



OUR SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLAN

Redwood School (Tawa)

370 students and 35 staff

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This emergency plan focuses on emergencies where school staff will need to take immediate, self-directed actions such as fire, earthquake and lockdown. During or prior to the onset of other types of emergency, officials such as Police, Civil Defence, the Ministry of Education, or the Met Service will provide official advice and guidance.

Emergency Planning for schools

Emergencies can happen at any time. Our school is prepared and has a plan in place to respond to emergencies to these to minimise the effect to students and staff.

This plan was developed in collaboration with the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office.

Family Reunification Plan

If safe, the hall is used as the assembly point. Students assemble in family groups by alphabetical order according to their surname. Desks are set up outside the hall with a full list of student names and details of parents/caregivers and additional emergency contacts. As adults arrive to collect students they are marked off a master list of all emergency contacts. Parents complete a form which is given to a staff member. The staff member retrieves the child(ren) from the hall. Parents ARE NOT invited into the hall. Parents do not enter the hall. Children to be taken outside to the adult/s. All teachers will have their emergency blue bag with the current roll of their class including home contact details, emergency contact details and acute medical issues.

If there is any kind of emergency at our school, or affecting the general geographical area, we will try to keep parents informed of what is happening. If a message is received from the school that we have implemented our family reunification process, it means that we will only release students in a controlled fashion to people who have been authorised by parents to collect their children. The person coming to collect each student should enter the school through the main gate, and come directly to the entrance of the school hall, where a process will be in place to approve them collecting students. To avoid undue distress to students parents will not be allowed to retrieve their child from inside the hall, this will be done by a staff member. Please ensure the list of people authorised to collect your children from the school is kept up to date and if possible, includes people who live within walking distance of the school. You need to ensure the people who are on this list are aware of the expectation to pick up your children during a significant emergency if it is likely that you will be unable to or delayed.

Fire Procedures

This procedure outlines what we will do in the event of a fire. We will follow the same procedures when practicing a fire drill.

If we discover a fire

- Activate the fire alarm
- Evacuate people from the area
- Call 111
- Extinguish the fire only if safe to do so

If the fire alarm sounds

- Teachers will collect their class roll and take their students to the designated assembly point(s)
- Walk calmly and quickly and avoid panic
- Ensure students/ visitors with disabilities are assisted by a responsible person
- Ensure any visitors are included in the evacuation
- Check bathrooms and common rooms on the way to the designated assembly point
- Ensure all students remain at the assembly point until clearance to leave is given
- Move staff and students to our offsite location if unable to stay on school grounds
- Decide if a controlled family reunification is required

Our on-site assembly point(s) is

Evacuation Signal for both fire and earthquake = LONG CONTINUOUS BELL, either electronic or the handbell. When an evacuation is signalled, all personnel located in the bottom block of the school area are to evacuate to the grass area south of the hall (playing field). This includes the hall, Rooms 11 - 20, admin office, library, and all people who are outside in this general vicinity. When an evacuation is signalled, all personnel who are located in the top block of the school are to evacuate to the top block (Junior court playing area). This includes the Rooms 1 - 10.5, teacher workroom, Room 8, Reading Recovery rooms and all people who are outside in this general vicinity. In the event of a fire emergency prior to school starting, two members of staff need to wait on the driveway to gather late arrivers who are to assemble, if practical, by the skip rubbish bins, or alternatively on the Redwood Park carpark. People should not enter the school grounds proper. If either location is unsafe, then the next evacuation point would be off-site, at Redwood Park.

Our off-site evacuation point(s) is

If we need to leave the school property, the school will walk to the adjacent Redwood Park.

Earthquake Procedures

This procedure outlines what we will do in the event of an earthquake. We will follow the same procedures when practicing an earthquake drill.

When the ground begins to shake

- Everyone, including students, teachers and staff will immediately **DROP**, **COVER**, and **HOLD**.
- We will look to our own safety first. We cannot help anyone else if we are injured ourselves.

When the ground stops shaking

- Ensure our personal safety first
- Check those around us and offer help if necessary
- If anyone requires medical assistance, call 111 and administer first aid
- Teachers will collect their class roll and take their students to the designated assembly point(s). We will move to our designated offsite evacuation point if it is not safe to stay at the school
- Our school is not in a tsunami zone, we do not need to evacuate to higher ground
- Check buildings for signs of damage
- Get staff and pupils away from dangerous areas
- Listen to the radio for information
- Attempt to inform parents of our situation and our actions
- Decide if a controlled family reunification is required

Our on-site assembly point(s) are

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Our off-site evacuation point(s) are:

If we need to leave the school property, the school will walk to the adjacent Redwood Park.

Lockdown Procedures

This provides a very basic guide to manage the response to a dangerous person entering the school, or if Police contact us and request the school go into lockdown. Civil Defence suggest these procedures are practiced as a table top activity with your staff but not involving (or scaring) the students.

The aftermath of an intruder incident will require careful management as even in the 'best case' scenario of no one being injured or killed, there will be traumatised staff and students, concerned parents, confusion, disruption and media interest.

If shots are heard or an intruder is seen on the premises

- Call 111, identify yourself and your school, your address and provide all details the operator requests.
- If safe, move to safe positions to wait for the Police to arrive
- Alert staff that the school is going into lock down (avoid using the fire alarm).
- Move everyone out of hallways and into rooms.
- Lock and/or barricade, or cover if possible, doors/windows.
- Keep quiet and do not leave the classroom unless it is safe to do so.
- Should the event occur while students are outside in playing fields: instruct students to move to nearest secure room, or to a safe assembly area (which may include an off-site area close to the school).
- When police arrive, follow their instructions

Following the incident

- The Ministry of Education Trauma Incident Team will provide support. Phone 0800 84 83 26
- Consider whether to temporarily close, or continue operating. (The Trauma Incident Teams will provide guidance on suitable responses)
- Continue to monitor the wellbeing of students and staff

For detailed resources on traumatic incidents, visit:

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/EmergenciesTraumaticIncidents>

Advice for other hazards

This planning document focuses on emergencies where our staff will need to take immediate, self-directed actions. During or prior to the onset of other types of emergency, officials such as Police, Civil Defence, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health or the Met Service will provide official advice.

Below are some general guidelines for some of these types of emergencies

In all situations, call 111 if it is an emergency

Storm, flooding and snow

If stormy weather is forecast, we will consider how this may affect our school.

- Consider not opening and advising students to stay at home.
- If strong winds are forecast ensure all objects that could become airborne and cause damage are secured away from the wind, consider taping windows to reduce the risk of them breaking.
- If heavy rain is forecast that could cause flooding, move records and equipment out of harm's way.

Pandemic

In the event a health crisis, official guidance will be provided by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and Civil Defence Emergency Management.

Dealing with Deceased (during a disaster)

Technically any deceased person needs to be treated as a crime scene

If there are deceased persons after an earthquake or other significant emergency and we are not able to immediately contact the Police

- Cover the body with a blanket, tarp or similar
- Only move the body(s) if there are impeding access to rescue other people, or it is causing distress to others
- If we must move the body take some photos first to pass onto Police later

Gas leak

If we can smell, see or hear, or otherwise suspect a gas leak, turn off the main valve and call 111.

Do not operate the fire alarm as sparks could ignite, Consider evacuating the area or

the school. Do not re-enter building or outside area until cleared by authorised personnel.

Suspicious package or substance

When dealing with suspicious packages the utmost caution must be exercised and no attempts must be made to touch, move or examine the package. Immediately Call 111 and follow the operator's instructions.

Serious injury or death

Immediately call 111.

Chemical spill

Immediately call 111 and consider evacuation or lockdown.

Our school is a Community Emergency Hub

A Community Emergency Hub is a known gathering point for the community during and after a significant emergency. They are a hub for the coordination of any community emergency response. It is opened and managed entirely by the public, possibly with the assistance of the staff from the property where the Community Emergency Hub is located.

Our school has been identified as a Community Emergency Hub. As a school we do not have any ongoing obligations in regards to being a Community Emergency Hub, beyond providing access to the school.

After people have checked on their household and neighbours, they should go to a Community Emergency Hub:

- If they need assistance
- If they can provide assistance by sharing resources and skills
- To gather and share information on what has happened in their neighbourhood
- To help coordinate their community's response locally and pass on information to your council's Emergency Operations Centre

Our school should have been provided with a basic Community Emergency Hub start-up kit consisting of an AM/FM radio, maps, and a Community Emergency Hub radio that allows communication with the local council's Emergency Operations Centre.

Our Community Emergency Hub kit is stored:

It is in the cupboard in the hall next to the kitchen.

We also encourage some of our teachers who live locally to sign up to the WREMO Civil Defence Volunteer Programme so they get a better understanding of how they can assist during a large emergency event.