beneath the earth's surface. They are usually generated by ruptures along faults (fractures within the earth's crust) where rock moves on either side of the fault causing a release in energy.

Sometimes earthquakes can trigger other natural hazards such as landslides, fires and tsunamis.

What to do

- Prepare a household emergency plan.
- Fix, Fasten and Forget! Secure heavy objects inside your home.
- If you are inside when the shaking starts, move no more than a few steps to a safe place and drop, cover, and hold.
- Expect aftershocks
- If you are on the coast think Long, Strong and Gone... if the earthquake lasts longer than a minute and is strong enough to knock you off your feet, head to higher ground as a tsunami may follow.



Flood

Floods are New Zealand's number one hazard in terms of frequency, losses and declared civil defence emergencies. Floods can cause injury and loss of life, damage to property and infrastructure, loss of stock, and contamination of water and land.

Flooding that typically affects the Bay of Plenty include:

- River Floods: continuous heavy rain causing river levels to rise and overtop banks
- Flash Floods: lots of rain in a short time causes flooding in the streets from blocked or overflowing storm water drains.

What to do

- Check with your local council to see if your property is at risk from flooding.
- Prepare a household emergency plan.
- Stay informed (think radio, Facebook, Twitter)
- Keep drains and gutters clear and move stock to higher ground if necessary.



Storm

Major storms are almost always associated with low pressure systems (depressions). They are accompanied by heavy rain and/or strong winds.

Coastal inundation can also be associated with storms. This is where coastal lands are flooded by raised oceans.

A thunderstorm is a local storm associated with fast-moving cold fronts moving west to east or southerly changes along the east coast. They are usually short lived and bring lightning and thunder (the sound of the lightning), heavy rain and sometimes hail or tornadoes.

A tornado is a narrow, violently rotating column of air extending downwards to the ground from the base of the thunderstorm.

What to do

- Follow MetService for the latest weather forecasts and updates.
- Listen to the radio for the latest information and advice or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Tsunami

A tsunami is a natural phenomenon consisting of a series of waves generated when a large volume of water in the sea, or in a lake is rapidly displaced.

Tsunami can be triggered by large submarine or coastal earthquakes, underwater landslides, large coastal cliff or lakeside landslides or underwater volcanic eruptions.

What to do

- If you are at the coast and experience any of the following: An earthquake that lasts longer than a minute and is strong enough to knock you off your feet, see a sudden rise or fall in sea level and hear loud or unusual noises from the sea, move immediately to higher ground or as far inland as you can. **Think Long, Strong and Gone.**
- Sign up for text alerts on our website to be updated and receive official tsunami warnings.



Volcano

A volcano is a landform that results from magma (molten rock within the earth) erupting at the surface. A volcanic eruption occurs when pressures from gases within the molten rock become too great, then the gases drive the molten rock to the surface. The major impact to the area would be ashfall from a distal source eruption, which is a health hazard.

What to do

- If you are outside, seek shelter in your car or home.
- Wear a dust mask or cover your nose and mouth with a cloth.
- Protect your lungs and eyes.
- Stay informed (think radio, Facebook or Twitter).

In an emergency, radio is your main source of information.



Western Bay frequencies:

National Radio	101.0 FM, 819 AM
Newstalk ZB	90.2 FM, 1008 AM
Classic Hits	90.5 FM
More FM	93.4 FM, 104.2 FM
Radio Live	1107 AM
Waihi Gold FM	88.3 FM, 96.4 FM

Keep up to date before, during and after an emergency by subscribing to emergency text alerts:

Simply text the two letters for the area you live to 2028:

- TA Tauranga KA Kawerau
- WB Western Bay RO Rotorua
- WH Whakatane OP Opotiki

4 Assist vulnerable people in your family or community. If you, a family member or neighbour has a disability or any special requirement that may affect their ability to cope in a disaster, develop a support plan. For more information visit bopcivildefence.govt.nz

3 Keep your car ready. Plan ahead for what you will do if you are in your car when a disaster strikes. In some emergencies you may be stranded in your vehicle for some time. A flood, snow storm or major traffic accident could make it impossible to proceed. Consider having essential emergency survival items in your car and keep enough fuel in your car.

2 Don't forget your pets. If you have pets or livestock, include them in your emergency planning.

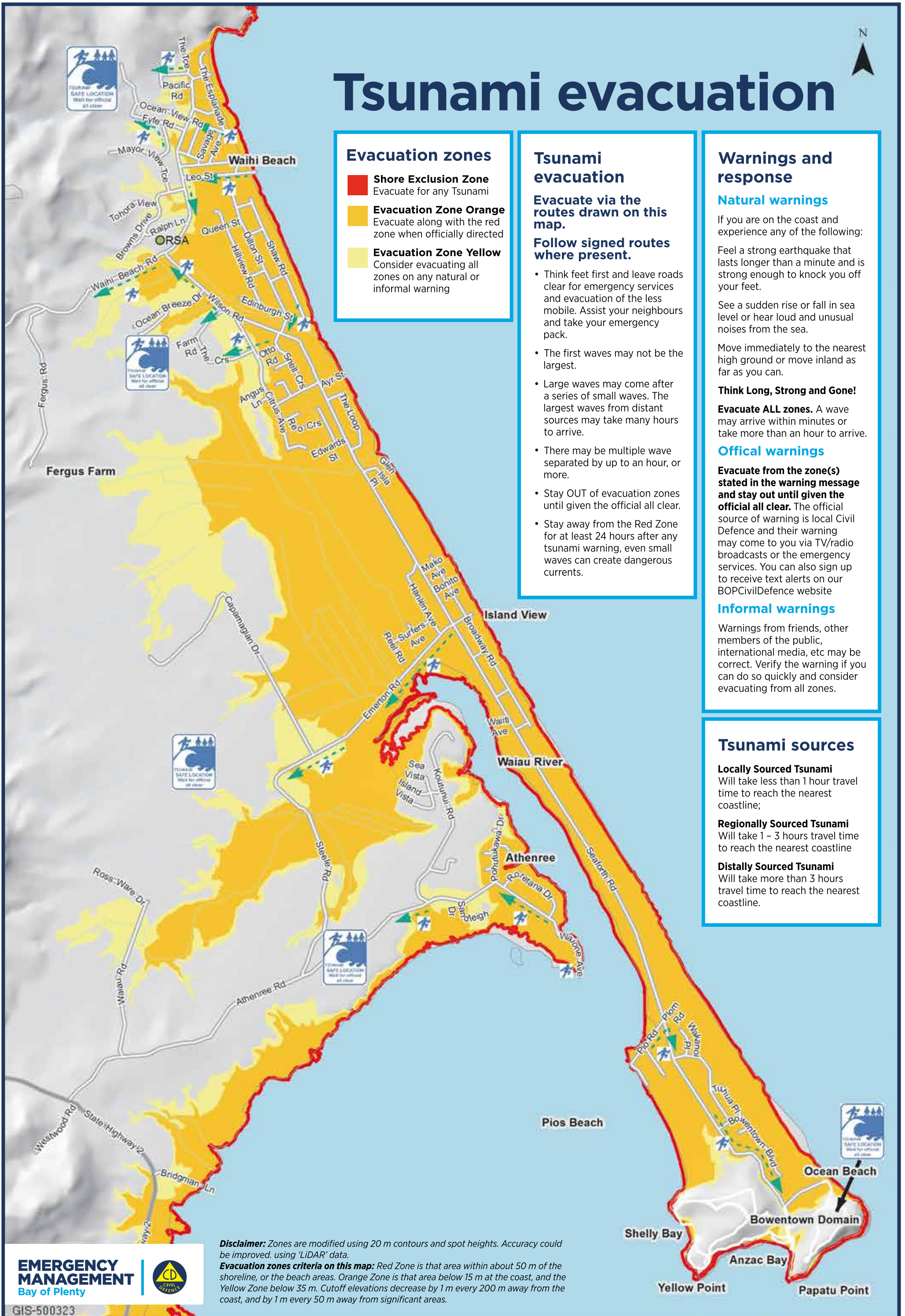
1 Get your family ready. Get your family together to develop and practice your household emergency plan. Assemble and maintain an emergency survival kit. Have a getaway kit in case you have to leave in a hurry.

How to get ready:

How to get ready and stay informed



Tsunami evacuation



Evacuation zones

- **Shore Exclusion Zone**
Evacuate for any Tsunami
- **Evacuation Zone Orange**
Evacuate along with the red zone when officially directed
- **Evacuation Zone Yellow**
Consider evacuating all zones on any natural or informal warning

Tsunami evacuation

Evacuate via the routes drawn on this map.

Follow signed routes where present.

- Think feet first and leave roads clear for emergency services and evacuation of the less mobile. Assist your neighbours and take your emergency pack.
- The first waves may not be the largest.
- Large waves may come after a series of small waves. The largest waves from distant sources may take many hours to arrive.
- There may be multiple wave separated by up to an hour, or more.
- Stay OUT of evacuation zones until given the official all clear.
- Stay away from the Red Zone for at least 24 hours after any tsunami warning, even small waves can create dangerous currents.

Warnings and response

Natural warnings

If you are on the coast and experience any of the following:

- Feel a strong earthquake that lasts longer than a minute and is strong enough to knock you off your feet.
- See a sudden rise or fall in sea level or hear loud and unusual noises from the sea.

Move immediately to the nearest high ground or move inland as far as you can.

Think Long, Strong and Gone!

Evacuate ALL zones. A wave may arrive within minutes or take more than an hour to arrive.

Official warnings

Evacuate from the zone(s) stated in the warning message and stay out until given the official all clear. The official source of warning is local Civil Defence and their warning may come to you via TV/radio broadcasts or the emergency services. You can also sign up to receive text alerts on our BOPCivilDefence website

Informal warnings

Warnings from friends, other members of the public, international media, etc may be correct. Verify the warning if you can do so quickly and consider evacuating from all zones.

Tsunami sources

- Locally Sourced Tsunami**
Will take less than 1 hour travel time to reach the nearest coastline;
- Regionally Sourced Tsunami**
Will take 1 - 3 hours travel time to reach the nearest coastline
- Distally Sourced Tsunami**
Will take more than 3 hours travel time to reach the nearest coastline.

Disclaimer: Zones are modified using 20 m contours and spot heights. Accuracy could be improved, using 'LiDAR' data.
Evacuation zones criteria on this map: Red Zone is that area within about 50 m of the shoreline, or the beach areas. Orange Zone is that area below 15 m at the coast, and the Yellow Zone below 35 m. Cutoff elevations decrease by 1 m every 200 m away from the coast, and by 1 m every 50 m away from significant areas.