



# RIVERSDALE

## 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.



Riversdale Community Response Plan 2020

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

[www.cdsouthland.nz](http://www.cdsouthland.nz)

If you'd like to become part of the Riversdale Community Response Group  
please email [community@cdsouthland.nz](mailto: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 Riversdale, 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 Riversdale 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.

## Demographic details

Riversdale is a small town located in the Waimea Plains between the Hokonui Hills and the Mataura River.

- Riversdale has a population of approximately 500.
- Riversdale is mainly an agricultural support town; it has many businesses which cater to the rural sector.
- Riversdale is located on the main road between Gore and Te Anau, many tourists travelling to Milford Sound travel along this road and many Riversdale businesses cater to these tourists. It is also the turnoff point for tourists exploring the Waikaia and Piano Flat areas;
- the town has no medical centre or pharmacy (closest being Lumsden or Gore). There is a police and ambulance station in Riversdale and a local fire brigade who are all very active in the community;
- the broad geographic area for the Riversdale Community Response Plan includes Riversdale, and Longridge, 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 Riversdale area include:

### Flooding

- Riversdale has been affected historically by flooding, including the 1959, 1978 and 1984 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.

### Weather

- Heavy snow fall could impact on the delivery of essential goods to the region.
- The geography and landscape of the Riversdale 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 Riversdale 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

- Fiordland region has frequent earthquakes and like much of the South Island, Riversdale 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

- Riversdale plays a role in the agricultural 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.

## Identified potential vulnerable sub communities

- Schools: Riversdale Primary (approx. roll 100), Riversdale Kindergarten (approx. roll 40), Riversdale Playcentre (approx. roll 40);
- 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.

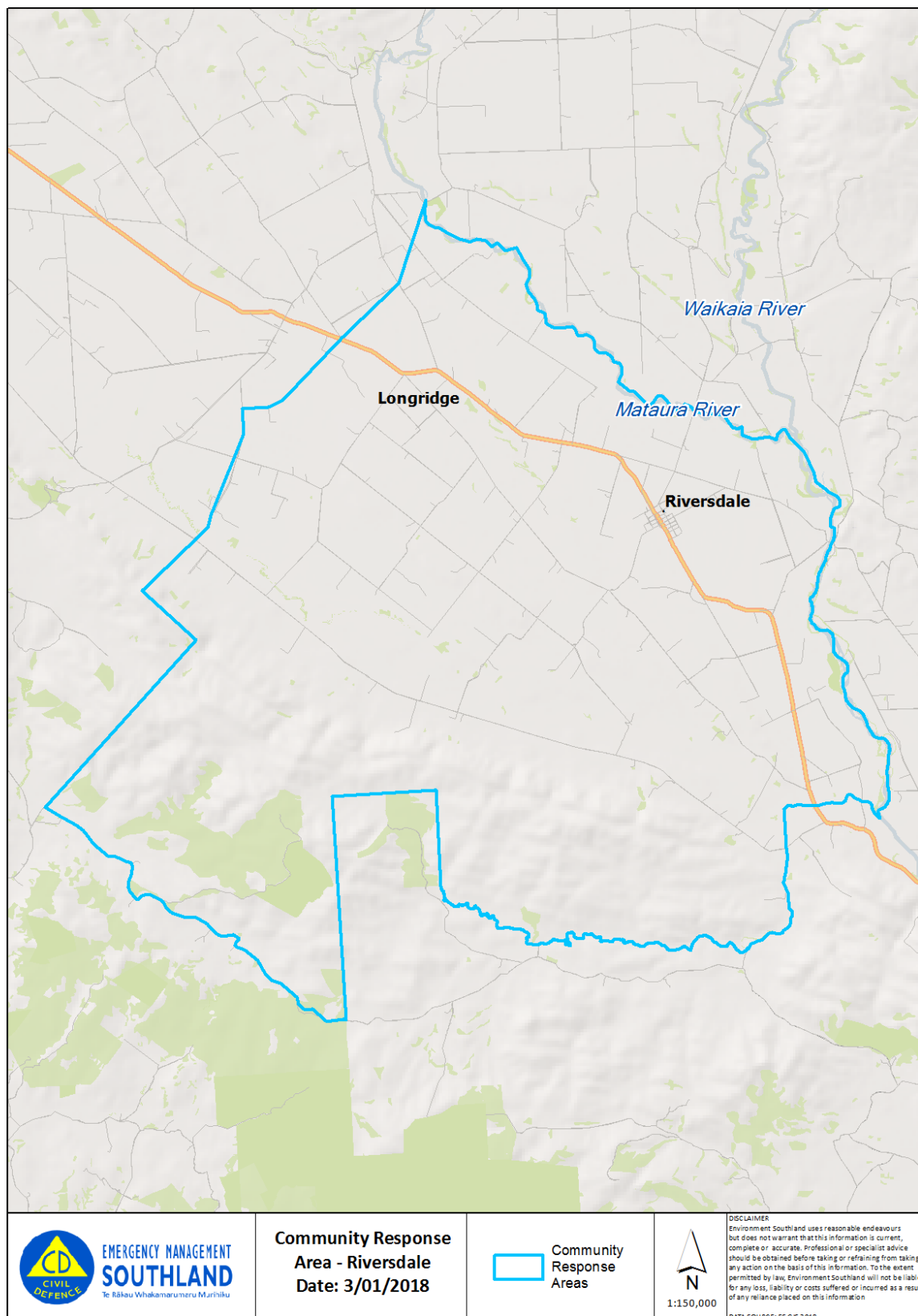


Figure 1: Riversdale Community Response Area

## 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, 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 Riversdale area, Community Emergency Hub locations identified by the community are:

- Riversdale Community Centre;
- Riversdale Rugby Club;

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
- Blankets



Figure 2: Riversdale Township

## Key identified local resources

### Building supplies

Organisation	Phone	Other details
G Kay Building		

### Water Supply and Plumbing

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Water Treatment Plant (SDC)	0800 732 732	Water and Waste Services Staff at SDC
100% Austin Brothers	03 202 5890	Newcastle Street, Riversdale
North n South Plumbing and Drainage	0800 758 628	Lumsden

## Southland District Council

Organisation	Phone	
SDC Office	03 248 7307	www.southlanddc.govt.nz
SDC Community Partner	027 573 5616	kelly.tagg@southlanddc.govt.nz
Southland District Council Ward Councillor	0800 732 732	rob.scott@southlanddc.govt.nz 021609567

## Electrical Services

Organisation	Phone	Other details
100% Austin Brothers	03 202 5890	Newcastle Street, Riversdale
Added Energy Ltd	0800 586 7336	Lumsden
Connor & Fitzpatrick Betta Electrical	03 208 6741	Gore

## Schools, Rest home, Medical and Community Organisations

Organisation	Phone	Other details	
Riversdale School	03 202 5814	Rutland Street, Riversdale 9744	
Riversdale Playcentre	027 217 0664	Newcastle Street, Riversdale 9744	
Riversdale Arts	027 672 2600	Newcastle Street, Riversdale 9744	
Riversdale Rugby Club	03 202 5405	Lincoln Street, Riversdale 9776	
Riversdale Golf Course		Berwick Street, Riversdale 9744	
Funshine	03 202 5065	Chester Street, Riversdale 9776	

## Additional resources

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Riversdale Supermarket	03 202 5882	Newcastle Street, Riversdale 9744
Riversdale Hotel	03 202 5841	Newcastle Street, Riversdale 9744
McClintock Contracting Ltd	03 202 5787	Newcastle Street, Riversdale 9776
Andrews Transport Ltd	03 201 6060	Waimea Highway, Southland
Riversdale Joinery Ltd	03 202 5527	Liverpool Street, Riversdale 9776
Waipounamu & Waimea Contracting Ltd	03 202 5737	Riversdale-Waikaia Road, Riversdale 9776
Ballance Riversdale Consignment Store	03 202 4040	Berwick Street, Riversdale
Riversdale Challenge Petrol Station	03 202 5782	Newcastle Street, 9776
Riversdale Meats	03 202 5717	Newcastle Street, 9776
100% Austin Brothers	03 202 5890	Newcastle Street, Riversdale
Takeaway Store		
High Country Helicopters	03 202 4042	0800 206 500
David Stevenson Auto	03 202 5345	0274373631

## 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		111/105	
Fire	David Stevenson		111/105	
St John	Jan Douglas		111/105	

### Community Emergency Hub key holders

Riversdale Community Centre	Dave and Erin Hurley	
Riversdale Community Centre	Lesley Clarke	
Riversdale Rugby Club	Garth Lindsay	

### Community Response Group Members

Roger Kidd			
David and Sandy Stevenson			
Hilary Kelso			
Richard Clarkson			
David Hurley			
Tania Good			
Adrian and Isabell Frei			
Jared Conn			
Barry Winwood			
Mick Stevenson			



*Figure 3: Riversdale 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.