



## **Mapua-Ruby Bay Community Emergency Preparedness Plan (CEPP)**

### **Community Update**

**July 2025**

Following a presentation to the **Mapua & Districts Community Association** (MDCA) in September 2024 by Kathy King from **Nelson-Tasman Emergency Management** (NTEM), our community was encouraged to prepare an Emergency Plan and recruit volunteers. As a result, the MDCA formed the *Community Emergency Preparedness subcommittee* in February 2025 to start work on the plan (CEPP).

The immediate goal of the CEPP subcommittee was to prepare the CEPP, recruit a coordinator and core team of volunteers, and establish a fit-for-purpose Community Emergency Centre (CEC) which could be used in the event of evacuations and/or urgent community needs. MDCA are coordinating with our neighbours in Tasman and Redwoods Valley, both of whom have or are in the process of establishing similar CEPPs / CECs.

#### **The purpose of a plan is to:**

- *Enable, empower, and support individuals and our community to take ownership of our own emergency preparedness, with practical steps residents can take to prepare*
- *Provide residents with information regarding the causes, likelihood, frequency, probable warning time and potential impact of natural disasters on our community*
- *Increase the resilience of our community to the impacts of hazards.*
- *Promote problem solving and encourage our community to be self-sufficient through strong social networks and a culture of mutual help.*
- *Reduce the reliance on first responder agencies.*

With the likely closure of key roads in/out of our area, it is very likely that NTEM, FENZ first responders and/or TDC staff will be able to reach everyone in need during the early stages of such emergencies.

#### **Successful adoption of the CEPP within our community will mean that:**

- *via a coordinated network of neighbourhood support groups, we will be well-prepared and empowered to launch a community-led response to future weather and/or earthquake related natural disasters.*
- *as a community we are resilient and are prepared to take care of our families and neighbours during the initial 24-48 hours of any developing emergency.*
- *In the aftermath of natural disasters our community will recover more quickly and help minimize the economic and social impact on our residents and businesses.*

As of end-June 2025, we have completed the CEPP, recruited a *Community Emergency Management Coordinator* (Susie Wendelborn) 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 Mapua 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 Mapua 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 Mapua-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.

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

- *If the immediate Māpua-Ruby Bay area 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 Mapua-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.*

*Participate in the Emergency Preparedness Survey via the following link:  
**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LRLVM6H>***

- *Drafting a Neighbourhood Support Group Network or NSG Map (refer to attached Area Map within which we expect 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.

Thank you for your support and please take time to complete the Emergency Preparedness Survey when it is launched late July.

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**Mapua – Ruby Bay CEPP Indicative Coverage Area**

