



ATHOL

Community Response Plan



Athol Community Response Plan 2022

If you would like to become part of the Athol Community Response Group or have any questions, please email ems@cdsouthland.nz

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 the Athol area, 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 Athol Community Response Group have developed the information contained in this plan and will be Emergency Management Southland's first points of community contact in an emergency.

Community Response Groups into Recovery

Community Response Groups will be vital during the recovery of a community. They will be able 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 and will be able to identify areas of 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 which can be found on our website.

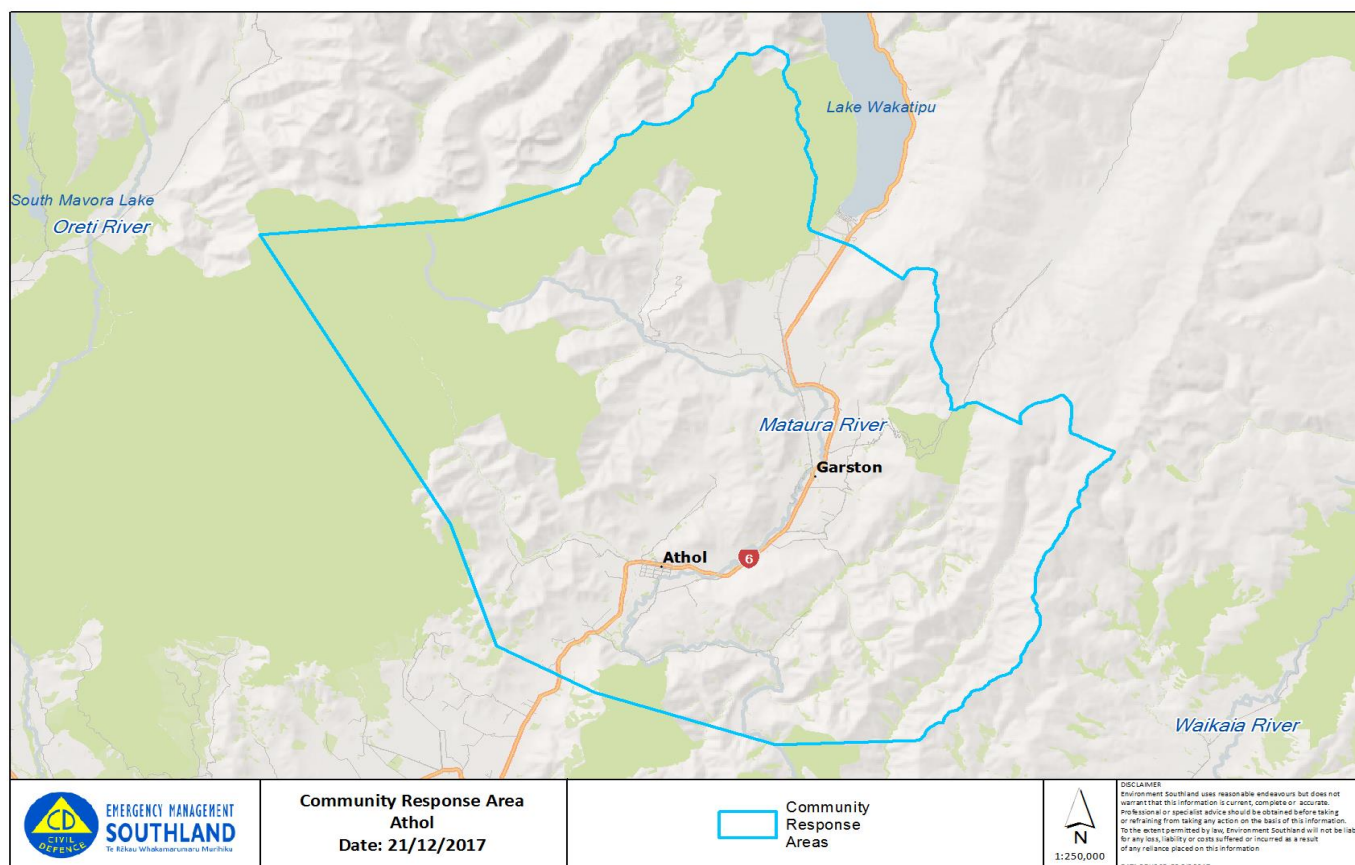


Figure 1: Athol Community Response Area

Demographic details

Athol and Garston are agricultural towns in northern Southland. The area sits within the Mararoa-Waimea Ward of the Southland District. The Athol area has always had a strong farming profile but was originally a hub for gold mining activities.

- Athol and Garston both have populations of approximately 130 combined. The towns service a total population of about 1500.
- Athol and Garston are primarily agricultural support towns with employment in 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' being the largest industry, but tourism is fast growing in the area due to proximity with Queenstown and Fiordland.
- Tourism for the area is significant with Athol and Garston being stopping points for tourists traveling between Te Anau and Queenstown as well as Invercargill and Queenstown. The Around the Mountain Cycle Trail which goes through Athol and Garston is also popular with tourists.
- Athol and Garston have no medical centre or pharmacy with the closest being Lumsden or Queenstown. The closest police and ambulance stations are also in Lumsden and Queenstown. There are two local fire brigades, Athol and Garston, who are very active in the community.
- The broad geographic area for the Athol Community Response Plan includes Athol, Garston, Nokomai, Parawa, and Mid Dome, and the backcountry up to Jane Peak, see map on previous page 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.

Identified potential vulnerable sub communities

- Schools: Garston School (approx. roll 38)
- 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.

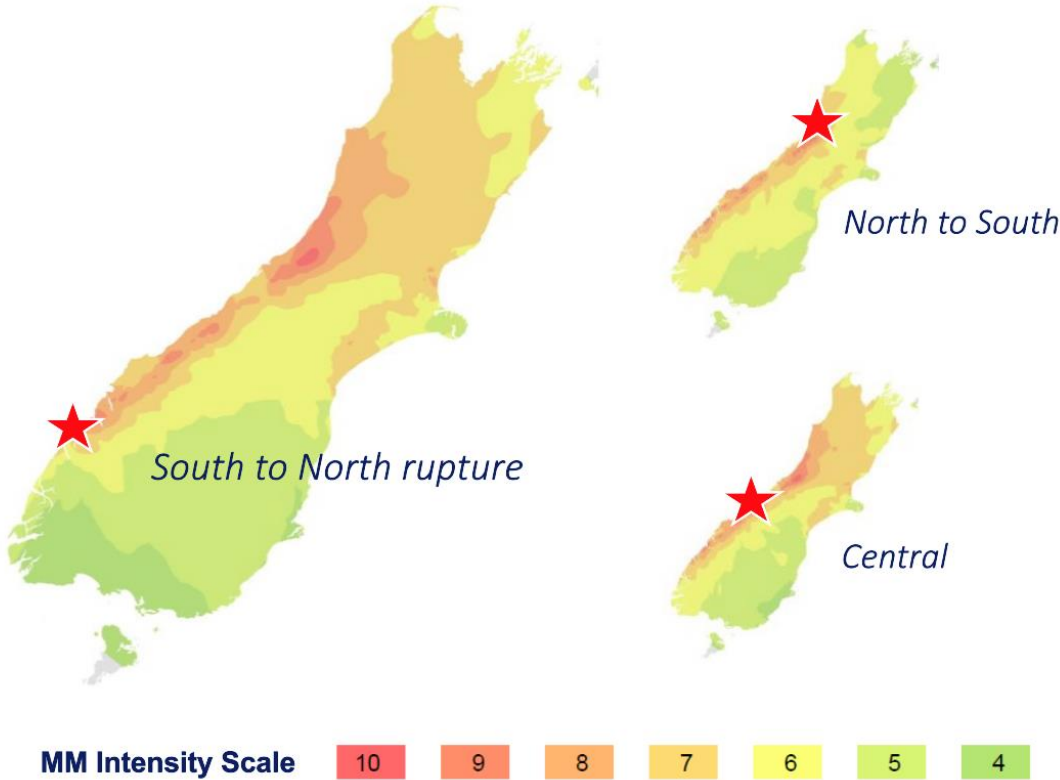


Hazard and Risk information

Potential hazards and risks for the Athol area include:

Earthquake

- The Fiordland region has frequent earthquakes and like much of the South Island, Athol and Garston would be affected during an Alpine Fault earthquake. Scientists have said there is a 75% chance of it happening in the next 50 years along with an 82% chance it will be magnitude 8 or larger. The most likely impacts for the area would be loss of lifelines causing isolation, damaged buildings, damaged 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. Additionally, recent research on the Nevis Fault (running between Wanaka and Garston) indicates that it can produce large earthquakes (magnitude 7 range).



Images: Conrad Zorn. Based on Brendon Bradley et al. (2016)

Fig 2: Estimated ground movement intensity based on a Magnitude 8 Alpine Fault earthquake

Agricultural and biosecurity

- Athol and Garston play 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.

Flooding

- Athol and Garston have been affected historically by flooding, including the 1978, 1984, and 2020 floods with the Mataura 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.



Fig 3: Athol Potential Flooding Zone



Fig 4: Garston Potential Flooding Zone

Weather

- Heavy snow fall could impact on the ability of tourists to travel and the delivery of essential goods to the region.
- The geography and landscape of the Athol and Garston 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 Athol and Garston 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.

Road Infrastructure damage

- Athol and Garston are situated on State Highway 6 and is a main thoroughfare for tourists traveling between Te Anau and Queenstown as well as Invercargill and Queenstown. The town provides industry and goods to surrounding areas. Anything that may impact the delivery of goods to service the area needs to be considered.

In the event of an emergency, communities may need to support themselves for up to **10 days** before assistance arrive. Think about what you need to support yourself both at home and away from home if you need to evacuate.

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, but 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 Athol area, Community Emergency Hub locations identified by the community are:

- Athol Community Hall, 25 Athol Five Rivers Highway, Athol
- Athol Rugby Club
- The Athol Shop

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

- Water
- Tea, coffee, milk
- Food
- Toilet paper
- First aid kits
- Blankets
- Torches
- Lighters
- BBQ
- Lighting
- Generators
- Your community VHF radio which is stored at the Athol Fire Station
- You can place messages on the Highway sign for example "Athol Hub- Go to Community Hall". Letters to be collected from the Brown Trout.



Fig. 5 Athol Aerial



Fig. 6 Garston Aerial

Key identified local resources

Building supplies

Organisation	Phone	Other details
MacGregor Brothers Building	027 963 5055	
Stalker Building Ltd	027 463 8685	
Jamie Fraser	027 863 7780	

Water Supply and Plumbing

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Water Treatment Plant (SDC)	0800 732 732	Water and Waste Services Staff at SDC
Southern Land and Water Planning Ltd	027 424 6129, 027 505 0077	

Electrical Services

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Added Energy Ltd	0800 586 7336	Lumsden
Area South Electrical Ltd	0274 445 844	Athol (Warren)

Southland District Council

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Water Treatment Plant (SDC)	0800 732 732	Water and Waste Services Staff at SDC
Lumsden Public Library	0800 732 732	
SDC Office	03 248 7307	www.southlanddc.govt.nz
	0800 732 732	
SDC Community Partner		kelly.tagg@southlanddc.govt.nz
Southland District Council Councillor	0800 732 732	John.douglas@southlanddc.govt.nz Robin.scott@southlanddc.govt.nz Ebel.kremer@southlanddc.govt.nz

Schools, Rest home, Medical and Community Organisations

Organisation	Phone	Other details	
Garston School	03 248 8802	1705 SH 6, Garston	admin@garston.school.nz
			A/H Bernie McNab
Wakatipu Medical Centre	03 442 2288	11 McBride St, Frankton	
Lumsden Medical Centre	03 248 7146	58 Garden St, Lumsden	

Additional resources

Organisation	Phone	Other details
The Lodge and Holiday Park		24 Avon St, Athol (Pam and Beccs)
ChargeNet Charging Station		1121 Garston-Athol Highway, Athol
The Athol Shop		1158 Garston-Athol Highway, Athol
The Honey Shop		5 Garston-Athol Highway, Garston
The Coffee Bomb		4 Garston-Athol Highway, Garston
Mataura Lodge		1129 Garston Athol Highway, Athol

Community Response Group Contact lists

Emergency Management Southland

Duty Advisor	03 211 5411	0800 76 88 45	ems@cdsouthland.nz
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Key local emergency service contacts

For urgent matters please dial 111

Police	Will McKercher	03 248 9089		
Police	Andrew Crawford	03 248 9089		
Police	Todd Hollebon (SGT)	03 248 9089		
Fire	Rob Durling			
St John	Debbie Blatch	03 203 8465		

Community Emergency Hub key holders

Athol Hall	Roslyn Shepherd	
	Esmay Raynes	
The Athol Shop		
Athol Rugby Club	Ian Clark	

Community Response Group Members

August 2022

Rob Durling			
Maurice King			
Dave Raynes			
Kylie Sutton			
Graham Peterson			
Graeme Howie			
Deb Howie			
Matthew Tayler			
Jason Aitkens			
Scott Ferguson			
Katie O'Brien			
Deirdre McDonald			
Esmay Raynes			
Tabatha Davison			
Matt Wallis			
Jane Ainscow			
Lee Frampton			
Andy Huntley			
Rashid Jam			
Deb Grace			
Moya Flancman			



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Southland has NO Civil Defence sirens

Please take note of natural warning signs as your first and best warning for any emergency. Fire Brigade sirens are not used to warn of Civil Defence emergencies