

# OWN YOUR ZONE



Tsunami information and  
evacuation zones for the  
Ashburton District



**Emergency  
Management**

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## DON'T FORGET

Long or Strong  
GET GONE



**FIND YOUR HOUSE AND TSUNAMI EVACUATION ZONE ON OUR MAP:**  
[ashburtondc.govt.nz/tsunami](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/tsunami)

# WHAT IS A TSUNAMI?

## The entire Canterbury coast is at risk from tsunamis.

A tsunami is a series of powerful waves caused by a sudden movement of the sea or lake floor, or by something falling into water. Most tsunamis are caused by underwater earthquakes, but they can also be caused by volcanic eruptions or underwater landslides.

A tsunami consists of many waves or surges that arrive over several hours or even days. The first wave is often not the largest – the largest wave can arrive hours after the first wave.

When they reach shore, tsunami waves are often no higher than normal ocean waves, but they are more dangerous because they have much more water behind them so can move a long way inland very fast.

Fortunately, most tsunamis we experience are not big enough to flood land, but they can cause strong and unpredictable currents and surges around the coast, which can be dangerous for people in or around the water.

Occasionally, perhaps a few times in your lifetime if you live in Canterbury, a tsunami will be big enough to flood some land.

The biggest tsunami threats for the Ashburton District are those created by large earthquakes on the Hikurangi or Kermadec subduction zones (to the east and north of the North Island), the Puysegur subduction zone (to the south of Fiordland), or by large earthquakes off the coasts of Central or South America.

The place where a tsunami starts will determine how much, and what kind of warning we get.

## NORMAL VS TSUNAMI WAVES



# TSUNAMI WARNINGS

Don't wait to act, if you experience any of these warnings evacuate immediately inland.

## NATURAL WARNINGS

While the likelihood of a tsunami being created close to Ashburton's coast is small, some tsunami sources could arrive within two hours and there may not be time to warn everyone. It is important to recognise natural warning signs and act quickly.

If you are in the red or orange evacuation zones and experience any of the following warnings, don't wait - evacuate immediately.

### Natural warnings can be:



#### FEELING

Feel a long earthquake that lasts more than a minute or a strong earthquake that makes it hard to stand



#### SEEING

See a sudden rise or fall in sea level



#### HEARING

Hear loud or unusual noises from the sea (like a jet plane or train)

## OFFICIAL WARNINGS

Official warnings will normally be issued by Civil Defence Emergency Management, Ashburton District Council and/or emergency services.

If there is an announcement to evacuate the zone you are in, follow the instructions immediately. Stay out of the tsunami evacuation zone until you are told by an official source that it's safe to return.

### Official warnings may arrive by:



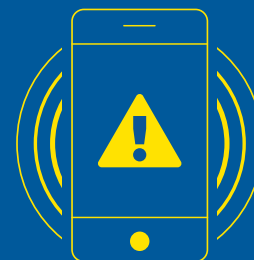
Emergency Mobile Alert



Radio and television



Council website - [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)



## COMMUNITY WARNINGS

Many of our coastal townships have developed their own community response plans for emergencies such as a tsunami. Community warnings may include activating fire sirens or using phone trees to call affected residents. We encourage you to connect with your local community association and become familiar with the response plan for your area.



Social media



Emergency services going door-to-door when necessary



Community warnings such as Mid Canterbury Neighbourhood Support and fire sirens.

EMERGENCY MOBILE  
**ALERT**



Emergency Mobile Alerts can only be sent by authorised emergency agencies. They are broadcast from cell phone towers to all compatible phones in a defined area when there is a serious threat to life, health or property.

Depending on how far away the tsunami is, the National Emergency Management Agency will send an Emergency Mobile Alert to phones in threatened areas telling people to **EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY** or to **PREPARE TO EVACUATE** (if the first waves are several hours away).

Regional Civil Defence groups will then send a follow-up Emergency Mobile Alert providing more detailed local evacuation information.

In the Ashburton District, many of our coastal areas do not have consistent cell phone coverage and may not receive Emergency Mobile Alerts.

Learn more at [getready.govt.nz](http://getready.govt.nz)



# HOW TO EVACUATE

Following a long or strong earthquake or an official tsunami warning - head immediately inland until you are outside of the tsunami evacuation zones.

## WHERE YOU'LL GO:

If you have a household evacuation plan (see page 11), travel to your pre-arranged location that is outside of the tsunami evacuation zones. Use your pre-planned route when possible.

If you don't have a home evacuation plan already in place, your priority is to make sure you are outside of the tsunami evacuation zones. You may wish to travel inland to a nearby town such as Ashburton to wait for the official all-clear.

The Council will open Civil Defence Centres for those evacuating. Check the Ashburton District Council website or Facebook page for their locations.

## HOW YOU'LL GO:

If driving, plan to take extra passengers with you. Have a chat with your neighbours to see if they need a ride or help to evacuate.

As the distances required to travel outside of the district's tsunami evacuation zones are generally small, walking and cycling are also good options.

## WHAT TO TAKE:

You may be asked to stay out of the tsunami evacuation zone for many hours.

Take a grab bag with anything you urgently need and can easily carry. This could include medicine, glasses, baby supplies, pet food and family documents.

Plan to take your pets and anything they need. It's a good idea to talk with neighbours or nearby friends to see if they could take your pets if you're not at home.

Secure your home as you normally would when leaving.



## STAY INFORMED

Information could change, so make sure you have a way to stay up-to-date with official information, like a portable radio, or your mobile phone.

Official information will be available on:

- Council Website [ashburtondc.govt.nz](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz)
- Council Facebook [facebook.com/AshburtonDC](https://facebook.com/AshburtonDC)
- Hokonui – 92.5 FM
- BrianFM – 99.7 FM
- RNZ – 101.3 FM
- Canterbury Civil Defence Website [cdemcanterbury.govt.nz](http://cdemcanterbury.govt.nz)
- Canterbury Civil Defence Facebook [facebook.com/CanterburyEM](https://facebook.com/CanterburyEM)
- Mid Canterbury Neighbourhood Support [midcanterbury.getsready.net](http://midcanterbury.getsready.net)

**Do not return home until you receive the all-clear from an official source.**

# EVACUATION ZONES

## Ashburton has two distinct tsunami evacuation zones.

There's no single tsunami that would inundate an entire zone, and most tsunamis we'll experience will only flood a small part of a zone, if any at all. These tsunami evacuation zones represent an 'envelope' around many different possible worst-case tsunami scenarios.

### RED ZONE

This is an area that is most likely to be affected by a tsunami. It includes estuaries, river mouths, beaches and harbours. A tsunami of any size could cause strong currents and surges in the water. You can expect the red zone to be evacuated several times in your lifetime.

#### You should leave this zone immediately, if:

- You experience a long or strong earthquake
- You see sudden sea level changes or hear unusual noises coming from the sea
- You receive an official warning from Civil Defence Emergency Management

### NO ZONE

Tsunami flooding is not expected in this area, even in a very large tsunami. You don't have to evacuate this zone if you feel a long or strong earthquake or in an official tsunami warning.

You may wish to open your home to family or friends who need to evacuate from a tsunami evacuation zone.

## FIND YOUR HOUSE AND TSUNAMI EVACUATION ZONE ON OUR MAP:

[ashburtondc.govt.nz/tsunami](http://ashburtondc.govt.nz/tsunami)

### ORANGE ZONE

This area is less likely to be affected by a tsunami than the red zone. It includes areas on land that could be flooded in a large tsunami. You can expect the orange zone to be evacuated a few times in your lifetime.

#### You should leave this zone immediately, if:

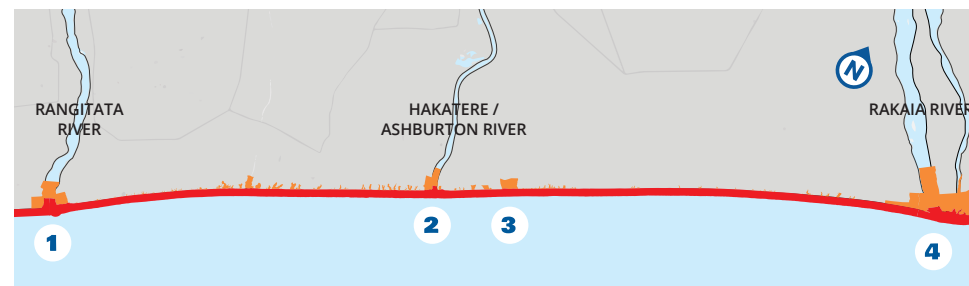
- You experience a long or strong earthquake
- You see sudden sea level changes or hear unusual noises coming from the sea
- You receive an official warning from Civil Defence Emergency Management

### YELLOW ZONE

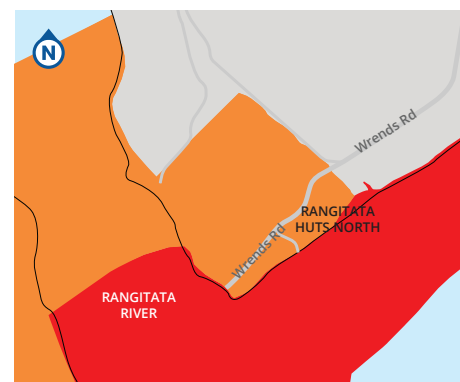
While not required in the Ashburton District, many places in New Zealand also use yellow tsunami evacuation zones.

We encourage you to check local tsunami evacuation zones when traveling to other parts of Canterbury or New Zealand.

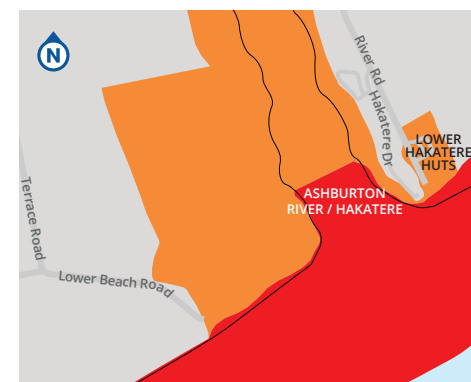
## DISTRICT OVERVIEW



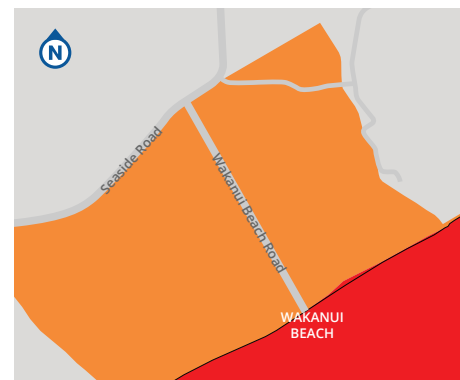
### 1 NORTH RANGITATA



### 2 HAKATERE AND ASHTON BEACH



### 3 WAKANUI BEACH



### 4 SOUTH RAKAIA



# BE PREPARED

The most important part of being prepared is discussing the plan with the household and people you care about. Everyone should know what to do in case of a tsunami.



Know the tsunami risk for where you are. Search for your address online at [ashburtondc.govt.nz/tsunami](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/tsunami)



Know the natural warning signs (a long or strong earthquake, a change in sea level or a strange noise from the ocean).



Have an evacuation plan for your household, including pets. Think about where you would go and, if possible, make arrangements now with family or friends who live outside the tsunami zone to stay with them if you need to evacuate.



Many of our coastal communities have already developed their own emergency response plans and warning systems. Do you know how warnings will be shared in your area?



Plan and practice your tsunami evacuation zone. How will you travel? Taking extra passengers or picking up neighbours can help everyone evacuate faster.



Check [ashburtondc.govt.nz/tsunami](https://ashburtondc.govt.nz/tsunami) to see if your area has a community response plan.



Work or spend time in Selwyn or Timaru? - Familiarise yourself with the tsunami evacuation zones on their council websites.



Have a getaway kit or grab bag ready with your essentials in case you need to evacuate.



Our tsunami evacuation zones include rural areas. Do you need a plan for moving stock out of the evacuation zones when time allows?

Visit [getready.govt.nz](https://getready.govt.nz) for more steps you can take to be prepared.

# OUR FAMILY EVACUATION PLAN

## WHO IS THIS PLAN FOR?

## WHERE WILL WE MEET?

Where will you go if you have to evacuate? Make sure it is outside of all tsunami evacuation zones. How will you get there?

## WHAT WILL WE TAKE?

Do you have supplies in a grab bag in case you need to leave in a hurry? Does anyone rely on mobility devices, prescription medicine or other special equipment?

## WHAT WILL WE DO WITH THE PETS?

Your animals are your responsibility, so make sure you include them in your emergency planning. Do you have someone to collect and look after your animals if you can't get home?

## ANYONE ELSE WHO MIGHT NEED HELP?

Are there any nearby friends, family or neighbours who might need your help to evacuate?

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