

Community Resilience

Despite the number of significant large scale emergencies in New Zealand, community resilience is declining for a range of reasons. Some communities are more resilient than others, but increased reliance on technology, shifts in cultural diversity and population increases without support systems in place are some reasons for communities being less resilient than others. Elected representatives can make a significant difference in building community resilience by:

- ▶ promoting and encouraging the preparation of community resilience and recovery plans
- ▶ using local knowledge to identify community groups and partners who may be able to play a role during response and recovery
- ▶ actively engaging with community members and managing resident expectations
- ▶ reviewing emergency plans
- ▶ supporting priorities to strengthen community connectedness.



DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA



Elected Members: What you need to do **BEFORE** an Emergency



Risk Reduction

Reducing the risk from hazards falls within the remit of many pieces of legislation, many of which are discharged through local government (i.e. CDEM Act; Building Act; Local Government Act and the Resource Management Act) alongside many regulations and policies. Managing risks aims to avoid creating new risk and to mitigate existing risk. Local government regularly seeks to determine with its communities what an acceptable level of risk is.



Personal Preparedness

Each elected representative should first ensure their own safety and that of their family during an emergency. Elected representatives have key roles during an emergency which may mean long hours away from the family and this should be considered when making your family plan.

Think about how you can ensure your family is well prepared and supported during an emergency as this could be a stressful time.

➤ For more information on how to plan for an emergency, please visit <https://getready.govt.nz/>

Where ever practical elected representatives should contribute to planning and participate in exercises or training held by your council or Group Emergency Management Office to ensure you are familiar with what might be expected of you during a response.

Business Continuity

Under the CDEM Act, local authorities have a responsibility to ensure that normal business functions are maintained to the fullest extent possible during and after an emergency – in addition to responding to the emergency. Elected representatives should assure themselves that council has robust business continuity plans in place that protect critical business functions while also enabling resource to support the response.



Emergency Management Capacity

Elected representatives should understand the level of emergency management capacity and capability that is needed for the CDEM Group (and its member local authorities) to effectively reduce hazard risk, plan and prepare for an emergency (including key appointments such as Controllers, Recovery Managers, Welfare Managers and other key response roles), and recover from the effects of an emergency. Although this is a function of the CDEM Joint Committee, all elected representatives should understand local emergency management arrangements.

