

Tsunami

- giant wave!!!!

How many natural hazards can you see in this picture?



How can you help?

By helping your family be prepared you can reduce their risk of danger. Have an emergency plan in place so you know what to do and where to meet if there is an emergency where you live.

An emergency kit contains essential items you may need if you have to leave your home. Everyone in your family should know where the kit is kept.

You'll need to solve the clues to work out what some of the items are!

Solve the clues ...

1. Canned or dried food
2. Bottled water
3. A small tool for opening cans?
4. Cooking device: primus or BBQ
5. A kit containing medical supplies?
6. Candles and matches/lighter
7. Provides light and is battery powered?
8. Emergency radio (and spare batteries)
9. A large thick bed covering?
10. All weather gear
11. Good strong shoes

Kids' Quiz

Up, down, diagonally, sideways. Can you find these words?

D N E Y T E F A S N R S A O
 U O T A N D A D E B I N A K
 O O H T F P R E P A R E S Z
 T H A C A A F O H M A M T C
 L D M A Z F A R N R E E S H
 G A I A Z E L A V I V R U S
 W U H S O X E O D E R G N W
 R I Q E R I E R O P R E A F
 A M U V D W E E Z D C N M H
 E D G A O Q O O W N E C I E
 T H A W E S R O O N E Y K I
 N S E N X A T J P N K L U T
 K P H H F E Y S A L C T B A
 P K S I S Y Q J W A F G C Y



ANSWERS: (1) First aid kit (2) Torch (3) Can opener (4) Blanket - needs to be waterproof (5) Sleeping bag could also be used

Tsunami	Emergency	Safety
Survival	Prepare	Flood
Waves	Hazards	



UNIQUELY Chathams

Issue 5 • May 2009

Uniquely Chathams is a quarterly newsletter about the environment for the Chatham Islands community.



Volunteers essential for protecting islands

A small group of volunteers make up the Chatham Islands Response Team - who help out when needed if there is an emergency on the islands.

The team is trained by the Chatham Islands Council, through its Emergency Management Office, and wears a number of hats including Civil Defence, rural fire and maritime oil spills.

Greg Horler has recently joined the response team after helping out at a major fire at Green Swamp in late 2007 that destroyed 274 hectares of land and cost over \$250,000. Greg and his wife Rosemarie own the Awarakau Farmstays on the south coast.

"After being involved with the Green Swamp fire I realised that, if there was a major event on the Chatham Islands, trained people were going to be thin on the ground," he says.

Greg recently attended his training in responding to a rural fire, alongside son Quintin Horler and son-in-law Robin Seymour, who are both Department of Conservation rangers.

"Since undergoing the rural fire training, I realised the wider scope of area that the Response Team covers and I'm looking forward to learning more about the Civil Defence side of things and how to manage a marine oil spill," says Greg.

"The Chathams are very short on the expertise needed for this kind of work," he says.

Emergency management co-ordinator Rana Solomon agrees. The current response team is small, mainly due to people leaving the islands to work in New Zealand and overseas.

continued over page ...



Helping out at the Green Swamp fire inspired Greg Horler to become a volunteer.

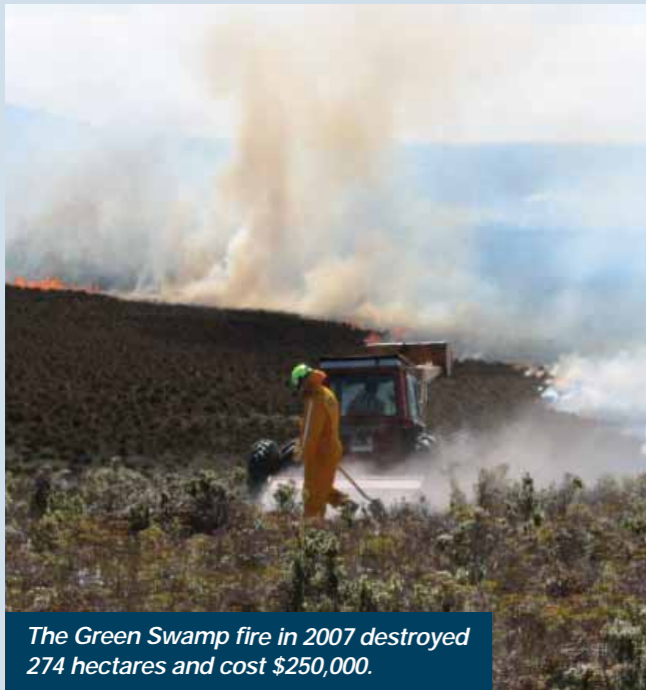


Pictured left to right are Robin Seymour, Greg Horler and Quintin Horler.



9 Tuku Road, Waitangi, PO Box 24, Chatham Islands 8942
 Phone: (03) 3050-033 or 3050-034
 Email: info@cic.govt.nz
 www.cic.govt.nz

Working towards a sustainable future for our people and our islands.



The Green Swamp fire in 2007 destroyed 274 hectares and cost \$250,000.

continued from front cover . . .

"We are always on the look-out for volunteers – our role at the council includes not just training and co-ordinating the response team but also looking at risk management, analysing any hazards on the islands, along with planning and policy – it's a huge job."

The main issue, she says, is that Chatham Islanders could be responsible for managing the disaster for up to a week.

"I am, however, working with various agencies and organisations in New Zealand to develop deployment teams that can assist if needed. But we will be the ones to hold the front line in any emergency until assistance does arrive.

"That's why we need properly trained people who know what to do," she says.

The other major fire in recent years on the Chatham Islands was in Owenga in November 2005 which was started by an out of control vehicle fire. The fire destroyed about 30 hectares of property was affected.

Volunteers are urgently needed for the Response Team, says Rana.

"We are really keen to get more people on board for what is really an essential voluntary service for all islanders."

For more information telephone Rana on 3050 033.

GETTING IT TOGETHER

The following items should make up your emergency survival kit – in the Chathams you could be on your own for up to a week or have to move to an evacuation centre.

Food and water

- Bottled water (3 litres per person a day)
- Tinned or dried food
- A can opener
- A primus or BBQ to cook on

Check and renew the food and water every 12 months.

Emergency items

- First Aid Kit and essential medicines
- Spare toilet paper and plastic rubbish bags for your emergency toilet
- Wind proof and rainproof jacket, sun hats, blankets or sleeping bag, strong outdoor shoes
- Pet supplies
- Waterproof torches and spare batteries
- Candles and matches
- Radio and spare batteries

Check the batteries every three months and put all items, especially blankets and clothing, into leak proof plastic bags

Special requirements

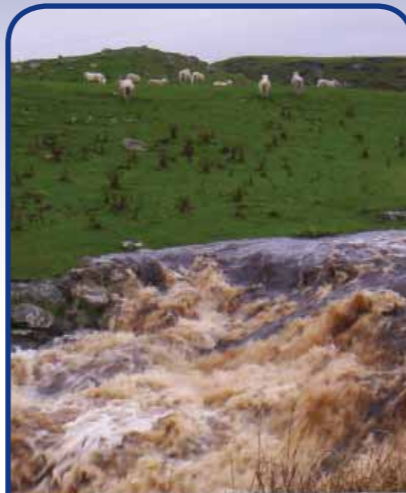
Babies and small children:

- Food and drink
- Change of clothing
- Favourite toy or activity
- Nappies and wipes
- Medicines

People with special needs:

- Hearing aids
- Mobility aids
- Glasses

For more information about Civil Defence look in the back of your Yellow Pages.



Emergencies can come quickly and without warning. This flood at Owenga in 2005 was caused by heavy rainfall.

Act quickly if a tsunami hits

Time is of the essence if a tsunami should reach the Chatham Islands. Being surrounded by water, the islands are more vulnerable during a tsunami than other parts of New Zealand.

If the source of the tsunami is nearby water levels may fall very quickly past the normal low tide mark, then return just as quickly. If this happens, there will not be enough time to issue a warning and it is important that you know what to do, and that you act quickly.

A tsunami is a series of fast travelling waves caused by a large disturbance on the ocean floor, such as an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption or meteorite.

Tsunami waves appear either as rapidly-moving tides with very strong currents that can wash people and objects out to sea, or as large breaking waves that can cause significant impact damage at the shoreline.

If a tsunami warning is issued on the Chatham Islands, there are five separate assembly points for residents to meet, depending on where they live:

AREA A Waitangi, Te One and South Coast residents to assemble at the Waitangi Hall for registration.

AREA B Kaingaroa residents should meet at Wharekauri first house and pick up their children from Kaingaroa School on their way to the assembly point.

AREA C Owenga residents to assemble at the Kopinga Marae.

AREA D Port Hutt residents go to Chatham Lodge.

AREA E Pitt Island residents will be accounted for in their homes by the Civil Defence area coordinator.

KNOW YOUR AREA



Schools will receive a tsunami warning directly and the principals and teachers remain responsible for children on their way to the assembly areas until handed over to their authorised caregivers.

Copies of the Chatham Islands Council Civil Defence brochure which outlines the above information, are available from the Council offices in Waitangi along with the Chatham Islands Tsunami Plan.



Making sure everyone is in a safe area and has been accounted for is the top priority following a tsunami warning



The protection of property is only a secondary priority where warning time may permit

UNIQUELY
Chathams

The Chatham Islands: Working towards a sustainable future for our people and our islands