

# Emergency Management

## Community Outcomes

Mana Tangata/Social Well-being – Safe, connected communities where people feel happy and proud of where we live.

## Why we do it

This activity ensures that the Council and our residents are prepared to respond to, and recover from, a major natural hazard or emergency event. An informed and prepared community is more able to adapt to significant unforeseen change and ensure the overall health and wellbeing of people are maintained.

## What we do

Part of our role involves ensuring we have the resources and information required to help the community respond to, and recover from, a natural disaster or emergency event. This activity includes our work with the Taranaki Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group, under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

The Taranaki Emergency Management Office (TEMO) is a shared service across the four councils in the Taranaki Region. Although TEMO is administered by New Plymouth District Council on behalf of the Region, it is funded by all four councils. To ensure we are ready to effectively respond to emergencies, our staff are trained by TEMO on how to manage and participate in an emergency response.

## Looking ahead

There are increasing risks from climate change for South Taranaki, particularly around severe weather events and increasing temperatures. We will work to help the community understand and plan for the impacts by identifying places, assets and communities likely to be threatened by these impacts. Another high risk for our District is the potential eruption of Mount Taranaki, which has been identified as one of the Taranaki Region's three hazards. Emergency events can occur at any time and in many circumstances, without any warning. Readiness and preparedness are critical to the local and regional emergency response in order to keep our communities safe.

Pandemic response and recovery is no longer a primary focus. Instead, keeping the District ready to respond to other types of civil defence emergencies is a top priority. However, the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the need to be prepared to cope with global health impacts, as we cannot assume our relative isolation will protect us.

We are having conversations with local iwi and hapū on what an emergency response looks like for our Council and Iwi partnership and how we can assist each other to better support our local communities. Emergency response plans are being created with high priority for our vulnerable communities to ensure emergency preparedness is achieved.

## Significant Negative Effects

Activity	Well-being	Significant Effect	Mitigation
Emergency response	Mana Tangata/Social Well-being	An event could cause significant damage to the environment, people's homes, health and/or livelihoods.	We contribute funding towards the operation of TEMO who are experienced and trained to coordinate a regional emergency response. We offer emergency response training for our staff, as well as creating emergency response plans for our communities in low lying or vulnerable areas.
Emergency response	Mana Oranga/Economic Well-being	Some emergency events can cause damage to our infrastructure. This can cause isolation, contamination to water and/or interruptions to water supply.  Certain events could damage or impact the ability for primary industries to operate and this could harm the economic wellbeing of our District.	We plan and design our infrastructure and services to be resilient to extreme weather events and other emergency situations. Where resilient infrastructure cannot be achieved, we prepare responses to ensure the safety of our communities through our Emergency Response staff.  We work with the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) during any emergency response events to ensure that the industry is being advocated for and managed appropriately.

## Key Projects

Description	Year	Total (\$)
Water resilience capability	Years 4, 5	\$66k
Generator plug in each LibraryPlus	Years 1, 2, 3	\$33k