



SEVERE WEATHER AND CYCLONE ADVICE

To our valued clients,

Following is some information extracted from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Website and other resources in relation to cyclone preparation, what to do if a cyclone makes landfall and emergency contacts. Please feel free to forward this information on to your tenants, Property Managers and others if you feel it would assist them in any way.

Before the cyclone season

- Check with your local council or your building control authority to see if your home has been built to cyclone standards.
- Check that the walls, roof and eaves of your home are secure.
- Trim treetops and branches well clear of your home (get council permission).
- Preferably fit shutters, or at least metal screens, to all glass areas.
- Clear your property of loose material that could blow about and possibly cause injury or damage during extreme winds.
- In case of a storm surge/tide warning, or other flooding, know your nearest safe high ground and the safest access route.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers on display.
- Check neighbours, especially if recent arrivals, to make sure they are prepared.
- Prepare an emergency kit – see below.

Emergency Kit Checklist

Prepare the following items and keep them in a sturdy, easily transported bag or box.

- Battery operated radio (with spare batteries)
- Torch (with spare batteries)
- Candles, lighter and waterproof matches
- First aid kit and manual
- Combination pocket knife
- Portable (gas) stove with fuel
- Cooking gear
- Water in sealed containers (10L per person)
- Medications additional supplies
- Toiletry and sanitary supplies
- Change of clothes and strong shoes
- Non perishable food (cans) – enough for 34 days (can opener and utensils)
- Special needs items for infants, the aged and people with disabilities
- Pet food, water and other animal needs
- Tent or tarpaulin, and blankets / other camping equipment
- Cash money (ATMs may not be available)
- Personal documents (insurance certificates, photographs etc)
- Strong plastic bags (for clothing and valuables etc)
- Emergency phone numbers

When a cyclone watch is issued

- Re-check your property for any loose material and tie down (or fill with water) all large, relatively light items such as boats and rubbish bins
- Fill vehicles' fuel tanks. Check your emergency kit and fill water containers.
- Ensure household members know which is the strongest part of the house and what to do in the event of a cyclone warning or an evacuation.
- Tune to your local radio/TV for further information and warnings.
- Check that neighbours are aware of the situation and are preparing.

When a cyclone warning is issued

Depending on official advice provided by your local authorities as the event evolves; the following actions may be warranted.

- If requested by local authorities, collect children from school or childcare centre and go home.
- Park vehicles under solid shelter (hand brake on and in gear).
- Put wooden or plastic outdoor furniture in your pool or inside with other loose items.

- Close shutters or board-up or heavily tape all windows. Draw curtains and lock doors.
- Pack an evacuation kit of warm clothes, essential medications, baby formula, nappies, valuables, important papers, photos and mementos in waterproof bags to be taken with your emergency kit. Large/heavy valuables could be protected in a strong cupboard
- Prepare safe areas and remain indoors (with your pets). Stay tuned to your local radio/TV for further information.
- Additional advice from the Cairns City Council website: Lift items at risk of water damage from the floor, especially electrical appliances - this is important for flooding situations too. Plastic bags can be tied around computers, televisions, CD players etc.
- Turn off non-essential power and/or gas
- Sandbag areas at risk from flooding where possible
- Cover windows and doors with timber sheeting or tape across the glass with masking tape and close all doors
- Fill drinking containers and bath tubs with water. You can also fill wheelie bins with water to flush toilets if necessary

On warning of local evacuation

Based on predicted wind speeds and storm surge heights, evacuation may be necessary. Official advice will be given on local radio/TV regarding safe routes and when to move.

- Wear strong shoes (not thongs) and tough clothing for protection.
- Lock doors; turn off power, gas, and water; take your evacuation and emergency kits.
- If evacuating inland (out of town), take pets and leave early to avoid heavy traffic, flooding and wind hazards.
- If evacuating to a public shelter or higher location, follow police and State/Territory Emergency Services directions.
- If going to a public shelter, take bedding needs and books or games for children.
- Leave pets protected and with food and water.

When the cyclone strikes

- Disconnect all electrical appliances. Listen to your battery radio for updates.
- Stay inside and shelter (well clear of windows) in the strongest part of the building, i.e. cellar, internal hallway or bathroom. Keep evacuation and emergency kits with you.
- If the building starts to break up, protect yourself with mattresses, rugs or blankets under a strong table or bench or hold onto a solid fixture, e.g. a water pipe.
- Beware the calm 'eye'. If the wind drops, don't assume the cyclone is over; violent winds will soon resume from another direction. Wait for the official 'all clear'.
- If driving, stop (handbrake on and in gear) - but well away from the sea and clear of trees, power lines and streams.
- Stay in the vehicle.

After the cyclone

- Don't go outside until officially advised it is safe.
- Check for gas leaks. Don't use electric appliances if wet.
- Listen to local radio for official warnings and advice.
- If you have to evacuate, or did so earlier, don't return until advised. Use a recommended route and don't rush.
- Beware of damaged power lines, bridges, buildings, trees, and don't enter floodwaters.
- Heed all warnings and don't go sightseeing. Check/help neighbours instead.
- Don't make unnecessary telephone calls

Where can I get information?

The main sources of cyclone information are radio and television stations. During a cyclone threat, some stations keep local staff on duty 24 hours a day to broadcast cyclone information. Because of the high chance of the power supply being disrupted, it is important to have a battery-operated radio to listen for cyclone advices.

The Bureau also provides the latest watches, warnings and supporting information on this website and through its telephone and *Weather-by-Fax* services. Look in your Telephone Directory under Bureau of Meteorology to obtain numbers for additional services which are not listed below.

Bureau of Meteorology

Web: www.bom.gov.au

Automated Telephone Messages - Cyclone Advices (Watch/Warning): QLD: 1300 659 212

Emergency Services Agencies

Emergency Management Australia: www.ema.gov.au

Queensland: Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) - Cyclone Action Advice: 132 500

Information from Cairns City Council website:

The Cairns Disaster Coordination Centre activate Facebook and Twitter when there is a current disaster, emergency or event in the region. Like / Follow the following for updates:

Facebook: Cairns DCC
Twitter: @CairnsDCC

Disaster Coordination Centre: Ph (07) 4044 3377

Disaster Management Unit: Ph (07) 4044 3044

Emergency Contacts

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

- [Police/Fire/Ambulance - Dept of Community Safety](#) Ph: 000 for life threatening emergencies
- [Local Disaster Coordination Centre](#) Ph: (07) 4044 3377
- [State Emergency Service \(SES\)](#) Ph: 132 500
- [Ergon Energy](#) Ph: 132 296
- [Bureau of Meteorology](#) Ph: (07) 4035 9777
- [Dept of Community Services](#) Ph: 1800 440 074
- [Lifeline](#) Ph: 131 114
- [Transport & Main Roads Queensland](#) Ph: 13 19 40
- [Red Cross](#) Ph: 1300 554 419
- [RSPCA](#) Ph: 1300 264 625

Radio Stations

Tune into your local radio station for the latest emergency information

- ABC Cairns, 106.7 FM, 95.5 FM, 801 AM, 720AM, 801AM
- Community Radio, 89.1FM
- Bumma Bipperra Media 98.7FM
- Zinc FM, 102.7FM
- 4CA AM, 846 AM
- Hot FM, 103.5 FM
- Sea FM, 99.5 FM

Your safety is of paramount importance to us and we thank you for your cooperation.

tcmstrata

P: 07 4031 7877

F: 07 4031 5762

W: www.tcmstrata.com