

Foxtton Beach School Tsunami Evacuation Plan



Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to inform staff of what actions are required in the event of a tsunami warning being issued that may impact the Foxton Beach Community, to ensure the safety of students and staff of the Foxton Beach School.

This plan is also to be used to assure parents of students that staff will undertake actions to keep their children safe and not to come to the school to evacuate their child.

Background

Whilst the West Coast of the North Island is at less risk of a tsunami than other locations, current scientific research shows that it can still be impacted by a tsunami generated in the surrounding region or from an undersea earthquake to the immediate east of New Zealand.

A majority of earthquakes that may generate a tsunami are located over an hours travel time from coastal regions, giving the potentially affected communities time to reach safety.

Earthquakes in the Pacific Islands may generate a tsunami that could reach the west coast of New Zealand within 3 to 4 hours.

A local source tsunami, one where the travel time to the coast is an hour or less, is the greatest risk due to limited warning times.

If you are near any coast and you experience an earthquake that makes it hard to stand, or lasts longer than one minute, do not wait for any warnings, move immediately inland to higher ground, and await further instructions from authorities.

Always remember
LONG or
STRONG

GET GONE



The School

The school, which is located in Carthew Terrace, is in the orange tsunami evacuation zone approximately 900m from the coast and is between 9m and 12 m above sea level. Any tsunami warning above a marine and beach warning may have consequences for the school.

- The school currently has 186 students.
- There are 15 teachers and support staff onsite on any given day.
- There are 2 ORRS funded students and 3 students with mobility issues

Transportation

- The school van can hold 11 students with no standing room.
- There are 8 staff vehicles with approximately 4 seats per vehicle onsite daily.
- With students of such a young age and limited transportation options, careful consideration must be given to ensure the limited resources are used to best effect.



Notifications

Should staff feel an earthquake that makes it hard to stand or goes longer than a minute then the evacuation process should be initiated without waiting for an official warning - remember **LONG or STRONG, GET GONE**.

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management are responsible for issuing the first warning via the Emergency Mobile Alert (EMA) which goes to all capable mobile phones in the affected area.

Any subsequent EMA alerts are issued by Horizons Regional Council.

The Horowhenua Emergency Management Officer (or their designate) will contact the school principal (or their designate) to ensure the alert has been received. **(See Appendix A – contact list)**. However, the principal and staff should also consider making an early decision to evacuate if they feel the safety of students and staff is at risk.

Always remember
LONG or
STRONG

GET GONE



Evacuation

In the event that the school must be evacuated due to a tsunami warning or an anticipated tsunami, the following actions will be carried out:

- Staff and students meet at the top field location on the school grounds and a headcount taken to confirm all present.
- If anyone is found to be missing and it is presumed they are in buildings that may have suffered damage, people should only enter the buildings if it is considered safe to do so. If unable to enter buildings emergency services are to be notified immediately. The remaining students are to be evacuated.
- Younger students and those with mobility issues may be driven from the school grounds in the school van and some staff vehicles to (Manawatu College and/ or Foxton Primary School) which is outside of the tsunami inundation zone or
- Staff & students begin immediately to walk away from the coast and seek higher ground.
- All other students and remaining staff will walk to the designated site on Palmer Road with the route taken at the senior staff members discretion, subject to any hazards identified on the route, where transportation will take them to Manawatu College and/ or Foxton Primary School.
- Should any parent arrive at the school before the students are evacuated they are to be encouraged to walk with the students to a place of safety.
- If in the unlikely event transportation is unavailable at the Palmer Road site, staff and students will continue to walk away from the coast, seeking higher ground and taking shelter until assistance can
- be organised. If this occurs the school principal or senior staff member present is to contact the Horowhenua Emergency Management Officer and advise of location. The Horowhenua Emergency Management Officer, or Local Controller will then be responsible for organising assistance.
- As part of this plan some equipment will be carried with the evacuating students and some equipment will be prepositioned at the evacuation destination.
- Parents will be informed of the two possible locations where their child will be located during parent information evenings. These locations will also be communicated before and after the students have been evacuated.



Parents are to be discouraged from attending Foxton Beach Primary School to pick up their children, to prevent emergency routes becoming congested. All parents should be advised to make their way to either Manawatu College or Foxton Primary School, both situated on Lady's Mile road, to collect their child.

Appendix

Appendix A

Contacts:

Andrew Howard

Emergency Management Officer - Horowhenua District Council

 021 227 7185

 andrewh@horowhenua.govt.nz

Ross Brannigan

Senior Emergency Management Advisor – Horizons Regional Council

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Hamish Stuart


Principal Foxton Beach Primary School

 027 363 8331

 principal2@foxtonbeach.school.nz

Bruce Macintyre


Principal Manawatu College

 06363 6550 (office hours only)

 principle@manawatucollege.school.nz

Tiwana Hibbs

Principal Foxton Primary School

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Appendix B

Evacuation route Foxton Beach Primary School to designated site on Palmer Road.



