



# RIVERSDALE

## Community Response Plan





## Riversdale Community Response Plan 2022

### 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 Riversdale 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 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.

### 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.

If you would like to become part of the Riversdale Community Response Group or have any questions, please email [ems@cdsouthland.nz](mailto:ems@cdsouthland.nz)

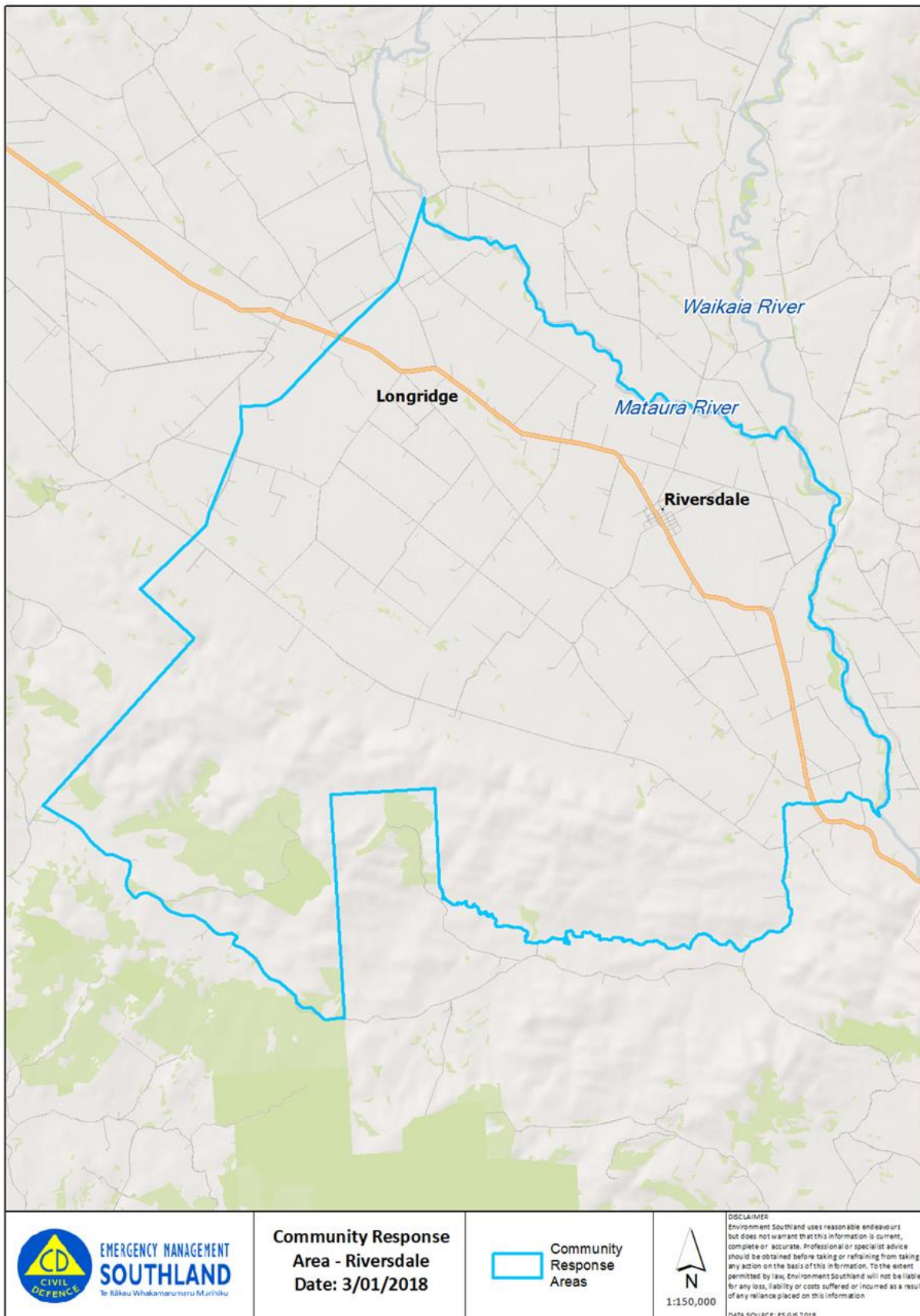


Figure 1: Riversdale Community Response Area

## 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 above 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: 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.



## 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, and 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. 2: Riversdale Potential Flooding Zone

### 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.

### Agricultural and biosecurity

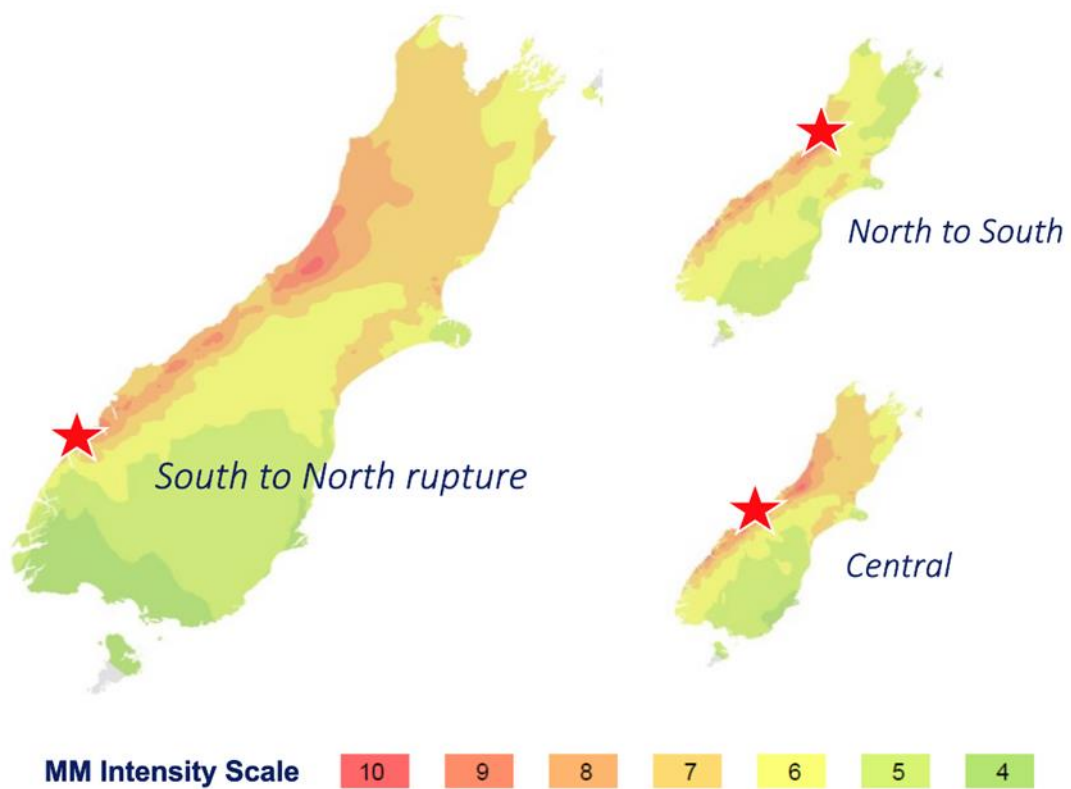
- Riversdale plays a role in the agricultural community. With 1.5 million hectares of farmland in Northern Southland, any impacts to livestock or for land use could have major economic and health impacts especially around psychosocial.

### Road Infrastructure damage

- Riversdale is situated on State Highway 94 between Gore and Lumsden. The town is a thoroughfare for tourists and provides industry and goods to surrounding areas. Anything that may impact the delivery of goods to service the area needs to be considered.

## 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.



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

Fig 3: Estimated ground movement intensity based on a Magnitude 8 Alpine Fault earthquake

## 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
- Lighters
- BBQ
- Lighting
- Generators
- Your community VHF radio which is stored at the Riversdale Fire Station

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.



Fig 4: Riversdale Aerial



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## Key identified local resources

### Building supplies

Organisation	Phone	Other details
G Kay Building	03 202 5322	

### 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
Laser Plumbing	03 208 6299	Gore

### Southland District Council

Organisation	Phone	
SDC Office	03 248 7307	<a href="http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz">www.southlanddc.govt.nz</a>
	0800 732 732	
SDC Community Partner		
Southland District Council Ward Councillor	0800 732 732	

### 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		Newcastle Street, Riversdale 9744	
Riversdale Arts		Newcastle Street, Riversdale 9744	
Riversdale Rugby Club		Lincoln Street, Riversdale 9776	
Riversdale Golf Course		Berwick Street, Riversdale 9744	
Funshine		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	03 202 5044	Waimea Highway, Southland
		Dave Duffy
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
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	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	Riversdale Police		111/105	1 Lincoln Street, Riversdale
	Riversdale Police	Eric Browne		
Fire	Mick Stevenson			
St John	Debbie Blatch			

### Community Emergency Hub key holders

Riversdale Community Centre	Dave and Erin Hurley	
Riversdale Rugby Club	Dave Hurley	
	James McKeown	
	Shaun O'Connor	

### Community Response Group Members

David Hurley			
Mick Stevenson			
David and Sandy Stevenson			
Hilary Kelso			
Richard Clarkson			
Shona Welsh			
Roger Kidd			
Adrian and Isabell Frei			
Jared Conn			
Barry Winwood			
Wolfgang Hainzl			
Garth Lindsay			
James McKeown			
Wayne Shirley			
Dave Duffy			



Southland has **NO** Civil Defence sirens

Fire brigade sirens are not used to warn of a civil defence emergency so please take note of natural warning signs as your first and best warning for any emergency.