

## [Glossary](#) [1]

### **advisory committee**

A group with the power to make recommendations but not to take action enforcing them.

### **aftershock**

A smaller earthquake following the main shock of a large earthquake.

### **anxiety**

A feeling of worry or nervousness about something with an uncertain outcome.

### **civil defence**

Steps taken by organised community groups for the protection of life and property in the event of a natural disaster.

debris dam

Natural damming of a river by some kind of landslide.

### **earthquake**

A sudden movement of the Earth's crust caused by the release of stress accumulated along faults or by volcanic activity.

### **economic**

Relating to the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought.

### **evacuate**

Remove a person or people from a place of danger to a safer place.

### **fault/fault line**

A break in rock across which there is observable movement.

### **fault rupture**

When part of a fault slips during an earthquake event.

### **ground shaking**

The main cause of earthquake damage to human-made structures.

### **humanitarian**

Concerned with or promoting human welfare.

### **infrastructure**

The basic services and facilities needed for society to function.

### **isolated**

Far away from other places, buildings, or people; remote. Having minimal contact

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with others.

### **landslide**

Movement of soil, rock and debris down a slope.

### **magnitude**

A measure of the energy released by an earthquake at its source. Magnitude is commonly determined from the shaking recorded on a seismograph. Each unit of magnitude on the scale represents a large increase in energy. For example a magnitude 6 releases 30 times more energy than a magnitude 5.

### **marine reserve**

An area of ocean and shore that is protected.

### **Mw**

The moment magnitude scale used by seismologists to measure the size of earthquakes.

### **plate boundaries**

The edges of the plates that make up the crust of the Earth.

### **plate tectonics**

The idea that the Earth's surface is a series of moving plates.

### **resilient**

Able to cope with or recover from difficult conditions.

### **sanctuary**

Nature reserve.

### **seismic**

Relating to earthquakes or other vibrations of the earth.

### **State highway**

State highways are roads that form a national purpose in moving people and goods nationwide. For example State Highway 1 runs the entire length of New Zealand.

### **subduction zone**

The area or zone where two tectonic plates come together, one riding over the other.

### **tsunami**

A series of powerful ocean surges caused by a large volume of the ocean floor being displaced - often by an undersea earthquake or landslide.

### **uplift**

Vertical elevation of the Earth's surface in response to natural causes.

### **volunteers**

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People who work for an organization without being paid.

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