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Newsflash: Guidelines released for managing risks from natural hazards

Kia ora

WorkSafe New Zealand has released its guidance for adventure activity operators on managing the risks associated with natural hazards. This follows a consultation last July, where feedback from adventure activity operators and key stakeholders on the draft guidelines was gathered.

The final guidelines can now be accessed here: [WorkSafe Guidance on Managing Natural Hazards](#)

The guidelines:

- Define what a natural hazard is with examples.
- Provide information on identifying natural hazards.
- Provide information on assessing and managing the risk of natural hazards.
- What trigger points can be set to apply control measures.
- How to develop and maintain an emergency plan.

WorkSafe's key points from the guidelines are:

- Adventure activity operators (operators) have various duties under health and safety legislation.
- As persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs), operators must ensure the health and safety of workers and others when carrying out work and manage related risks, so far as is reasonably practicable.
- Operators must also manage serious risks to participants' health and safety that adventure activities deliberately expose participants to.
- As part of these obligations, operators must assess and manage risks from natural hazards.
- Other PCBUs who provide similar outdoor recreation activities (providers) also have duties or obligations to manage risks from natural hazards.

We remain committed to supporting you in understanding and implementing these new guidelines and will follow up soon with more information.

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