

Adverse event management

Your checklist for extreme weather events & natural disasters.

We've been alongside farmers through plenty of tough events and emergencies – the ones who plan ahead always weather the pressure better.

Get prepared

There's no better time than now.

- Emergency packs should be ready with resources to last for a few days. Use the [Get Ready Civil Defence checklist](#) for your home and check out the [Get Ready website](#) for how you can get "work ready" for an emergency.
- Create and regularly review your business continuity plan - print it and keep it handy. [Dairy NZ](#) and [Worksafe](#) have great resources to help you get started.
- Make sure all staff (and your family if they live on the property) are aware of emergency procedures.
- A dependable back-up power supply is essential, whether it's your own farm generator or shared by the community. Make sure it's routinely tested and everyone knows how to operate it safely.
- Get reliable mobile and internet coverage. In an emergency, local networks can fail or become overloaded, so having a satellite option like Starlink can help you stay connected.

Some find investing in generators or satellite connectivity can feel like a big upfront cost, but they're often what keep the farm running when it really counts. The right gear means that your people and animals stay safe and productivity is maintained.

Aftermath of an event

- Put people first – look after yourself, family, staff and neighbours.
- Reach out for help.
- Let people know you're safe.
- Listen to local radio for Civil Defence instructions. Stay across updates from MetService, NZTA, and local authorities.
- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you're certain it's not contaminated.
- Be cautious with hazardous substances and fuel – ensure safe ventilation and storage.
- Report broken utility lines (treat all lines as live).
- Secure and weather-proof damaged homes and buildings.
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- Ensure stock and pets have food, water, shelter, and are secure. Make sure stock injuries are attended to and assess feed reserves.

Don't forget to eat well and look after your physical and mental health. Get into a routine and give yourself a break when you can – it will get better.

Emergency contacts and support

When you need support, reach out to your local council, Civil Defence coordinator, or industry groups like Federated Farmers, the Rural Support Trust, and Rural Women NZ – they're here to help.

Following weeks & months

- Continue to ensure the health and safety of everyone.
- Limit travel until roads are officially declared safe.
- Monitor water supply and reticulation systems (for people and animals).
- Assess damage to access lanes, tracks, troughs, culverts and fences.
- Assess damage to pastures (depth and type of silt).
- Take notes and photographs for insurance purposes. Lodge claims as soon as possible.
- Ensure animal welfare requirements are met.

Once the dust settles, you'll feel a raft of emotions. Make sure to take care of your wellbeing and look out for others struggling. Farmstrong, have a fantastic suite of resources and practical advice to help you recover from an extreme event on their [Getting Through website](#).

Looking to the future

- Keep assessing your recovery situation and modify priorities.
- Review how your farm coped and what could be improved for future resilience and update your Business Continuity Plan.
- Focus on your wellbeing.

We're here to help

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