

Kawerau Civil Defence Emergency Management (KDC CDEM) statement

Recent earthquake swarm; Kawerau and surrounding district

June 6 2018

Residents in and around the Kawerau District will be aware of a recent swarm of earthquake activity.

GeoNet Science, which monitors natural hazards of this nature, has issued a public statement:

“Earthquake swarms are typical of the earthquake activity in the Rotorua-Taupo area, the Taupo Volcanic Zone. In the last week they have occurred near Kawerau and Taupo.

In the last week there have been two swarms of small earthquakes located near geothermal systems. A small one near Taupo (Rotokawa geothermal system) and a slightly larger one at Kawerau. Both are large geothermal systems and local earthquakes are common.

The quakes are likely to be related to the long-term tectonic stretching of the Taupo Volcanic Zone. Swarms are often characterised by no one main or large event, with many of the events being about the same size. Currently, there are no indications that the earthquakes are related to volcanic activity.”

The full GeoNet statement is available here:

<https://www.geonet.org.nz/news/2MmejSGNmwmawQiwlimYms>

Some members in the Kawerau and surrounding communities may have experienced a loud sound shortly after one of the larger earthquakes at 23:08 hrs.

A Mercury spokesperson stated:

“Last night’s earthquake caused the Kawerau station to trip. Eastland and Ngati Tuwharetoa also have geothermal assets in the area and their plants tripped as well. This is all perfectly normal for an earthquake of this magnitude, and shows all safety systems worked as they should have.

The noise from the vents of these various plants safety systems would have made a bit of a rumbling sound, which could be what residents heard at the time.”

Discussions have also taken place between CDEM staff and representatives from Tasman industrial park, including the Major Hazard Facilities near Kawerau (MHFs) and confirmed all necessary safety precautions are in place in readiness.

Whilst earthquakes can be unsettling for those that experience them, the official advice from Kawerau District Council Civil Defence Emergency Management (KDC

CDEM) is for the community to follow national guidelines on how to *get ready* for emergency events, including earthquakes. Most importantly keep your families safe and look out for your neighbours.

Guidelines are available at <http://getthru.govt.nz/disasters/earthquake/>

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Kawerau CDEM Local Controllers

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