



Protecting marae from fire

Ngā whakatūpatō
ahi mo te marae



TUNOHOPU MARAE | Rotorua

Tunohopu stands on the shores of Lake Rotorua in the Māori community of Ohinemutu. Tunohopu is an ancestor of the Ngati Whakaue people of Te Arawa. “Hei aha au te mate nōa ake ai i tāku pakarito ka tupu.” [Tunohopu speaking about the growth and prosperity of his descendants.]

He kupu whakataki

E ngā mana, E ngā reo, E ngā karangatanga maha, Tēnā koutou katoa

Most marae buildings pose a significant fire and evacuation risk for whānau and hapū.

Some of these fires have devastating effects and remind us of the need for greater fire safety measures on the marae. We hope to address some common concerns that arise when considering fire safety for marae by providing advice and information that can help you.

We would like to meet you and see what fire dangers exist in and around your marae. From here we can discuss fire safety systems that will protect your whānau, taonga and property.

We'll also show you how to become more 'firewise' in and around the marae. Our goal is to help you to protect your property so it is not lost forever.

No reira, me pupuri tātou ki ngā āhua o manaaki tangata - let us embrace the aspects of caring for one another.

Nāku iti noa, na

Piki Thomas

Pou Herenga Māori/ National Advisor Māori
New Zealand Fire Service

Front cover: **TAKAHANGA MARAE** | Kaikoura, Te Waipounamu



TUNOHOPU MARAE |
Marae fire safety hui,
July 2002.

Back L-R:

Piki Thomas, Mauriora Kingi,
Charlie Turei, Alistair Henderson,
Hakopa Paul, Frank Hickey.

Front L-R:

Hemi Pirihi, Sonia Anderson,
Tutewehiwehi Kingi , Sir John
Turei [Fire Service Kaumaatua
2000-2003], Wihapi Winiata,
Willie More, Sara-Jayne Norling,
Taki Turner.

*Fact:
Five marae fires are
reported to the
New Zealand Fire
Service each year*



POROWINI

KĀKĀ POROWINI MARAE | Whangarei

In the mid 1980's this marae was erected and the name of the rangatira, Kākā Porowini has been immortalised in the name of the carved wharenui

Working with communities to protect what they value

Te mahi tahi ki ngā hapori,
ki te tiaki i ā rātou taonga

The Fire Service wants to preserve and protect marae and whare tawhito because they are irreplaceable.

It is our recommendation that you install a combination of fire safety systems into your marae. A sprinkler system and smoke alarms will provide the highest level of protection if a fire occurs.

- **Smoke detectors** detect fire, give early warning and save lives
- **Sprinkler systems** stop the spread of fire and save taonga
- **Evacuation and home escape plans** ensure a quick and efficient evacuation of a building or house.

The Fire Service has supported the development of a sprinkler system for houses because most building fires happen in homes. It is low-cost, can be integrated into your existing plumbing and is less conspicuous than previous sprinkler systems.

This system can also be put into whareniui. Historic Places Trust Māori heritage advisors in association with conservation and fire professionals can provide advice about how to preserve and protect the interior of your building when installing a sprinkler system.



KĀKĀ POROWINI MARAE | Whangarei

Kākā Porowini was a rangatira of Ngāti Hine and is well known to this day for his hospitality towards travellers.



"In a unique experiment the Building Research Association of New Zealand [BRANZ], Fire Service and Historic Places Trust tested a full scale replica of a traditional Māori building made of native timbers, flax and woven panels. It was burning fiercely within two minutes and reached flashover in five minutes." [July 2002]

Fact:
66 percent of all marae fires happen in buildings built from 1900-1969



TE RANGĀTIRATANGA MARAE | Te Tii, Northland
Ngāti Rehia te hapu. Nga Puhi te iwi. Te Rangātīranga te marae

He whare He tipuna Te whare tipuna

There are fire prevention systems and steps you can take to reduce the risk and damage caused by fire.

It is our recommendation that you adopt a range of techniques to protect your building to reduce the risk of a deliberately lit or accidental fire .

Marae Checklist

- Install a sprinkler system and smoke alarms
- Have an escape plan and a safe place for manuhiri to evacuate
- Let manuhiri know your marae evacuation plan and exits in your whakatau
- Educate everyone about good fire safety behaviour
- Check hose reels and fire extinguishers
- Adhere to no smoking in the whare tipuna and whare moe
- Don't stack mattresses near heat or light sources
- Keep things that can burn away from cooking facilities
- Remember to use gas and electricity safely: install safely, maintain regularly and ventilate well
- Protect and limit the energy sources around your property
- Reduce outside litter and clutter
- Secure taonga in a fire proof safe
- Photocopy important documents and store copies in another location
- Think about security and outside lighting for your property

"We see the loss of a whare not as a loss of a building structure but the loss of a living being."

Energy Safety Service



TE RANGATIRATANGA MARAE



AWHITU HOUSE | Southbridge, Christchurch

Fire completely destroyed Awhitu House on Saturday April 13th 2003. For 124 years Awhitu House stood as the focal point for Ngati Moki and Ngai Te Ruahikihiki Iwi. The incident was particularly heartbreaking because the marae had placed whakapapa manuscripts in a safe in the house to protect them – unfortunately the safe wasn't fire proof.

Fact:
More than half of all fires in marae and whare tawhito are deliberately lit

The fire safety precautions of yesterday are



TUMATAUENGA MARAE | Ōtiria

The marae was named after the Māori god Tumatauenga because it serves as a memorial to all the men who died in both world wars

different for today

Ko ngā tikanga ārai ahi o nanahi he rerekē i ēnei rā

The Fire Service would like you to think about fire safety for your marae because the possibility of losing lives and taonga is too great a risk.

According to our records fewer than 20 percent of marae have a fire safety system.

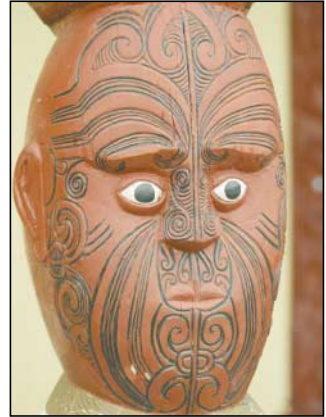
The Lotteries Grants Board has a marae heritage and facilities fund, which provides grants for capital costs for the conservation and restoration of marae facilities.

It also has a separate fund, which can provide financial assistance for the preservation and protection of whare taonga and wahi tapu.

The committee meets three times a year and Historic Place Trust Māori heritage advisors are able to advise and assist you in making applications and can arrange technical advice.

“When installing a fire alarm system and/or suppression system it is important that the systems integrate into the structure as unobtrusively as possible. Guided by expert advice installation work can be planned and carried out without compromising the cultural and heritage values of the building.”

Dean Whiting, New Zealand Historic Places Trust



Tumatauenga Marae was officially opened on 5 February 1964



WHAKAOTINGA POA |
Ngati Maniapoto

“Some consensus we had were the changing of the design in the house and poking holes in the wall and maybe damaging the whakairo, kowhai and tukutuku panels as well. For a lot of them it was contrary to tradition and they wanted to keep things the way they were.”

[Whakaoitinga Poa, Ngati Maniapoto on the kōrero that took place prior to installing a fire sprinkler system in Te Tokanganui-a-noho Marae, Te Kuiti]



TE WHEKE

TE WHEKE MARAE | Christchurch
Te Wheke marae is named after the son of Te Rangihakaputa who named Rapaki village. It recently celebrated its 100th anniversary

Promoting fire safety through public awareness

He whakatairanga i te hauora ahi, mā te whakamōhio i te iwi

Our approach to fire safety in marae is to try to minimise the risk to life, protect property and preserve a part of New Zealand's history.

Fire Service fire engineers can assist you to establish a fire risk profile and provide fire safety advice for your marae.

Risk profiles assess the fire risks in your building and provide you with options and advice on how to reduce the risk of a fire happening.

Upgrading your electrical, heating and cooking systems can reduce the risk of a fire occurring.

We can also advise you how to make your building safe when you renovate.

Most marae are made of timber so if you are restoring, we recommend that you install a fire separation wall between the kitchen and other rooms in the marae.

We'll help you interpret the fire safety objectives in the building code and provide fire safety advice for any building work carried out.

The advisory services provided by the Historic Places Trust and the Fire Service are free of charge.



RAPAKI

The church opened in 1869



Fact:
Main causes of fire in marae are arson (26 percent), electrical faults (19 percent), and poor fire safety behaviour (15 percent)



TE WHARE KAURI WHĀNAU MARAE | Waimate, Northland

“Ahakoa pēhea te pai o te whare, mā te wairua kē o ngā uri ka kitea rātou he tangata.”

Andy Sarich, “Te Kauri” 06/06/03

Fire safe behaviour is an active part of our culture

Kia mataara tātou ki ngā mahi ārai ahi i ā tātou tikanga katoa

A fire can happen in any building but most fires and nearly all fire deaths happen in homes.

Get out alive with smoke alarms and an escape plan.

*The Fire Service encourages **everyone** to have smoke alarms and an escape plan and practise it.*

Take time out with your whānau to prepare a home escape plan. A home escape plan is a diagram of your house including every room and two ways to get out of each room. Show the locations of smoke alarms too. Then every three to six months make sure you and your whānau practise escaping from these rooms. We suggest you put your home escape plan in a place where everyone in the house sees it often.

Remember

- Work out an escape plan to suit your house
- Practise your escape plan every six months
- Have working smoke alarms
- Know two ways out of every room
- Make sure that doors / windows needed for escaping are clear
- Make sure there is a safe way to reach the ground
- Have an outside meeting place e.g. the letterbox
- Make special plans for the young and the elderly
- Once out, stay out - never go back inside
- Phone the Fire Service from a safe phone.

Te Kauri whānau marae continues to encourage growth and leadership as established by the elders at the turn of the century ▼





IHENGA MARAE | Waiariki Institute of Technology

Ihenga was a famous explorer of his time and the grandson of Tamatekapua. He found Lake Rotoiti and called it 'Te Roto-iti-kite-a-Ihenga' - the little lake discovered by Ihenga. He named Lake Rotorua 'Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe' - the second big lake of Kahu, after his father-in-law, Kahu-mata-momoe.

Responding to the future

Ka whakautua te karanga o ngā rā kei tua

The Fire Service is committed to preserving your marae, protecting life and saving taonga.

Together we want to change the rate of loss to communities by providing:

- **An advisory service** that offers marae fire safety strategies to reduce the likelihood of fire
- **Information packs** that include booklets and information on fire safety systems and fire safety practices
- **Fire Service fire engineers** to consult and put a fire safety plan together for your marae
- **New Zealand Historic Places Trust** can offer advice on the best ways to incorporate fire safety features into marae while respecting architectural and historic qualities. For general advice write to the Historic Places Trust for a copy of its booklet 'Guidelines for Fire Safety' by Carol Caldwell and Hamish MacLennan
- **Energy Safety Service** can provide educational forums, material and advice about using gas and electricity safely.



TANIRAU ORMSBY |
Ngāti Maniapoto

"I was thinking about the past and when you think about the past you tend to forget about what's going to happen in the future?"

[Tanirau Ormsby, Ngāti Maniapoto on the kōrero that took place prior to installing a fire sprinkler system on Te Tokanganui-a-noho Marae, Te Kuiti]

Fact:
In 2002 the Fire Service, Energy Safety Service and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust formed a partnership to provide sound and practical fire safety advice to Māori communities



For more information from the New Zealand Fire Service check www.fire.org.nz or call 07 348 0914



For more information from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust check www.historic.org.nz or call 04 472 4341



For more information from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Energy Safety Service check www.ess.govt.nz or call 04 472 0030