

Surf Life Saving New Zealand – Lifesaving Policy Statement

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SUBJECT: Disaster Survival and Preparedness

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Background

Disaster survival and preparedness has become a necessary possibility that Surf Life Saving members/services need to consider. This policy has been created to make clubs/services aware of the survival items clubs should consider acquiring and to inform clubs of how Surf Life Saving could contribute to the community when faced with a natural disaster.

Survival Kits

The following list outlines the minimum recommended items to be included in a Surf Life Saving Club survival kit (based on a 3-day survival period for at least 6 people):

- 12 x Light sticks – minimum 12 hours of light for each stick
- 6 x boxes waterproof Matches
- 6 x Large Candles - burn time is 19 hours each
- 6 x Whistle – Pea less (Model: Fox 40) whistle
- 6 x Emergency survival sleeping bag
- 6 x Poncho – emergency waterproof over garment
- 1 x “Aquatabs” box of 50 tabs (water purification tablets)
- 12 x Medical gloves or leather gloves
- 6 x Dust masks
- 6 x Rubbish/sanitary bags – large and strong
- 1 x Braided line – bright orange x 25 metres
- 1 x Multi tool – 14-in-1 knife and tool set
- 8 x Food ration products – “Mainstay 3600”
- 4 x Drink bottles (minimum 2L each)
- 1 x Solar/Dynamo combination radio/torch (AM / FM radio)
- 1 x Large Tarpaulin
- 1 x Notebook and pencil
- These items should be used in conjunction with a full club first aid kit.

Supporting the Community in the Event of a disaster

In the event of a natural disaster, surf life saving members and facilities can offer a range of services to the community to assist with the survival effort and disaster management. In the event of a natural disaster, SLS services may be able to or called on to offer the following:

- Club house as a community meeting point – information update centre
- First Aid / Medical Treatment Facility (members may be needed to provide treatment)
- Emergency food supply facility
- Makeshift shelter / sleeping facility
- IRB's to respond to inland flooding / evacuation
- Resuscitation Equipment / First Aid supplies to support medical professionals

In any survival effort, self preservation is the main priority for surf lifeguards. In a disaster, members should ensure the well beings of themselves and fellow surf life saving team members. Following this, members should consider how they could contribute to the community's needs following a disaster.