



IT IS UP TO YOU

Know your risk and be prepared

CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS

Far North Queensland enjoys a tropical climate, with two distinct seasons: the dry season from May to October with mild temperatures; and the wet season from November to April with warmer temperatures. During the wet season, cyclones and flooding pose a threat to our region; Cyclone Larry in March 2006 and Cyclone Yasi in February 2011 directly hit the Cassowary Coast Regional area causing extensive damage. Every one of us has a responsibility to themselves and their families to be prepared. Emergency services and those with a role in disaster management have limited resources and whilst they do the best they can to assist you during and following disaster events you also need to take charge of your own safety by heeding the warnings and taking the necessary precautions; remember help may not reach you for several days.

CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS

- Don't leave things to the last minute.
- Check your house and roof are in good condition.
- Trim tree branches well clear of your house.
- Clear your property of loose material that could cause injury and damage during extreme winds.
- In case of storm tide warning – know your nearest safe high ground and the best access route.
- Prepare an emergency kit and evacuation kit (hold ready in home).

UPON CYCLONE WARNING

- Listen to local radio and TV for further information
- Batten down house; secure doors, board, tape or paper paste windows (flour or starch glue works)
- Turn off gas and water
- Have enough cash to last you a couple of days; ATMs do not operate during power outages
- Store loose items inside, place documents, photos, valuables and clothing in plastic bags
- Lock up pets
- Fill water containers; store enough non perishable food for at least 5 days
- Prepare an evacuation kit (in small bags) include your emergency kit
- Ensure your vehicle is full of fuel in case of an evacuation and secure vehicle undercover

DURING THE CYCLONE

- Keep calm, STAY INSIDE, heed warnings and advice
- Shelter in the strongest part of the house - perhaps bathroom, internal toilet or passageway
- If the house starts to break up, protect yourself with a mattress, rugs or blankets. If possible anchor yourself to strong fixtures such as water pipes or get under a strong table or bed
- Beware the calm 'eye': Don't assume the cyclone is over - violent winds will soon resume from the opposite direction

AFTER THE CYCLONE

- Listen to the radio for further warnings such as flooding
- Do not make unnecessary demands on emergency services
- Do not turn on power or gas if damaged until checked by authorities
- Do not touch wet switches
- Do not drink any water that may be contaminated

- Do not go sightseeing - you will only hinder emergency services trying to do their jobs
- If you need to use the telephone, make the call brief
- If it is safe to do so, check your neighbours; they may need assistance

EMERGENCY SITUATION

If you have a medical or life threatening situation phone 000. Other serious problems such as losing a roof phone SES on 132 500 or the Disaster Coordination Centre on 1300 188 505.

FLOODS

Talk to neighbours and long term locals to see if your property has a history of flooding. Visit Council's Flood Awareness website to see if you are within the study area: <http://maps.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au>

The website presents Council's flood modelling data showing the height above mean sea level and extent of flooding for the Johnstone and Tully Rivers. Using the information supplied on the website and from Council is the first step you can take to preparing for a flood in your area. If you live in a flood prone area there are a number of simple things you can do to minimise the impact a flood could have on you and your property.

- Listen to your local radio station for warnings and advice
- If possible, move vehicles, garbage, outdoor equipment, poisons or chemicals to higher locations
- Consider which indoor items you can raise (e.g. furniture, clothing, electrical goods etc.) or empty refrigerators and freezers if water threatens to enter your home
- Consider what you will do with your pets
- If it's safe to do so, turn off gas, electricity and water
- Be prepared to evacuate your home

EVACUATION

Evacuation centres are NOT cyclone shelters. Unless you have been advised to evacuate, ALWAYS STAY INSIDE and listen to your local radio station for further warnings or advice. Information regarding declared evacuation will be broadcast.

Be prepared; consider the possibility of evacuation by Police or Emergency Services. If you don't have transport, make prior arrangements with a neighbour.

If you are asked to evacuate, only use the recommended route. Proceed with extreme caution and stay calm. Wear strong clothing and footwear. Turn off the electricity, gas and water services and lock up your dwelling. Remember evacuation centres will not allow animals, alcohol or weapons. Temporary evacuation centres will only be activated as needed. Do not forget your emergency and evacuation kit.

EMERGENCY KIT

Your emergency kit should contain the following items:

- Battery operated radio and spare batteries
- Tinned food for at least 5 days
- Water in containers for at least 5 days
- Torches or candles, waterproof matches
- Spare clothing for at least 5 days, wrapped in plastic...even a blanket and pillow.
- Essential medications
- Self contained cooking gear e.g. Portable gas camping stove
- First aid kit

EVACUATION KIT

Your evacuation kit should contain the following items:

- EMERGENCY KIT
- Strong footwear (not thongs) to protect against cut feet
- Important items wrapped in plastic e.g. marriage certificate, passport, insurance papers, photos, valuables, computer files, etc.
- Any medical equipment you may need eg. oxygen bottle

REMEMBER YOUR PETS

Plan ahead for your pets; Evacuation Centres cannot accept pets due to Council's health and safety regulations. The best option is to get a friend or relative outside the evacuation area to take your pets, and preferably you too. If you stay at home:

- Prepare an easily cleaned room such as the bathroom or laundry for your pets
- Keep a good supply of newspapers for your pet's sanitary needs
- For each pet, have two weeks supply of medication, food and water
- Keep a leash handy at all times
- Keep with you a current photograph of your pet, in case your pet is lost

AFTER THE EVENT

Take care when releasing animals, their environment may have been severely damaged and the animals may be very disoriented, frightened or aggressive.

For further information on disaster preparedness contact your local SES, Cassowary Coast Regional Council or visit: www.emergency.qld.gov.au

BUSINESS PREPAREDNESS

Cyclones and floods have caused billions of dollars worth of damage over the last few years. It is up to business owners to prepare for a disaster event to lessen the impact of a disaster on their business.

After a cyclone it is not uncommon to experience power outages. If your business relies on power to operate you should consider purchasing a generator; remember you will need to have an electrician hard wire your business to run a generator. **It is not up to emergency services or your council to provide your business with a generator.**

Disasters have caused many unprepared businesses to close their doors. There are numerous websites that will assist a business owner with writing their business continuity plan. The Queensland Government's Business Development website has a range of templates and strategies to assist you in disaster proofing your livelihood:
www.business.qld.gov.au

DISASTER RELATED DEBRIS CLEANUP

Council is not responsible for cleaning up private yards. It is important residents contact their insurer,

who may arrange for clearance if there is damage, or contact contractors if they need help with clearing trees and debris. Residents with special needs that do not have insurance may register with Council if they require assistance with debris clean up. When it comes to drains, Council can only clear drains on council-owned land, reserves and easements. River Trust organises clean-up operations for other waterways.

INSURANCE

Do not be fooled in to thinking you do not need to insure your property. Natural disasters are not the only risk to your property and most disaster related

funding programs are designed to only provide disaster victims with the very basic living requirements.

Many uninsured disaster victims face the prospect of having to work extra years to get back to the standard of living they had known prior to the disaster. When insuring your property take into consideration that disasters create a 'supply and demand' economy that may see building costs rise; it is important to factor that increase into your insurance policy so you do not find yourself under insured.

Remember to carefully read and review your insurance policy each year.

To prepare visit www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/web/guest/disaster-info

Disaster Dashboard www.disaster.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au

OR www.emergency.qld.gov.au

Life Threatening Emergency 000

SES Flood & Storm Assistance 13 2500

Power Lines Down 13 1670

Power Failures 13 2296

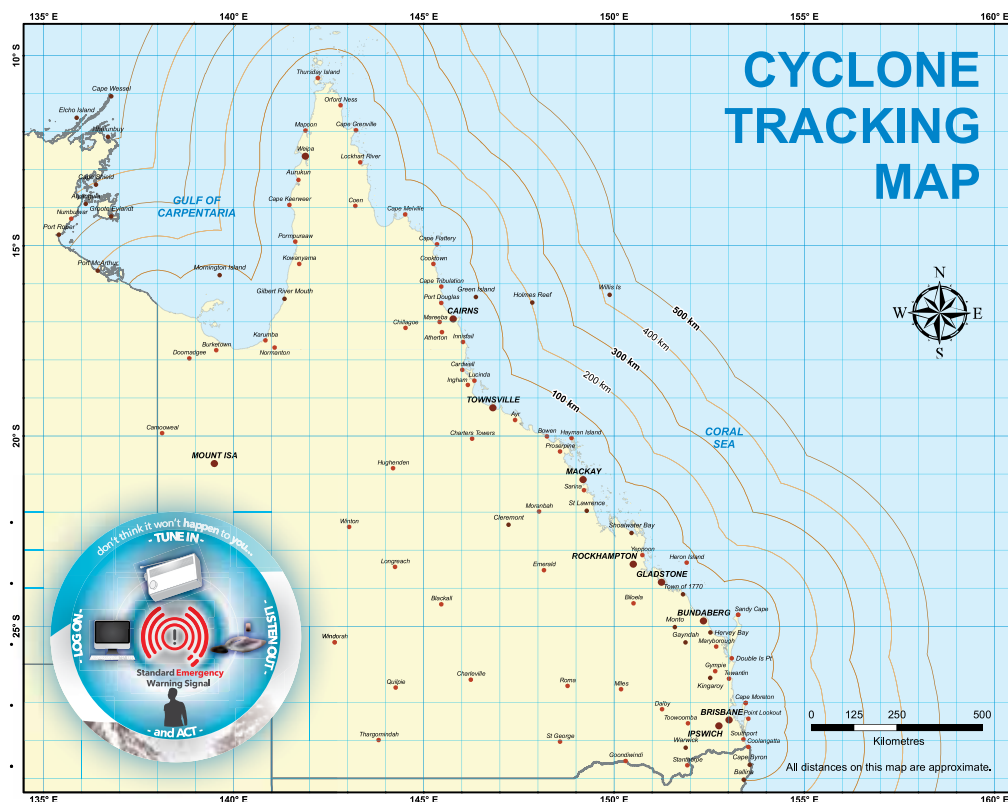
Main Road Closures 13 1940

Other requests for assistance such as water, waste water, council roads, drains, environmental health or trees down on council roads, buildings or land, etc. contact:

Council Disaster Coordination Centre
(DURING DISASTER ACTIVATION ONLY)

1300 188 505

Disaster Dashboard www.disaster.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au



CATEGORY 1

Gale force winds 90-124 km/h causing negligible damage to houses. Possible damage to crops, trees, caravans and boats.

CATEGORY 2

Destructive winds 125-164 km/h causing minor damage to houses. Significant damage to crops, trees, caravans and boats with chance of power failure and flooding.

CATEGORY 3

Very destructive winds of 165-224 km/h causing some structural damage to houses. Most crops and caravans destroyed with power failure likely and flooding possible.

CATEGORY 4

Very destructive winds of 225-279 km/h causing significant structural damage to houses. Dangerous airborne debris with widespread power failure and flooding likely.

CATEGORY 5

Very destructive winds of more than 280 km/h causing wide spread destruction. Extremely dangerous conditions with significant power loss and flooding.