



Emergency Preparedness and Support Agency Hierarchy for Taranaki Catchment Communities

The Taranaki Catchment Communities have developed a farming resilience guide called 'Your Farm Emergency Plan' to help farmers prepare for emergencies and understand the role of various support agencies. This report outlines how agencies such as the Rural Support Trust, Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), DairyNZ, Taranaki Regional Council, Fonterra, Open Country, and Beef + Lamb fit into the emergency response hierarchy and how communication is coordinated with the Taranaki Emergency Management Office (TEMO).

The 'Your Farm Emergency Plan' is used together with the 'Catchment Communities' Emergency Response Guide' (www.taranakicc.nz/projects/) to outline the aspects covered by the rural communities.

Emergency Response Hierarchy

1 FARMERS AND CATCHMENT GROUPS

- ▶ **Role:** First responders to any emergency on the farm. They assess the situation, implement immediate safety measures, and communicate with support agencies. They may also be the first to manage animal welfare concerns.
- ▶ **Communication:** Directly with local support agencies and catchment group coordinators. They are also often the first to connect with members of the community; their neighbours, family close by and those they know are more vulnerable.

2 CATCHMENT GROUP COORDINATORS

- ▶ **Role:** Act as liaisons between farmers and support agencies. They gather information from affected farms and coordinate initial response efforts.
- ▶ **Communication:** With farmers, support agencies, and TEMO. They may also have local knowledge about more vulnerable individuals or those in the CALD community (culturally and linguistically diverse).

3 SUPPORT AGENCIES

Rural Support Trust

- ▶ **Role:** Provides emotional and practical support to farmers during emergencies. They offer counselling, financial advice, and connect farmers with other necessary services.
- ▶ **Communication:** With farmers, catchment group coordinators, and other support agencies.

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

- ▶ **Role:** Leads the coordination of the agricultural sector's response to emergencies. They provide resources, information, and support for recovery efforts.
- ▶ **Communication:** With catchment group coordinators, support agencies, and TEMO.

DairyNZ

- ▶ **Role:** Offers technical advice and support to dairy farmers. They provide guidelines on managing livestock and farm operations during emergencies.
- ▶ **Communication:** With farmers, catchment group coordinators, and other support agencies.

Taranaki Regional Council and District Councils

- ▶ **Role:** Manages environmental impacts and provides regulatory guidance. They ensure that emergency responses comply with environmental regulations.
- ▶ **Communication:** With catchment group coordinators, support agencies, and TEMO.

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SUPPORT AGENCIES (CONTINUED)

Fonterra

- ▶ **Role:** Supports dairy farmers by ensuring the continuity of milk collection and providing logistical support during emergencies.
- ▶ **Communication:** With farmers, catchment group coordinators, and other support agencies.

Open Country

- ▶ **Role:** Like Fonterra, Open Country supports dairy farmers by ensuring the continuity of milk collection and providing logistical support during emergencies.
- ▶ **Communication:** With farmers, catchment group coordinators, and other support agencies.

Beef + Lamb New Zealand

- ▶ **Role:** Provides support and resources to sheep and beef farmers. They offer guidelines on managing livestock and farm operations during emergencies.
- ▶ **Communication:** With farmers, catchment group coordinators, and other support agencies.

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TEMO (TARANAKI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE)

- ▶ **Role:** In a local or regional (not national) event, they oversee the overall emergency response and recovery efforts. They coordinate with all relevant agencies to ensure a unified response. A lead agency is the agency with a mandate to manage the response to an incident through legislation, under protocols, by agreement, or because it has the expertise and experience. The lead agency establishes control to co-ordinate the response of all agencies involved.
- ▶ **Communication:** With catchment group coordinators, support agencies, and government bodies

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NEMA (NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY)

- ▶ **Role:** In a National Emergency, they will oversee the overall emergency response and recovery efforts, coordinating with local and regional emergency management offices and with all relevant agencies to ensure a unified response. A lead agency is the agency with a mandate to manage the response to an incident through legislation, under protocols, by agreement, or because it has the expertise and experience. The lead agency establishes control to co-ordinate the response of all agencies involved.
- ▶ **Communication:** With catchment group coordinators, support agencies, and government bodies.

Communication Flow

- 1 INITIAL ALERT**
TEMO notifies farmers and catchment group coordinators of an emergency or pending emergency.
- 2 ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATION**
Catchment group coordinators assess the situation and communicate with relevant support agencies. They will connect with their farming community and support farmers to link with their neighbours to feed important information up the communication chain.
- 3 SUPPORT ACTIVATION**
Support agencies provide necessary assistance and resources to farmers.
- 4 LEAD AGENCY COORDINATION**
Catchment group coordinators and support agencies communicate with TEMO to ensure a coordinated response.
- 5 ONGOING COMMUNICATION**
Regular updates and information sharing between all parties to manage the emergency effectively.

Effective communication and a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each agency are crucial for managing emergencies in the rural community. By following this hierarchy and maintaining open lines of communication, we can ensure a rapid and coordinated response to any emergency, minimising the impact on farmers and the environment.

Emergency Communication Hierarchy

