



Tsunami: Advice for people with disabilities or difficulty with mobility

If you, or a member of your household or community has a disability that may affect your ability to evacuate in a tsunami, make arrangements now to get the support needed.

Information and resources to help people with disabilities prepare for an emergency are available on the Get Ready website: www.getready.govt.nz/prepared/special-requirements/

Build a personal support network

- Organise a personal support network of a minimum of three people to help if you need to evacuate. This could be family members, carers, friends, neighbours or co-workers. They need to be people who are regularly in the same area as you.
- Ensure you have an emergency plan before a disaster happens and practice your plan with your support network, including how you will evacuate if the threat is a tsunami.
- Get to know your neighbours. Share contact details so you can get in touch if an emergency occurs. Tell them about your emergency plan and ask about their plans.
- Inform your support team if you are travelling or away from home.
- Agree on how you will contact each other during an emergency, including if internet and phone lines are down.

Make sure you have any special supplies you may need

- Have essential supplies in a grab bag in case you need to leave in a hurry.

If you are hard of hearing

- Put a writing pad, pencils and a torch with batteries in your grab bag so you can communicate with others.

If you are blind or partially sighted

- Keep extra canes at home and in the workplace, even if you use a guide dog. Animals may become confused or disoriented in an emergency.

Disability assist dogs

- If you have an assistance dog, such as a guide dog, ensure it is certified with an authorised organisation, such as Blind Low Vision NZ.
- Get a Disability Assist Dog identification tag — a unique tag worn by a certified dog to provide easy identification of Disability Assist Dog status. Ensure the dog is wearing its identification tag at all times. The tag enables access for service dogs to civil defence centres in an emergency and will also support rapid reunification if the dog and handler become separated.
- Have a grab bag for your disability assist dog with food, medications, vaccination records, identification and harnesses.

For further information see: www.hbemergency.govt.nz/hazards/tsunami