

Earthquake

Earthquake - General

When to use

Use this procedure to access step-by-step instructions in an event of an earthquake.

Policy

Evidence from previous significant earthquakes has indicated that the water within the pool may be moved violently causing large volumes of water to be washed on to the pool deck.

Protect yourself first by dropping to the ground, getting under a table, chair, doorway or strong structure and holding on.

Where possible, advise all customers in the water to move to the middle of the pool and hold onto the lane rope. Ensure customers out of the water take cover under tables, chairs or in doorways or under strong structures. Keep customers away from windows and heavy movable structures.

When the earthquake stops, check yourself and others around you, give first aid where necessary.

If the quake is significant, do not let the customers back into the pool until you have checked that those around you are okay and that there is no major visible damage. If an evacuation of the building is necessary follow the evacuation procedure.

Freyberg and WRAC may need to trigger a Tsunami evacuation. Refer to the Tsunami procedure for the facility. WRAC [Tsunami Evacuation](#), Freyberg [Tsunami Evacuation](#)

The staff should ensure that the building and customers' property are secured. Re-enter the building only after a civil defence warden has given the OK.

Responsibility

- Facility in Charge
- Duty Manager
- Assistant Duty Manager(WRAC)
- Operations Manager
- Facility Manager
- Community Pools Manager

Steps

Following a Tremor

1. Complete plant checks in pairs.
2. If need be, follow Power Failure /Surge procedure.

Following a Serious and sustained earthquake

1. Ask all swimmers to exit the pool until a building assessment is carried out.
2. Safety comes first. Do not go anywhere that appears unstable or hazardous.
3. Attempt to make contact with the facility manager if not present on site.
4. Check the building for physical damage, both inside and out.
5. If there has been any damage which would make operation of the pool unsafe, evacuate.
6. Only if the building looks structurally safe should you then complete plant checks. Use high caution and work in pairs as a chemical spill could create fire or fumes that could overcome you.
7. Check how each staff member is feeling. Offer them the opportunity to head home if they want to.

For any staff that choose to leave	then ...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check whether it is safe to leave • Discuss their route plan for getting home. Avoid the coast and high buildings where possible. • Record their name, emergency contact number and time of departure • Issue them a grab-and-go bag, checking water bottles are full.

8. Make a decision on whether to remain open or to close the facility.

If the pool is considered	then ...
Safe to operate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there are sufficient numbers of lifeguards to supervise the pool • Advise swimmer they can re-enter the pool.
Unsafe to operate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask members of the public to get changed and leave • Advise Manager • Close the facility

9. Building may remain closed until Structural Engineers have cleared it as safe.
10. If there is any doubt about the structural integrity of the building then the staff on site are empowered to close the facility, advise management and await further instructions from them.

Earthquake - In water groups

When to use

Use this procedure to access step-by-step instructions in an event of an earthquake for staff when they are working with groups of people in the water.

Policy

Before the 2010 Christchurch earthquake, common practice was in the event of an emergency including an earthquake, was to evacuate.

However, trying to evacuate a group out of the water proved to be more difficult than originally thought.

During the evacuation procedure in the earthquake many users suffered injuries from the strength of moving water hitting the sides of the pool and the waves overflowing onto the walkways made the unsteady ground even more difficult to keep balance.

Responsibility

- Staff taking group in water sessions \ lessons

Steps

What to do:

- If an earthquake starts and you are in the water tell all children / Parents with children to hold onto the nearest anchor point, recommend lane ropes.
- If you have a group of unconfident children try and create a secure huddle with your group, hold on tight to the lane ropes or an anchor point
- Stay away from the pool ends and sides until the shaking has stopped and the waves have subsided enough to evacuate safely
- Try and move away from danger points like window while using the lane rope to help you be secure
- Follow the directions of the lifeguards
- Continue Emergency Action Plan