

Is my school on the National Flood Risk Management Programme's list of at-risk schools?

You can find the full list of schools evaluated as potentially at risk of coastal flooding [here](#). The list was generated from assessments of potential coastal flood risk only and consists of coastal schools that are low lying, located at (or just above) sea level and where sea level rise due to climate change may cause flooding problems in the future. (Note: the criteria for this list do **not** include potential risk of river flooding or erosion)

My school is on the list. What happens next?

Given the extended period over which sea level rise is expected to happen, the Programme will set out the expected timeframes indicating when schools may be impacted. We will then work with the community and local councils, to develop, where required, a proposed plan and timeframe for implementation with each school.

My school is not on the list. Why not?

Criteria for including a school on the list were applied primarily from elevation and location data, i.e. how close to the coastline and how high above sea level a school site appears to be. Please contact us if you feel your school site is at-risk from flooding.

How are schools determined to be at-risk?

Our analysis determines 'at-risk' as being a combination of proximity to the coast and low elevation from sea level. The effects of sea level rise for a specific school may be influenced by local geographical features, council mitigation efforts, weather patterns, and other variables.

What puts a school into the 'at-risk' category?

We consider these factors:

- Flooding hazards (due to extreme weather events or other factors)
- Potential impact on the Ministry's education obligations
- Potential impact on the wider community
- Potential for
 - threat to safety of staff and students
 - water supply compromised
 - asset damage
 - operation interruption
 - access disruption
 - disruption of civil defence activities
- Flood risks arising from climate change and sea level rise.

What are the next steps for the Programme?

The NFRM Programme scope has recently been expanded to include river flooding. The goal of this broader project is to develop a management approach for all state schools facing flooding and erosion challenges. The Programme is developing the following plans, which include both short-term and long-term considerations.

1. National Flood Risk Management Plan – an overarching framework for how schools are assessed and their risk level determined.
2. National Flood Risk Advocacy Plan – a collaborative plan for supporting councils and other local authorities with their mitigation and adaptation strategies.
3. National Flood Risk Adaptation Plan – detailing the adaptive pathways available for schools as required.

Our school's 10YPP plan includes flood mitigation. Should we proceed with that work?

Please contact the NFRM team before proceeding with any flood-related works.

Our school has a Flood Management Plan. Is that part of this programme's scope?

Yes, the NFRM team is gathering information about any plans schools have already developed. Please contact us at Floodrisk.Management@education.govt.nz.

Should we develop a Flood Management Plan for our school?

Yes, floods happen often in New Zealand, causing property damage and loss of life. If your school's property has been flooded in the past or identified as at-risk then you should have a Flood Management Plan.

Do you have advice for schools who feel they may be at-risk?

In the first instance, talk to your Ministry Property Advisor if you have concerns about flood risk. Review the information available from [National Civil Defence emergency preparedness](#) and the Ministry's [Emergency Management Planning Advice for schools](#).

Contact the NFRM team at Floodrisk.Management@education.govt.nz if you have further questions.

We already have an incident plan and emergency response guidance. Should flood-related measures be included in these?

Yes, flood preparedness and clean up should be part of a school's [Emergency Management Plan](#), particularly if your school has been identified as being at risk of flooding or has historically experienced flooding events. A template for an Emergency Management Plan is [here](#).

What should we do if the school has a flood?

- Stay out of flood water. Never try to walk, swim or drive through flood water. Many flood fatalities are caused by people attempting to drive through water.
- Stay informed in an emergency. Listen to the radio or follow [your local Civil Defence group](#) online.
- Refer to your school's [Emergency Management Plan](#).
- Listen to any advisory from emergency services or local Civil Defence authorities.
- Be prepared to evacuate. Self-evacuate if you begin to feel unsafe.
- Follow instructions about evacuation of your area.
- Turn off water, electricity and gas if advised to.
- Move dangerous items as high above the floor as possible. This includes electrical equipment and chemicals.

Where can we find more information about being prepared for a flood or other emergency?

The Ministry has useful guidance about what to do before, during and after an emergency [here](#).

What should we do after a flood?

Only return to the school site after Civil Defence and emergency services have told you it is safe to do so. It may not be safe to return even when floodwaters have receded.

Stay away from damaged areas. You might hamper rescue and other emergency operations and be at further risk from the residual effects of floods.

Look before you step. After a flood, the ground and floors may be slippery or covered with debris, including broken bottles and nails.

Help others in the community if you can, especially people who may need extra help.

What do we do if our property is damaged by a flood?

Do not do anything that puts your safety at risk or causes more damage to your property.

Contact your Property Advisor and take photos of damage. It will help speed up assessments of your claims.

Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated. Follow local council updates about the water supply and any 'boil water' notices. If you have your own drinking water supply, you should test it to ensure it is safe.

For more information on food safety during and after an emergency visit [Ministry for Primary Industries](#).

Is there a short-term or long-term climate plan from the Ministry?

The National Flood Risk Management (NFRM) Programme was established to support state schools potentially at risk from coastal flooding due to sea level rise. An initial desktop analysis of low-lying coastal schools revealed 103 schools as likely to be at risk of flooding.

Has the National Flood Risk Management Programme developed a plan?

The NFRM Programme is developing the following plans, which include both short-term and long-term considerations.

1. National Flood Risk Management Plan – an overarching framework for how schools are assessed, and their risk level determined.
2. National Flood Risk Advocacy Plan – a collaborative plan for supporting councils and other local authorities with their mitigation and adaptation strategies.
3. National Flood Risk Adaptation Plan – this will detail the adaptive pathways available for schools as required.

What is the projected cost of adaptation for schools at risk?

We are not at a stage in the programme to estimate potential costs. More information on the NFRM Programme's scope is [here](#).

Useful links

[National Flood Risk Management Programme's Ministry web page](#)

[Template for school Emergency Management Plan](#)

[Emergencies and traumatic incidents – Education in New Zealand](#)

[Civil Defence – local groups](#)

[National Civil Defence emergency preparedness](#)