

## **Christmas – Get Ready, Get Thru**

Christmas is a time for festive fun but people should also be mindful that a Civil Defence Emergency could happen any where anytime.

The national Civil Defence Emergency Management campaign Get Ready, Get Thru is aimed at making people aware of their responsibilities. A key message is that people can be on their own for up the three days or more, and they need to be able to cope.

Before heading on holiday you should:

- Know what to do if an emergency should happen
- Know the local radio frequency for where you holidaying
- Be aware of the telephone and/or cellular coverage in the area you are staying while on holiday
- Take a good first aid kit.
- Leave an itinerary with friends, including contact details, date due home, locations, etc.
- Plan to survive.

Traditionally Invercargill empties out during the Christmas and New Year periods which means there are less people to worry about should there be a Civil Defence Emergency in Invercargill, but there are also less people available to help should an emergency occur.

Information about what to do in an emergency situation or disaster can be found inside the yellow pages cover of your telephone book, or if you have access to the Internet this is available online at [www.icc.govt.nz](http://www.icc.govt.nz), [www.civildefence.govt.nz](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz), [www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz) or Southland's Civil Defence Emergency Management website [www.civildefence.co.nz](http://www.civildefence.co.nz). To make sure your home is quake-safe, visit [www.eqc.govt.nz](http://www.eqc.govt.nz) For weather updates visit [www.metservice.co.nz](http://www.metservice.co.nz) For updates on earthquake, volcano, landslide and tsunami hazards visit [www.geonet.org.nz](http://www.geonet.org.nz) Download a copy of the Household Emergency Plan at [www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz)

The following radio networks will carry civil defence information and advice in an emergency.

- National Radio
- Newstalk ZB
- Classic Hits
- More FM
- Radio Live

Know how to tune in to one of these stations in your area (and when you are on holiday) and write the station bandwidth in your Emergency Plan.

If you are in your car or driving when an emergency strikes, you will need to know what to do. Follow these simple steps:

- If you drive to work, understand that you may be stranded in your vehicle for some time. A flood, snow storm or major traffic accident could make it impossible to proceed

- Store a pair of walking shoes, waterproof jacket, essential medicines, snack food, water and a torch in your car
- In an earthquake, pull over to the side of the road and stop
- Do not drive in floodwaters
- You can get up to date roading information at [www.aaroadwatch.co.nz](http://www.aaroadwatch.co.nz)

Many emergencies will affect essential services and possibly disrupt your ability to travel or communicate with each other.

Get your family or household together and agree on a plan.

You should work out:

- Where to shelter in an earthquake, flood or storm
- How and where you will meet up during and/or after a emergency
- The best place to store Emergency Survival Items and know who is responsible for checking essential items
- What you need to have in your Getaway Kit and where you keep it
- How to turn off the water, gas and electricity in your home or business
- How to contact your local Civil Defence organisation for assistance during an emergency

Know what your local Civil Defence warning system is and find out the location of your local Civil Defence or Community Emergency Centre. It is also useful to learn First Aid, how to deal with small fires and how to evacuate your house in the event of a fire.

Make sure your insurance cover is adequate and up to date, and also that important documents can easily be gathered if you have to evacuate.