

Important Numbers

**Call 111 for any risk to life or property
Call 105 for non emergency
Auckland Council (09) 301 0101**

My Emergency phone numbers

Doctor _____

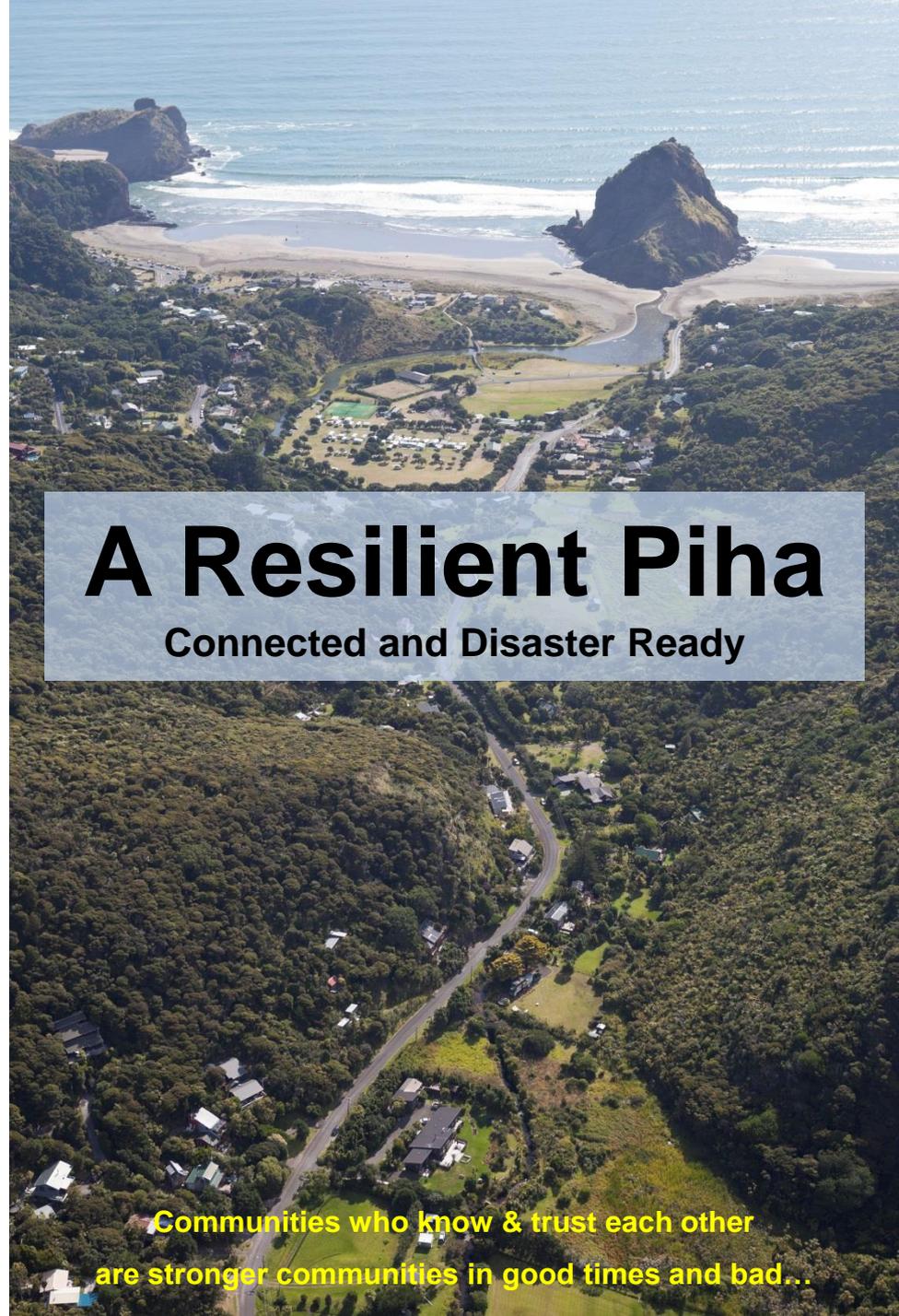
Dentist _____

Vet _____

School _____

How can I help (skills) _____

People who might need our help _____



A Resilient Piha

Connected and Disaster Ready

**Communities who know & trust each other
are stronger communities in good times and bad...**

This is a quick reference guide developed by the Piha community and Auckland Council. It will help you manage your risks, be prepared, encourage you to know your neighbours, be active in the community and know where to go for more information.

The community has identified **six community centres which, depending on the emergency event, could be safe assembly points** offering support to effected community members or visitors.

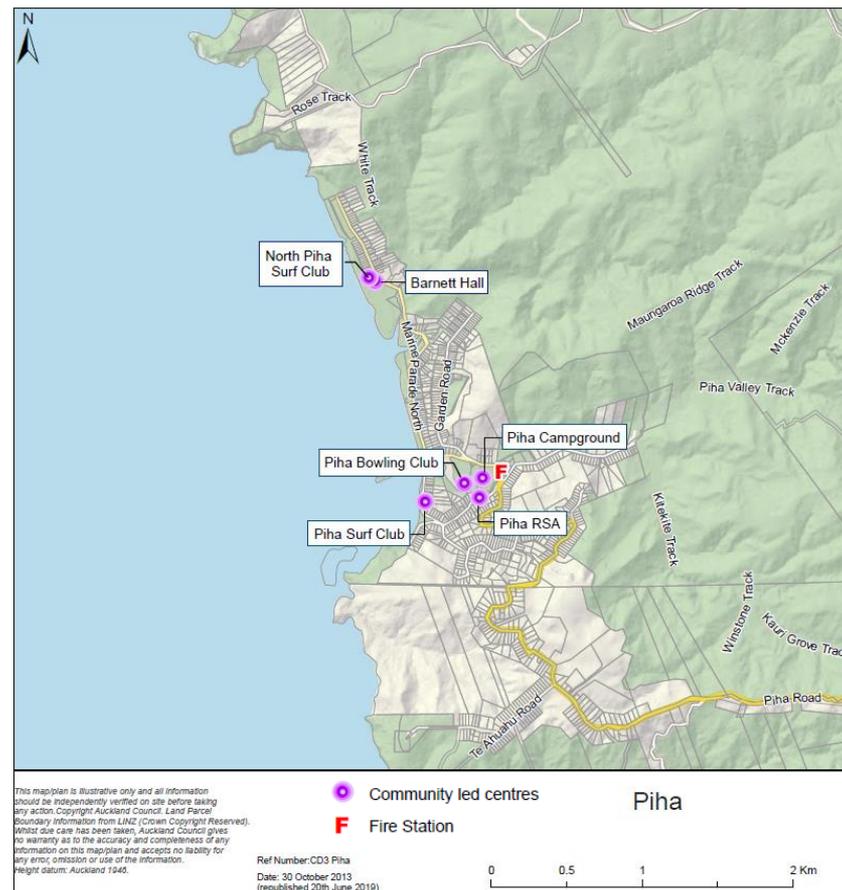
These are identified on the map:

- **Piha Surf Club (shelter, toilets, cooking, communications, medical)**
- **North Piha Surf Club (shelter, toilets communications, medical facilities)**
- **Barnett Hall (shelter, toilets, cooking)**
- **Piha Bowling Club (shelter, toilets, cooking)**
- **Piha RSA (shelter, toilets, cooking)**
- **Piha Campground**

There is also the Piha Store and Café (cooking and food storage) and mid beach toilets and changing sheds (shelter, toilets, helicopter evacuation point).



These community led and operated centres enable community members to be responsive and resilient through periods of isolation during an emergency event. Whilst they are not formal evacuation centres, they can be used as a community meeting place to provide information and support (including the provision and distribution of resources) to those affected by the emergency.



The Piha community identified four key risks for Piha. These hazard events and the impacts that follow can happen anywhere, any time, without warning and disrupt our lives, damage property and cause serious harm.

1. **Home and Bush Fires**
2. **Power outages**
3. **Super storms**
4. **Floods**

Piha is also at risk from **tsunamis**.

Read this booklet to learn what you can do before, during and after these hazard events to prepare, stay safe and recover.

Home and Bush Fires

Fires in your home or wild fires in the Waitakere forest can spread quickly and be life threatening. Fire risk increases during summer due to the dry weather and the arrival of visitors to the area. Bush fires are fed by invasive weeds like gorse and pampas. As well as damaging property, homes and the environment, road access could be denied.

Call 111 to report uncontrolled fires.

Keep your water tank full. You, your garden and the fire fighters will thank you.

Before

- Remove debris that blocks drains or could end up as litter on the beach and become a fire hazard.
- Report illegal dumping of waste (including cars) on public lands (0800 663867).
- Manage vegetation around your home, especially flammable weeds like gorse and pampas.
- It is illegal to let off fireworks in public places including roads, parks and beaches, but also on private property where it could enter bush. Ensure visitors or people renting your bach know. Report illegal fireworks to Council (09 301 0101).
- Remind your visitors to be careful.
- Have a household exit plan for a fire in your house. Have a plan of where to go, depending on where the fire is. Ensure it includes a plan for if the Piha road is closed.

During

- Stay alert as fire situations can change quickly.
- If smoke is coming towards you, so is the fire. To escape, move **SIDEWAYS** to escape rather than directly away from it. Fire can move much faster than you and may catch you.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a wet cloth or dust mask to avoid inhaling smoke.
- Check your neighbours if it is safe to do so. Don't forget your children and pets!



After

- Check on your neighbours to ensure they are safe or need assistance.
- Seek advice before cleaning up hazardous materials.
- Wear dust masks and gloves when cleaning up as debris and ash is dangerous.
- Plant appropriate native vegetation. *Pest free Piha* can help with this.
- Manage weeds that grow after a fire as they can become high risk fuel for future fires.
- Think about training as a volunteer fire fighter.

Power Outages

The loss of power (as well as other utilities like water, telecommunications and roads) can cause severe disruption to households and businesses and may result in evacuations, business closures, economic loss and clean-up costs, in addition to potential health hazards and environmental impacts.

Please boil water for our pets. Food we won't eat is not safe for our pets either.

Before

- Have torches, battery powered lanterns or candles and matches in easy to access locations.
- Big water containers to carry the water.
- Safe toilet waste disposal if the septic tank is out of order. Gas camp cookers and supplies of gas cylinders or a BBQ as an alternative to electric stoves.
- Install a tap on your water tank so you can easily access the water. If you haven't done this, dip a bucket on a rope into your water tank to get water.
- Frozen salt blocks last longer than fresh water ice. They can keep things frozen for 6 days.
- Check if you can stay with family or friends if you think you may need to evacuate
- Talk to your family about how you will get in touch and where you will meet up in an emergency if the phone power is down.
- Know who your electricity company is and their phone number.
- A wood burner beats a heat pump at times like this!
- Know who has a generator.

During and After

- Watch out for fallen power lines. Treat all electricity as live and never touch exposed electrical equipment.
- A bucket of water (sea water is fine) can be used to flush your toilet.
- Only use the phone for short essential calls to keep the lines clear for emergency calls.
- Stay away from affected sites until they have been properly inspected and authorities give the all-clear.
- Contact your utilities provider, inform them of any faults and find out the estimated restoration times.
- Eat the food from your fridge first, then your freezer, before you eat the food in the cupboard or your emergency supplies.
- Share what you can with your neighbours, friends and family.
- Listen to the radio for up to date news and advice.

Super Storms

Severe weather events can bring strong winds, heavy rain, flooding, slips, thunderstorms, tornadoes, (ex)tropical cyclones, coastal inundation, and rough seas. King tides coupled with storms can significantly increase tidal surges and cause coastal inundation. These events may cause significant damage and disruption.

Before

- Check and secure food and water supplies.
- Know where you would go if you have to evacuate.
- Secure or move indoors all items that could get blown about and cause harm in strong winds.
- Clear gutters and drains, protect windows and make sure your roof is secure.
- Prepare for loss of power effecting lights, appliances and septic tank pumps.
- Listen to radio, TV broadcasts or emergency social media for updates and advice.
- Check that your neighbours are aware of the storm warning.
- Consider the safety of visitors to Piha. Cancel bookings if possible, advise tourists in campervans, AirBnB and BookaBach lodges to leave if there is time or get prepared.

During

- Pick a safe place in your home for household members and pets to gather during a storm. Ensure it is away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
- Draw the blinds and curtains over windows to prevent glass being dispersed in the event of a breakage and close all interior doors.
- Do not drive unless it is an emergency. Watch for tree falls, floods and slips.
- Know where the safe community centres in Piha are to evacuate to.
- If you are evacuating and are in doubt about a route, stay out. Try to find a safe alternative or stay put and call for help.

After

- Check your neighbours to ensure they are safe or if they need a hand with any clean up.
- If your house is unsafe, evacuate to a safe location.

Discover when the next king tide will effect Piha on auckland.kingtides.org.nz

Flooding

Heavy rains can cause flash or slower but more longer lasting floods. Both can cause injury, loss of life, local evacuations, contaminate waterways and damage property and disrupt lifeline utilities. Roads could be inaccessible and Piha could be isolated. This requires us to be self sustainable for several days. MetService monitors weather systems and is responsible for issuing weather advisories and warnings.

Before

- If your home is at risk of flooding make a plan including safest evacuation routes, sandbags ready to use, what to do if the power or access is cut and know where to meet members of your household.
- Practice leaving via your safest evacuation routes to higher ground or your pre-organised place of safety with family, friends or a safe community place.
- Create a plan to move electronics and valuables out of reach of flood waters and have tarpaulins on hand to help keep your belongings dry.
- At home, secure or move indoors all loose items and clear gutters and drains.
- Turn off power and gas if there is a risk of your place flooding.
- If you rent your property ensure you take responsibility for informing guests of the risks, what to do and how to stay safe.
- Check that your neighbours, tenants, guests or those more vulnerable are aware of the flood warning.

During

- Stay indoors if safe until water recedes.
- Turn off your mains power if water enters the house.
- Car, caravans and tree branches float and can become flood debris that causes damage.
- Don't attempt to drive or walk though flood waters as their depth and flow speed can be deceiving and/ or they could be contaminated.
- Don't cross bridges on private property that are across swollen rivers.
- Listen to radio, TV broadcasts or emergency social media for updates and advice.

After

- If the Piha Road is closed, work with neighbours to ensure everyone in Piha is safe and has access to food and water.
- Help to clean up. Wear gloves if flood waters were contaminated.
- Make sure your water supply is not contaminated by flood waters.

Renting your property? Inform your tenants or guests of risks and how to stay safe

Tsunami

A tsunami is a series of large ocean waves generated by major earthquakes beneath the ocean floor or by major underwater landslides. The first wave may not be the largest. The damaging waves can travel up streams and rivers. You may only have minutes to act and the tsunami danger period can last for many hours. They can occur any time of the year.

- As we live in a tsunami risk zone, know how to reach the nearest safe ground, using evacuation routes. This could be high ground or as far inland as possible.
- Tsunami warning sirens are installed at Karekare. These are tested twice a year at the beginning and end of daylight saving.
- If you are on the coast and feel a strong earthquake, act immediately.
- Be prepared to act even without a siren warning, as you will receive other alerts such as text alerts.

Before

- If there is an actual tsunami threat you will hear the following signals:

Alert signal (dash - dash - dot - dot) sounded for 15 minutes

- This signal notifies residents that a tsunami threat has been received by Auckland Emergency Management.
Residents should respond by:
 - Evacuating beaches
 - Listening to the radio and TV for information
 - Preparing to evacuate their homes and businesses, if required.
 - Do not go sightseeing to the beach or river

During

Evacuate signal (dot - dot - dot) sounded in continuous burst for 15 minutes

- The signal is used when a specific threat to the coastline has been confirmed. Residents should respond by:
 - Evacuating immediately to the nearest high ground. Take a battery powered radio to listen for official information.
 - Avoiding using personal transport (e.g. cars) unless absolutely essential, as this may cause congestion.
 - Do not return home until the all clear signal is heard.

After

All clear signal (a continuous tone for five minutes)

Emergency Response

During an emergency, the first responders are Fire, Police and St Johns Ambulance staff who are highly trained to respond in an emergency.

There is a detailed First Responder and Emergency Management Action Plan for Piha. It has standard operating procedures and agreement on how Auckland Emergency Management and first responder Agencies will work together during an emergency.

It includes planning for the evacuation, welfare of visitors and enhanced alerting systems in response to flooding risks.



Community Response

How will the Piha community best organise itself, communicate and help each other during an emergency?

How will people know in a particular emergency what safe assembly points are being used?

Who will check up on those most vulnerable?

Personal Resilience

To prepare for Piha's four key risks:

- **Create a household plan** – for your home or sleep out. Take into account your unique living arrangements. Visit www.happens.nz to create your online plan.
- **Remember your pets!** If evacuating, label travel boxes with contact details, take leads, muzzles and vaccination records with you.
- **Know your safe evacuation routes from a tsunami or flood** and practise these with your family, friends and neighbours. Be aware of slips and fallen trees and power lines that may cut you off.
- **Organise alternative places to stay with family, friends or neighbours** if you can't get home or need to evacuate.
- **Make sure your home and work place is safe.** Have adequate insurance cover for your home and contents. Make sure your tools to help you at home are working. Are you trained in first aid?
- **Meet** your neighbours and get involved with your community.
- **Try camping at home!** Your home is already full of emergency items disguised as everyday things that could help you cook, toilet and get warm if power and water was cut off. You need 3 litres of water per person per day. Other emergency items can be improvised or shared with others.
- **Have your getaway bag ready.** What essential or treasured items and documents would you have in it? Being prepared for emergencies is the best way to stay safe.
- **Discover what hazard risks you have** at home and work by typing the address into the Hazard Viewer on the aem.org.nz website
- **People with** mobility considerations, impaired vision, hearing or communication disabilities have additional needs for evacuation and items in their emergency items and getaway bag.

You are more ready than you think!

Get Informed

Alerts and warnings are issued to inform you about an emergency and to take a specific action, for example, 'seek further information' or 'evacuate'. There are different ways you can receive alerts and warnings:

- **Download** the Red Cross Hazard App. It gives alerts and has helpful information on what to do before, during and after any emergency.
- **Sign up** for Auckland Emergency Management emergency text and email alerts on the aem.org.nz website.
- **Warnings** from other people, e.g. neighbours, phone contact trees
- **Tsunami Sirens** in Piha north and south.
- **Emergency Mobile Alerts** are messages about emergencies sent by authorised emergency agencies to capable mobile phones.
- **Radio and television** If the power is cut, a solar or battery powered radio or your car radio can tell you the latest news. In an emergency, tune to these stations:
Radio Piha online or on 87.7 FM
National Radio 756 AM or 101.4 FM
Newstalk ZB 89.4 FM **Radio Live** 702 AM or 100.6 FM
The Hits 97.4 FM **More FM** 91.8 FM

Websites and Social Media

AEM.org.nz – Auckland Emergency Management's website with latest information on emergencies. Join Auckland Emergency Management's Facebook and Twitter to get the latest information

Metservice.com – the MetService website provides weather forecasts for all of New Zealand and a rain radar
geomapspublic.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz – flood maps and rainfall hydrology information

environmentauckland.co.nz – rainfall data at Piha
countiespower.com and **vector.co.nz** – these websites publish information about power outages in Auckland

Neighbourly Resilience...

There are many things which contribute to a strong and resilient Piha. Together we know we can creatively solve problems that arise with emergencies and help each other.

We are safe and well

Know who has useful equipment and skills to share – it may be you.

After an emergency, help people clean up and get back on their feet.

Join our local Piha Volunteer Fire Brigade or St John's Volunteer Group.



We are connected, inclusive and empowered

Have conversations with your friends (over a cup of coffee at the Store or Café) on how to reduce our hazard risks and be better prepared for our top four hazard impacts.

Everyone takes responsibility to be prepared, be informed and help each other during an emergency.

We are democratic and engaged

Volunteer and participate in our Piha Residents and Ratepayers' Association. Get involved in our Waitakere Ranges Local Board activities.

Contribute to and read our local newspapers.

Join our local social media pages:

- Your local street's Facebook page
- Piha Community Facebook page
- Piha Fire and Emergency Facebook page
- Piha Hook Ups Facebook page
- Waitakere Ranges Local Board Facebook page
- Piha Residents & Ratepayers Facebook page and website



...creates a resilient Piha

Our Piha community is culturally rich, strong and vibrant

Celebrate at our community events like Market Day or street parties for Neighbours Day or get involved in activities in Barnett Hall.

Join the Piha Library.

Volunteer with our West Coast Art Gallery Committee.

Volunteer with either of our Piha Surf Lifesaving clubs.

Volunteer with our Piha Community Centre Society.

A sustainable built and natural environment

Be waste and water wise.

Follow the dog rules to protect wildlife.

Put a bell or a coloured ruff on cats and keep them in at night.

Reduce fire risk (and the rats that nest in them) by tackling invasive weeds like gorse and pampas. Join your local Pest Free Piha group.



We have a dynamic and diverse local economy

Support our local businesses like the Piha Store and Piha Café and the community places that also offer delicious food and beverages.

