

WAIMAKARIRI COMMUNITY SURVEY 2011 – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RESULTS

The following is an extract of information relevant to CDEM taken from the Waimakariri District Council "*Community Survey 2011*." While the survey looks at a range of different services across the Council, ultimately the CDEM aspect of the survey seeks to understand how well prepared residents are for a civil defence emergency. The extract:

- Summarizes the key findings on civil defence emergency preparedness.
- Explains the method used to conduct the survey.
- Summarizes the CDEM question and the various types of responses to it.

Emergencies

Respondent households were asked whether they had various supplies to last them at least three days in the event of an emergency. The responses were:

- 85% had enough water stored for at least three days
- 96% had enough food for at least three days
- 87% had the ability to cook without electric power
- 72% had the ability to heat their home without electric power
- 77% had a battery powered radio with spare batteries
- 97% had a torch with spare batteries, or candles and lighters, or gas lighting.

Across the District the following proportions of households surveyed in each ward had enough water for three days:

- 98% of the Woodend/Ashley households
- 87% of the Oxford/Eyre households
- 85% of the Kaiapoi households
- 79% of the Rangiora households.

There were 77% of respondent households that had access to a battery powered radio and spare batteries. This suggests therefore that there are 23% of respondents that may not be able to receive communication from civil defence or other agencies via radio following an emergency, if a power loss also occurs. This could impact the ability of some residents to receive evacuation instructions or other advice in the event of an emergency that caused a power loss.

There were 72% of respondent households across the District that had the ability to heat their homes without electric power in 2011, down from 82% in 2007. The differences across the wards, in ability to heat their homes without electric power are as follows:

- 92% of Oxford/Eyre households
- 87% of Woodend/Ashley households
- 65% of Kaiapoi households
- 60% of Rangiora households.
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In the main urban areas of the District the survey results suggest that about one third of all the households would be unable to heat their homes without electric power, should an emergency remove the power supply for a period of time.

Respondents were also asked about the sorts of emergencies most likely to affect them where they lived. Earthquakes were noted most frequently by respondents, followed by floods/tsunami, and then snowstorms. Windstorm and pandemic were also mentioned by some respondents, but wildfire and house fires were noted the least number of times by respondents.

When households were asked whether they would be willing to assist Civil Defence in an emergency, 90% of the households stated their members were willing to work alongside civil defence for the benefit of their communities. Overall, the proportions of households already involved in helping civil defence (7% in 2011 up from 0.3% in 2007), or that are very willing to help (48% in 2011 up from 40% in 2007) has increased since 2007.

The survey method

This survey was conducted in May 2011. There were 1,000 self-administered questionnaires distributed by post to randomly selected households.

The sample was randomly selected from the Council's property valuation roll. The allocation of questionnaires across the District was by ward, and was based on the percentage of the District's usually resident population living in each ward as estimated by Statistics New Zealand as at 30 June 2009.

The response rate for this survey was 35.9%, with 359 of the 1,000 questionnaires being returned.

The sampling error for the survey is +/-5.16% at 95% confidence for the survey as a whole. This means that the results in the middle of the percentage range are likely to be accurate within 5.16%, but there is about one chance in 20 of the results being outside this range. The sampling error for sub-samples drawn from the overall survey data will however be larger. The household was the "unit of analysis".

The following are some of the key differences between the survey population and the District population as a whole (from the 2006 census):

- One person households, together with households containing three or more people, were under-represented in the survey results, whilst two person households were overrepresented.
- Families with children and teenagers (0-19) were underrepresented in the survey results and adults aged 50+ were overrepresented.
- Respondent households that had been established in the District for fewer than five years appear to be under-represented in the survey population.
- Respondents from the Rangiora ward were overrepresented in the survey results in relation to their proportion of the total District population (as estimated as at June 2009) whilst respondents from the Woodend/Ashley ward were underrepresented.

Where a trend or key change is evident from a comparison of the results of the earlier 2007 Community Survey with this 2011 survey, then the comparison or change between the two survey's is included in this summary.

The CDEM Question and Types of Responses

Q5: Please comment, if you wish, about your household's preparedness for an emergency.

"A bag of clothing and wet weather gear is ready."

"Ability to heat your home without electric power is essential ECAN must rethink the policies regarding replacing log burners."

"After 2 earthquakes you learn to be prepared but we're renting a house so if we lost power we would go to my mums in Rangiora because she has a fire and you can cook on it."

"All of the above are ready and easily accessible in case of any emergency."

"Also emergency radio receivers, battery and wind up."

"Always have been prepared."

"Always have kept above supplies except water on hand, but since earthquakes we always make sure we have enough water on hand. Also have a list (waterproofed) of contacts and policy numbers, bank ac's."

"Always have our camping gear."

"As a family we are now arranging variety of meeting places."

"As a newly built home, a log fire was not allowed to be installed. Thus in case of lose of power if have not alternative heat source. How to solve this?"

"As prepared as we think we need to be."

"Caravan, camping gear available."

"Contact with neighbours an important feature in an emergency."

"Cooking is on BBQ, wood fire top."

"Feel ok with our readiness."

"First aid, also cat cages, cat food etc, emergency bag."

"First aid kit and a can of petrol."

"Have a gas fire but it needs electricity to start it."

"Have a standby generator."

"Have emergency bucket with extras packed at all times."

"Have enough food and water for at least one week. Have emergency bag already packed if evacuation is necessary."

"Have generator for power loss and water pump."

"Have heating in our caravan if too cold in the house."

"Have storage containers for water plus bleach to help purify."

"House has over 3mths supply on hand at all times, plus generator and fuel, wood fire."

"How the hell does one heat ones house when log fires are banned, gas is very expensive."

"I have 30k tank of stored water and fireplace."

"I know I can light the gas 4 cooking with a match."

"I think an independent service of home heating is very important ie log burner."

"I would put some milk containers of water into my freezer."

"Important item to purchase, battery radio."

"Its expensive trying to put everything together when you have limited money,"

"Manage for a week max 2 weeks."

"Need to purchase radio and batteries."

"Not as well prepared as we perhaps should be."

"Only problem is heating, gas and electric heating are clean and efficient but log burners offer alternatives with power in jeopardy."

"Own generator to run fridge, freezer and water."

"Phone that does not require electricity, Not a cell phone, dried food, canned food, always 2 full spare gas bottles."

"Semi okay"

"Should do better, have just purchased wind up radio/torch etc."

"Since the earthquakes we have become very prepared for an emergency including storing water, food, survival kit and first aid kit."

"Since the February earthquake we put an emergency kit together."

"Very prepared, survival kit and getaway kits in place. All family members educated re family plan and accessing necessities."

"Water would come from water race, we could use radios in car and tractor."

"We always keep a fairly stocked pantry. We have bottled water our main concern would be heating."

"We are prepared now due to recent events well be getting a gas heater for worse case scenario's and for possible black outs."

"We do rely on petrol to run the generator to pump water."

"We have the main emergency supplies and are waiting for a new wood burner to be installed If this is done we will be ok."

"We maintain a vegetable garden with year round provision of several basic crops and fruit in season."