



# ATHOL

## Community Response Plan



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
**SOUTHLAND**  
Te Rākau Whakamarumaru Murihiku

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.



Athol 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 Athol 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 arrive.

## 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.

### Demographic details

Athol and Garston are agricultural support towns in northern Southland. It 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 100 respectively. The towns services a total population of about 1500;
- Athol and Garston are primarily an agricultural support town with employment in 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' being the largest industry but tourism is fast growing in the area;
- tourism for the town is significant with Athol and Garston being a stopping point for tourist traveling between Te Anau and Queenstown as well as Invercargill and Queenstown. The Around the Mountain Cycle Trail which goes through Athol and Garston which is very popular with tourists;
- the town has no medical centre or pharmacy (closest being Lumsden or Queenstown). The closest police and ambulance stations are in Lumsden and Queenstown. There is local fire brigade who are very active in the community;
- the broad geographic area for the Athol Community Response Plan includes Athol, Garston, Nokomai, Parawa, and Mid Done, and the backcountry up to Jane Peak, 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 Mossburn area include:

### Earthquake

- Fiordland region has frequent earthquakes and like much of the South Island, Athol and Garston 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.

### Flooding

- Athol and Garston have been affected historically by flooding, including the 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 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## 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.

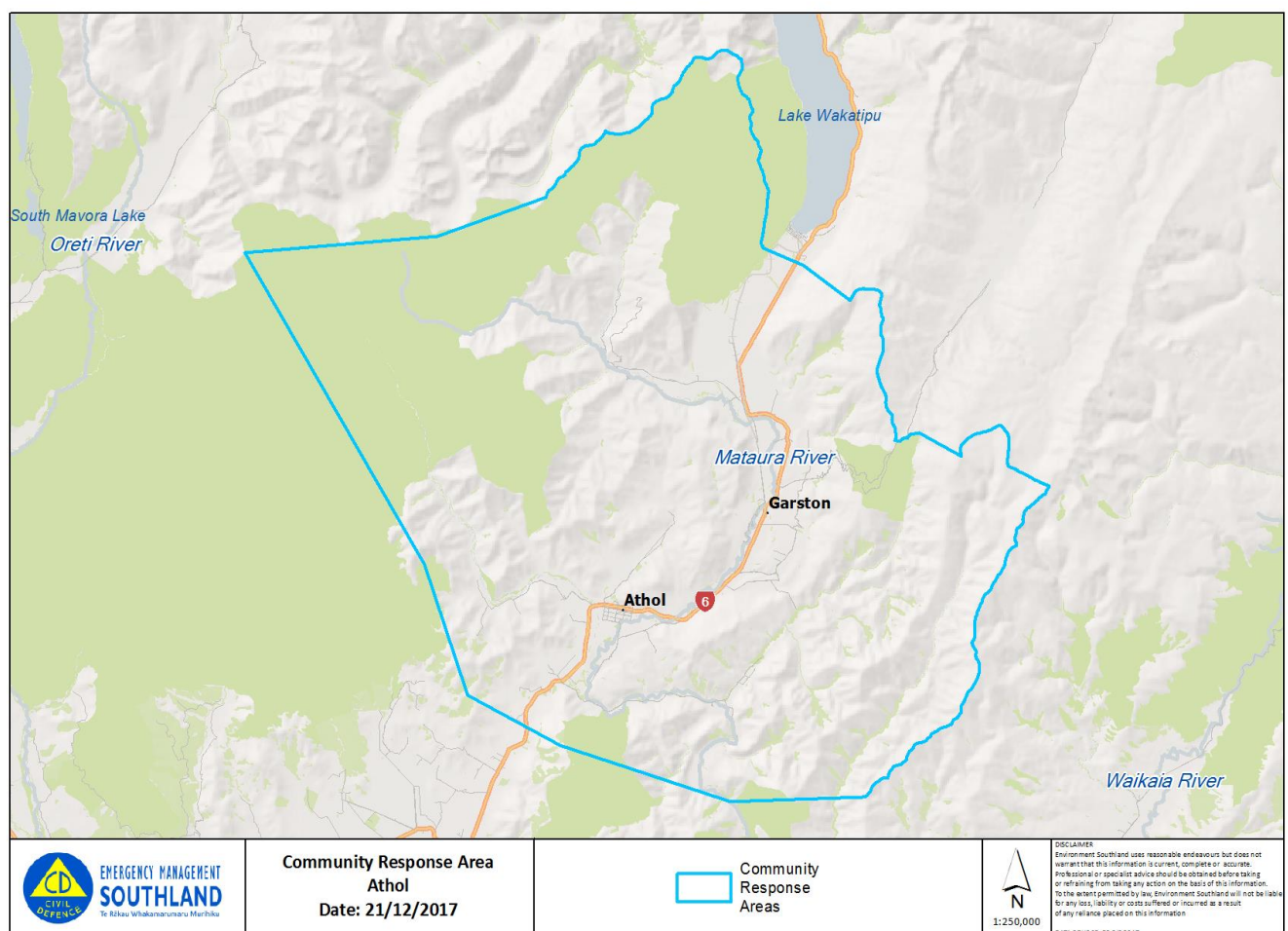


Figure 1: Athol Community Response Area

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

- Athol Community Hall, 25 Athol Five Rivers Highway, Athol
- Athol Rugby Club
- The Hide Café, 4 Athol-Five Rivers Hwy, Athol
- Garston Hotel and Café, SH6, 8 Garston-Athol Highway, Garston

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: Athol Township

## 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
North n South Plumbing and Drainage	0800 758 628	Lumsden
Southern Land and Water Planning Ltd	027 424 6129, 027 505 0077	

### Southland District Council

Organisation	Phone	
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	<a href="http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz">www.southlanddc.govt.nz</a>
SDC Community Partner	027 573 5616	<a href="mailto:kelly.tagg@southlanddc.govt.nz">kelly.tagg@southlanddc.govt.nz</a>
Southland District Council Councillor	0800 732 732	<a href="mailto:John.douglas@southlanddc.govt.nz">John.douglas@southlanddc.govt.nz</a> <a href="mailto:Rob.scott@southlanddc.govt.nz">Rob.scott@southlanddc.govt.nz</a> <a href="mailto:Ebel.kremer@southlanddc.govt.nz">Ebel.kremer@southlanddc.govt.nz</a>

### Electrical Services

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

### Schools, Rest home, Medical and Community Organisations

Organisation	Phone	Other details	
Garston School	03 248 8802	1705 SH 6, Garston	<a href="mailto:admin@garston.school.nz">admin@garston.school.nz</a>
Wakatipu Medical Centre	03 442 2288	11 McBride St, Frankton	
Lumsden Medical Centre	03 248 7146	58 Garden St, Lumsden	





*Figure 3: Athol Arial Map*



## Additional resources

Organisation	Phone	Other details
The Lodge and Holiday Park	021 184 5444	24 Avon St, Athol
Garston Hotel and Cafe	03 248 8820	8 Garston-Athol Highway, Garston
ChargeNet Charging Station	0800 224 274	1121 Garston-Athol Highway, Athol
The Hide Café and Carden Bar	03 248 8859	4 Athol-Five Rivers Highway, Athol
Brown Trout Café	03 248 8847	1158 Garston-Athol Highway, Athol
The Honey Shop	03 248 8507	5 Garston-Athol Highway, Garston
The Coffee Bomb	027 292 6660 027 419 6502	4 Garston-Athol Highway, Garston



Figure 4: Garston Township

## Community Response Group Contact lists

### Emergency Management Southland

Duty Advisor	03 211 5411	0800 76 88 45	ems@cdsouthland.nz
Community Advisor	03 211 5408	03 211 5404	community@cdsouthland.nz

## Key local emergency service contacts

For urgent matters please dial 111

Police	David Leach			
Police	Andrew Crawford			
Police	Tod Hollebon (SGT)			
Fire	Rob Durling			
St John	Jan Douglas			

## Community Emergency Hub key holders

Athol Community Centre	Debbie Grace	
Garston Hotel and Cafe	Alex O'Driscoll	
The Hide Café		
Athol Rugby Club	Mariette Geldenhuys	

## Community Response Group Members

Deb Grace			
Rob Durling			
Kylie Sutton			
Dave Raynes			
Tabatha Davison			
Matt Wallis			
Esmay Raynes			
Graham Peterson			
Jane Ainscow			
Graeme Howie			
Moya Flancman			
Deb Howie			
Mathew Taylor			
Gerald Pearse			
Jason Aitkens			
Scott Ferguson			
Maurice King			
Mariette Geldenhuys			
Len Geldenhuys			
Phil Parker			
Deirdre McDonald			
Katie O'Brian			



*Figure 5: Athol Flood Map*



*Figure 6: Garston Flood Map*

## 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. 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.