



# CYCLONE GABRIELLE

## EVACUATION INFORMATION

### Whakatāne District Council requires you to evacuate for your safety

**A local State of Emergency has been declared and your property has a mandatory evacuation order in place. You will need to evacuate as advised.**

We understand you might feel nervous or anxious, but your safety is the most important thing right now. Please stay calm and follow evacuation advice.

#### **Move immediately.**

This overrides any COVID-19 requirements to stay at home.

#### *Where should I go?*

If you have friends or family who you can stay with and you're able to get there safely, please do so.

If not, a dedicated Emergency Evacuation Centre has been set up at the Whakatāne War Memorial Hall where your accommodation options will be assessed.

#### *What should I bring?*

Ideally, you'll have your 'grab and go' bag ready. You'll need to remember these essential things:

- Items for children and babies - like formula, nappies and toys
- Essential medicines
- Photo identification (if you have it)
- Warm clothes
- Phone charger

#### *Can I bring my pets?*

If you evacuate to an evacuation centre, your pets will need to be looked after in your vehicle or outside on a leash. Unfortunately, we don't have facilities to house your pets at this stage. You will also need to bring their gear, including pet food.

#### *What if I need assistance to evacuate?*

Please ask for help from friends, whānau or neighbours in the first instance if you're unable to safely evacuate yourself.

If life is at risk, or there is a significant threat to property, call 111.

#### *Can I drive to the evacuation centre?*

Never try to walk, play, swim, or drive in floodwater: even water just 15cm deep can sweep you off your feet, and half a metre of water will carry away most vehicles.

If you come to a flooded area, turn around and go another way. If your vehicle stalls during a flood, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground. Driving through water also puts other people's lives and properties at risk. It can cause waves to wash into other vehicles, people's property and over pedestrians.

Always assume that all flood water is contaminated with farm run-off, animal and human sewage and chemicals. It can make you very sick. Make sure you wash your hands, clothes and property after contact with flood waters.

#### *Important contact information*

##### **PHONE 111 IF LIFE IS AT RISK**

Stay updated on the **Whakatāne District Council website and Facebook page**, and listen to **Radio 1XX** or **SunFM**.

*Authorised by Local Controller Nicholas Woodley.*

**To report flooding, damage to drains, or stormwater issues, please call 07 306 0500 or log the issue online at [whakatane.govt.nz/fixit](http://whakatane.govt.nz/fixit)**