**Short listing**

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**New Civil Defence tool helps Otago Get Ready**

In an emergency, knowledge is key and working together is crucial.

That’s why Emergency Management Otago has launched ‘Otago Gets Ready', a proven two-way communication tool that can send Otago residents real-time localised email/text alerts during emergencies and help people prepare to be part of a co-ordinated community response.

* Do you have skills, resources or aid you can offer others in an emergency like first aid training, a 4WD, generator or language skills?
* Do you have whānau who may need extra assistance in an emergency?

Help yourself and others by signing up to Gets Ready now – either scan the Otago Gets Ready QR code or visit [www.getsready.net](http://www.getsready.net) to register your contact details.

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| To register for Gets Ready, follow the quick and easy three-step process:   1. Either scan the Otago Gets Ready QR code or go to www.getsready.net to log your contact details. 2. Fill out the Resources, Skills and Needs section – you can choose to share as much or as little information as you wish. 3. Once you receive the activation email (check your Junk Mail if it doesn’t come through within a few minutes) and click on the link to activate your profile. All information is held privately and securely and is only accessible to authorised Civil Defence staff. |

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**Longer listing**

**New Civil Defence tool helps Otago Get Ready**

Emergency Management Otago is encouraging residents across the region to sign up to Gets Ready, a proven two-way communication tool which helps people better prepare for emergencies and be more informed, co-ordinated and resilient when they occur.

Gets Ready is a well-established system that was set up in the Selwyn District after the 2010-11 Canterbury earthquakes. It has already been trialled in Central Otago and Queenstown’s Kelvin Heights Peninsula for the past year and is now being rolled out regionwide.

Three key benefits of signing up to Gets Ready:

1. **Find out what’s happening, what to do and how to help others via email/text alerts.**   
   Get localised updates FAST about situations that directly affect you, from small scale events (boil water notices or fire bans) to major emergencies (earthquakes, floods, fires, severe weather events, tsunamis/seiches etc.) to help you look after your family, neighbours, friends and work colleagues.
2. **Be part of a co-ordinated community emergency response.**   
   Help Civil Defence plan more effectively for emergencies by registering skills or resources you have (such as 4WDs, generators, First Aid training etc.) that can be used if needed. Vulnerable community members are also encouraged to provide details of special assistance they may require such as power, mobility or translation.
3. **Provide valuable on-the-ground intelligence to the Emergency Operations Centre via your Community Response Group**.   
   This will help Civil Defence co-ordinate a targeted response and get information and help to where it’s most needed, quickly and effectively.

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