



**SEVERE WEATHER AND CYCLONE INFORMATION**

Australia’s Tropical Cyclone season runs from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 30<sup>th</sup> April. According to the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), “the most cyclone-prone area is the north-west coast between Broome and Exmouth. Tropical cyclones cross this coast more often than anywhere else around the continent. However, other areas of Australia including North Queensland and the Top End also get a high number of tropical cyclones”.

If you live in North Queensland, it’s important to be prepared for cyclones and other severe weather events. Following is some information from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Website and other reputable sources to assist you in assembling a cyclone contingency plan for your household.

**CYCLONE ALERTS**

**Cyclone Watch**



When the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) issues a Cyclone Watch, this indicates regions in the shaded **Watch Zone** on the Tropical Cyclone Forecast Track Map are expected to experience gales within 24-48 hours.

**Cyclone Warning**













When the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) issues a Cyclone Warning, this indicates regions in the shaded **Warning Zone** on the Tropical Cyclone Forecast Track Map are expected to experience gales within 24 hours.

When a Cyclone Warning is issued, residents should take immediate precautions to safeguard lives and property.

Please refer to the reference guide below from the BOM website.

Community Threat	
Warning Zone Gales within 24 hours	
Watch Zone Gales from 24-48 hours	

Past Cyclone Details	Current Cyclone Details	Forecast Cyclone Details (Up to 72 hours from time of issue)
Past Location and Intensity Number  or L	Current Location and Intensity Number  or L	Forecast Location and Intensity Number  or L
Past Track and Movement 	Very Destructive Winds 	Very Destructive Wind Boundary 
	Destructive Winds 	Destructive Wind Boundary 
	Gale Force Winds 	Gale Force Wind Boundary 
		Most Likely Future Track 
		Range of Likely Tracks of Cyclone Centre 

Warnings		
Cyclone Watch	Cyclone Warning	Severe Weather Warning
A cyclone watch is issued at six (6) hourly intervals if a cyclone or potential cyclone exists, and there is a likelihood gale force winds or stronger will affect coastal or island communities within the next 24 to 48 hours.	A cyclone warning is issued at three (3) hourly intervals if gale force winds or stronger are expected to affect coastal or island communities within the next 24 hours. Warnings are updated every hour when a cyclone is close to landfall. The Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) may be used with some cyclone warnings.	A severe weather warning may be issued if the system is no longer a cyclone but communities are still being threatened by damaging winds, flooding rains or pounding seas.

## CYCLONE TERMINOLOGY

### Cyclone Categories

The severity of a tropical cyclone is ranked in categories from 1 (weakest) to 5 (strongest). The category given to a cyclone is based on its maximum mean wind speed. It doesn't indicate the severity of other hazards the cyclone may bring. For example, a Category 1 cyclone can have significant impact through heavy rain and flooding. Refer to the guide below.

Category	Maximum Mean Wind (km/h)	Typical Strongest Gusts (km/h)	Typical Effects
1	63 - 88	< 125	Damaging winds. Negligible house damage. Damage to some crops, trees and caravans. Boats may drag moorings.
2	89 - 117	125 - 164	Destructive winds. Minor house damage. Significant damage to signs, trees and caravans. Heavy damage to some crops. Risk of power failure. Small craft may break moorings.
3	118 - 159	165 - 224	Very destructive winds. Some roof and structural damage. Some caravans destroyed. Power failures likely.
4	160 - 199	225 - 279	Significant roofing loss and structural damage. Many caravans destroyed and blown away. Dangerous airborne debris. Widespread power failures.
5	> 200	> 279	Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction.

## CYCLONE PREPARATION

Click on the links below to download your cyclone preparation guides from Cairns Regional Council and Queensland Fire & Emergency Services:

- [Be-prepared-for-cyclones.pdf \(cairns.qld.gov.au\)](#)
- [QFES-Tropical-Cyclone-Preparedness-Guide.pdf \(disaster.qld.gov.au\)](#)

These guides outline the steps you should take to secure your home prior to a cyclone and what to do if a warning or evacuation order is issued. Please take the time to read these useful guides and adequately prepare.

## INFORMATION RESOURCES

### Websites

The Bureau of Meteorology provides the latest watches, warnings and supporting information on their website.

- [The Bureau of Meteorology](#)
- [Tropical Cyclone Forecast Track Map](#)

- [Emergency Management Australia](#)
- [Disaster Management Unit Website](#)

### Social Media

The Cairns Disaster Coordination Centre post regular updates on their Facebook page when there is a current disaster, emergency or event in the region. Their social media handle is: <https://www.facebook.com/CairnsDisasterCentre>

### Telephone Numbers

- Police/Fire/Ambulance - 000 (for life threatening emergencies)
- State Emergency Service (SES) - 132 500
- Ergon Energy – 13 16 70 (Life threatening emergencies only). For outages call 13 22 96
- Local Disaster Coordination Centre - (07) 4044 3377
- Bureau of Meteorology - (07) 4035 9777
- Automated Telephone Messages - Cyclone Advice: QLD - 1300 659 212
- Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) - Cyclone Action Advice: 132 500
- Department of Community Services - 1800 440 074
- Lifeline - 131 114
- Red Cross - 1300 554 419
- RSPCA - 1300 264 625

### Radio Stations

Warnings and other emergency information will be made available to the Cairns region via local radio and television stations for broadcast.

- ABC Far North 106.7
- 4CA: 846
- Triple M: 99.5 FM
- Star FM: 102.7 FM
- Hit FM: 103.5 FM
- Community Radio: 89.1FM

### Other Information & Resources

- Cairns Alert is an opt-in service provided by the Cairns Disaster Group. They will issue text messages and/or emails in the lead-up to the disaster season with advice on being prepared and updates on current weather events. Register here: <https://cairnsregionalcouncil-portal.au.whispir.com/util/genContactSelfRegistration.do>
- Click on the QR Code below for the latest information from Cairns Regional Council.



**Cairns Disaster Dashboard**  
Keep informed all year round

- Road conditions
- Power outages
- Flood cameras
- Weather warnings



[www.disaster.cairns.qld.gov.au](http://www.disaster.cairns.qld.gov.au)

Below is a visual checklist of items you should have in your household emergency kit:

 **BE READY**  
CAIRNS 

## Our household Emergency Kit

In an emergency you and your household need to be self-sufficient for 3 days. Packing a household emergency kit will ensure you have the essentials you need if disaster strikes.



Collect the items below and keep them in a sturdy, easily transportable bag or box. Tick them off as you go:

			
Water containers	Non-perishable food	Battery powered radio	Torch
			
Candles and a lighter	First aid kit	Emergency phone	Personal documents
			
Portable stove and fuel	Cooking equipment	Medication and scripts	Tent/tarp and blankets
			
Cash	Toiletries	Pocket knife	Clothes and strong shoes

Below is a template for a household emergency plan.

		<b>BE READY CAIRNS</b>		
<h1>Our household emergency plan</h1>				
<b>Household members</b>		<b>Our emergency kit is located</b>		
Name	Phone number			
<b>Hazard zones</b> (Storm tide, flood, bushfire, hillslope)		<b>Emergency contact</b>		
		Police/ambulance/fire	Phone number	
		SES	000	
		Disaster Coordination centre	132 500	
		Ergon Energy	1300 396 102	
		Main Roads	132 296	
		Doctor	131 940	
		School/Childcare		
		Workplace		
		Friends		
		Neighbours		
		Vet		
<b>Where will we go if we leave?</b>		<b>Insurance details</b>		
		Policy number	Phone number	
		Home insurance		
		Contents insurance		
		Car insurance		
<b>How will we get there?</b>				
<b>Emergency meeting place</b>				
<b>Essential medications</b>				
<b>Pet details</b>				
Name	Registration #			