

CYCLONE/STORM CHECKLIST

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 to it.
- Prepare an emergency kit containing:
 - ➔ a portable battery radio, torch and spare batteries;
 - ➔ water containers, dried or canned food and a can opener;
 - ➔ matches, fuel lamp, portable stove, cooking gear, eating utensils; and
 - ➔ a first aid kit and manual, masking tape for windows and waterproof bags.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers on display.
- Check neighbours, especially if recent arrivals, to make sure they are prepared.

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.
- Remain indoors (with your pets). Stay tuned to your local radio/TV for further information.

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.

Note: Managers of resorts, hotels, motels, and caravan parks should take steps to ensure visitors are aware of the dangers and know what to do in the event of a cyclone. Free *Protecting Caravans* information is available from your State/Territory Emergency Service.

Cyclone Information

The Warning System

<http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/55865/20060202-0000/www.bom.gov.au/info/cyclone/index.html>

Things to do once a Cyclone warning is issued

Cyclone is 24 hours away:

- ▶ Fill water buckets and cover them.
- ▶ Top up your car's fuel tank.
- ▶ Ensure you have fresh batteries for your radio.
- ▶ Make sure you have adequate supplies of prescribed medicine.
- ▶ Stock up on non perishable food items if required.
- ▶ Ensure your neighbours are aware of the issued warning.

Cyclone is 16 hours away:

Listen to the media for regular updates.
Ensure your children are home.
Gather tools that will be needed for emergency repairs. eg. hammer, nails, rope, and tarpaulins.
If you live in a caravan, identify a solid structure to which you can move if required.

Cyclone is 9 hours away:

- ▶ Prepare the safest part of your house (usually the bathroom) and place emergency stores there.
- ▶ Account for and lock up your pets
- ▶ Gather protective gear and place in shelter.

Cyclone is 6 hours away:

Listen to the media for regular updates.
If you use gas, turn it off at the bottle.
Stay in a safe place, don't move.
Do not make unnecessary demands on the emergency services.
Beware of the calm "eye" of the cyclone and do not go outside until you are advised to do so.

Once the Cyclone has passed

Listen to the media for regular updates.
Do not make unnecessary demands on the emergency services.
Do not touch wet switches, and beware of fallen power lines, treat them as if they are live.
Do not drink water that could be contaminated.
Stay at home; resist the urge to go sightseeing. The water surge caused by your vehicle can send flood water into people's homes.

If a cyclone comes, it is strongly advised that you stay in a safe place, listen to the radio and abide by the instructions issued by the media. But move early; remember that most injuries and fatalities in cyclones result from people being hit by flying debris while outside in high winds. Outside movement

becomes both difficult and dangerous once wind gusts exceed 85km/h and should cease once gusts exceed 100km/h.

If you feel your house/shelter is not safe, see if you can shelter in a neighbour's house or move to the community emergency centre as advised by the radio. Check to see that your neighbours, in particular those who are elderly, have disabilities, or are living alone, are safe.

In a life threatening emergency call 000.

INFORMATION FROM THE BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

Automated Telephone Messages: Cyclone Advices (Watch/Warning):

QLD: 1300 659 212 NT: 1300 659 211 WA: 1300 659 210

Weather by Fax: Directory pages (poll fax):

QLD: 1800 061 434 NT: 1800 061 438 WA: 1800 061 436

Internet: www.bom.gov.au

INFORMATION FROM EMERGENCY SERVICES

SES (Queensland)

Phone: 07 3247 8454 (see local phone directory for regional offices)

Internet: www.emergency.qld.gov.au

NTES (Northern Territory)

Phone: 08 8922 3630

Internet: www.nt.gov.au/pfes

SES (Western Australia)

Phone: 08 9277 0555 (see local phone directory for regional offices)

Internet: www.ses.wa.gov.au

Emergency Management Australia

Internet: www.ema.gov.au

Feedback: If you wish to provide feedback on this brochure or any aspect of the Tropical Cyclone Warning Services you can do so at www.bom.gov.au/other/feedback/

AWX Safety Office 24 Hour Line - 0407 422 093