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New Zealand's first daily newspaper. Est 1861

\$1.20 (95c delivered) North Is, including freight, \$1.80

Otago Daily Times

WEDNESDAY, September 8, 2010

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY DO YOU HAVE YOURS? INFORMATION OVER PAGE

Tremors taking their toll

'It's scary, really scary. We can't sleep at all'

By DEBBIE PORTEOUS in Christchurch

CHRISTCHURCH residents just want the shaking to stop, as dozens of aftershocks further damage not only the community's fragile emotional state but buildings and infrastructure as well.

Residents around the region were kept awake by a series of strong aftershocks on Monday night, including one of magnitude 5.2 and two of 5.4.

And, while the tremors were milder yesterday, Civil Defence has warned the area could be hit by another big aftershock. The latest tremors closed at least two major public buildings after new cracks appeared, cracks in streets and homes widened and residents fled buildings and jumped out of bed and stood under doorways as the area shook again.

The blows to Christchurch, three days after Saturday's big quake, were softened a little yesterday when the Government announced an emergency \$350-a-week subsidy for workers not being paid because of the Canterbury earthquake.

Prime Minister John Key says the move could cost up to \$100 million.

More people have been turning to the welfare centres for help, too afraid to stay in their homes during the aftershocks, and some are wondering whether to stay in the city.

In Keller St, Avonside, where gangs of contractors were starting a major clean-up yesterday, residents said the aftershocks were the worst thing about the disaster.

John Buchanan said his ill wife had increased the number of tranquilisers she was taking in an attempt to relax sufficiently to be able to sleep.

Everyone expected the aftershocks, but it was still a "bit hard" to sleep.

"You're always wondering if it's going to get worse." Poonna Beri hoped the aftershocks would stop soon.



Kaipoi woman Judi Pincott is living in fear of more aftershocks. PHOTO: CRAIG BAXTER

"I think everyone is just getting so tired."

Even emergency professionals found Monday night's aftershocks unnerving.

"I seriously thought about getting out of bed and getting my socks and pants on, and then it stopped," senior Dunedin firefighter Jason Hill said.

Territorial soldier Corporal Tim Rae said the soldiers in his camp had also been a "in a bit of a flap".

For the worst affected, aftershocks bring abject terror.

Kaipoi resident Judi Pincott said Monday night's big shakes made her feel sick.

"My husband Clive and I jumped out of bed, stood under the doorway and braced ourselves."

When it died down, the whole family got up and gathered in the lounge and did not go back to sleep that night.

Now, she feared each shake so much that every little noise, including doors creaking and trucks driving past, made her jump.

She had been trying to hold things together emotionally until after she got everything out of her home, but the aftershocks on Monday had caused her to "melt down", she said.

"You expect them to get smaller, but they are just getting bigger — it's hard to deal with."

The Pincotts' Courtney Dr house is one of dozens in the street badly damaged by the quake, with all the homes on one side expected to be bulldozed.

Yesterday, removal trucks were being loaded all along the street as residents moved their possessions out of their wrecked homes, the Pincotts among them.

"We are just lucky we have such a wonderful community," Mrs Pincott said. "We have got to know all of our neighbours really well, and everyone is helping everybody else."

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Back to basics... Neighbours team up yesterday to carry water down Keller St, Avonside, where residents still have no water or sewerage services and an erratic power supply. PHOTO: CRAIG BAXTER

20L Jerry Cans Instore Now

Basic grocery supplies take priority

By EILEEN GOODWIN

DUNEDIN'S Foodstuffs South Island distribution centre has been ramped up to deal with extra demand caused by the Christchurch earthquake.

The company, which includes Pak'n Save, New World, and Four Square, has warned customers to expect shortages of some items, as it was focused on maintaining basic supplies.

Three of its Christchurch distribution centres were seriously damaged, one so badly it cannot be used until extensive repairs are carried out.

Foodstuffs South Island chief executive Steve Anderson said volumes at South Dunedin's Midland St distribution centre had increased to meet demand. Extra staff had been drafted to help, from Christchurch and

Dunedin, Mr Anderson said. Maintaining basic supplies, such as bread, was the priority. Luxury items, such as capers or preserved artichokes, might be unavailable in the coming weeks. Modest but less sought-after items such as shoelaces would also not be a priority.

Rival supermarket chain Progressive Enterprises, which includes Countdown, said in a statement because of the

earthquake, Auckland was supplying the South Island. "We also ask customers to bear with us while we work to ensure all products are available."

Quality Bakers managing director Roger Gray, in Auckland, said bread supplies were back to normal after its Christchurch bakery was cleared for use on Sunday. eileen.goodwin@odt.co.nz

And the winner is ... the loser

SYDNEY: Australia is now ruled by a party which did not win the primary vote, the two-party preferred vote, or a majority of seats at last month's federal election.

That party is headed by a prime minister first installed not by voters but by Labor Party colleagues, and whose tenure has been prolonged by just four people — three independent MPs and one Green.

Had the three independents followed Julia Gillard's own advice — to back the party with the highest two-party preferred vote — Tony Abbott would now be prime minister of a minority coalition government.

Needless to say, that advice was delivered when Labor was

ahead on the two-party count, and behind on the primary vote. It's now behind on both.

But Ms Gillard now owes her survival to just one of those MPs who suddenly, magically, held the balance of power — Rob Oakeshott.

He was the last of the wavering independents. He jumped Labor's way, underlining the huge advantage of incumbency.

Had he sided with the coalition, the score would have been 75-75 after extra time and a

penalty shoot-out. Australia would have had a hung parliament for the first time in 70 years, and one that was hung, drawn and quartered. It would have been time for fresh elections.

Mr Oakeshott's own summary of his lineball decision was this: "Six of one and half a dozen of the other".

That's how close it was after 17 days of horse trading and a speech by Mr Oakeshott, curiously a supporter of shorter parliamentary answers, which seemed to take even longer.

That provides little comfort or encouragement for Ms Gillard as she begins the complex task, unique in modern times, of running the country with a minority

government. Not only that, but with a vastly reduced legitimacy. Her Labor Party could muster only 72 seats, the same as the coalition — one less if you count the maverick Western Australia National Tony Crook, who has no plans to enter the coalition party room.

Labor attracted the primary votes of less than 38% of all Australian voters, compared with more than 43% for the coalition.

Labor was also pipped in two-party preferred terms — 49.99% to the coalition's 50.01%. — AAP

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"It's scary, really scary. We can't sleep at all. On one tremor last night we jumped out of bed and stood under the door, because we don't know, is it going to get worse? It is absolutely terrifying."

Another neighbour said she and her partner now sleep with torches in their hands.

They left the doors open while they were in the house because they had learned that doors jam shut in quakes, and had their bags permanently packed ready to run if necessary.

"We had not considered running on Monday, but had a sleepless night, probably much like the rest of the city, she said.

While dozens of people from the street had been out clearing away silt on Monday, there were a lot fewer yesterday.



IN YOUR region



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Weather TODAY

11° INLAND OTAGO
Cloud clearing. Becoming fine.

10° COASTAL OTAGO
Cloudy, early drizzle. NE

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OTAGOMuseum
Discovery World
Tropical Forest

OTAGOS WARMEST WELCOME EVERY DAY AT YOUR TROPICAL FOREST!

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY

source: Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management www.getthru.govt.nz

AMOUNT OF WATER: 3 Litres per person per day for 3 days, MINIMUM. Ideally 6 litres per person per day for 3 days (18 Litres per person in storage).

You and your family (and your employees at work) will need bottled water. Ideally 6 litres per person per day for at least three days. Hence, a 4 person family will need approximately 4 x 20 Litre cube jerrycans filled with clean safe water.

EMERGENCY WATER USE AND HANDY EXTRA WATER SUPPLIES

Household water supplies, including drinking water, could be affected, or you may have to leave your home. Having a supply of water is absolutely essential and you need to store water for an emergency. You need about 3 litres of drinking water for each person each day. You also need about one litre of water for each of the following (hence another 3 litres per person per day):

- washing food and cooking for each meal.
- washing dishes after a meal.
- washing yourself (one litre per day for each person).

Your hot water cylinder and toilet cistern are handy and valuable sources of water. Check that your hot water cylinder and header tank are well secured and try to avoid putting chemical cleaners in the cistern. Also, keep on hand a supply of household bleach for disinfecting eg Janola.

STORING DRINKING WATER

- To store enough drinking and washing water for three days (6 litres per person per day for 3 days) add some extra for pets. Hence a family of 4 will need 72 Litres, or 4 x 20 Litre Cube Jerry Cans, available here.
- Wash bottles and jerrycans thoroughly in hot water.
- Fill each jerrycan with tap water until it overflows **BEFORE THE DISASTER HITS, BE PREPARED.**
- Add 1 teaspoons of household bleach per 20 litres of water and put the water into storage. Do not drink for at least 30 minutes after disinfecting.
- Label each bottle with dates showing when the bottles were filled and when they need to be refilled.
- Check the bottles every 12 months. If the water is not clear, throw it out and refill clean bottles with clean water and bleach.
- Store jerrycans in two separate places, somewhere dark away from direct sunlight where there is not likely to be flooding.

RAIN WATER

Collect rain water but make sure that you disinfect it with household bleach eg Janola (1/2 teaspoon to 10 litres). If you're at all uncertain as to the quality of water, e.g. from a well that has been flooded, or if it might have been contaminated by smoke or ash DO NOT drink it.

