

McKee Park

WAIKAI

Community Response Plan



Southland has NO Civil Defence sirens

(fire brigade sirens are not used to warn of a Civil Defence emergency)

Please take note of natural warning signs as your first and best warning for any emergency.



Waikaia Community Response Plan 2020

Find more information on how you can be prepared for an emergency

www.cdsouthland.nz

If you'd like to become part of the Waikaia Community Response Group please email community@cdsouthland.nz

In the event of an emergency, communities may need to support themselves for up to **10 days** before assistance arrives.

Community Response Planning

The more prepared a community is, the more likely it is that the community will be able to look after themselves and others. This Plan contains a short demographic description of Waikaia, information about key hazards and risks, information about Community Emergency Hubs, where the community can gather and important contact information to help the community respond effectively. Members of the Waikaia Community Response Group have developed the information contained in this Plan and will be Emergency Management Southland's first point of community contact in an emergency.

Demographic details

Waikaia, previously known as Switzers is an old mining town in Northern Southland. It sits within the Mararoa-Waimea Ward of the Southland District.

The Waikaia area has always had a strong farming profile, however was originally a hub for gold mining and railway activities.

- Waikaia has a population of approximately 100;
- Waikaia is primarily an agricultural town, with employment in 'agriculture and forestry' being the largest industry, although tourism is growing in the area;
- Local tourism is a significant draw with Piano Flat situated north of the Waikaia township and is popular with families, fishermen, hunters and trampers;
- the township has no medical centre or pharmacy (the closest being Lumsden or Gore). The closest police and ambulance stations are in Riversdale, 24 km south of the township. There is a local fire brigade who are very active in the community;
- the broad geographic area for the Waikaia Community Response Plan includes Waikaia, Freshford, Wendonside, Waiparu, Piano Flat and the backcountry up Porters and Old Man Range, see map below for a more detailed indication;
- this is not to limit the area but to give an indication of the extent of the geographic district. Flexibility needs to be maintained considering that a specific disaster may render existing geographical boundaries irrelevant.

Hazard and Risk information

Potential hazards and risks for the Waikaia area include:

Flooding

- Waikaia has been affected historically by flooding, including the 1978 and 1984 floods with the Waikaia River running through the district. Bridges are vital infrastructure that also carry telecommunications, water and other services across rivers, these could also be impacted by flooding. Many areas in the community rely on bridges to connect with homes and employment, this leads to isolated communities.

Weather

- Heavy snow fall could impact on the delivery of essential goods to the region
- The geography and landscape of the Waikaia area can intensify the tunnelling effect of high winds and pose a significant hazard to those travelling and to buildings
- Heavy Rain can result in flooding and can trigger landslides
- The Waikaia area is a drought-prone area based on climate and soil type. This will affect the area with the demand for water to service the town, as well as local farming industry.

Earthquake

- The Fiordland region has frequent earthquakes and like much of the South Island, Waikaia would be affected during an Alpine Fault earthquake. The most likely impacts for the area would be loss of lifelines, causing isolation with damaged buildings, roads, likely loss of communications, water supply, sewage and power. It could cause changes to the natural environment creating slips and affecting roading and possibly affecting waterways and underground water sources.

Agricultural and biosecurity

- Waikaia plays a role in the agriculture community. With 1.5 million hectares of farmland in Northern Southland, any impacts to livestock or for land use could have major economic and health impacts especially around psychosocial impacts.

Pandemic

- The recent outbreak of COVID-19 has reinforced the risk of pandemic in New Zealand. This has a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of the community, as well as psychosocial impacts.

Identified potential vulnerable sub communities

- Schools: Waikaia (approx roll 25)
- Home based childcare providers
- Elderly in the community
- Rurally isolated people including migrant employees
- People with disabilities
- People with high risk medical conditions – the DHB can source this information if needed

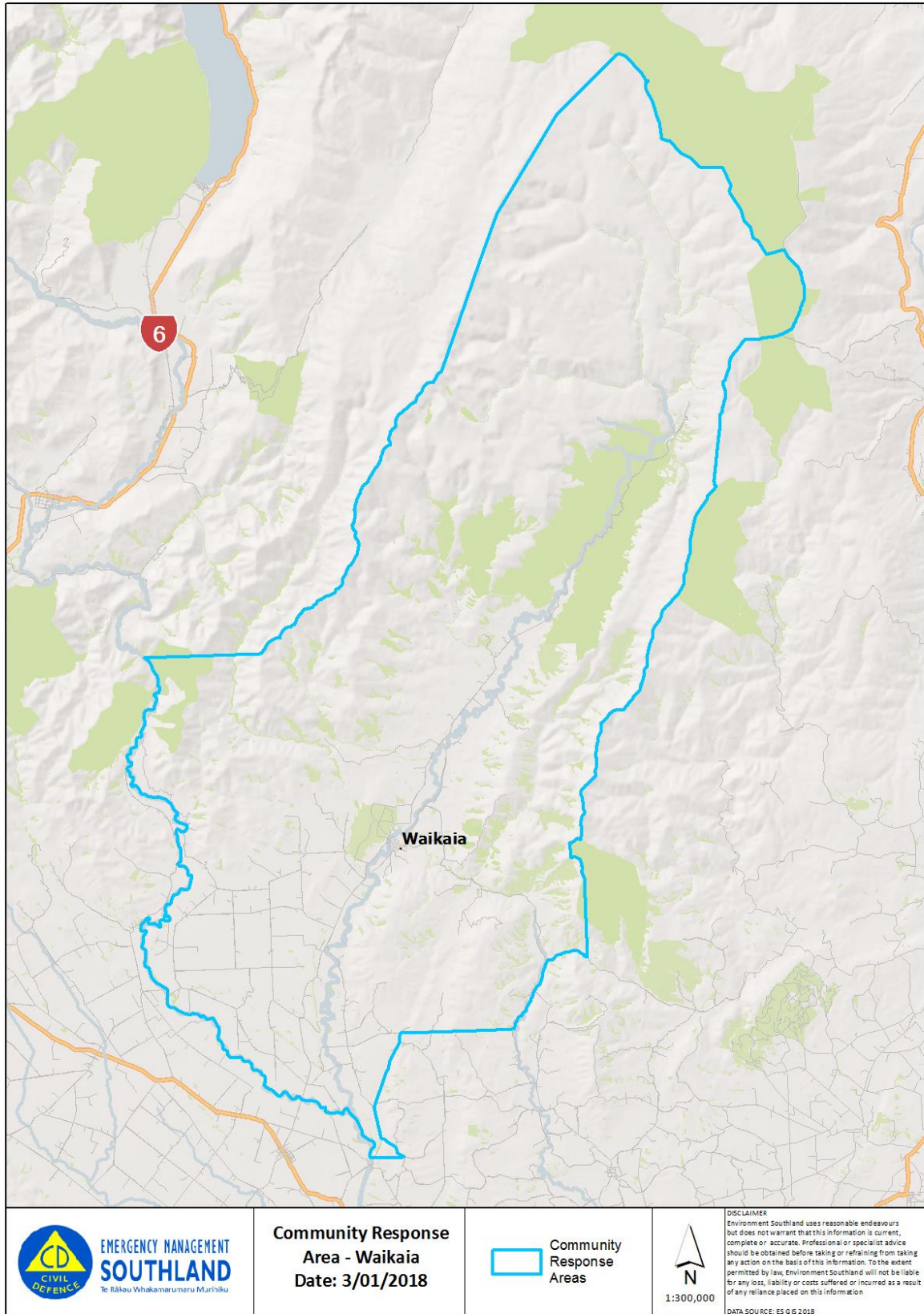


Figure 1: Waikaia Community Response Area

Community Emergency Hubs

Community Emergency Hubs provide pre-identified places where the community can gather in the event of an emergency. Not all Hubs will be suitable during an emergency and it is up to the community to decide at the time. It is possible that a new venue will need to be found, however the concept of a location where the community gather is vital during a response as people seek immediate support, shelter, comfort and information.

Each pre-determined location will be provided with a hub guide and be able to access advice from Emergency Management Southland if they require further information or support.

In the Waikaia area, Community Emergency Hub locations identified by the community are:

- Waikaia Community Centre, Wylam Street, Waikaia
- Waikaia Hotel, Blaydon Street, Waikaia
- Waikaia Fire Station, Newburn Street, Waikaia

Don't forget, if you are opening a hub it might pay to think about bringing some basics, such as:

- Water
- Tea and coffee
- Milk and biscuits
- Toilet paper
- First aid kits
- Torches



Figure 2: Waikaia Township

Key identified local resources

Building supplies

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Square Up Building	027 300 7780	jamie@squareupbuilding.co.nz
Waimea Building Ltd	027 261 6304	
Southernwide Building Ltd	03 203 9098	admin@southernwidebuilding.co.nz
Placemakers	03 209 0055	Gore

Water Supply and Plumbing

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Water Treatment Plant (SDC)	0800 732 732	Water and Waste Services Staff at SDC
North n South Plumbing and Drainage	0800 758 628	Lumsden
Austin Bros	03 202 5890	Riversdale

Southland District Council

Organisation	Phone	
Waikaia Library Book bus	0800 732 732	
SDC Office	03 248 7307	www.southlanddc.govt.nz
SDC Community Partner	027 573 5616	kelly.tagg@southlanddc.govt.nz
Ardlussa Community Board Chair Richard Clarkson	027 544 2220	joelarkson@netspeed.net.nz
Southland District Council Ward Councillor	0800 732 732	Rob.scott@southlanddc.govt.nz

Electrical Services

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Added Energy Ltd	0800 586 7336	Lumsden
Area South Electrical Ltd	0274 445 844	
Austin Bros	03 202 5890	Riversdale
PowerNet	0800 808 587	

Schools, Rest home, Medical and Community Organisations

Organisation	Phone	Other details	
Waikaia School	03 2027729		office@waikaia.school.nz
Waikaia Playgroup	027 2099 444	Jenna Orpwood	
Waikaia Plunket	027 243 7920	June Dean	
Gore Medical Centre	03 208 9222		Gore

Additional resources

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Waikaia Store, Café and Post Office	03 202 7818	37 Blaydon St, Waikaia
Waikaia Hotel	03 202 7821	38 Blaydon St, Waikaia
Switzers Museum	020 4121 0180	Blaydon St, Waikaia

Community Response Group Contact lists

Emergency Management Southland

Duty Advisor		0800 76 88 45	ems@cdsouthland.nz
Community Advisor		0800 76 88 45	community@cdsouthland.nz

Key local emergency service contacts

For urgent matters please dial 111

Police	Riversdale Police	03 202 4140	111/105	
Fire	Jamie Deans	03 202 7850	111/105	
St John	Jan Douglas	03 203 8465	111/105	

Community Emergency Hub key holders

Waikaia Recreation Centre	David McKee	027 442 4904
Waikaia Hotel	Wendy Jayne Williamson	032027821

Community Response Group Members

Ray & Mairi Dickson			
Lyn Brown			
Lindsay Brown			
Louise Ferguson			
Neville Sharp			
Dave Williams			
Brent Mouat			
Kathy Wilson			
Alwyn McCurdy			
Anita Williamson			
Karen Skevington			
Candace & Crosbie Grieve			
John McCurdy			
Jeanne Dyer			
Robyn Sage			
Phil Payne			

Krystal Turnbull			
Helen Christie			
Chris Waples			
Linda Waples			
Shirley Walker			
Janet McKee			
Doreen Jones			
Joan Hayward			
Paul Collins			



Figure 3: Waikāia Flood Map

Community Response Groups into Recovery

Community Response Groups will be vital during the recovery of a community. They will be able to act as a connection between the community and the recovery team. They will have key local knowledge and understand the effects of decisions on the local community. They will be able to identify areas of the most importance to the community and suggest ways to work towards the communities' end goals. The process around community recovery will be described in greater depth in the Southland Recovery Plan.