



Fox Glacier Civil Defence Plan

Short Version

Updated 2019

Reviewed every two years or sooner

FOX GLACIER CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

The Fox Glacier township is vulnerable to a number of natural hazards. It is important that the community be prepared for any civil defence emergency and be aware of the actions that they may be required to take. The local Civil Defence Organisation is focused on being prepared to react to any emergency. But a major part of surviving and recovering from such an emergency will be the level of preparedness of each and every family, household and business in the Fox Glacier area. This booklet will be distributed to each residence, business and accommodation provider in Fox Glacier.

What defines a Civil Defence Emergency?

An emergency is normally declared, when a situation is predicted to occur, or actually occurs, that is beyond the response ability of the normal emergency service responders.

What will happen in Fox Glacier!

This shortened version of our civil defence plan outlines your own responsibilities, your responsibilities as a business, and the usefulness of resources that you may have on your property or under your control. We will also be identifying individuals in the community who are fluent in foreign languages, those who can operate equipment in an emergency and those who have other relevant specialist skills, such as first aid or welfare.

Please read this information booklet and make a note of anything that you don't understand or additional information that you might require. You must have a clear picture of how you can best survive the first few minutes, hours and days following any major emergency. If you have questions or suggestions, you are encouraged to attend the public meetings that will be advertised in the near future. Any general enquiries will be co-ordinated by our CDO, Hannah or Erica, at foxglacier@xtra.co.nz

USEFUL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

'Get Ready Get Thru' Emergency Planning Guide.
(www.getthru.govt.nz)

Household Emergency Plan Leaflet. (www.getthru.govt.nz)

Phone book inside cover page.

Civil Defence
(www.civildefence.govt.nz/get-ready/at-work)

The Great West Coast Shakeout Website.

www.surviveit.co.nz. Purchase online supplies.

www.civildefence.govt.nz.

www.glaciercommunity.org.nz

EVACUATION

Listen to the radio for information and instructions to evacuate. You will also be notified by door knocking if no other means of communication is operational. Contact will be made street by street in order of priority. You will be told what you can take, where to meet and when.

If your 'Getaway' kit isn't already packed and ready, this is what you'll need:

- Torches and radio, with spare batteries.
- Hearing aids, glasses, medicines etc if you use them.
- Water and easy to carry food to last for 24 hours.
- Rain gear.
- First aid kit and essential medication.
- Toiletries.
- Supplies for babies and toddlers, favourite toys.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- Pen and paper.

Get important documents together, especially passports for all non-residents. Wear appropriate clothing and strong footwear.

Before you evacuate, leave a message on the front door of your house or flat, giving the number of persons, physical condition, and destination plans.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE STRUCTURE

The Emergency Operations Centre

Co-ordinating the local response to emergencies in Fox Glacier will be managed by the CD Emergency Management Group. Working from an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) set up at the Emergency Response Building at the rear of the fire station. They will report to a Civil Defence Controller appointed by the Westland District Council and operating from Hokitika. In addition to the Police, Fire, Ambulance, DOC and SAR, Local Sector Wardens will also support EOC.

The Civil Defence Co-ordinator

The Fox Glacier CD co-ordinators are Rodger Millard, Peter Halford, Kerry Straight and Marius Bron. The co-ordinator is responsible for the overall direction of the response activities in an emergency.

The Emergency Management Group

The team supporting the co-ordinator are responsible for gathering information, maintaining communications, ensuring welfare and other services are provided as well as managing available resources to meet the demands of the situation.

Fox Glacier Sector Wardens

The Fox Glacier area was been divided into a number of sectors. Sector Wardens are responsible for assessing the wellbeing of people in their area and assisting with preparing situation reports.

Our Sector Wardens are:

North and West Sector: Fiona Anderson.

Township and Pekanga Drive Sector: Malcolm Richards.

Southern Sector: John Birchfield.

Glacier Valley Sector: DOC and FGG Dispatcher.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Plan and prepare for an emergency. Follow the '**Get ready Get Through**' checklist. Ensure that you and your neighbours are safe.

Be realistic when assessing how long you will be ok without assistance.

You can best help the Emergency Operations Team by:

- Being prepared, having your 'getaway' plan and food, and be ready to leave if necessary.
- Dress in appropriate clothing and footwear.
- Know as much as possible about your situation, and others nearby, their needs and available resources, so that you can inform the Emergency Team if needed.
- If nobody comes to help you, make your way to the Welfare Centre and check in.

COMMUNICATIONS

During any emergency, clear communications will be vital. Where possible land line, sat. phones, and mobile phones will be used, but it is possible that all these networks will collapse.

Make sure you listen to your radio, to receive messages and instructions. Have spare batteries available at all times.

Frequencies to listen for are FM90.5, 93.1, or 87.7.

The Emergency Management Team will also use the mobile public address system fitted to the fire truck.

PREPARING FOR AN EMERGENCY

When (not if) we have an earthquake, there will be no time for reading instructions! Have a plan, practice your plan and keep it up to date.

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Talk to your neighbours, co-ordinate your plans, they will be your first line of assistance, or they might be the ones needing your help!

Businesses in the Fox Glacier Area

During an emergency, it is your responsibility to take care of your clients and employees. You must create a plan covering the following, and train your staff accordingly:

- Surviving the event.
- Getting to safety. Alternative accommodation.
- Catering.
- Welfare Evacuation.
- Financial liability.
- Provide security for food and other important emergency response items.
- Be prepared to provide a detailed client list, including language and medical requirements, and contact lists for next of kin.

Families

- Create a family emergency plan, including what to do if family members are separated prior to, or during the event.
- Prepare a survival kit for 7 days, of basic food, water, radio etc.
- Prepare a 'Getaway' kit to use if you need to evacuate, clothing, personal papers, signs to leave behind recording your movements.
- Have lots of involvement from your children when making your plans, they must feel that it is 'their' plan as well!
- Talk to your neighbours.

How Do I Find Out What Is Happening?

The Emergency Management Group will be broadcasting the most appropriate advice for the situation and the community. Listen to your radio or to mobile public address systems for event updates and instructions to follow. Temporary Notice Boards will be displayed about town.

Travel By Road

In the case of earthquake or flooding, it is likely that roads and bridges will be closed and access in and out of Fox Glacier will be cut off. Listen for road conditions on the local radio. Unless absolutely essential, stay off the roads until you are told that they are clear, this will not only conserve fuel, but will leave the road clear for emergency vehicles.

Food, Water, Fuel and Gas

In the event of a major emergency, all the above items will be rationed. Do not cause yourself undue distress by trying to obtain supplies from the businesses in town. They will already have their instructions for controlled distribution of essential supplies. You should have enough supplies in your survival kits for 10 days. Don't forget your medical supplies.

Somewhere Safe To Sleep

If your home is at risk, or uninhabitable, check with your neighbours, or report to the welfare centre that will be clearly signposted in town. If you are unable to travel, call on one of the rescue crews who will be making regular patrols.

THREATS AND HAZARDS FACING FOX GLACIER TOWNSHIP

Earthquake

There is a very high probability that the Alpine Fault will rupture within the next few decades. The effects of a rupture could be shearing sideways, uplift on one plate or the other, strong ground shaking, destruction of buildings, bridges, roads, water and power supplies, sewage, and communications. The earthquake will most likely cause large landslides, dam rivers and cause eventual flooding, with large and sudden ice and debris flows.

The Fox Glacier Township will most likely be isolated for a long period of time. Access by road may not be reinstated for six months or more!

Flooding

Heavy rainfall could result in rivers changing course and flooding the surrounding areas, especially near the mouths during high tide. Evacuation of threatened areas is the only safe strategy, and needs to be carried out before roads and bridges are threatened. Currently there is a potential problem in the Fox Glacier Valley. As the Mills Creek slip collapses into the Fox River, debris is raising the Fox River bed and there is a risk that the river will start to flow in a new direction. Historically, the Fox River flowed across what is now farmland and through what is now the Fox Township! There is a possibility that this will happen again. Flooding to this extent can normally be foreseen, so a pre-planned and orderly evacuation will take place before the event.

Landslide and Dam Break

Strong earthquakes will cause very large landslides. These have the potential to dam rivers. The water builds behind the dam, which can give way at any time. This will cause a tsunami like surge of water, mud and uprooted vegetation moving rapidly down river, causing damage to roads, bridges and any property in the way. Much of the land currently being farmed today, still shows signs of huge flood and landslide damage in the past.

Evacuations In Case Of Identified Flood Risk

Cloud bursts in the mountains, sustained periods of rain, and valleys being dammed by large slips as a result of an earthquake, can all cause a flood risk in down river areas. When a risk is identified, those people at risk will be contacted and given instructions. Where possible, advanced warnings will be given so you will be up, dressed and ready to leave with your 'getaway' plan. If possible, evacuations will be made during daylight hours.

Storm

The South Westland area can be lashed by ferocious storms. When a storm is predicted by the Met Service, they will issue a Severe Weather Warning to both the Westland District and Regional Councils. If these warnings are interpreted as having a particular impact on the Fox Glacier area, the CD team will be mobilised. Storms can create hazards such as windblown debris, damage to property, power and phone failure, flooding and fire. A number of our local suspension bridges on SH6 are vulnerable to damage from strong winds.

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

The Public Warning System

The alarm at the Fire Station will sound a prolonged wail as a warning in the event of a civil defence emergency. If you hear the siren, then a threat is imminent or has already occurred. You must listen out for important information that will be broadcast on radio frequency FM 90.5 or 93.1 or 87.7. Remember that following a large earthquake, the siren might not be operational, so turn your radio on and keep listening for messages, warnings and instructions. You will need a battery radio in case there is a power cut as well.

When the siren sounds

Check on your family and neighbours. Turn on your radio, follow your household survival plan, and make sure that you get ready to follow your 'getaway' plan.

Risk of Explosion following earthquake

After an earthquake, make sure to check your gas bottles and jerry cans of fuel. Pipes might have ruptured or cans fallen over, leaking the contents. If there is any smell of gas or fuel, do not use a naked flame for warmth or light. Fox Glacier Motors bulk fuel storage is well protected, but other sources of fuel might leak into sewerage pipes or street drains, creating a very real potential of explosion. Be very careful!

Signal your status

If everybody on your property is OK and you do not require immediate assistance, hang a white sheet from a window or for outlying houses, spread the sheet on the ground so that it can be seen by aircraft overhead.