



24 February 2023

Gary Garner
Email: g.garner@nziv.org.nz

Dear Gary

Thank you for your emails of 17, 20 and 21 February 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting answers to questions regarding Registered Valuer operations following Cyclone Gabrielle.

Following a significant event, Rapid Building Assessors work to quickly assess the damage to buildings within the affected area(s). After a building assessment by a Rapid Building Assessor, a building may be given one of three coloured placards: red, yellow or white.

In the case of white placards, Registered Valuers need only the permission of the building owner, occupier or otherwise authorised person to enter the building.

A yellow placard means that access to the building is restricted and must be supervised by a person authorised by the issuing authority (as noted on the placard¹), for a limited time, or entry is restricted to certain parts of the building.

A red placard means that entry to the building is prohibited except with written authorisation from the Civil Defence Emergency Management Controller or other responsible person. A red placard is issued if a building has sustained moderate or heavy damage and poses a significant risk to health or life. This could be from the building itself, from external factors such as adjacent buildings, or from ground failure.

Contact should be made with the local territorial authority in the first instance to discuss access to buildings with red or yellow placards.

Registered Valuers will need to comply with conditions and restrictions set out by the placard and the issuing authority, including supervision and/or time limitations. Information about the local issuing authority may be found on the placard.

Registered valuers are not considered “authorised officials”. Authorised civil defence or territorial authority officials are provided with statutory emergency management powers to keep people safe and manage affected buildings when a state of emergency, transition period or designation is in force. For example, authorised officials are given statutory authority to enter buildings or land to carry out rapid building assessments. This is provided for in the Building Act 2004.

¹ The issuing authority will be either the CDEM Controller or other Responsible Person under the authority of s133BT of the Building Act 2004, or the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002

In response to your question about public health orders, no such orders have been issued following the recent cyclone. Businesses and organisations need to comply with their obligations under the *Health and Safety at Work Act 2015*, as well as with any directions from Civil Defence Emergency Management. MBIE, WorkSafe, CHASNZ and Tenancy Services have published information on their websites about keeping safe as well as employer responsibilities and what to do after a natural disaster. Links to these resources can be found in the table below.

Description	Website
Information on the North Island severe weather events 2023	https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/managing-buildings-in-an-emergency/north-island-severe-weather-events-2023/
Information for building owners – managing buildings in an emergency	https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/managing-buildings-in-an-emergency/information-for-building-owners/
Extreme weather information for businesses	https://www.business.govt.nz/risks-and-operations/extreme-weather-information-for-business/
WorkSafe - Information on keeping safe during cyclone and flooding emergency and recovery	https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/about-us/news-and-media/keeping-safe-during-cyclone-and-flooding-emergency-and-recovery/
CHASNZ – Information on keeping safe while working on flood damaged property	https://www.chasnz.org/articles/auckland-flood-remediation-how-to-keep-healthy-and-safe-while-working-on-flood-damaged-property
Tenancy Services – What to do after a natural disaster	https://www.tenancy.govt.nz/maintenance-and-inspections/repairs-and-damages/what-to-do-after-a-natural-disaster/

The business helpline has information, support and resources for small business owners impacted by these events. They can be contacted on 0800 500 362 or through email at info@businesshelpline.co.nz.

I trust you find this information helpful. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact building@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Amy Moorhead
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 Building System Performance