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**Māpua-Ruby Bay Community Emergency Preparedness Plan (CEPP)**

**Community Update - July 2025**

As of end-June 2025, the CEP Team have completed the CEP Plan, recruited a *Community Emergency Management Coordinator* (Susie Wendelborn as announced in last months Coastal News) and have a number of volunteers (some of which have already undertaken Civil Defense / Emergency Management and First Aid training sessions). We are also in the process of readying the Māpua Community Hall (The Hall) for use as our Community Emergency Centre (The CEC). Further training will be offered by NTEM next year once NTEM staff have had time to focus on the massive recovery effort underway across our region).

The decision to relocate the emergency supplies from the Hills Community Church to and establish The Hall as our CEC was taken in coordination with NTEM after having conducted an assessment of various options within the Māpua Village, taking into consideration 24/7 access to the facility, resilience to flooding, proximity to community resources (healthcare, pharmacy, foodstore, veterinary clinic etc).

MDCA is currently working with The Hall Committee to agree our approach and then make the necessary preparations for The Hall to function as The CEC (such as developing procedures, stocking additional emergency supplies (bedding, food/water, toiletries etc). MDCA is very appreciative of the support The Hall Committee has provided to date and looks forward to working together with The Hall, local clubs, businesses and residents in the future on communications, information-sharing and fund-raising.

Emergency preparedness includes clear guidance on when The CEC would be opened. Clarity on this matter is important, as opening and staffing The CEC involves mobilizing volunteers at a time when NTEM guidance will likely be to “Shelter-in-Place” and stay off the roads unless absolutely necessary. Residents should not assume that The CEC will be opened just because a Tasman Region State of Emergency has been declared. The Māpua -Ruby Bay Emergency Preparedness team will be working with The Hall Committee to develop a clear set of guidelines/criteria for deciding when The CEC would be activated. Once these are agreed and cross-checked with NTEM, they will be shared with the wider community via the MDCA / The Hall websites, with links to all relevant community facebook pages. The guidelines are expected to be finalized and shared no later the Q4/2025.

**Until these guidelines are in-place, CEP Team offers the following advice:**

* *If the immediate Māpua-Ruby Bay are is experiencing severe weather, fire danger or the effects of a significant earthquake / tsunami risk, residents should follow the guidelines provided by Civil Defence. If the earthquake is long or strong and you live on the flats near the coast, then you need to evacuate to a higher point.*
* *If you feel it is unsafe to stay in / return to your home, please reach out to family / friends / neighbours for temporary accommodation.*
* *If you are staying at a motel or camping ground, check with the business owner as they will likely have an emergency plan.*
* *If none of these options are available and a significant number of residents and/or visitors find them with no safe place to go due to road closures / power outages etc, then The Hall will likely be opened as a CEC and staffed by community volunteers.*
* *If the extent of the Emergency has resulted in the CEC volunteers themselves being impacted and/or The Hall being rendered unsafe / inaccessible, then NTEM / FENZ responders will provide guidance on which Emergency Evacuation Centre residents can self-evacuate to.*

Depending on the severity and/or duration of the emergency, it may be the Māpua-Ruby Bay Emergency Team that takes the decision to open and staff The CEC in the first instance. However, if the initial event is major and/or worsens with time to impact a far greater proportion of our community, NTEM may decide to open The Hall under their authority to serve as a Civil Defence Evacuation Centre (similar to those at Upper Moutere Community Centre and Motueka Recreation Centre).

Work planned by the CEP Team for July-September 2025 includes:

* *Launching the* ***Community Emergency Preparedness Survey.*** *This will be accessible to all residents and business owners via the online Survey Monkey tool – it’s an easy/quick yes/no series of questions regarding the emergency preparations residents’ do/don’t have in-place, the resources we have within our community (skills and equipment) to cope with potential emergencies and the most-likely risks that residents see impacting their homes and/or businesses. There’s also an opportunity for residents to sign-up as volunteers to help out with staffing the CEC.*
* *Drafting a Neighbourhood Support Group Network or NSG Map (refer to attached Area Map within which we expects more than 10 separate NSGs)*
* *Continuing to reach-out to local businesses to update them personally on the work underway and seeking their support going forward. The response to date has been overwhelmingly positive and hugely encouraging.*
* *Initial planning for a formal launch of the CEPP and CEC – stayed tuned for more information. The final version of will be available to all residents to view in hardcopy at various locations (The Hall, Library, Church, School etc), and the link to the master CEPP will also be shared via online platforms (Facebook, Club websites etc*
* *Scoping-out fund-raising opportunities, including applying for charities grants
(eg. Lotteries, Rata, Pub Charities, NBS etc)*

Once the CEPP has been formally launched, and a roster of CEP Team of Volunteers established, the CEP Team will operate independently but with the support of the wider community, including the MDCA and The Hall. Susie Wendelborn, as our local Civil Defence Coordinator, will be the primary contact for NTEM and will nominate a number of secondary contacts from across our community to ensure the CEP Team can be “on-call” at all times.

**Click / Scan to complete the Emergency Preparedness Survey *via this link:*** [*https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LRLVM6H*](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LRLVM6H)

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