

BULLS CIVIL DEFENCE

COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES TOGETHER - 2025



The Bulls Community Response Group was organised by the Rangitikei District Council.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Plan has been prepared to provide a Civil Defence Community Response Plan for the Bulls Community in the event that the community is required to respond to any civil defence emergency or take action in advance of any civil defence emergency to prevent potentially devastating effects,

When an emergency occurs, this Plan will be activated by the community in response to the event. Other agencies will respond to the event by activating their own plans and coordinating their activities with other agencies to manage the impact on the community.

This Plan has been prepared with the aim of providing an effective, planned civil defence emergency response that links the community and the civil defence organisations in Rangitikei.

In preparation of surviving a civil defence emergency the community should undertake to be personally prepared with survival kits of water, food, lighting, heating, radios, spare batteries and medical supplies (visit www.getthru.govt.nz for more detail on survival information).

2. PLAN PURPOSE

The purpose of this Plan is to identify hazards that may impact on the Bulls Community, and to provide a plan whereby the community within is able to respond and remain self reliant for at least three days without any outside assistance if an emergency occurs.

3. COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Bulls is the main town in the southern ward of the Rangitikei District Council. The modern town name is named after James Bull who owned the first general store there.

The local Parewahawaha Marae is a traditional meeting ground for the Ngāti Raukawa hapū of Ngāti Parewahawaha.

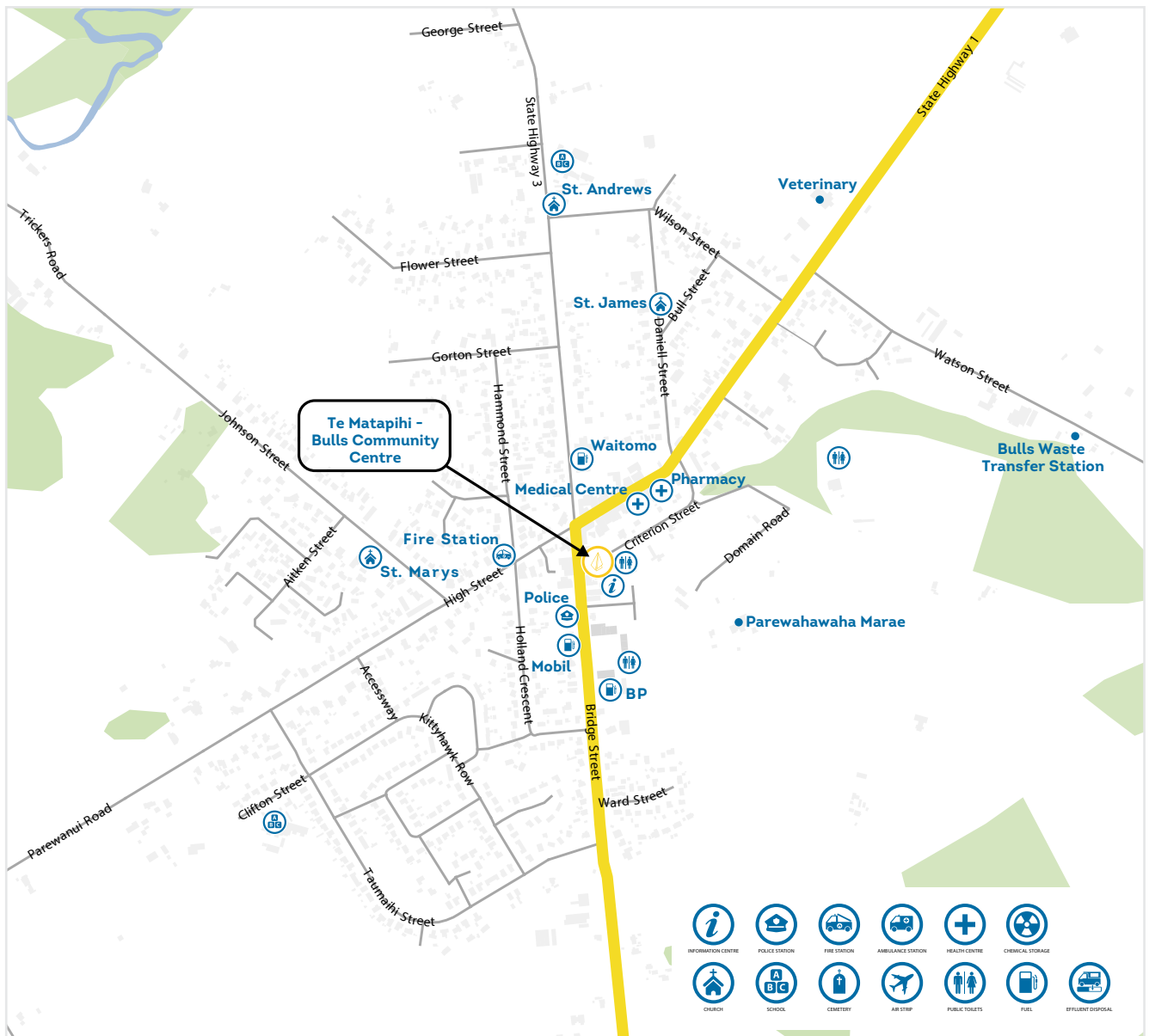
There are two recorded Māori toponyms for the area - Te Ara Taumaihi and Ō-hine-puhiawe. The origins of Te Ara Taumaihi have yet to be explicitly explored. Ō-hine-puhiawe, a land block where Parewahawaha marae is situated, acts as a synecdoche to refer to the current town area.

Bulls, like the rest of the Rangitikei District, is located in the general electorate of Rangitikei and the Māori electorate of Te Tai Hauāuru.

According to a June 2019 Statistics New Zealand estimate, Bulls has a population of 1,850 inhabitants.

Vulnerable members of the community include: our schools, our elderly residents, and visitors to the township

The community can easily be cut off from the outside by flooding, trees over the road, and damaged bridges.



4. GEOGRAPHICAL MAP

For the purpose of this Plan, the geographic area of coverage for the Bulls.



5. SIGNIFICANT THREATS TO BULLS

Hazards which pose a significant threat to the Bulls Community may include:

- Flooding
- Cyclones
- Earthquake
- Influenza pandemic
- CBRE – SH1/rail – Chemical Biological Radiology Explosive

6. ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEMS

The Rangitikei District Council is a member of the Horizons Regional Council Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and receives warning of adverse natural events from Central Government, the Meteorological Service, the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences and from other agencies.

Warning systems in place for Bulls are as follows:

National Warnings:

These will be received by Council and Police/Fire/Ambulance Communication Centres and disseminated to regional and local emergency responders. National Warnings come from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and from different agencies who are contracted by NEMA, For example:

- The Metservice issues severe weather warnings and watches for storms, cyclones, snow, thunderstorms and wind
- The Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences provide earthquake and volcanic bulletins
- The Ministry of Health and District Health boards provide public health warnings
- MAF disseminate alerts and warnings for animal disease outbreaks
- The National Emergency Management Agency provide tsunami warnings and advisories

Natural Warnings:

For some natural events there are no pre-warnings, for example an earthquake. But an earthquake can be a natural sign that an eruption may follow. This natural warning should be heeded by the public.

Local Warnings:

All television and radio networks will provide public information. Public should listen to the radio, refer to the back of the phone book and follow instructions.



Image: Stuff

7. EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDELINES

Incidents of emergencies are categorised into five levels reflecting the intensity of scope of the event that has occurred.

The broad headings of the levels of response are:

1. Local incident, declaration not required, emergency is dealt with by the Emergency Services
2. Local incident, declaration not required, but some external support is necessary.
3. Imminent state of local emergency is being considered and is of local significance
4. Imminent state of local emergency that is regionally significant
5. Imminent or state of National emergency.

8. DECLARATIONS

Only the following persons may declare a state of Civil Defence Emergency within the Rangitikei District Council:

1. The Mayor of the Rangitikei District
2. An elected member of the Rangitikei District Council authorised to act on behalf of the Mayor, of if the Mayor is absent
3. The Rangitikei District Council Civil Defence Controller

When a civil defence emergency is declared, the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 is invoked which gives Emergency Services and Police additional powers over and above their respective acts.

The lead agency in the event of any emergency response is the agency that has the legislative or agreed authority for control of the incident or emergency.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand - control and suppression of fires and other specialist functions.

New Zealand Police - maintain law and order, exercise additional powers as required during the state of emergency.

Ministry of Health - control the outbreak of infectious diseases.

THE CIVIL DEFENCE CONTROLLER HAS ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY OVER ALL PERSONNEL

All instructions given by the Emergency Services and the
Police must be followed without exception.

9.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

10. COMMUNITY RESPONSE GROUP

The overall responsibility of the Bulls Community Response Group is to liaise with police and emergency services to initiate and assist in response to a civil defence emergency.

Protection under the CDEM Act

The CDEM Act (Section 110) provides protection from liability for controllers, local authority staff, contractors and volunteers, in a state of emergency. Any person performing their functions, duties or powers under the CEDM Act is protected from liability for loss or damage caused by their actions or omissions due to a state of emergency. Despite Section 110, no person is exempted from liability for an act or omission that constitutes bad faith or gross negligence.

Re-imburement for costs

Fair and reasonable costs incurred by the community during the emergency will be re-imbursed by Council. Those costs associated with the caring of people evacuated from their homes or adversely affected by the event, or any actions taken to protect life should be collated by the Bulls Community Civil Defence Group and forwarded to the Emergency Management Officer at the Rangitikei District Council.

The Bulls Community Response Group responsibilities prior, during and after an emergency are listed below.

Prior to an emergency:

- Inform the community that communication pathways have been established (ie telephone tree) to disseminate civil defence warnings.
- Ensure that people are prepared through a community education campaign.
- Test the plan as required and participate in exercises.
- Ensure that the community is informed about the Community Response Plan.
- Create, update and maintain a telephone tree.
- Meet at least annually to review the Plan.
- Provide basic First Aid/Civil Defence training.

During an emergency:

- The Chief Fire Officer or his/her delegate will activate the Bulls Community Civil Defence Response Plan by #####
- Ensure that warning information is disseminated to the community as quickly and efficiently as possible
- Liaise with the emergency services if at all possible to get an overview of what is happening and what is required
- Relay information back to the Rangitikei District Council civil defence if possible;
- Provide a situation report (casualties, damage, other threats) for the community and request assistance if required.
- If required set up a Civil Defence Centre
- Provide assistance to the emergency services to help evacuate the affected community

After an emergency has occurred the main avenue for the collection of information will be from local sources and those persons identified in this Plan. The early collection of information is very important as it will assist in determining the scale of the response that is required.

After an emergency:

- Work in support of any recovery efforts in the Bulls community.
- Hold a de-brief of the group's response to see if there needs to be any improvements or there are things that worked really well that should be continued
- Arrange to get the plan updated with any improvements or new ideas that have come about as a result of the emergency

There is also the commitment of the Rangitikei District Council to provide the following in support of the Bulls Community Response Group:

- To maintain and ensure that early response warnings are being received by the Rangitikei District Council
- Ensure that vital information of any threat is forwarded to the Bulls Community Response Group without delay, where communication is possible
- Provide advice and guidance to local communities developing and testing their plans
- Provide opportunities for training and exercising as requested by the Bulls Response Group

11.

The roles and responsibilities of the emergency services is clearly defined by legislation. In the event of this Plan being activated due to an emergency occurring, the roles and responsibilities of the community groups are set out as below. However, it is intended that by agreement, it is acknowledged that these roles are intended to be flexible if required.

Police

- Maintain law and order
- Protect life and property
- Assist the coroner
- Co-ordinate movement control
- Search and rescue

Fire and Emergency New Zealand

- Fire fighting responsibilities
- Containment of releases and spillages of hazardous substances
- Urban search and rescue
- Limitation of damage
- Redistribution of water for specific needs

St John Ambulance

- Provision of emergency medical care

Community organisations

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12. PLAN ACTIVATION

This Plan may be activated by the following:

- local Incident Controller
- local emergency services personnel – Chief Fire Officer or his/her delegate
- the Bulls Community Response Group Chair in isolation only if contact cannot be made with either the Local Incident Controller or Chief Fire Officer

There may be situations when an event has not occurred but the local community is concerned about the impact of a potential threat and this Plan can be activated. For example an cyclone may cause the activation of this Plan.

This Plan is also designed to be activated when there is limited or no contact with the Rangitikei District Council and it outlines the process the community will go through to work together to support themselves in an emergency.

The community may also be asked to activate the Plan as part of a local, regional or national exercise to test its capability.

13. EMERGENCY CENTRES

A Civil Defence Centre / Welfare Centre may be established for any event if it is required. The designated Civil Defence Centre for BULLS is Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre. This will always be Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre regardless of event size.

The Community Response Group should, when possible, inform the Rangitikei District Council when it is contemplating setting up a Civil Defence Centre. In the absence of any means to contact the Rangitikei District Council the Response Group can set up a Civil Defence Centre to receive evacuated persons from within the Bulls area.



14. COMMUNICATION

Communication is the critical component of this Community Response Plan. People within the community must be alerted to an impending emergency or be contacted after an emergency or an event has occurred. Communication must also be made outside the community to relay the situation and/or request any assistance if required.

This Plan must also be communicated to the community.

Communication within and between communities:

Communication typically relies on the following communication pathways:

- Telephone
- Cell phone
- E-mail
- Radio Networks
- Pagers
- Radio telephone
- Face to face (neighbours calling on neighbours)
- Camp ground information to campers (announcement/signage)
- Social Media

During emergencies there are often disruptions to these telecommunications pathways (i.e. with loss of power, cell phone towers and poor satellite coverage) and the following alternatives have been identified if traditional communication pathways have become interrupted to communicate with those outside the community:

- VHF radios or satellite phones. (Held by Council)
- Alternative communication within the community when the normal means of communication has been disrupted, ie face to face contact, whistles, alarms, loud speakers.

Communication of this Plan to the community

This Plan needs to be communicated to the wider community if it is to be effective and representative of the entire community. The following have been identified as means of communicating this plan to the wider community:

- Presentation at community meetings
- Stands at community events
- Notice or articles in community newsletters
- Training exercises
- Plan available at the Library
- Abridged Plan delivered to all households and on the Rangitikei District Council website



APPENDIX 1: HAZARD MAP



APPENDIX 2: HAZARDS

Significant threats to Bulls include but are not limited to:

Threat	Probability	Impact to Bulls
Flooding	High	Road access denied Fast flowing streams and drains risk of being swept away in flood water Cause land-slips Most areas in Bulls are affected Community cut-off from outside Community may have to be self-sustainable
Storms	High	Can be life-threatening Cause of panic & fear - in particular to elderly Loss of power affecting water pumps & appliances Telephones not working properly Damage to property or homes Community may have to be self-sustainable
Earthquake	High	Can be life-threatening Damage to property or homes Road access could be denied Community may have to be self-sustainable
Pandemic	High	People may not be able to leave their homes Services may be disrupted Food supply may diminish and supplies hard to source Pressure on local health services Community may have to be self-sustainable
Animal disease	Low	Restriction on movement of people and stock Services may be disrupted Community may have to be self-sustainable Cause of panic & fear
Wild Fire	Low	Damage to property or homes Road access denied Water supplies effected due to firefighting activities
Aircraft Crash	Low	Can be life-threatening Damage to property or homes Road access could be denied Community may have to be self-sustainable
Chemical spillage	Medium	People may not be able to leave their homes Services may be disrupted Food supply may diminish and supplies hard to obtain Community may have to be self-sustainable

Threat	Probability	Impact to Bulls
Volcanic eruption	Low	Water supplies affected Road access denied Dust in the air Health risks People may not be able to leave their homes Services may be disrupted Food supply may diminish and supplies hard to source Community may have to be self-sustainable Loss of power affecting water pumps & appliances Telephones not working properly

Hazard identification determines which hazards threaten areas of the community and the probability identifies how likely it is that the disaster will occur.

APPENDIX 3: WARNINGS FOR NEW ZEALAND

The following table outlines risks and the monitoring agency responsible for issuing warnings:

Particular Risk or Hazard	Monitoring Agency	Comment
Severe Weather Outlook Watch or Warnings Storms Flooding Wind	Meteorological Service of New Zealand (Met Service). www.metconnect.co.nz	National Weather Services (NWS), A division of the Met Service collects and analyses meteorological data from around New Zealand and the world, from which the many different types of weather forecasts are made. The NWS is responsible for the safeguarding of New Zealand lives and property through the issuing of Severe Weather Watches and Warnings.
Earthquake	Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences	Monitored by the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences who are responsible for alert bulletins issued to MCDEM and CDEM Groups.
Volcanic Eruption	Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences	Monitored by the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences who are responsible for alert bulletins issued to MCDEM and CDEM Groups.
Public Health Warnings	Ministry of Health and District Health Boards	Develop and disseminate alerts and warnings to CDEM Groups and the general public.
Flood Warnings for major rivers	Rangitikei Regional Council	Develop and disseminate river flood warnings to the public, emergency responders and pre-arranged landowners.
Animal Disease Outbreaks	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Dissemination alerts and warnings to CDEM Groups and public.

APPENDIX 4: **PLAN ACTIVATION PROCESS**

The Bulls Community Response Group is responsible for the activation of this Plan in the lead up to an event that is known to be likely to occur due to advance warning, or as a result of a sudden event. The community may also be asked to activate the Plan as part of a local, regional or national exercise to test its capability.

Initial actions

Where advance warning of an event is received by Civil Defence or the responsible agency then the following should be notified:

1. Response Group member – Chief Fire Officer, or in his/her absence the highest ranging officer
2. Chief Fire Officer will notify the Police and Ambulance that the Bulls Community Civil Defence Plan has been activated.

ONCE THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER RECEIVES ADVICE OF THE EVENT, HE/SHE WILL:

DO THIS

- Activate telephone tree and other notification processes

The Bulls Community Response Group will set up the Civil Defence Centre at the Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre to;

- Provide shelter, warmth and information to those affected by the emergency

WHERE AN UNEXPECTED SUDDEN EVENT OCCURS:

REMEMBER

The person in charge of the lead agency or the community should activate this plan if required or at all possible – Chief Fire Office.

APPENDIX 5: EVACUATION PROCESS

Civil Defence warnings to the Bulls community will be by the following methods

- Warnings via radio
- PA systems on emergency services vehicles
- Local procedures – car horns, telephone trees, door to door knocking.

IF YOU RECEIVE A WARNING!

Do this:

- Listen to your local radio station and follow instructions
- Refer to this plan as a guide on what to do
- Activate your pre-determined telephone tree to warn others
- Prepare to activate your household emergency plan

STAY AT HOME UNLESS YOU ARE TOLD TO EVACUATE, AVOID UNNECESSARY TRAVEL

IF YOU ARE ADVISED TO EVACUATE THEN...

Do this:

Assemble with your emergency survival kit at Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre

**THE CIVIL DEFENCE CONTROLLER HAS ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY
OVER ALL PERSONNEL.**

**All instructions given by the Emergency Services and the Police must be followed
without exception.**

APPENDIX 6: PRIORITY CONTACTS

FIRE	All emergencies	Dial 111
POLICE	All emergencies	Dial 111
AMBULANCE	All emergencies	Dial 111
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	All emergencies Stewart Street Surgery	Dial 111 06-327 8884
RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL	Call Centre Civil Defence Emergency	0800 422 522 0800 422 522

APPENDIX 7: LOCAL RESOURCES

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	
BUS AND COACH TRANSPORT	
AMBULANCE	
LOCAL RADIO STATIONS	
GENERATORS	
RADIO COMMS	
COOL STORAGE	
RURAL HALLS	
TRADES	
ELECTRICIAN	
PLUMBER	
CONTRACTORS	

APPENDIX 8: **CIVIL DEFENCE CENTRE INFORMATION**

TE MATAPIHI - BULLS COMMUNITY CENTRE DESIGNATED CIVIL DEFENCE CENTRE / WELFARE CENTRE	
Location	
Access	
Coordinator	
Centre Phone Number	
To open as a welfare centre contact	
Cater facilities	
Toilet facilities	
Parking	
Building capacity	
Alternative power supply	
Water supply	
Resources available	
Welfare kit on site?	
Notes	

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