



# Wairoa In Focus

Your Community, Your Future

## CIVIL DEFENCE SPECIAL

Most people in Wairoa will survive a large earthquake with little loss, but some people will be severely affected. Actions you take now can significantly help reduce damage to your home and business and help you survive.

### Earthquake advice

#### Before an earthquake

- Develop a Household Emergency Plan and prepare an Emergency Survival Kit so that you can cope with being on your own for three days or more. Have a plan for meeting up in case family members are separated.
- Pick safe places in each room of your home and your office or school, eg under a sturdy table.
- Keep a torch and sturdy shoes by each person's bed.
- Practice drop, cover and hold on at least twice a year.
- Secure heavy objects both inside and outside your home. Visit [www.eq-iq.org.nz/](http://www.eq-iq.org.nz/) to find out how to 'quake safe' your home.
- Seek qualified advice to make sure your home and critical buildings are securely anchored to their foundations.

streetlights and power lines.

If you are in a vehicle, pull over to a clear location, stop and stay there with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops.

If you are in a coastal area, move immediately to higher ground when shaking stops, or if the area is flat move as far inland as possible in case tsunami follows the earthquake.

#### After an earthquake

- Expect to feel aftershocks, some of which may be very strong.
- Check yourself and then help those around you if you can.
- Look quickly for damage in and around the building and get everyone out if it appears unsafe. Use the stairs, not a lift.
- If you are trapped under debris, do not light a match, move about or kick up dust. Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing. Tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can locate you.

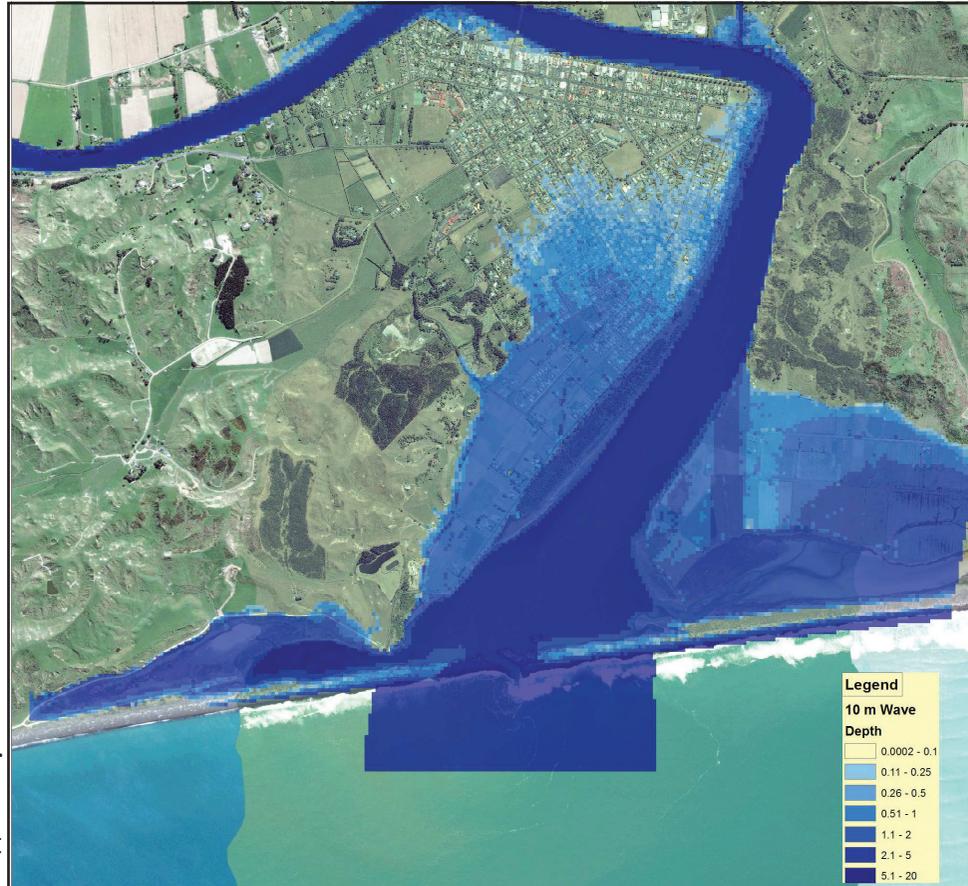
Look for and extinguish any small fires. Fire is the most common hazard following earthquakes.

- Inspect utilities such as gas, electrics, sewage and water lines
- Listen to the radio for information and advice. If power is off, and you don't have a battery operated radio, you could use a radio in your vehicle.
- If your property is damaged, take notes and photographs for insurance purposes.

#### During an earthquake

Knowing how to protect yourself when the shaking starts may save your life.

- If you are inside when shaking starts, move no more than a few steps to a safe place and drop, cover and hold. If you can't move, remain where you are and brace yourself.
- If you are in bed, stay there, hold on, and protect your head with a pillow.
- Stay away from windows.
- If you are outside, find a clear spot and drop to the ground away from buildings, trees,



Preliminary computer modelling of tsunami inundation of the Wairoa township in the event of a 10m wave. This is subject to change as research continues, and is based on a 'worst case scenario'.

A tsunami can arrive within minutes of an earthquake. Read and learn the natural warnings below - be prepared to take responsibility for yourself.

### Tsunami



In the case of an impending tsunami, warning messages and signals to the public can come from several sources – natural, official or unofficial.

**Natural warnings** are of key importance in response to local source tsunami and they may be the only warnings possible for local or regional source tsunami.

- Strong earthquake shaking (i.e. it is hard to stand up)
- Weak, rolling earthquake shaking of unusually long duration (i.e. a minute or more)
- Out of ordinary sea behaviour, such as unusual and sudden sea level fall or rise
- The sea making loud and unusual noises, especially roaring like a jet engine

When experiencing any of the above, go immediately to high ground, evacuating all coastal areas. The first wave may arrive within minutes.

Once away from the water, listen to a radio station for information from local civil defence about further action you should take.

Do not wait for an official warning. Instead, let the natural signs be your warning and wait for official all clear before returning.

**Official warnings** are expected to come when the source of the tsunami is more than three hours tsunami travel time away.

- An official warning from Civil Defence Emergency Management may be issued through radio or television broadcasts.
- Warnings may also be through telephone, loud hailer or other local arrangements.
- Respond to the first warning, do not wait for more messages before you act.
- Listen to your radio and follow any official instructions.
- Evacuate from the areas or zone(s) stated in the warning.
- Take your 'Getaway Kit' with you.
- Stay out until the official 'all-clear' is given.

There are several ways by which people may receive unofficial or informal warnings of an impending tsunami, for example through media coverage or from friends and family.

**Informal communication may be your only warning, especially for tsunami sourced from less than three hours tsunami travel time away from you.**

If you are in an evacuation zone and you feel the threat is imminent, evacuate to high ground and/or inland immediately, or as directed by officials.

If Civil Defence warnings are available, trust their message over informal warnings.

### Getaway Kit

- Family documents, eg birth and marriage certificates, driver's licences, passports, financial information, family photos
- Personal items, eg toiletries, medication and essential items, eg glasses and hearing aids

### Emergency Survival Kit

- Torch and radio with spare batteries
- A change of clothes for all family members (wind and waterproof clothing, sun hats, and strong outdoor shoes)
- First aid kit
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Pet supplies
- Toilet paper and large rubbish bags for your emergency toilet
- Face and dust masks
- Food and water for at least three days (don't forget can opener)
- A primus or gas barbeque to cook on
- Supplies for babies and small children

For more information phone 838 7309 or visit [www.wairoadc.govt.nz](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz)