

# Community Response Plan

For: Ōtūmoetai



The community looking after  
the community in an emergency.

# Is our community ready?

When a natural disaster hits, the community may need to take care of itself for up to three days before help can arrive.

This Community Response Plan has been developed to ensure there are measures in place to help the community look after itself.

## The purpose of a community response plan

- To help the community understand the hazards that exist in our community.
- Let everyone know what level of risk these hazards pose to our community.
- Help you to know what we can all do to prepare ourselves, and those who depend on us, to survive through an emergency.
- Ensure the wider community knows the warning signals to evacuate, and where to evacuate to.
- Help the community to put their response plan into action without any immediate help from emergency services or Emergency Management.



*Produced by Tauranga City Council  
Emergency Management and the  
Otūmoetai Community Response Team  
Members June 2022.*

*Version 2, 17/01/2023*



Download the New Zealand Red Cross Hazard App from the app store to identify hazards, reduce risk and stay informed when you need it most.



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# Our community

This community is made up of the residents, community groups and businesses of Ōtūmoetai and Matua. The boundary for this community response plan runs from Sutherland Road, down Bellevue Road to the corner of the Matua Saltmarsh Reserve (see map below). Most of the community face the Tauranga harbour. However, most of the land in this community is significantly higher than sea-level.

The number of people living in the area is around 11,000, according to the 2018 Census data. The median age for the entire community is between 41-47 years old and there are roughly 4,700 private dwellings in the area.

The community groups that have helped to inform this Community Response Plan have identified several historical hazards that have impacted the wider community. These can be read about later in the plan. How to prepare for the identified hazards in Ōtūmoetai and Matua can also be found later in the plan.

The community organisations that have come together to inform this Community Response Plan are responsible for updating and disseminating the plan and Community Guide to Emergencies, with assistance from Tauranga CDEM.



# Our plan

## Plan champions

St. John's Anglican Church  
C3 City Church  
St. Columba Church  
Ōtūmoetai Baptist Church  
Ōtūmoetai Church of Christ  
Neighbourhood Support  
Matua Residents Association

*(The community groups who will drive the outcome of the plan)*

## Plan updated

The Ōtūmoetai Community Response Team to update this plan every 12 month.

## Plan boundaries

Included in the Ōtūmoetai and Matua Community Response Plan are the suburbs of Brookfield, Cherrywood, Bureta, Pillans Point, north and south Ōtūmoetai

## Ideal state

Within 72 hours the Ōtūmoetai and Matua Community Response Team wants to:

1. Identify which, if any, of the Community Led Centres have capacity to open.
2. Communicate to the community that certain Community Led Centres have opened and can be used as a point of refuge in an evacuation.
3. Provide information to the community from the identified Community Led Centres from emergency services and Civil defence Emergency Management.
4. Depending on the ability of each of the Community Led Centres water, tea and coffee could be provided and short-term shelter.

Note. This is not expected to be overnight accommodation.

A Community Led Centre or CLC is an alternative to peoples own homes, friends or family homes, or Civil Defence Centres. It is intended that people would be able to go to these places to receive information on the event and basic amenities. They are identifiable by signage that will be put outside of them when they are open. The Otumoetai and Matua community could find out if Community Led Centres are open in your area by following the social media of the Plan champions, EMBOP, and TCC. Otherwise, this information will be broadcast over radio.

# Natural hazard history

Whilst we hope that none of the natural disasters described in this section ever occur, it's important to understand that these things have occurred in the recent past.

## Natural Hazard History

*(What hazards have affected the community in the past?)*

Human Pandemic  
Volcanic Eruption  
Earthquake/Tsunami  
Severe weather  
Bush/Scrub Fire

### Hazard 1- Human Pandemic

Until recently the effects of a human pandemic had not been felt in the Otumoetai and Matua areas. Over the past two years Ōtūmoetai and Matua, like the rest of the country have been living with COVID-19. This pandemic proved especially bad for the elderly population, of which Ōtūmoetai and Matua have many.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to exist in the community and highlights the need to prepare for future events of similar nature.

### Hazard 2- Volcanic Eruption

New Zealand is a geologically active country and Ōtūmoetai and Matua are at risk of the effects of volcanic eruptions from several places including Lake Taupō (fourth largest super volcano in the world), Ruapehu, and Whakaari/White Island.

Most recently the crater lake at Ruapehu has been under close watch as the temperature in the lake has been increasing, which is an indication of increased volcanic activity. Whilst there has not been an eruption that has affected Ōtūmoetai and Matua recently, the unpredictability of volcanos and the potential impacts of a large Ruapehu eruption has Ruapehu as a high hazard for the community.

The 2019 Whakaari/White Island eruption saw a number of fatalities and an entire BOP response to the event. The scale of the eruption meant that Ōtūmoetai and Matua were not seriously affected. However, if the wind direction on the day was different or the eruption was larger, it would be a different story.

### Hazard 3- Earthquake/ Tsunami

A sequence of three earthquakes occurred near New Zealand on 5 March 2021. The first of the three large earthquakes, a magnitude 7.3 off East Cape, was felt throughout New Zealand at 2.30am. The second and third earthquakes, M7.4 at 6:41am and M8.1 at 8:28am, centred near the Kermadec Islands, were barely felt on the main islands of New Zealand. These earthquakes prompted tsunami evacuation advice for Ōtūmoetai and Matua community residing in evacuation zones.

More recently the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai underwater volcano near Tonga erupted on 15 January 2022, causing a tsunami warning for the coast East of New Zealand and consequently the Ōtūmoetai and Matua community.

**Hazard 4-  
Severe Weather/  
Flooding**

Severe weather effects the whole of New Zealand but Ōtūmoetai and Matua’s proximity to the coastline means that they are often hit hard. Most recently Ex Tropical Cyclone Dovi crossed over the BOP, brining strong winds and heavy rain. The strong winds had the potential to damage homes in the Ōtūmoetai and Matua community.

In 2021 the Ōtūmoetai and Matua community was affected by severe downpours of rain which created surface flooding in the area. The cascading effects of severe after the heavy rain caused increased slip conditions for the Ōtūmoetai and Matua area.

**Hazard 5-  
Bush/ Scrub Fire**

In December 2020 there was forest fire on Matakana Island that billowed a large amount of smoke towards the Ōtūmoetai area. This posed a risk of smoke inhalation. Bush fires are also occurring more frequently with the number of green spaces that we are creating within our cities.



Maungatapu Slips 2022.

# Preparing our community

**How everyone can be responsible for preparing our community for emergencies**

Everyone can help to promote awareness of the Community Response Plan and Community Guide to Emergencies and identify community agencies that can be utilised to share official preparedness advice to the Ōtūmoetai and Matua community. Both documents can be found on the EMBOP website or contact your local emergency management team

**How often will the plan be updated?**

The Community Response Plan and Community Guide to Emergencies will be updated on a yearly basis to ensure that the most up to date information is utilised in the activation of either.

**Where to find official information**

Preparedness for the hazards mentioned in pages 6 and 7 will be promoted using official information sources. Official information sources include: MetService, Emergency Management Bay of Plenty, Tauranga City Council Emergency Management, insurance risk reports, National Emergency Management Agency.

**Where to share preparedness tips**

The information collected from the above sources can be shared from CRT member webpages, newsletters, and meetings. Neighbourhood support as well as the churches affiliated to the CRT will be able to share preparedness measures identified in the forementioned official information sources. The community can also help to share this information through their own channels.

**Support provided to the CRT in preparing the community**

The presence and advice at community events will be supported by Tauranga City Council Emergency Management and EMBOP (if required).

# GET READY

**Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere.**  
It's up to you to take steps to make sure you're prepared.



**Get your household ready**



**Get your work ready**



**Get your school ready**



# Alerts and warning signals

## Severe weather events

MetService is responsible for issuing all severe weather warnings. They will publish these warnings for the specific areas on their webpage, TV, and Radio. These same messages will also be communicated by CDEM and the Red Cross Hazard App.

## Earthquakes and Volcanic activity

Currently there is no way for officials to predict earthquakes. The Ōtūmoetai and Matua community could be subject to the effects of an earthquake from surface ruptures of fault lines across New Zealand, as well as the Hikurangi and Tonga subduction zones. Volcanic activity is monitored and reported on by GNS. The GEO Net app was developed for the public to monitor what they see.

## Local Source Tsunami

Potentially 50 minutes or less notice of arrival

**THINK LONG OR STRONG, GET GONE.** In a local source tsunami, there will be no time for an official warning and you will have to rely on the natural warning signs!

If you feel an earthquake that lasts LONGER than a minute or is STRONG enough to knock you off your feet, you should move immediately inland or to higher ground. Other natural warning signs you might also notice are sudden or unusual changes in the tide and loud roaring noises (like a jet engine) from out at sea.

Once you have moved inland or to higher ground you should wait until you are advised it is safe to return.

## Regional and Distance Source Tsunami

Potentially 1-3 hours' notice of arrival

The primary warning style for a distally sourced tsunami is the Emergency Mobile Alert (EMA). The EMA is automatic location specific, phones compatible for the EMA will receive notifications without the need to sign up.

Secondary warning mechanisms are identified as informal warnings. They may also come from friends, family, colleagues, and other members of the public through this information may need to be verified.

## Official Warning Methods

**MetService:** <https://www.metservice.com/>

**Emergency Management Bay of Plenty (EMBOP):** <https://www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz/>

**National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA):** <https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/>

**Tauranga City Council:** <https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/>

**GEO Net (GNS):** <https://www.geonet.org.nz/>

**Emergency Mobile Alert-** <https://getready.govt.nz/prepared/stay-informed/emergency-mobile-alert/>

## Red Cross Hazard App



# Sending and receiving information in an emergency

## Method

Cell Phone
Email
Boat VHF Radio
Amateur Radio
Social Media

# Radio stations in an emergency

Station	Frequency
National Radio	101.0 FM 819 AM
Newstalk ZB	90.2 FM 1008AM
Classic Hits	90.5 FM
More FM	93.4 FM 104.2AM
Radio Live	1107 AM
Village Radio	1368 AM



# Members of the community that may need our help

## Group 1

### Aged Care Villages

Radius Matua, 124 Levers Road, Matua, Tauranga

Mitchell Court Rest Home, 228 Levers Road, Matua, Tauranga

The Bay View Care Centre, 163 Waihi Road, Judea, Tauranga

## Group 2

### Schools

Otumoetai Intermediate, 5 Charles Street, Bellevue, Tauranga

Otumoetai College, 105 Windsor Road, Bellevue, Tauranga

Pillans Point School, 101 Maxwells Road, Ōtūmoetai, Bureta

Bellevue Primary School, 20 Princess Road, Tauranga

Matua Primary School, 145 Levers Road, Matua, Tauranga

Ōtūmoetai Primary School, 236 Ōtūmoetai Road, Tauranga

Brookfield Primary School, 20 Millers Road, Brookfield, Tauranga

There are range of private childcare and kindergartens in the Ōtūmoetai and Matua community.

## Group 3

### Sporting Clubs

Ferguson Park- Large Groups of children gather for sports and leisure activities and are often away from parents on regular occasions.

## Group 4

### Neighbours

Connecting with your neighbours is a vital way of becoming prepared for an emergency. Understanding what their needs are and how you can help each other in an emergency could be lifesaving.

# Sign off procedure

This community-driven response plan is owned and developed by the community, it is not imposed by your local council or civil defence.

The plan is developed by representatives of stakeholder agencies and organisations within the community, who form a working group with the goal of completing and maintaining the plan. The process of developing the plan can be supported by an Emergency Management Advisor.

Ownership of the plan stays with the community, represented by the stakeholder group.

Once your Community Response Plan Group is happy with the plan, it is signed off by the Community Response Plan Group. You may also have your mayor or local councillor sign the document in support.

## Plan champions

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C3 City Church  
St. Columba Church  
Ōtūmoetai Baptist Church  
Ōtūmoetai Church of Christ  
Neighbourhood Support  
Matua Residents Association

## Local officials

Not applicable at this time. Once elected officials have been reinstated to Tauranga City Council, they will be made aware of the Ōtūmoetai and Matua Community Response Plan



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