



# RUSSELL CIVIL DEFENCE RESPONSE GROUP

## Accommodation Providers

### What You Need To Do

In a major tsunami event you will only get one chance at getting it right.

Planning for emergencies is a sensible precaution. A tsunami is a threat to you, your employees and your customers.

#### You need to:

- Understand the threats you may face.
- Make a plan to respond to a tsunami warning when it occurs .
- Practice for an event.

Your responsibility under the **Health and Safety and Employment Act 1992:**

“Both employers and employees have responsibilities under this legislation. Amongst other requirements employers must develop procedures for dealing with emergencies that may arise while employees are at work”. You also have a responsibility to your guests.

- In an event keep your plan simple.
- Tell people what they need to do.
- Practice your plan regularly.

When you hear of a tsunami threat or hear a siren do this:

1. Check what the level of threat is.
2. Turn on your TV to channel one or three
3. Turn on your radio:  
More FM Frequency 92.0 FM  
Classic Hits Frequency 106.1 FM  
Newstalk ZB Frequency 100.7 FM  
National Radio Frequency 981 AM & 101.5 FM
4. Check Russell Civil Defence Website (there may be information about the threat)
5. Contact Russell Civil Defence (last resort)
6. When you know what the threat is inform all members of staff and all customers.

#### Russell Civil Defence Contact

Russell Civil Defence Coordinator: John Moolenschot

Work: 09 403 7790  
Mobile: 021 372 912

Russell Civil Defence: Di Tito-Saliva  
Work: 09 403 7831  
Mobile: 021 238 7792

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## Evacuation Procedures

- Inform all staff and customers that evacuation is necessary.
- Prepare to move to ground higher than 35 metres above sea level. Queens View Rd, Gould St, Oneroa Rd are identified as safe areas.
- Take your getaway kit.
- Take a cell phone, radio and any essential items with you.
- If you have time, turn off the power and lock your premises.
- If you take your car and have room, take your employees and customers, if they wish to accompany you. In a major tsunami event, you will only get one shot at getting it right.
- Park your car as high as possible - others will be following behind you. Do not block the road.
- When safe call others to make sure they are aware of an evacuation order.

## Natural Warning Signs

If you are at work and experience or hear of any of the following:

Feel a strong earthquake that makes it hard to stand up, or a weak rolling earthquake that lasts a minute or more,

See a sudden rise or fall in sea level,

Hear loud and unusual noises from the sea,

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

**Priority:** Look after yourself and family first.

**You may never get an official warning.** Plan, practice and when necessary execute your own plan.

## Tsunami Warnings

Warning messages and signals about a possible tsunami can come from several sources – natural, official or unofficial.

### Natural warnings

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.

### Official warnings

Official warnings are only possible for distant and regional source tsunami. Official warnings are disseminated by the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management to the national media, local authorities and other key response agencies. Your local council may also issue warnings through local media, siren and other local arrangements.

### Unofficial or informal warnings

You may receive warnings from friends, other members of the public, international media and from the

internet. Verify the warning only if you can do so quickly. If official warnings are available, trust their message over informal warnings.

Unofficial media releases should be considered as a form of warning and individuals need to determine what actions they are going to take as a result of what they are hearing – even though an official warning has not been sent from the Ministry of Civil Defence.

## **Evacuation.**

**In a major tsunami event you will only get one chance at getting it right.**

- (1) If evacuation is required, the objective is to evacuate people in a timely, safe and effective way.
- (2) In emergencies evacuation must be considered when risks are too high and cannot be reduced.
- (3) Evacuation should take place only when the risk of staying is greater than the risk of shifting.
- (4) The type of evacuation is determined by the nature of the emergency and the circumstances of the people affected.

### **Types of evacuation**

- (1) Evacuation can be pre or post-event, voluntary or mandatory.
- (2) A pre-event evacuation occurs when the level of risk is uncertain and evacuation is recommended until the situation is contained.
- (3) Voluntary evacuation occurs when people choose to move, either without instructions or with instructions.
- (4) A mandatory evacuation takes place when the lead agency for the emergency directs that people must leave an area.

Evacuations can produce long-term negative effects such as causing psychological trauma; disrupting community cohesion, employment and economic continuity.

Therefore, evacuation is only undertaken as a last resort and done so in a well managed and organised manner.....**If you are told to evacuate.... take immediate action.**

This document is available for download from the Russell Civil Defence Website

<http://www.russellcivildefence.org/accommodation.pdf>