

31 October 2022

Tēna koutou katoa,

Tsunami siren thefts at Omaha and Point Wells

Auckland Emergency Management tsunami sirens situated at Omaha and Point Wells have been subject to ongoing theft / vandalism. Initially, this was a minor issue and we were working on replacement options. Incidences of theft have escalated in the last month.

This means that the audible warnings for a tsunami threat at these locations, may not be functioning at full capacity or as you might expect (for example only some sirens operating).

Stay informed and prepared

Sirens are only one way you could be alerted to tsunami threats. You will also receive warnings through other official channels including the Emergency Mobile Alert platform (messages to your mobile phone), radio and television news broadcasts and social media platforms. There are also a number of natural warnings you can look out for.

- You can find out further information about Emergency Mobile Alerts via <https://getready.govt.nz/emergency-mobile-alert>
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) (@AucklandCDEM) and [Facebook](#)
- If you are at the coast and feel an earthquake which is **LONG or STRONG, GET GONE** and move inland or to higher ground.

To find out more about tsunami, warnings and other hazards, or to check if you live in a tsunami evacuation zone in Auckland's Hazards Viewer, please visit the Auckland Emergency Management website aucklandemergencymanagement.org.nz.

What to do if you notice a missing or damaged tsunami siren

If you observe anyone tampering with sirens, please contact the Police immediately.

Additionally, if you notice damaged or missing tsunami sirens, call us on 09 301 0101 or report it via [Auckland Council's report a problem tool](#).

Installation of the tamper-resistant fixings

Our sirens are specially designed for alerting and are of no use for any other purpose (including playing music). Replacing tsunami sirens is not as easy as it seems because it's not an 'off-the-shelf' product. These are specialised equipment and software that can't be sourced locally. We will continue to work on options for replacement.



To make the sirens more secure, we are working with our contractors to replace the current fixings with tamper-resistant fixings to deter vandalism and theft. The new fixing mechanism, once tightened, locks and cannot be loosened or undone. Removal would be very challenging without the specialised equipment.

Due to the high-risk environment the contractors will be working in, installation must be carried out with qualified linesmen present. This planned work is scheduled for all our siren sites across the region.

Nāku iti noa, nā – Yours sincerely

John Cranfield

Head of Response & Recovery

Auckland Emergency Management | Tokonga Mate Ohotata o Tāmaki Makaurau

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