

Blue Mountains Community Response Plan

This is a living document that contains a list of information created by your community, for your community. It outlines the local resources, facilities, and people that can help in an emergency.

Sharing this information will help everyone in the community understand how to support one another when it matters most.



Facility map

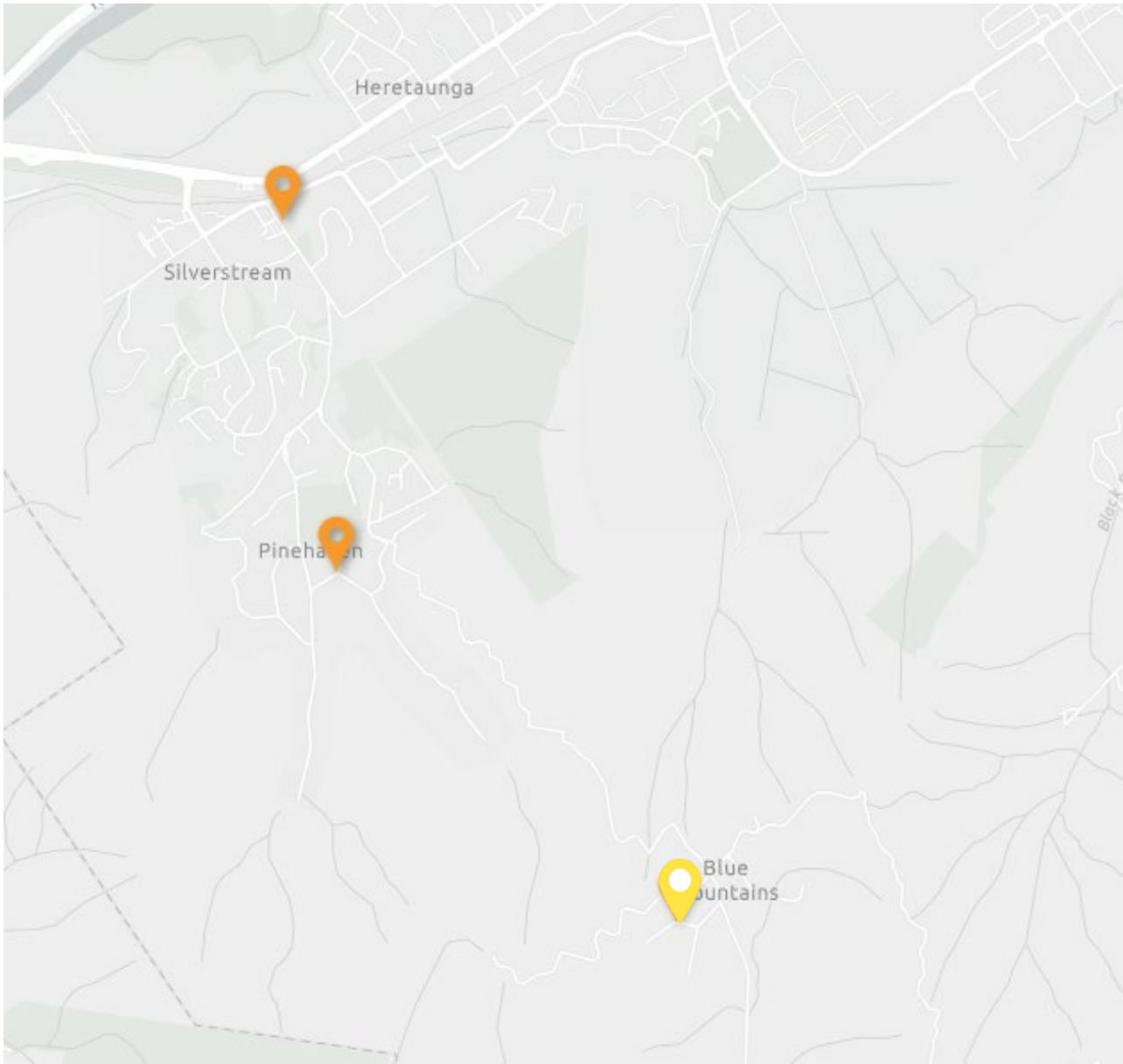
Blue Mountains Community Centre, 4 Avian Crescent, Blue Mountains



Please respect this facility and the contents inside. This is a privately owned property that has been offered to the community for disaster response.

Coordinate with neighbouring Community Emergency Hubs

Local resources can be shared with nearby communities, so communicate with your neighbouring hubs to work out the most efficient use of the available resources.



Your Hub

Blue Mountains Community Emergency Hub

Blue Mountains Community Centre, 4 Avian Crescent, Blue Mountains

Neighbouring Hubs

Mangaroa School,
93 Flux Rd, Mangaroa (not on mp)

Pinehaven School,
Forest Road, Pinehaven

Silverstream School,
Whitemans Road, Silverstream



Document overview

The local resources and ideas outlined in this document were identified during community planning workshops. These were grouped into the categories listed below:

- > Local resources
- > Local vulnerabilities
- > Checking on who and what has been affected
- > Medical assistance
- > Shelter
- > Water
- > Food
- > Animal Welfare
- > *For Sanitation refer to Section 5 in the Hub Guide*

Community Response Plan and Emergency Hub Guide

This Community Response Plan works alongside the Community Emergency Hub Guide. The Hub Guide provides guidance on how your community can organise and support one another during an emergency. Use the Hub Guide and your Community Response Plan together to organise your community response. You will find

the Hub Guide in the Hub kit along with Hub role lanyards, stationery, a map, an AM/FM radio, and a VHF radio.

Responding as a community

Your community has all the skills, resources, local knowledge and relationships to support one another during an emergency. You can utilise these by working together at your local Community Emergency Hub. Use this document as a starting point for solutions to community needs and your response as a community.

If you are opening a Hub it might pay to think about bringing some basics, such as:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| > First aid kits | > Tea, coffee, milk |
| > Blankets | > Food |
| > Torches | > Toilet paper |
| > Batteries | > Buckets |
| > Radio | > Rubbish bags |
| > Water | > BBQ/camping cooker |

Your Local Council

During a major emergency, your local council will coordinate the response from their Emergency Operations Centre. An Emergency Assistance Centre may also be set up to provide access to government and council support services.



Local resources

Your community has identified the following local resources that could be useful for various purposes during an emergency.

Ensure you have permission from the facility or resource owner before using.

Places and spaces

Schools

- > Mangaroa School, 93 Flux Road, Mangaroa
- > Pinehaven School, Forest Road, Pinehaven
- > Silverstream School, Whitemans Road, Silverstream

- > Wallaceville Church
- > Open paddocks and farm

Groups and networks of people

- > Beekeepers
- > Blue Mountains Residents Association
- > Book club
- > Clay shooting club
- > Community Group
- > Neighbourhood Support Groups

Facebook Pages

- > Blue Mountains Residents Association
(<https://www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsResidentsAssociation/>)
- > Whitemans Valley Community Noticeboard
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/whitemansvalleycommunitynoticeboard/>)

Services in the community

- > Army
- > Diggers, quad bikes and farm equipment
- > Farm vehicles
- > Forestry block
- > Livestock
- > Nurses, vet nurses and mechanics living locally
- > Vegetable gardens



Infrastructure

- > Emergency water tank @ Mangaroa School (25,000L)
- > Gas bottles
- > Generators
- > Rimutaka Prison, Freyberg Road, Trentham
- > Rural water supplies
- > Septic tanks
- > Walking access over the hill
- > Water springs and streams



Local vulnerabilities

Your community has identified the following potential vulnerabilities. These may need further attention or assistance.

Places and spaces

- > Could be landslides in hillside areas
- > Distance between properties and other communities
- > Geographically isolated in major event
- > Possible building damage to community facilities
- > Some areas may experience liquefaction

Groups and networks of people

- > Elderly people
- > Parents with young babies
- > People who can't leave the house
- > People who have been separated from their family
- > Stressed & lost pets and livestock

Services in the community

- > No emergency services
- > No food or medical services nearby

Infrastructure

- > Road access to Blue Mountains likely to be cut off
- > All services likely to be disrupted for many weeks
 - o No electricity
 - o No telecommunications
 - o No internet
 - o No banking and eftpos
 - o No bridges
 - o Lack of access to fuel



Checking on people and damage

Everyone in the community is checked on after an emergency – whether it's for rescue and medical assistance, or just basic support and information.

- > Contact everyone in the community as soon as possible.
- > Record and report information on people and damage back to the Hub.
- > Regularly check everyone in the days following the event as people's circumstances may change.



How can you make sure that everywhere has been checked?

- Start with known affected areas or groups that might need extra assistance.
- Draw upon any local lists and knowledge.
- Coordinate a street-by-street, house-by-house check. Use the area maps in the hub.
- Record any information on the impact to the community. For example, status of roads, building damage, and peoples unresolved needs.

Report the information back to the Information Coordination person at the Hub.

Staying in contact with people as outlined in task one should be done frequently, as peoples circumstances can change after an event.

If you can't give someone immediate assistance, collect information about their needs and bring that back to the Hub. See if you can find an answer to their needs with the resources available in your community.

What groups could be available to walk around the community to check on people and look for damage?

- > Anyone in the community!
- > Blue Mountains Residents Association
- > Emergent volunteers



Where should we check first?

1. Self – 2. Home – 3. Neighbours – 4. Street – 5. Then at the hub
check on these priority groups

- > Community Centre
- > Community members with medical needs
- > Elderly people
- > Families with children
- > Family locally
- > Immediate neighbours
- > Neighbours, people with disabilities, elderly, children.
- > Own home first
- > People who live alone
- > People with disabilities

How would we coordinate this?

- > Advertise on the community noticeboard
- > Assess – commission teams to assess in priority order to needs and resources available and then broker people's needs with available resources.
- > Check your family, neighbours and street. Send someone from your street down to the Hub.
- > Coordinate from the Hub – if possible check other local hubs to see whether Hubs are open and people are gathered.
- > Direct people to the community noticeboard for more information

- > Keep a paper trail at the Hub so we know where has been checked, when. Then we know where needs to be rechecked over time.
- > Meet – needs with resources
- > Prioritise – needs with resources
- > Review – that needs are being met
- > Scope – define needs and resources
- > Select a point of contact for the community centre and for each street
- > Send teams from Hub to check on defined areas, record on Hub Map
- > The Hub can set up street maps and coordinate searches, or checks by door knocks
- > Use text messages, Facebook Messenger and Neighbourly to communicate, if possible



Medical Assistance

Community members who need medical assistance are directed to medical assistance.

- > Identify and coordinate community resources that can be used to assist and treat the injured.
- > Identify and check on people with day-to-day medical needs.
- > Direct the community to medical providers that are known to be open.
- > Identify and coordinate people in the community with medical skills who can help.



In all life-threatening situations, attempt to contact the emergency services by calling 111.

Injured and sick people should go to the nearest open medical centre first.

People with first aid skills should go to their nearest open medical centre or go to the Hub.

Check on your neighbours and people who may need extra help.

Look after your hygiene – wear gloves when touching body fluids.



Find out if the local medical providers are open and operational so that you can let the community know where to go.

Coordinate transportation for those who are in need and cannot get to the medical centre.

Where are the nearest medical providers?

- > For minor injuries, go to the nearest Medical Centre for immediate triage before going straight to the hospital
- > Hutt Hospital, High St, Lower Hutt
- > Queen St Medical Centre, Queen Street, Upper Hutt
- > Silverstream Medical Centre, Silverstream Village Shops
- > Upper Hutt Health Centre, Queen Street, Upper Hutt



Where else could we provide medical assistance if the above facilities are not available?

- > Blue Mountains Community Centre
- > Rimutaka Prison, Freyberg Road, Trentham
- > Schools
- > Trentham Military Base, Messines Ave, Trentham

Who can help provide medical assistance?

- > Check neighbours who might have health needs to look out for them.
- > Community first aiders: go to nearest Hub if you can help
- > Doctors, nurses and vets in the community
- > Teachers with first aid certification

How do we get people to medical assistance or medical assistance to people?

- > Use vehicles – 4-wheel drive cars, personal cars, bikes etc.
- > Door knock and check on neighbours
- > If you can help with first aid, help in your street, and once everyone there is okay go to the Community Emergency Hub to help
- > Radio contact to decide based on severity / urgency
- > Open spaces for air-evac if possible

Where can we get extra supplies?

- > Pooled first aid kits from houses / cars / halls

Where are there Defibrillators?

- > Police Dog Training Centre, Dante Road, Trentham
- > Reformed Church of Silverstream, 8 Blue Mountains Road, Pinehaven (auditorium by front doors)



Shelter

Ensure everyone in our community has somewhere safe and comfortable to stay.

- > Find places where people can shelter from the weather if they can't stay at home.
- > Find comfortable places where people can rest and sleep.



Small repairs may make homes safe enough to stay in.

If people need to leave their homes, encourage them to take as much bedding as possible.

Encourage people to stay with friends and family if possible. Ask neighbours or others in their street if they have a spare room.

People in the community may have spare beds, air mattresses, and couches available to offer people without a place to stay.

Check gas and electricity supplies are safe to use. Turn gas off at the meter/main if unsure. Turn electricity off at mains/switchboard and water at the tap on the footpath. Leaks including water, should be investigated.



Many people will be able to stay in their own homes, and this is ideal as people are much more comfortable in a home environment. Are there simple repairs that could be done to make a home safe enough for people to stay there.

You may have visitors to your community who don't live locally – commuters, shoppers, employees etc. These are the people most likely to need accommodation in your community.

Encourage people to make their spare beds and guest rooms available.

Don't wait for the perfect solution, shelter from the weather is a priority over comfort. Bad weather means the need for shelter is much more urgent than on a warm, sunny day.

Tell the Emergency Operations Centre (through the Communication desk) the number of people who need accommodation.

Who could help make people's homes safe, weatherproof, and comfortable?

- > Local tradespeople and volunteers

Key messages:

- > Stay at home if you are able to
- > Encourage people to go to family, friends, and neighbours
- > Open your home to people in need if you can help.
- > If you have to evacuate your home, bring bedding if you can.



Where can we get resources to make repairs?

- > Residents – what's in your toolshed?
 - > Neighbours
-

Where could we get bedding and clothing supplies to keep people warm and comfortable?

- > Homes
 - > Neighbours
-

What open spaces could accommodate temporary shelter?

- > Encourage people to put up a tent in their own yards.

What facilities could be used for temporary shelter if people can't stay at homes or with friends?

- > Barns
 - > Community Centre: to coordinate and inform people where to find accommodation. Recognising that there are a few accommodation spaces in the Valley, the Community Centre may become a place for shelter
 - > Tents and caravans
-



Water

Our community has access to clean water for drinking and water for cooking and hygiene purposes.

- > Ensure everyone knows how to treat drinking water.
- > Coordinate community water sources for drinking, cooking and hygiene.
- > Arrange a place in the community where water can be distributed if needed.



Water reservoirs are all around the region but automatically seal if lines are damaged. Technicians must manually attend to the valves. This will take time so look for other sources of water within the community right away.

Some schools and community centres have large water tanks installed. If there is one in your community check to see what their plan is for using the water.



Local streams and open bodies of water are not reliable sources of clean water. Chemical pollution and heavy metal contamination is not removed by boiling water or adding bleach.

Treat any non-bottled water. Boil it if you can, if not use bleach to treat.

BEST CHOICE: BOIL. Boiling water will kill most types of disease-causing organisms. If water is cloudy, filter it through a clean cloth. Boil water for one minute, let it cool, and store it in clean containers with covers.

IF YOU CAN'T BOIL: ADD BLEACH. Bleach will kill some (not all) types of disease-causing organisms. Just like boiling, filter cloudy water through a clean cloth first. Use only regular, unscented, liquid household bleach. Add two drops of bleach per litre of water. Stir well, let stand for 30 minutes before using, then store in clean containers with covers.

Where can we find drinking water?

- > Community Centre supply
- > Household/bore supplies
- > Most houses have large water tanks



How do we get water to people who are unable to leave their homes?

- > Bottled water, steel buckets, 20L water containers
- > People going door-to-door to check
- > Use vehicles – 4-wheel drive cars, personal cars, bikes, farm vehicles
- > Wheelbarrows, wheelie bins

Where can we find water for washing and cleaning?

- > Home tanks
- > River and streams
- > Toilet cisterns

What water supplies should be avoided or need treatment before drinking?

- > All water sources should be treated before drinking
- > Avoid drinking river/stream water
- > Grey water
- > Pool water
- > Springs and waterfalls
- > Stagnant water
- > Stagnant water
- > Stream water
- > Water stored near known septic tanks

What places would be good distribution points?

- > Community Centre



Food

People in our community have enough food to sustain them.

- > Organise a way to feed large groups of people who are displaced or do not have food of their own.
- > Coordinate food supplies in the community.



Assist with the coordination of food supplies in the community where necessary.

Encourage people to share food with those who don't have access to it.

Tell people to use foods in the refrigerator first, then those in the freezer, and finally dried goods from the pantry.

Pool community resources to feed everyone

- Street BBQs
- Have places where excess food can be coordinated from

What food suppliers and providers are there?

- > Silverstream New World, 28 Whitemans Road
- > No food suppliers in the Valley
- > Most houses have large supplies of food

Where else could we find food?

- > Beekeepers
- > Freezers and cupboards
- > Household supplies- use perishable and frozen food first
- > Hunters
- > Livestock
- > Vegie gardens

How could we organise to feed large groups of people?

- > Alternatively, use the Community Centre kitchen
- > BBQs in the street or Park
- > Have shared dinners/communal cooking - take people home and cook a bit extra to minimize gas consumption/ it is easier to cook for a few rather than a large group
- > Spit, hangi



Where can we get cooking and catering supplies?

- > Campervans
- > Community Centre kitchen
- > Household equipment – BBQs, gas cooker, camping cook equipment etc.
- > Short Straw café (closed)
- > Silverstream Retreat

How do we get food to people who are unable to leave their homes?

- > Carry in boxes, containers, buckets
- > Cars / 4WD, bikes, scooters, motorbikes, tractors
- > Organise teams to distribute
- > Use campervans
- > Use social media if available



- > Volunteers walking or cycling around

Animal Welfare

Animals in our community have access to medical assistance, shelter, water, and food.

- > Identify and coordinate locations and people for medical assistance for animals
- > Identify locations for animal shelter
- > Identify potential sources of food and water
- > Keep a record of lost and found pets

What animal services are in the area? (e.g., veterinary clinics, animal control, shelters, stock agents, stock truck companies)

What facilities could be used for temporary shelter for animals?

Where could we find drinking water for animals?

Where could we find food for animals? (companion animals & production animals)
