

# MANGAWEKA CIVIL DEFENCE

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## COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLAN

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES TOGETHER - 2025

**PLEASE  
KEEP THIS PLAN  
SAFE IN YOUR  
HOME**



**MANAWATU-WHANGANUI**  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Mangaweka Defence Plan was organized by the Rangitikei District Council in collaboration with Taihape Neighbourhood Support and the Mangaweka Community Response Group - 2025

*Cover Image: Richard Aslett*

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**Mangaweka Day** – first Saturday in March  
**Fakes & Forgeries Art Exhibition, Mangaweka** – biannually – Oct/Nov

# 1. INTRODUCTION

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This Plan has been prepared to provide a Civil Defence Community Response Plan for the Mangaweka 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, phone power packs and medical supplies. Visit [www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz) for more detail on survival information.

## 2. PLAN PURPOSE

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

### 3. COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

Mangaweka is on State Highway 1, 40 minutes south of Waiouru and 20 minutes north of Hunterville – and has a population of approximately 200. Mangaweka is a service town for the farming community and travellers on SH1. The main trunk railway line bisects the town.

The land is predominantly medium-steep hill country, subject to erosion.

Vulnerable members of the community include: our elderly residents, children, tourists, and diabetes sufferers requiring dialysis three times per week.

The community can easily be cut off from the outside by flooding, slips, snow and trees over the road and damaged bridges. The community can also be easily cut off from within itself, especially rural communities.

State Highway 1 has very busy periods with thousands of vehicles passing through Mangaweka township each day, many stopping for food and/or petrol, eg skiers in winter,

families during school holidays and public holidays. SH1 and the main trunk railway line have vehicles carrying chemicals and hazardous materials daily.

There is one school – Mangaweka Primary School in Raumaewa Street. Mangaweka Playcentre is on Broadway.

The Mangaweka Murals Art Trail and the Yellow Church Gallery attract many passing travellers, and the campgrounds are very busy in summer. There are two campgrounds either side of the historic cantilever bridge which is sited next to the new road bridge on Cage Road towards the Kawhatau Valley.

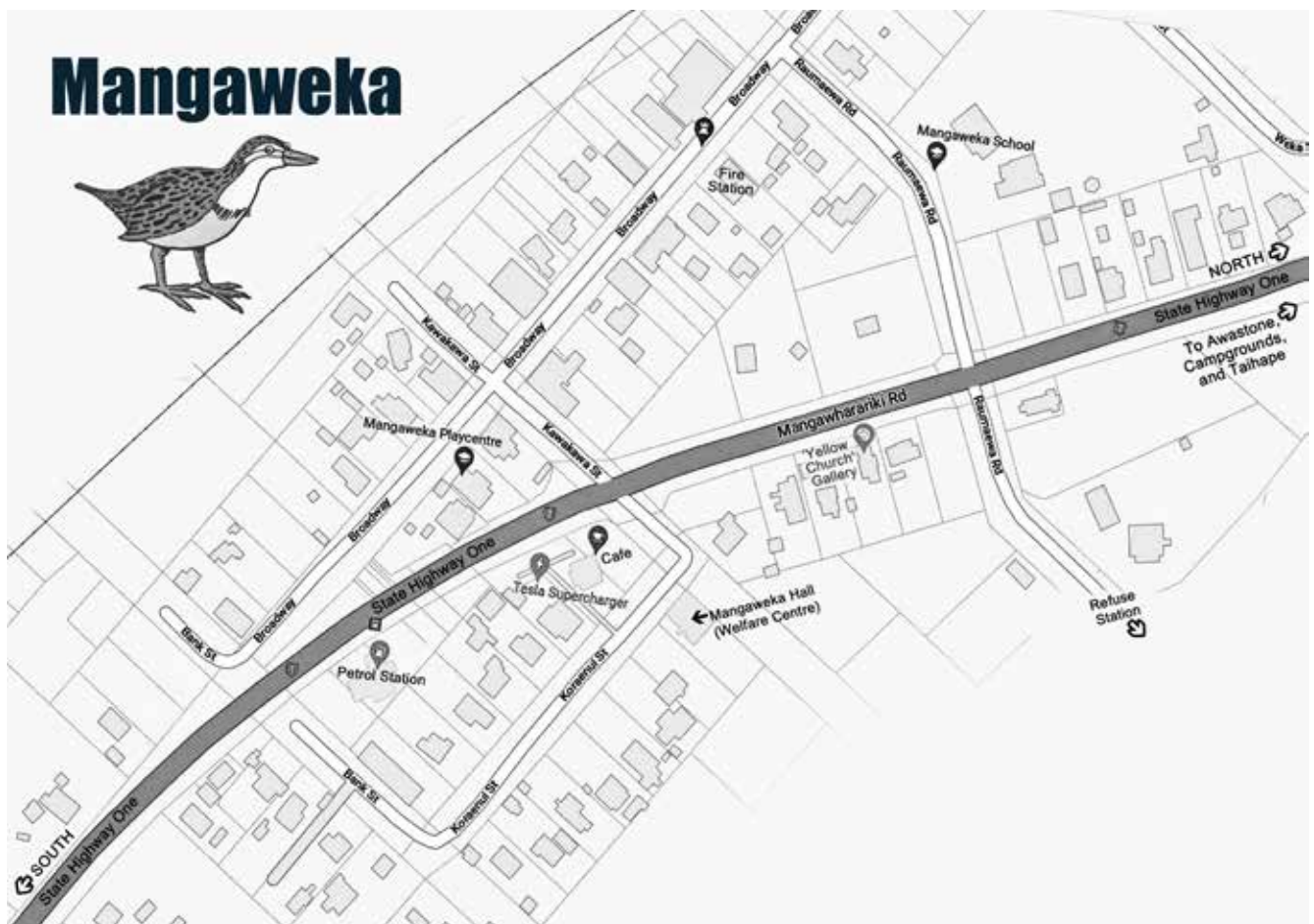


Image: Richard Aslett



## 4. GEOGRAPHICAL MAP

For the purpose of this Plan, the geographic area of coverage for the Mangaweka Community will be the Mangaweka village to the Rangitikei River, including Awastone.



## 5. SIGNIFICANT THREATS TO MANGAWEKA

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

- Cyclones
- Landslip Flooding
- Earthquake
- Pandemic
- Volcanic eruption/dust Snow
- Animal disease outbreak
- CBRE – SH1/rail – Chemical Biological Radiology Explosive

A more detailed list of hazards and their effects on the community is contained in Appendix 1. Refer to map on page 17.



Image: Richard Aslett

## 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. See Appendix 3 for a description of warnings received and disseminated in New Zealand.

Warning systems in place for Mangaweka 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 Ministry and from different agencies who are contracted by the ministry (see appendix 3-warnings for New Zealand). 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 Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management 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 and follow instructions.

### Community Warnings:

The Mangaweka Community Response Group encompassed in this Plan will have in place a Communication Plan to contact members of the community to advise them of an event that may have a significant risk to life and property.

Communities and individuals can evacuate when and if they want to at any time without direction if they wish to.

A community noticeboard will be erected.

## 7. EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDELINES

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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 state of national emergency.

## 8. DECLARATIONS

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**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, or if the Mayor is absent
3. The **Manawatu-Whanganui** Civil Defence Emergency Management Group 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. RESPONSE GROUP COMMITTEE

The organisations listed below form the Mangaweka Community Civil Defence Response Group. This group will meet at least annually with the community to discuss and review the Plan and liaise with the Rangitikei District Council's Civil Defence Officer to effect any changes. The role of this Group is to assist in the initiation of an early response, disseminate warnings within the community covered by this Plan, identify and set up a welfare centre or emergency control centre if required, report on the situation, and review and update the Plan.

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Mangaweka Voluntary Fire Brigade
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Police
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St John
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Taihape Health Centre
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Rangitikei District Council
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Taihape Neighbourhood Support
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MSD -Work & Income
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Church leaders
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Mangaweka Primary School
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Mangaweka Playcentre
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Mangaweka Heritage
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Taihape FoodBank
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Mangaweka Playcentre
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## 10. EMERGENCY RESPONSE GROUP

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The overall responsibility of the Mangaweka 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 CDEM 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.

### **Reimbursement for costs**

Fair and reasonable costs incurred by the community during the emergency may be reimbursed 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 Mangaweka Community Response Group and forwarded to the Emergency Management Officer at the Rangitikei District Council.

The Mangaweka 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 Communication Plan) 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 to Group members.

#### **During an emergency:**

- The Chief Fire Officer or his/her delegate will activate the Mangaweka Community Civil Defence Response Plan by activating the Communication Plan.
- 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 Mangaweka community.
- Hold a debrief 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 Mangaweka Community Response Group:

- 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 Mangaweka 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 Mangaweka Community Response Group.

## 11. AGENCY AND OTHER GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES

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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 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

### **St John Ambulance**

- Provision of emergency medical care

### **Council**

- Civil defence welfare



## 12. PLAN ACTIVATION

This Plan may be activated by the following:

- local Incident Controller
- Chief Fire Officer or his/her delegate
- the Mangaweka 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 impending eruption or a 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. PLAN ACTIVATION PROCESS

The Mangaweka 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. Emergency services
2. Communication Plan will be activated.

### ONCE EMERGENCY SERVICES RECEIVE ADVICE OF THE EVENT, THEY WILL:

#### DO THIS

- Activate the Communication Plan and other notification processes
- Set up the Civil Welfare Centre at the Mangaweka Hall

The Community Response Group will;

- Liaise to determine what actions should be taken
- Notify all other members of the response group
- Brief them on the warning that has been received and current situation
- Consider who will be affected and where
- Prepare the hall for the establishment of a Civil Defence Centre, if required
- Notify the Civil Defence Controller with actions taken

### WHERE AN UNEXPECTED SUDDEN EVENT OCCURS:

#### REMEMBER

The person in charge of the lead agency should activate this Plan



## 14. EVACUATION PROCESS

Civil Defence warnings to the Mangaweka 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 (Brian FM and Peak FM will transmit Civil Defence information in Rangitikei)
- Check the Community Noticeboard noticeboard in the Mangaweka Hall
- 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 Getaway Kit and your Emergency Survival Kit at the Mangaweka Hall, or as advised on the day.
- For country residents, assemble at your local agreed assembly point.

### 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.**

## 15. EMERGENCY CENTRES

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An emergency control centre or welfare centre may be established for any event if it is required. The Civil Defence Centre will be set up at the former Hospital.

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

## 16. COMMUNICATION

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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
- Face to face (neighbours calling on neighbours)
- Camp ground information to campers (announcements/signage)
- Community noticeboard at the Mangaweka Hall
- Social Media – Mangaweka Community FaceBook page

During emergencies there are often disruptions to these telecommunication 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:

- Alternative communication within the community when the normal means of communication has been disrupted, ie face to face contact, noticeboard in main street, 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 Mangaweka Library
- Abridged Plan delivered to all households and on Rangitikei District Council website

# GETAWAY KITS

Everyone in the house should have a packed getaway kit in an easily accessible place which includes:

- Torch and radio with spare batteries
- Hearing aids and spare batteries, glasses or mobility aids
- Emergency bottled water and easy-to-carry food rations
- Extra supplies of special dietary items
- First aid kit and essential medicines
- For infants or young children – formula and food, nappies
- Change of clothes (wind/waterproof clothing and strong outdoor shoes)
- Toiletries – towel, soap, toothbrush, sanitary items, toilet paper
- Blanket or sleeping bags
- Face and dust masks
- Pet supplies
- Important documents:
  - Identification (birth and marriage certificates, driver's licences, passports)
  - Financial (insurance policies and mortgage)
  - Precious family photos

## If we have to evacuate we will:

- Take our Getaway Kit
- Turn off electricity and water at mains
- Turn off gas only if we suspect a leak or if asked to do so by the authorities
- Take our pets with us
- LOCK OUR PROPERTY

## Do Not Use Phones Unless URGENT

### Emergency Survival Kit

- Torch with spare batteries or a self-charging torch
- Phone power pack
- Radio with spare batteries
- Wind and waterproof clothing, sun hats, strong outdoor shoes
- First aid kit and essential medicines
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Pet supplies
- Emergency toilet – bucket, toilet paper and large rubbish bags
- Face and dust masks

Check all batteries every 3 months

### Animals

Your animals are your responsibility. You need to include them in your emergency planning and preparation. Check out [www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz) and [www.sPCA.nz](http://www.sPCA.nz).

### Food and water for a week or more

- Non-perishable food (canned or dried food)
- Food, formula, nappies and drinks for babies and small children
- Water (at least 3 litres per person, per day) for drinking
- Water for washing and cooking
- A primus or gas barbeque to cook on
- A can opener

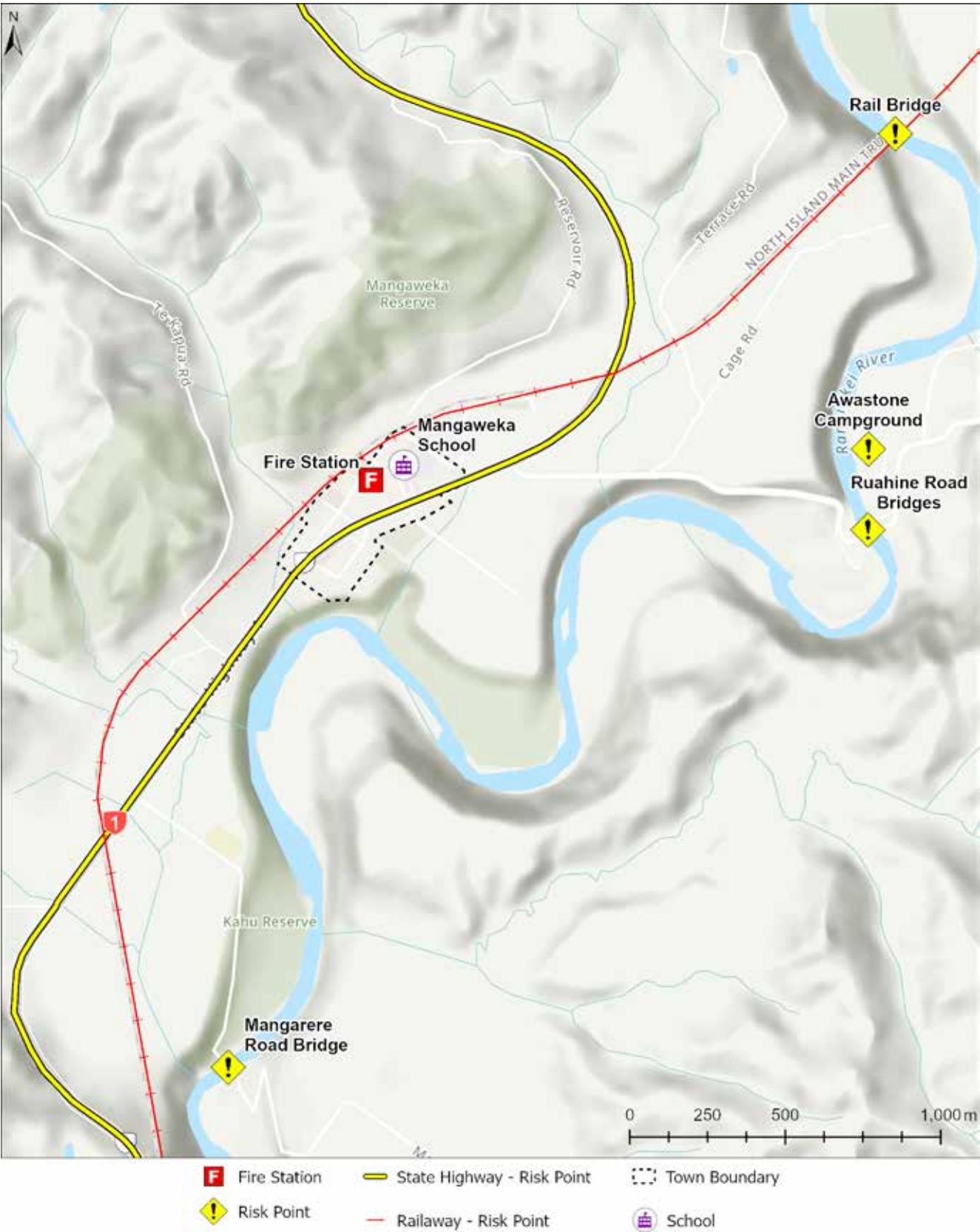
Consider stocking a two-week supply of food and water for prolonged emergencies such as a pandemic. Check and replace food and water every twelve months.

### How to store water

Wash bottles thoroughly in hot water. Fill each bottle with tap water until it overflows. Add five drops of household bleach per litre of water (or one teaspoon for 10 litres).

Store in a cool dark place and replace the water every 12 months.

# APPENDIX 1: HAZARD MAP



## APPENDIX 2: HAZARDS

Significant threats to Mangaweka include but are not limited to:

Threat	Probability	Impact to Mangaweka
Flooding	Medium	Road access denied Cause land-slips Most areas in Mangaweka are affected Community cut-off from outside Community may have to be self-sustainable
Land Slips	High	Road access denied Damage to property or homes 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 Loss of reticulated services
Pandemic	Medium-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
Snow	Medium-High	Loss of power affecting water pumps & appliances Telephones not working properly Road access could be denied 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
Chemical spillage	Medium	People may not be able to leave their homes or may have to evacuate Services may be disrupted Food supply may diminish and supplies hard to obtain Community may have to be self-sustainable
Volcanic eruption	Low-Medium	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). <a href="http://www.metconnect.co.nz">www.metconnect.co.nz</a>	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: **PRIORITY CONTACTS**

<b>FIRE</b>	All emergencies	Dial 111
<b>POLICE</b>	All emergencies	Dial 111
<b>AMBULANCE</b>	All emergencies	Dial 111
<b>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE</b>	All emergencies Taihape Health Ltd	Dial 111 06 388 0926
<b>LOCAL CIVIL DEFENCE CONTACTS</b>	Emergency Management Officer	0800 422 522
<b>DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION</b>	Emergencies only	0800 DOCHOT 0800 362 468
<b>RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	Call Centre Civil Defence Emergency	0800 422 522 0800 422 522
<b>MANGAWEKA SERVICE CENTRE</b>	Council staff	06 388 0604
<b>NATIONAL POISON CENTRE</b>	Dunedin	03 479 7284 0800 764 766

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CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT