

August 2014

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It is hard to believe that 2014 is already half over. It's been a busy six months for Civil Defence Emergency Management in Taranaki with staff changes, a modified registration process at our Civil Defence Centres, changes to volcanic alert levels, some more success with Community Emergency Plans, and storms and flooding around the country.

## Introducing Ben

It is our pleasure to welcome the newest addition to the Taranaki Emergency Management Office, Ben Ingram, our new Emergency Management Officer. You may see Ben out in your community helping to develop community emergency plans in the region.

Ben grew up in New Plymouth and attended Francis Douglas Memorial College, but has spent the last 8 years in Wellington working as a Community Advisor for Wellington City Council.

Ben will also take on the role of Group Welfare Manager for

Taranaki in the Emergency Operations Centre. Ben's appointment in this additional role reflects the direction Civil Defence is taking with greater focus on welfare.



## GET READY NOW...

Make sure you have:

- ▶ Household emergency plan
- ▶ Emergency survival items
- ▶ Getaway Kit

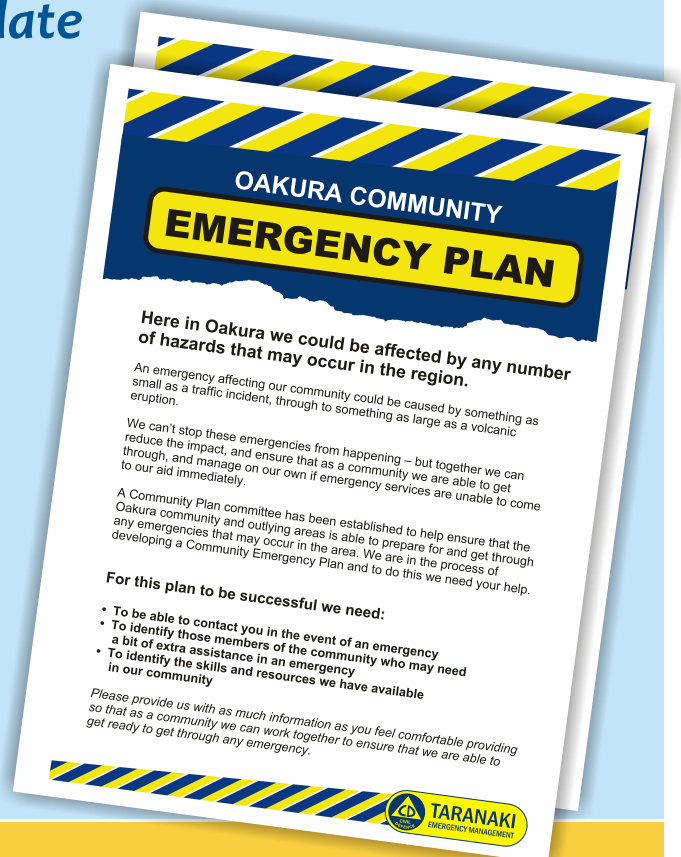


## Emergency plans update

We have re-engaged with our Community Emergency Planning Committees after our staff transitions and have met with the Oakura, Inglewood and Waverley committees over the last few months. We will be attending the next meetings at Urenui, Tikorangi and Patea. It has been great to see the progress that has been made within these communities and the many volunteer hours that have been put in thus far.

In Oakura, we have set a date for the next stage of the Community Emergency Plan – a table-top exercise to put the plan to the test. We have also developed a flyer (see right).

A tabletop exercise and a flyer will eventually be developed for each community that has an emergency plan.



**Civil Defence Emergency Management**  
**24 hours - 0800 900 049**

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**During work hours**

New Plymouth District callers **06 758 1110**

South Taranaki & Stratford districts **0800 900 049**

or you can email: [emo@trc.govt.nz](mailto:emo@trc.govt.nz)



## Change to Volcanic Alert Levels

The Volcanic Alert Level system, used by GNS Science and GeoNet to communicate volcanic activity in New Zealand, changed on 1 July 2014.

Under the new Volcanic Alert Level system there is only one system for all volcanoes in New Zealand (previously there were two) and there are now two levels of volcanic unrest, 'minor' and 'moderate to heightened'.

There is also additional information about the most likely hazards for each level of volcanic activity.

The number of levels in the new system remains unchanged, and ranges from 0 (no volcanic unrest) to 5 (major volcanic eruption). No changes have been made to the international Aviation Colour Code system. See diagram on the facing page.

## Changes to our contact system

During May and June, we transitioned to a new contact, training and equipment management system. This new system also allows us to send text and email messages to various groups of Emergency Operation Centre or Civil Defence Centre staff. We can now identify who requires training relevant to their role and what training they have attended. With this information we can set automatic triggers to notify us if we don't have enough trained or experienced staff for a specific role.

"With over 500 volunteer staff, liaisons and key contacts in the old system, we needed to find a better way to maintain both contact and training records," said Shane Briggs, Senior Emergency Management Officer.

"The new system will help us ensure that volunteer staff receive the right training and identify areas where we need to put in more effort to ensure we can respond effectively in an emergency."

## Welfare registration and training

On 1 July 2014, the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) introduced a new registration process for Civil Defence Centres. This means the Red Cross registration forms will no longer be used. The new process involves a comprehensive needs analysis covering food, clothing, health, cultural requirements, accommodation, financial assistance, social support and counselling, business, and animal assistance, which the previous form did not cover. This information will give the Emergency Operations Centre a more accurate picture of the overall community needs.

During June, Taranaki Civil Defence was out in the community on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, training our Civil Defence volunteers in the new process. The turnout to these trainings was not great – only approximately 6% of our Civil Defence Centre volunteers attended.

We are currently reviewing our model for managing Civil Defence Centres and volunteers to find ways to work more effectively and efficiently with them.



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# New Zealand Volcanic Alert Level System

	Volcanic Alert Level	Volcanic Activity	Most Likely Hazards
Eruption	5	Major volcanic eruption	Eruption hazards on and beyond volcano
	4	Moderate volcanic eruption	Eruption hazards on and near volcano
	3	Minor volcanic eruption	Eruption hazards near vent
Unrest	2	Moderate to heightened volcanic unrest	Volcanic unrest hazards, potential for eruption hazards
	1	Minor volcanic unrest	Volcanic unrest hazards
	0	No volcanic unrest	Volcanic environment hazards

**An eruption may occur at any level, and levels may not move in sequence as activity can change rapidly.**

**Eruption hazards** depend on the volcano and eruption style, and may include explosions, ballistics (flying rocks), pyroclastic density currents (fast moving hot ash clouds), lava flows, lava domes, landslides, ash, volcanic gases, lightning, lahars (mudflows), tsunamis, and/or earthquakes.

**Volcanic unrest hazards** occur on and near the volcano, and may include steam eruptions, volcanic gases, earthquakes, landslides, uplift, subsidence, changes to hot springs, and/or lahars (mudflows).

**Volcanic environment hazards** may include hydrothermal activity, earthquakes, landslides, volcanic gases, and/or lahars (mudflows).

**Ash, lava flow, and lahar (mudflow) hazards may impact areas distant from the volcano.**

*This system applies to all of New Zealand's volcanoes. The Volcanic Alert Level is set by GNS Science, based on the level of volcanic activity. For more information, see [geonet.org.nz/volcano](http://geonet.org.nz/volcano) for alert levels and current volcanic activity, [gns.cri.nz/volcano](http://gns.cri.nz/volcano) for volcanic hazards, and [getthru.govt.nz](http://getthru.govt.nz) for what to do before, during and after volcanic activity.*



To find out more information on the new Volcanic Alert Level system, visit the GeoNet website:  
<http://info.geonet.org.nz/display/volc/Volcanic+Alert+Levels>



## Auckland storm



**Storm**

Emergency services were kept busy in early June as winds gusted up to 170km/h across Auckland and brought down trees, cut power, damaged properties and smashed boats. Many homes and businesses were without power for 24 to 48 hours. At the height of the outages, about 70,000 premises were without power and many schools in Auckland were closed. Auckland emergency services received nearly 500 calls in a seven hour period.

Auckland Civil Defence Controller Clive Manly said the city was badly hit by the extreme winds which damaged a large number of trees.



Davies, 11, in front of the roof of his home which blew off in high winds at Wainui in the Rodney District.

## Northland flooding



**Flood**

The Northland Region experienced some severe flooding in early July 2014 which closed up to 44 roads,

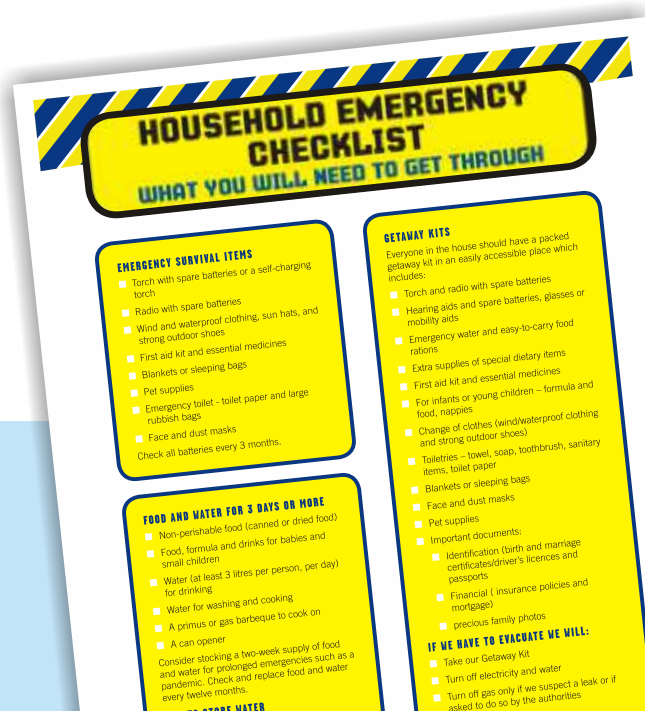
including State Highway 1. Surface flooding hit many towns including Moerewa, Kaitaia, Kawakawa and Kaeo. More than 300mm of rainfall fell in some parts of Northland within a few days.

There was widespread damage to farm buildings, fencing and infrastructure. The Northland Rural Support Trust (NRST) urged farmers in affected areas to move stock to higher ground. As many as 3600 homes were without electricity.

At times, local supermarkets in Northland became overwhelmed with people purchasing last minute supplies, and some supermarkets considered closing for staff safety during the extreme weather.



**These severe weather events serve as a reminder of the importance of personal preparedness, and having enough food, water and essential supplies for three days or more.**



Are you prepared for an emergency? Visit our website

**[www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz)**

**GET READY  
GET THRU**

