



Civil Defence Training for Marae

Information Sheet

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Why does a Marae need a Civil Defence Plan?

Risk is apparent from a number of different sources for the marae and iwi. This needs to be reduced and procedures put in place to enable recovery to begin as soon as possible.

Ruapehu District Council
Emergency Management

understands that iwi have naturally responded to adverse events for centuries with risk mitigation and care for their whanau. What is proposed is the offer of assistance to develop a formal plan to meet many existing and new threats such as a possible pandemic.



Marae are the focal point and meeting place for Maori and rural populations surrounding them. They become a place to congregate in emergencies or to hold hui and training sessions. Marae accumulate and hold a large amount of irreplaceable taonga.

If Marae are used in emergencies or are required to be evacuated in an emergency, it is imperative that the occupants know:

- What to do and how to do it?
- Who is in charge?
- Is there a list to ensure all are accounted for and who is present on the marae?
- It is important to know who to contact locally and advise what is going on, and what to expect. What actions are required to be taken?

- What further action is required?
- Who has a medical condition?
- What medical assistance is required and when?
- What support can be supplied, when and where?
- What communication channels are in existence?
- How are people to be advised, and is there a need to establish back-up communication channels?
- What decisions are being made based on the information supplied, and the local knowledge of how previous events have affected the area?
- Is a system required for warning people and at what level is this activated?
- Who is responsible?
- Has everyone been accounted for and, if not, why not?
- What actions are being taken to address this issue and what actions are still required?
- Who is advised of this situation?
- At the conclusion of the event, what can be claimed, what will be replaced and what will be reimbursed?

There is a need to develop relationships/communication between both groups, Civil Defence and Iwi. This includes creating an understanding of emergency events, powers and an understanding of local tikanga and protocols.



These issues were identified in past emergencies as being important areas that were missing in the response and recovery at the time. It is intended that these areas be addressed so that the situation does not exist again, and that communities are safe, become self-reliant and

self-sufficient. We aim to create a resilient community and, if help or assistance is required, you know what is available and where it is coming from, and you are aware of who to speak to.

How do you do it?

To do this, it is planned that we work together to:

- Analyse the marae and identify areas of risk
- Identify areas of major risk the marae area faces

Once we have identified and developed emergency plans for each risk, it is also important to look at the marae and the surrounding area and see if any actions can be taken to mitigate the risks faced by the marae.

What are we looking to achieve?

The overall result will be the creation of plans that will enhance the safety of the marae, taonga and iwi. We need to create preparedness, enhance safety, communication and the ability to respond and recover from an extreme hazard event, thereby creating a resilient community.



Debris at Tangiwai after
2007 Mt Ruapehū Lahar