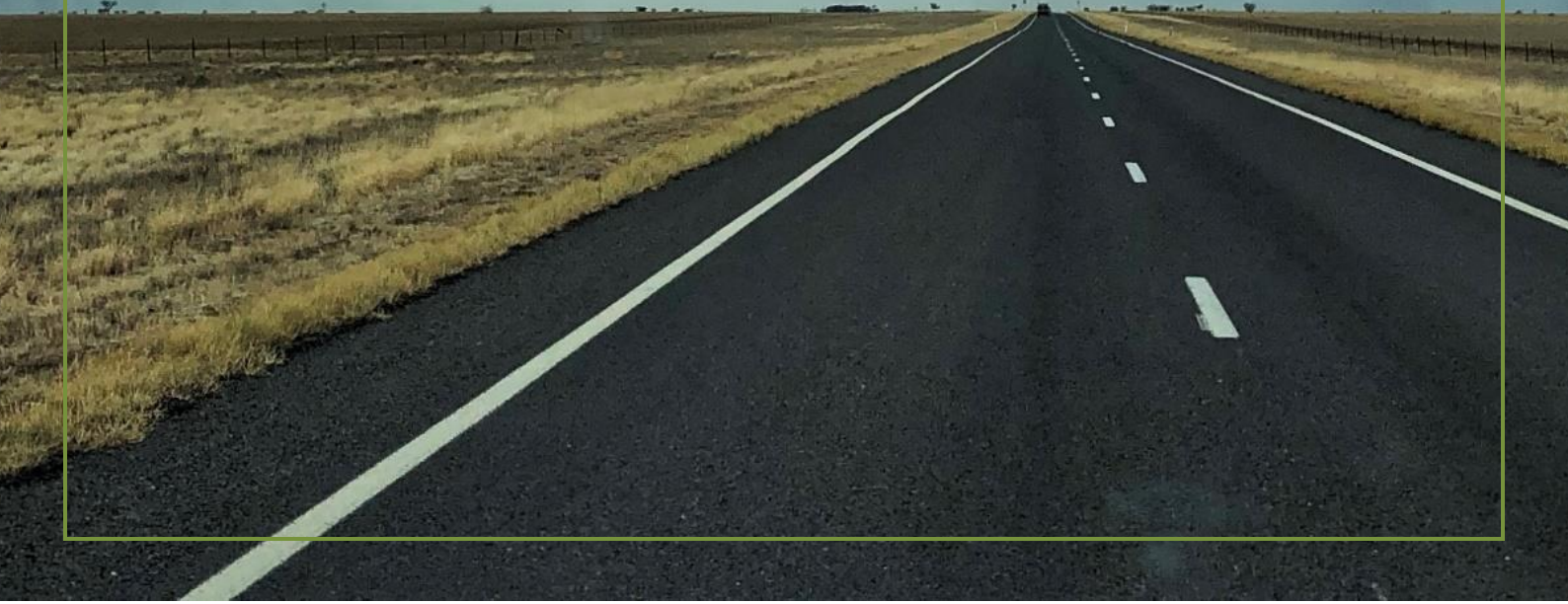




BURKE SHIRE
Council

EMERGENCY

ACTION GUIDE

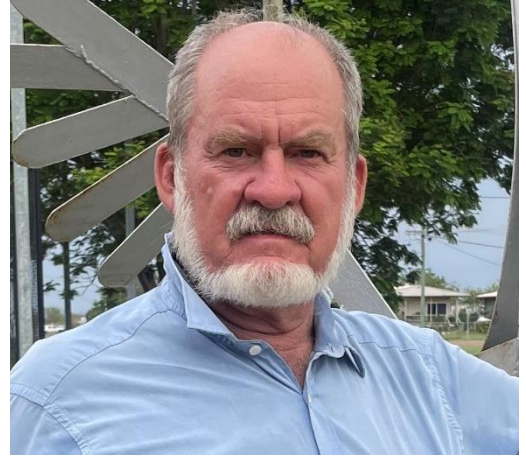


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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It is with great pleasure to introduce Burke Shire Council's Emergency Action Guide. This guide focuses on natural disasters. As a Local Disaster Management Group (which covers all communities in our shire), members are very aware of and prepare for many natural and non-natural events such as flooding, storms, fires and heatwaves.



The best way to prepare for a disaster is well before one is even on its way. During disasters, emergency services may not be able to reach you because of high winds, fire, floodwater, fallen powerlines or debris across the road. The Burke Shire Councils Emergency Action Guide will help you, prepare your family, pets, home, yard and belongings before, during and after a disaster. It will also help you find information during a disaster and help you understand the risk and likelihood of Disasters within our shire.

Burke's LDMG is committed to strengthening disaster resilience so that our community is better equipped to deal with natural disasters. The LDMG makes decisions based on advice from the Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) weather predictions and our District Disaster Management Group (DDMG). As a result of a \$8 million State and Federal funded Flood Warning Infrastructure Network Project, covering from Mackay west to Diamantina north through to the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York, Burke Shire have 14 flood warning assets installed in different locations which will provide essential data to keep communities safe.

The LDMG will endeavour to deliver, either by email or hand delivery, a copy of the Emergency Action Guide to all our residents. Please make sure that you read it.

Kind Regards
Mayor Ernie Camp
Local Disaster Management Group Chairman

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide focuses on natural disasters. Do not wait for a disaster to happen before you think about how you and your family are going to survive.

During disasters, emergency services may not be able to reach you because of high winds, fire, floodwater, fallen power lines or debris across the road.

Emergency Services will be focused on assisting the most vulnerable in the community during an event. That is why you need to be prepared to stay in your home or evacuate for at least three days.

This guide will help you:

- ✓ Prepare Your Emergency Plan
- ✓ Prepare Your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit
- ✓ Prepare Your Family, Pets, Home, Yard and Belongings - Before, During and After a Disaster
- ✓ Find Information During a Disaster
- ✓ Understand The Risk and Likelihood of Disasters Within Your Community

The best time to prepare for a disaster is well before one is even on its way.

Planning well means nothing is left to chance and that everyone knows what they need to do and where things are.

Because cyclones and floods are a part of life in the North, it's easy to become complacent. Sadly, some people have perished in floods and cyclones because they were not prepared or did not follow the warnings.

Resources:

This guide has been developed using information provided by:

Get Ready Queensland www.getready.qld.gov.au/

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services www.qfes.qld.gov.au/

Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au/

DISCLAIMER: This guide is for information only and is provided in good faith. The Queensland Government and the Burke Shire Council are under no liability to any person in respect of any loss or damage (including consequential loss) which may be suffered or incurred, or which may arise directly or indirectly, in respect of reliance by any person on the information contained in this brochure.

WE ARE YOUR INFORMATION AUTHORITY

During a disaster, Burke Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is your number one source of information.

Here is where you can find information:



www.burke.qld.gov.au



BurkeShireCouncil

The Disaster Management Act 2003 requires a Local Government organisation to appoint a Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) and prepare comprehensive disaster management plans. Burke LDMG comprises of Councillors, Executive Officers, emergency services and key agencies.

Burke LDMG makes decisions based on advice from the Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) weather predictions and our District Disaster Management Group (DDMG). Burke LDMG's area of responsibility covers all communities in the Burke Shire.

The LDMG will also establish a Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) which will be manned by trained Council staff, emergency services and key agencies to coordinate resources and information in response to a disaster event. The LDCC will be activated depending on the severity of the event.

You will find information about when the centre is operational on the Council's website, Facebook page, public notices and the local radio.

If your call is an emergency, please dial 000.

If you need assistance following an event, you should contact the LDCC on 07 4745 5100 and provide details of assistance required to the telephone operator.

PREPARING IN ADVANCE

Prior preparation is the best way to survive any natural disaster. While cyclones and flooding are most common in our area, we could also experience fire and earthquake.

It is important to know what you will do in each scenario:

- Know your risk.
- Decide in advance if you will evacuate or shelter at home or with family.
- Know your evacuation route and when it might close.
- Have an emergency kit ready.
- Take steps to limit damage to your property.
- Store backup electronic copies (preferably certified) of important documents either on a USB, the cloud or with someone else in case your originals are damaged or lost in a disaster.

DISASTER PREPARATION CHECKLISTS

PREPARING YOUR HOME, CAR, BOAT AND PETS FOR ALL DISASTERS

Ahead of our usual disaster season, when you have plenty of time to prepare, go through the following checklists to make sure everything is ready.

To help prepare your Emergency Plan, Emergency Kit, Evacuation Plan and Evacuation Kit, head to: www.getready.qld.gov.au



Prepare your Home

Home Maintenance and Preparation for all Disasters



1. Check the condition of the roof regularly and repair loose tiles, eaves, screws and cracked or broken guttering or flashing.
2. Clean gutters and downpipes so water can drain away as quickly as possible.
3. Trim trees and overhanging branches that are close to your home.
4. Fix any corrosion, loose fittings and rotting or termite-affected timber.
5. Repair any broken sealant around window sills to make watertight.
6. Empty standing water from any containers and paddling pools that are not frequently emptied in the yard to prevent mosquito growth which can carry disease.

Home Preparation for Severe Weather



1. Disconnect electrical appliances and all external television and radio aerials.
2. Fill buckets and bath with clean water in case of interruptions to main supply.
3. Close windows with shutters or draw curtains.
4. Move outdoor equipment, garbage, chemicals and poisons to a higher location.
5. Empty and raise freezers and refrigerators and stack or move furniture, valuables and electrical items off-site.
6. Sandbag internal drains and toilets to prevent sewage backflow.
7. Move livestock, plant and feed to higher ground.
8. Park vehicles under cover, away from trees, powerlines and waterways. If you cannot access undercover shelter for your vehicles, secure with firmly tied blankets to minimise hail damage.
9. Check all household members are safe (including your pets) and are in the strongest room in the house e.g. bathroom or laundry.
10. Take your emergency kit with you whilst sheltering from the storm or cyclone.

Home Preparation for Cyclones, Storms and Potential Flooding



1. Identify which room is the strongest part of the house, in case you need to shelter in your home during a severe storm or cyclone. Usually this would be the smallest room in the house, with the least windows e.g., bathroom or laundry.
2. Identify where and how to turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas.
3. Pack your emergency and evacuation kits – ensure the location is included on your household emergency and evacuation plan.
4. Store safely a spare supply of fuel for use in your vehicle.
5. Have readily available hessian bags and sand for sandbagging indoor drains to prevent sewerage backwash from flooding.
6. Identify loose items that would need to be secured that could cause damage if blown around in high winds (such as garden furniture and toys).
7. Store all poisons well above ground level.
8. Identify which indoor items you will need to raise or empty if flooding threatens your home.

Home Preparation for Bushfires



1. Check to see if the vegetation on your property is protected and prohibited from removal by contacting your local Council.
2. Have good access to water around your house e.g., tanks, swimming pools. Don't rely on electric pumps and town water as these services can go down during fire emergencies.
3. Remove door mats or flammable materials.
4. Do not place garden waste or other flammable materials in fuel free zones, firebreaks and fire access trails.
5. Maintain a fuel free zone around your fence line.
6. Never dump garden waste and other flammables in adjoining bushland areas.
7. Remove vegetation overhanging your house.
8. Clean decks, gutters and roof valleys.
9. Rake up bark, leaves and twigs.
10. Clear firewood, other flammables and rubbish from under and around the house.
11. Make sure your property has clear access for firetrucks.

Protect your Boat

If your boat is on a trailer

- If time permits remove your boat and trailer out of the cyclone path. Ensure the boat is located away from trees or loose objects. Remove the outboard, safety equipment, radios, sounders, bimini covers and any other valuable items that may be blown away or damaged.
- Once all equipment has been removed, remove the boat from the trailer. Place it on the ground facing the direction the wind will come from and away from trees or objects that may fall on it. Lash it with 24mm rope or chains to ground anchors or the most secure object available. Finally, half fill it with water, except for stern drive or inboard motored boats.
- If you are unable to remove the boat from the trailer, turn the boat to face the wind, let the air partially out of the tyres and place wooden blocks between the frame member and the axle inside each wheel. Lash it with 24mm rope or chains to ground anchors or the most secure object available. Filling a boat on a trailer with water may break your trailer spring therefore axle wedges should be forced into the springs to distribute the additional weight on the axle.

If your boat is in the water

- Contact your local Coastguard, Volunteer Marine Rescue Unit, Marine Watch or Harbour Master to find out where the designated safe anchorages are and any cyclone plans that may be in place.
- Know your marina's extreme weather contingency plan – particularly if they require you to remove your vessel.
- Ensure your boat can reach the safe anchorage, remembering that tides may be higher than normal – make a trial run at the beginning of the cyclone season.

- If you are out on your boat during severe weather, personal safety is the number one priority. At the first sign of bad or severe weather while you are on the water, make sure everyone on board is wearing a personal flotation device or life jacket.
- If you cannot get back to your normal mooring or boat ramp, look for shelter in rivers or creeks with a mangrove fringe to act as a buffer zone from the wind. Remember that heavy rain will increase the flow of ebb tides in any creeks or rivers.

If your boat is moored

- Double all ties. Make ties high on pilings to allow for rising waters. Cover all tie lines at contact points with rubber or other materials to prevent chafing.
- Be sure batteries are sufficient to run bilge pumps throughout the storm.
- Insert plugs in engine ports. Strip bimini tops, sails or any other object that could blow away. Put duct tape on windows and hatches. Disconnect shore power. Close fuel valves and cockpit seacocks.

Plan Ahead Before You Go Out on the Water

Always check marine weather forecasts before you go boating. Keep checking them while you are on the water.

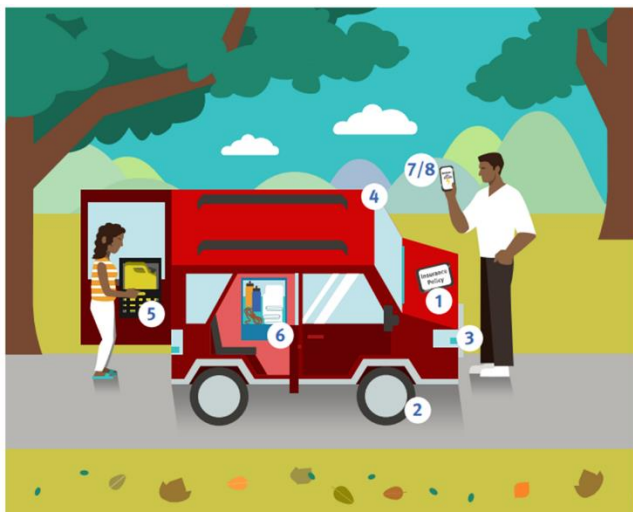
All of Queensland – 1300 360 426

Marine warnings – 1300 360 427

Make Sure You're Covered by Boat Insurance

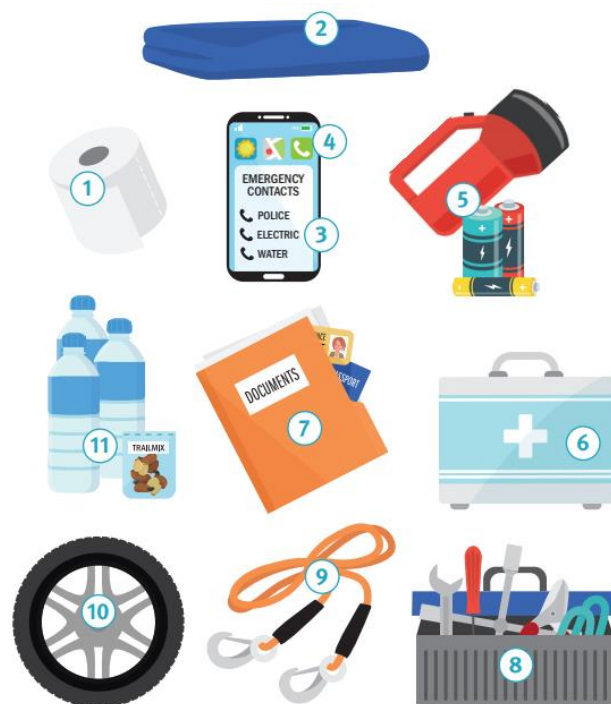
For most boat owners, marine insurance is a necessity but not all boat insurance policies are created equal, so it pays to compare. Ensure your policy covers damage caused to your boat and damage caused by your boat during a storm, flood or fire.

Protect your Vehicle



1. Ensure your car insurance is current and that it covers your vehicle adequately.
2. Check you have good tyre tread (at least 1.5mm deep across the whole tyre width).
3. Check all of your vehicle's lights work well.
4. Make sure your windscreen and lights are clean.
5. Ensure you have a spare supply of fuel for use in your vehicle to get you to the nearest fuel outlet (ensure you store fuel safely in an appropriate container).
6. Pack a vehicle emergency kit, stored at all times in your car (see over).
7. Save local emergency contact details in to your phone in case you need to call for help. Go to www.getready.qld.gov.au/duringadisaster/emergencycontacts for a full listing.
8. Download helpful apps and sign up to local weather warnings and road condition updates to stay informed, especially during storm and cyclone season. Check out www.getready.qld.gov.au/alerts-and-warnings for some ideas.

Vehicle Emergency Kit



1. It's always good to have a roll of toilet paper on hand.
2. In case you get stranded in your car overnight blankets will keep you warm and a tarpaulin will help keep the weather out of your car in case of a shattered windscreen or window.
You can also use these items to protect your car if you get caught in a hail storm.
3. Save local emergency contact details into your phone in case you need to call for help. Go to www.getready.qld.gov.au/duringadisaster/emergencycontacts for a full listing.
4. Download helpful apps and sign up to local weather warnings and road condition updates to stay informed especially using storm and cyclone season. Check out www.getready.qld.gov.au for some ideas.
5. A heavy duty, waterproof torch (and spare batteries) will provide valuable light when you most need it. Avoid using your smartphone as a light source to preserve battery during an emergency.
6. Ensure you have a first aid kit and manual in case of any medical incident on the road.

7. Keep a photo copy of your driver's licence, passport, travel and insurance papers as back-up.
8. Pack a tool kit in case you need to do any mechanical repairs whilst on the road – you don't need to be a mechanic but it's good to know a few basic skills to get you to the next town if something goes wrong.
9. Pack a towrope in case you get bogged. However always abide by 'if it's flooded, forget it' if you come across any flooded road on your travels.
10. Know where the jack in the car is stored and have 1-2 spare tyres packed in case you get a puncture.
11. Keep bottled water and dry food/snacks in your car in case you are caught away from your home.

2. Have contingencies or arrangements in place for transporting animals in emergencies. This extends to livestock where access to horse floats and trucks should be considered.
3. In the event you are unable to get home during a natural disaster, pre-arrange with friends who live close by or neighbours for them to collect and care for your pets at their place until you are able to return or be reunited.
4. Have your pet microchipped and registered with your local council. Have them wear a collar with up-to-date contact information and identification at all times.
5. Have a pet emergency kit (see below) ready to go to save you time during emergencies.
6. If you have to leave your pets behind, leave them indoors (if possible) and place pets in separate rooms with small or preferably no windows e.g., the bathroom. Provide adequate food and water in large heavy bowls. If left outside do not tie them up. When you have to wait out a severe weather event at home identify a safe area where you can all stay together e.g., bathroom or laundry and secure animals in plenty of time so they don't take flight.
7. Talk to your vet about any special considerations for your pet.

Protect your Pet



1. If evacuation is required during a disaster, taking your pet with you or relocating your pet to an alternative location is the best way to protect them. Make a plan for where you could take them, keeping in mind that pets may not be allowed in evacuation shelters unless they are a service animal. Check with family and friends who live outside your local area to see if they would be able to look after your pets if you needed to evacuate. If moving animals to a safer place, do so early to avoid unnecessary risk and ensure they have access to plenty of food and water.

Pet Emergency Kit



1. Food and bottled water for at least five days – include feeding bowls and a can opener.
2. Medicines with clear instructions, medical records and first aid.
3. Blankets, bedding or nesting material.
4. Favourite toys that bring comfort.
5. Vaccination, registration and current photos of you and your pet.
6. Collar with ID tag, harness or leash.
7. Birds and pocket pets need shelter coverage for their enclosure.
8. Have carry boxes (for smaller pets), leads (for dogs) and halters (for livestock) readily accessible.
9. Litter tray, litter, waste bags and cleaning products.
10. Contact details for your veterinarian, local animal shelter, local council and alternative animal accommodation facility.
11. Evidence that your pet is a service animal and appropriately trained to access public areas.
12. Consider whether pet insurance is right for you and have relevant paperwork in your emergency kit.

EMERGENCY KIT

This kit should contain the provisions for your essential needs in the event of an emergency, whether you are sheltering in place or evacuating. It is also handy to have a basic tool kit, extra supplies and a portable cooker.

Essential Emergency Kit

Your kit should be kept in a sturdy waterproof storage container and stored in a safe place in your home. Make sure it is easy for all members of the household to access (except young children – make it childproof if necessary). Make a note of the emergency kit's location on your household emergency and evacuation plan.



1. Pack 10 litres of drinking water per person at a minimum.
2. A properly equipped first aid kit can save lives. Make sure you include a first aid manual and include a week's supply of prescription and over the counter medication.
3. Include toiletries you will need for three days such as toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, personal hygiene products, sunscreen and insect repellent.
4. Scan and save important documents, contact, emails and photos to a USB and keep it in your emergency kit.
5. Although most tins have a ring pull, there are still quite a few for which you will need a can opener.
6. Your emergency kit should contain up to date copies of important documents. For example, documents could include your driver licence, insurance policies (home, content, vehicles, life), passports, legal documents (property deed, wills etc.), birth and marriage certificates.
7. Your mobile phone is key to keeping connected during a disaster. Extend the life of your phone by ensuring you have a spare phone charger packed as well as a fully charged portable battery or power pack.
8. Make a three-day menu plan for your household and store a supply of non-perishable food in your kit.
9. Even if your home is not damaged in a disaster, electricity may not be available and you could be left in the dark for quite a while so include a torch (or two) or a battery powered lantern.
10. A pair of sturdy work gloves will help prevent injury and infection when needing to handle rubbish and debris.
11. A battery powered radio is one of the most reliable items in a disaster especially during power and internet loss.
12. Make sure you have enough spare batteries to last three days. Ensure you have packed the correct battery type and quantities required for your torch, radio, kid's toys that are packed and other included electricals.

Comprehensive Emergency Kit

For those that would like to take further steps to cover a wider range of scenarios for a longer period, you can add additional supplies to your kit to ensure you are extensively covered.



13. Pack a wrench and pliers to help turn off power, water and gas supplies.
14. Your pets have their own special needs that you should prepare and plan for as a responsible pet parent. Pack pet food and other items.
15. In addition to basic items make sure you include a warm jumper. Waterproof jacket, a hat, gloves and enclosed-toed shoes or boots for each household member.
16. Protect your eyes from any flying debris when cleaning up post weather event.
17. Rubbish bags to clean up your backyard.
18. Use a whistle for attracting attention if you need assistance.
19. A utility knife is a useful tool during and after a disaster.
20. For formula-fed babies check the use-by date on any formula and use it before it expires, replacing the one in your kit. Queensland Health recommends storing enough ready-to-drink formula for three days. Ready-to-use formula means you do not have to use precious supplies of water to mix with dehydrated formulas. Don't forget to include a bottle. Also include enough nappies and wipes for three days based on your baby's needs. Ensure you check sizing of nappies packed in your kit periodically as infants may outgrow the nappies you have packed for them.
21. Pack a small amount of cash (notes and coins) in case you cannot use bank cards.
22. Include any prescribed medication or aids required by household members such as prescription glasses, medic-alert bracelet or necklace (keep a spare in your kit), dosage measures (syringes, measuring cups), EpiPen or batteries for hearing aids.
23. A tarpaulin and ropes can be used to cover any areas of your home that may have been damaged during severe weather. These should only be affixed once the weather system has passed and it is safe to do so.
24. Blankets will keep you warm if you are exposed to the elements.
25. Beds can become damaged or sodden during a weather event such as a cyclone, severe storm or flood. Camping mattresses and sleeping bags are easy to store with your kit.
26. Think about including cooking equipment, the items you need to serve it up, eat it and store it.
27. If you are without power think about how you are going to cook or heat up meals.

EVACUATION KIT

As well as those essential items in your Emergency Kit, if you are evacuating you will need to take additional items with you so you are equipped to live away from home for several days.

There may be times during an emergency where it becomes unsafe for your household to stay at home and you need to evacuate. In addition to your emergency kit, you need to pack an evacuation kit – one for each member of the household. The evacuation kit is designed to contain only essential items for each household member that they can easily and quickly ‘grab and go’.



1. Include first aid items that can help if someone gets hurt. Add a week's supply of medications that your household needs. This might include reading glasses, spare medic-alert bracelet or necklaces, syringes, measuring cups, EpiPen or hearing aids batteries.
2. Put copies of important documents in your kit, such as driver licences, insurance documents (home, content, vehicles, life), passports, legal documents (property deed, wills etc.), birth and marriage certificates.

3. A pair of sturdy work gloves will help prevent injury and infection when needing to handle rubbish and debris.
5. Electricity may not be available where you are headed to and you could be left in the dark for quite a while so include a torch (or two) or a battery powered lantern.
7. Mobile phones are key to keeping everyone connected during a disaster. Extend the life of your phone by ensuring you have your phone's power cord packed as well as a fully charged portable battery/power pack.
9. Pillow and sleeping bag for each household member.
11. For formula-fed babies check the use-by date on any formula and use it before it expires, replacing the one in your kit. Queensland Health recommends storing enough ready-to-drink formula for three days. Ready-to-use formula means you do not have to use precious supplies of water to mix with dehydrated formulas. Don't forget to include a bottle. Also include enough nappies and wipes for three days based on your baby's needs. Ensure you check sizing of nappies packed in your kit periodically as infants may outgrow the nappies you have packed for them.
13. Place a reminder on your evacuation checklist to grab valuables, photos (prints, CDs, USB data stick) and small mementos – make a list as it may be hard to think clearly at the time of evacuation.
15. A battery powered radio is one of the most reliable items in a disaster especially during power and internet loss.
17. Make sure you have enough spare batteries to last three days. Ensure you have packed the correct battery type and quantities required for your torch, radio, kid's toys that are packed and other included electricals.
4. Include any prescribed medication or aids required by household members such as prescription glasses, medic-alert bracelet or necklace (keep a spare in your kit), dosage measures (syringes, measuring cups), EpiPen or batteries for hearing aids.
6. Add toiletries you will need for three days such as toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, personal hygiene products, sunscreen and insect repellent.
8. Multiple changes of clothes for each household member (long pants, long-sleeved shirts, hats and strong shoes are recommended).
10. Pack some books and games that do not require electricity to entertain younger household members.
12. Pack a small amount of cash (notes and coins) in case ATMs are inaccessible or not working due to power failure.
14. Pack drinking water.
16. Although most tins have a ring pull, there are still quite a few for which you will need a can opener.
18. Non-perishable snacks like muesli bars and packet snacks will curb hunger until you reach your evacuation point.

WARNINGS

The Bureau of Meteorology issues weather information and warnings. Burke LDMG use this information to make decisions about what action people should take.

**WARNINGS ARE URGENT -
you need to act immediately on the information provided.**

WHAT TO DO AND WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

During emergencies, Burke LDMG is your official source of information.



Visit Council's website for digital copies of local emergency management plans, action guides and evacuation information:

www.burke.qld.gov.au



Like the Burke Shire Council Facebook page for up-to-date information provided directly from the Burke LDMG:

facebook.com/BurkeShireCouncil



Log on to the Bureau of Meteorology website for weather updates, warnings and information: www.bom.gov.au

ABC TV and Radio are the official emergency news channels. Watch and listen for emergency updates.



Tune your radio to your local radio station ABC North Qld 630 AM

Further information on preparing, emergency alerts and information can be accessed at:

www.disaster.qld.gov.au



www.qldalert.com

LISTEN OUT FOR



The Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) is used at the beginning of serious warnings. SEWS is a wailing siren sound used throughout Australia for serious emergency events.

To listen to the SEWS go to:

www.disaster.qld.gov.au/Warnings_and_Alerts/pages/About_SEWS.aspx

Emergency Alert voice messages to your landline and text messages to your mobile telephone.

Local updates and community safety announcements on radio and television.

Emergency Services personnel who may door-knock your area to pass on warnings.

Once emergency advice is given:

- **Act immediately**
- **Ensure all people in your house are aware of the warning and advice provided**
- **Check on neighbours and friends who may need assistance**
- **Activate your household Emergency Plan.**

CYCLONE

What is a Cyclone?

A cyclone is a violent tropical storm with very strong winds and heavy rain that can cause extensive property damage and injuries to people.

The eye or the centre of the cyclone is an area made up of light winds and often clear skies. This is NOT the end of the cyclone as very destructive winds from the other direction will follow. Stay inside.

Cyclones are part of living in the North. Most cyclones occur between November and April but cyclones have occurred outside these months.

Before Cyclone Season

- Become familiar with the Disaster Management page on Burke Shire Council's website, Burke Shire Council Facebook page and visit the Bureau of Meteorology website for information.



www.burke.qld.gov.au



BurkeShireCouncil



www.bom.gov.au

- Hold a family meeting to prepare your household Emergency Plan so everyone knows what to do, where to meet and how to get out.
- Prepare your Emergency and Evacuation Kits.
- Clean up the yard. Clear away all loose material as it could blow about and possibly cause injury or damage.
- Trim trees and overhanging branches.
- Identify how and where to turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas.
- Keep your roof in good condition and check it regularly.
- Remove debris from gutters.
- Check and fix loose fittings, such as railings.
- Check windows and install shutters if possible.
- Tie down sheds or other small structures not permanently fixed. Secure caravans, boats and vehicles or tie them together or to strong structures.
- Check to see if your home has been built to cyclone standards (generally houses constructed after 1982).
- Know your Evacuation Zone (storm tide) and evacuation routes.
- Check neighbours, especially if elderly or recent arrivals.
- Monitor cyclone potential throughout the season: www.bom.gov.au

Cyclone Alerts

Cyclone advice

A Cyclone Advice is a "warning" that advises the location of a cyclone, its movement and intensity, and identifies areas that could be affected.

Our information comes from the Bureau of Meteorology.

When a Cyclone Advice is given, you should:

- Finalise packing your Emergency Kit.
- Hold a family meeting to make sure everyone knows your cyclone plan and whether you are staying to shelter in your home or evacuating.

Cyclone watch

A Cyclone Watch is issued 48 hours before the cyclone is predicted to cross the coast and is updated every six hours providing information on location, movement and intensity, and areas that could be affected.

When a Cyclone Watch is issued you should:

- Decide if your family needs to evacuate, and where you will evacuate to. It is usually best to shelter in place, or evacuate to family and friends out of the cyclone watch area.
- If sheltering in place, decide which room to shelter in. The best option is an internal room with few or small windows, such as the bathroom. Use mattresses and other bedding to protect yourself.
- Re-check your property for any loose material and tie down (or fill with water as last resort) all large, relatively light items such as boats and rubbish bins.
- Check your Emergency Kit and fill water containers and bath tub with clean drinking water.
- Ensure household members know which is the strongest part of the house and what to do in the event of a cyclone or an evacuation.

- Tune to your local radio/TV/internet for further information and warnings.
- Check that neighbours are aware of the situation and are preparing.
- Ensure your car and jerry cans are fully fuelled. Cyclones nearly always involve power failure which means petrol stations are unable to pump fuel unless they have an alternative power supply.

Cyclone warnings

A Cyclone Warning is issued if winds are expected to affect coastal or island areas within 24 hours.

The warning is updated every three hours and then every hour if the cyclone poses a major threat. The warning includes information on location, movement and intensity of the cyclone, areas that are threatened and anticipated rainfall, flooding and storm surge. If you have not done so already, a Cyclone Warning should be the trigger to activate your household Emergency Plan.

Depending on official advice provided by Burke LDMG as the event develops, the following actions may be warranted for a Cyclone Warning:

- Put wooden or plastic outdoor furniture in your pool or inside with other loose items.
- Close shutters, board up or heavily tape all windows (tape does not strengthen windows, but minimises the glass shatter, if broken), draw curtains and lock doors.
- Pack an Evacuation Kit to take with your Emergency Kit.
- Depending on your location, Emergency Services may advise or direct you to leave.



When to Evacuate

In most cases, the safest thing to do in a cyclone is to shelter in place– that is to stay at home and ride it out within your household.

You can evacuate the area at risk with your pets well ahead of time and stay outside threatened areas with family, friends or at a hotel/motel.

If you live in a storm tide inundation area you may be advised to evacuate. Evacuation is based on predicted storm tide and level of possible inundation (red, orange, yellow) not wind.

You should also consider evacuating if you live in a pre-1982 home or feel concerned for your safety.

If you need to or decide to evacuate the best option is always go to family, friends or colleagues outside threatened areas. Plan this now and include the information in your Emergency Plan.

During a Cyclone

- Have a battery-operated radio and tune into your local radio station and heed warnings and advice (ABC North Qld 630 AM).
- Remain indoors (with your pets).
- Keep Emergency and Evacuation Kits with you.
- Disconnect all electrical appliances.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed, so food will stay cool without power for several hours.
- Stay inside and shelter in the strongest part of the building keeping well clear of windows e.g. shelter in the internal hallway or bathroom.
- 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.
- Beware of the “eye” of the cyclone. If the wind stops do not 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 and powerlines. Stay in the vehicle.

Cyclone categories:

CATEGORY		STRONGEST GUST	TYPICAL EFFECTS
1	Tropical Cyclone	Less than 125 km/h Gales	Minimal house damage. Damage to some crops, trees and caravans. Boats may drag moorings.
2	Tropical Cyclone	126-164 km/h Destructive winds	Minor house damage. Significant damage to signs, trees and caravans. Heavy damage to some crops. Risk of power failure. Small boats may break moorings.
3	Severe Tropical Cyclone	165-224 km/h Very destructive winds	Some roof and structural damage. Some caravans destroyed. Power failure likely.
4	Severe Tropical Cyclone	225-279 km/h Very destructive winds	Significant roofing and structural damage. Many caravans destroyed and blown away. Dangerous airborne debris. Widespread power failures.
5	Severe Tropical Cyclone	More than 280 km/h Extremely destructive winds	Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction.

After a Cyclone

- Have a battery-operated radio and tune into your local radio station and heed warnings and advice (ABC North Qld 630 AM).
- Do not go outside until officially advised it is safe.
- Check for gas leaks and fallen power lines.
- Do not use electric appliances if wet.
- If you evacuated, do not return until advised safe. Use a recommended route and do not panic.
- Be aware of damage to power lines, bridges, buildings and trees.
- Do not enter floodwaters - IF IT'S FLOODED FORGET IT.
- Heed all warnings and do not go sightseeing. Instead, check and offer help to neighbours, friends and family.
- Do not make unnecessary telephone calls.
- Follow any instructions for treating drinking water and discard any food exposed to floodwater.

STORM SURGE

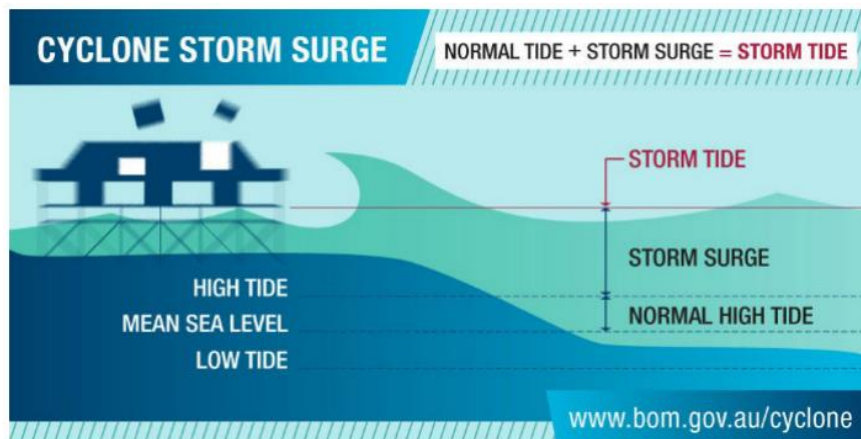
Storm surge and storm tide

Storm surge is an abnormal rise in sea level over and above the normal (astronomical) tide levels. It can be thought of as the change in the water level due to the presence of a storm. These powerful ocean movements are caused by strong winds piling water up against the coast as a cyclone approaches.

Storm tide is the water level that results from the combination of the storm surge and the normal (astronomical) tide. A 3 metre storm surge on top of a high tide that is 2 metres above the mean sea level will produce a storm tide that is 5 metres above mean sea level.

Storm tides can swamp low-lying areas, sometimes for kilometres inland. Strong winds at the coast can also create large waves, worsening the impact.

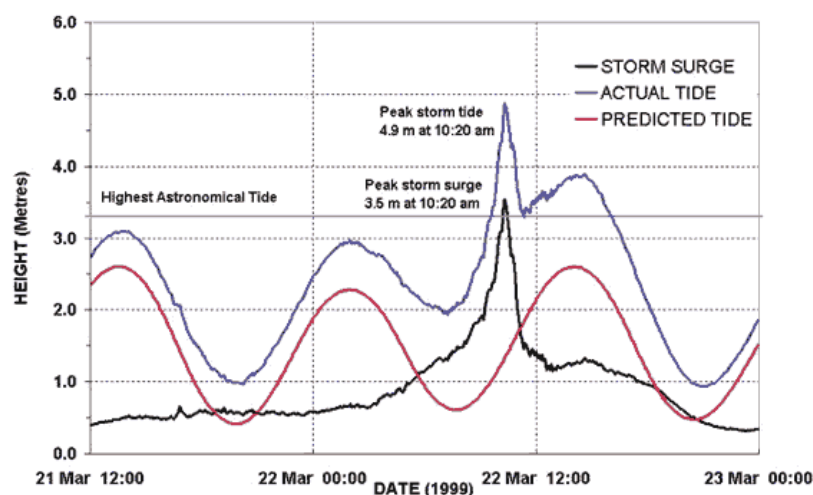
While significant surges usually accompany tropical cyclones, storm surges caused by large low-pressure systems can also bring dangerous storm tides and damage to coastal communities all around Australia.



Storm tide dangers

Storm surges are at their most dangerous when they arrive at high tide - when the sea is already at its high point. The resulting storm tide can flood inland areas. That's what happened when Hurricane Katrina made landfall in New Orleans in August 2005, resulting in the worst floods - and fatalities - in the city in over 100 years.

The graphic below for TC Vance (1999) illustrates how the normal tide interacts with the storm surge to produce a storm tide.



The graphic shows the actual tide (top line, blue) and the predicted tide (pink) at Exmouth in WA during Tropical Cyclone Vance. The black line is the storm surge – it peaked at 3.5 metres. At the same time the predicted tide was 1.4 metres. So, the resultant peak storm tide was 4.9 metres. If the storm surge had occurred at the time of high tide, the actual tide would have been 6.0 m - 2.6 metres above the highest astronomical tide (the highest tide that could occur, shown by the straight blue line).

From this example you can see that the large tidal ranges experienced along most of Australia's tropical coastline mean that the worst impacts will only occur when the storm surge arrives at the time of high tide.

Warning for storm surge

Storm surges are very sensitive to the characteristics of the cyclone, making it very hard to predict. The paths of cyclones are often erratic, making it hard to forecast where and when they will make landfall and how high the tide will be at the time. Other elements contributing to the risk of storm surge include the cyclone's speed and intensity, the angle at which it crosses the coast, the shape of the sea floor and local topography.

These factors all make it very hard to accurately predict the arrival and scale of storm surges. As we have seen above, very large storm tides are rare because they require an intense tropical cyclone to cross the coast at high tide. However, the impact if that does happen can be catastrophic. This is why the Bureau of Meteorology provides information to our emergency management partners to enable them to prepare communities under threat for the "worst case scenario".

Storm surges and Tsunami

Storm surges and Tsunamis are generated by quite different phenomena. While both can cause flooding and significant damage in coastal regions, they have quite different characteristics.

A storm surge is generated by weather systems forcing water onshore over a stretch of coastline. It will normally build up over a time frame of a few hours, as the cyclone or other weather system approaches.

A Tsunami is generated by earthquakes, undersea landslides, volcanic eruptions, explosions or meteorites. These waves travel great distances, sometimes across entire oceans affecting vast lengths of coastal land.

Before a Storm Surge

- Become familiar with the Disaster Management page on Burke Shire Council's website, Burke Shire Council Facebook page and visit the Bureau of Meteorology website for information.



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- Hold a family meeting to prepare your household Emergency Plan so everyone knows what to do, where to meet and how to get out.
- Prepare your Emergency and Evacuation Kits.
- Clean up the yard. Clear away all loose material.
- Check and fix loose fittings, such as railings.
- Check windows and install shutters if possible.
- Tie down sheds or other small structures not permanently fixed. Secure caravans, boats and vehicles or tie them together or to strong structures.
- Sandbag areas at risk from flooding, such as doors and windows where possible.
- Close all doors.
- Store potable water.
- Put important documents such as photo albums in plastic bags up high in cupboards.
- Identify how and where to turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas.
- Disconnect electrical items.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed so food will stay cool without power for several hours.
- Move livestock, pets, machinery and animal feed to higher ground.
- Move outdoor equipment, garbage, chemicals and poisons to a higher location.

If evacuating

Evacuation advice is based on the level of potential inundation from storm tide. This falls into three zones - red, orange and yellow. See the Storm Tide Evacuation Map definition.

Do not wait - evacuate when advised.

There are three evacuation zones which are determined based on modelling and previous experiences of inundation above the "Average Height Datum" AHD. For these purposes you can consider AHD to be sea level.

- Lock doors; turn off power, gas, and water; take your Evacuation and Emergency Kits.
- If evacuating, leave early to avoid heavy traffic, flooding and wind hazards.
- Follow Police and State Emergency Services directions.
- Leave pets at home or in a safe location where they are protected and with food and water.

Whether you are evacuating to family, friends, an evacuation centre or another location, register where you are going so that family can find you and know you are safe.

After a Storm Surge

- Have a battery-operated radio and tune into your local radio station and heed warnings and advice (ABC North Qld 630 AM).
- Do not go outside until officially advised it is safe.
- If you have evacuated, do not return home until officially advised it is safe and do not panic. Wait until water has fallen below floor level to enter a house.
- Do not use electric appliances if wet.
- Beware of damaged power lines, bridges and trees.
- Do not enter flood waters - IF IT'S FLOODED FORGET IT.
- Heed all warnings and do not go sightseeing. Instead, check and offer help to neighbours, friends and family.
- Do not make unnecessary telephone calls.
- Check whether electricity, gas or water supplies have been affected.
- Wear rubber boots or rubber-soled shoes and rubber or leather gloves.
- Watch for damaged flooring, walls and ceilings as well as unexpected visitors such as snakes.
- Treat all items exposed to floodwater as contaminated. Dispose of rubbish, wash mud, dirt and debris as soon as you can.
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling anything that has been in contact with floodwater.
- Follow any instructions for treating drinking water and discard any food exposed to floodwater

FLOOD

A flood is the temporary, partial or complete inundation of land that is normally dry. Flooding can be caused by water that has escaped its natural confine due to heavy rain. Some floods develop slowly, while flash floods can develop in just a few minutes and without visible signs of rain.

A flood warning is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology when flooding is occurring or expected to occur in a particular area. When flash flooding is expected, a severe weather warning is issued.

Drains, creeks or rivers which have had little or no water flow in previous months may fill rapidly with fast-flowing water, which can spread to houses and streets. The height of the water may not have been seen in the same location previously.

There may not have been significant rainfall in our region, however there may have been heavy rain throughout our catchment area, causing river levels to rise quickly. Water levels may also be heightened by high tides happening around the same time.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Most flood-related deaths result when people attempt to drive, walk, swim or play in floodwaters. Depth and current are easily misjudged and floodwater will sweep away and submerge even very large vehicles. Do not drive or walk into floodwater, especially where a current exists, even if the water appears to be shallow.

IF IT'S FLOODED FORGET IT.

Before a Flood

- Become familiar with the Disaster Management page on Burke Shire Council's website, Burke Shire Council Facebook page and visit the Bureau of Meteorology website for information.



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- Hold a family meeting to prepare your household Emergency Plan so everyone knows what to do, where to meet and how to get out.
- Prepare your Emergency and Evacuation Kits.
- Clean up the yard. Clear away all loose material.
- Move outdoor equipment, garbage, chemicals and poisons to a safe location.
- Move livestock, pets, machinery and animal feed to higher ground.
- Identify how and where to turn off the mains supply for water, power and gas.
- Disconnect electrical items.
- Tie down sheds or other small structures not permanently fixed. Secure caravans, boats and vehicles or tie them together or to strong structures.
- Sandbag areas at risk from flooding, such as doors and windows where possible.
- Store potable water.
- Put important documents such as photo albums up high in cupboards.
- Check neighbours, especially if elderly or new to the area.

During a Flood

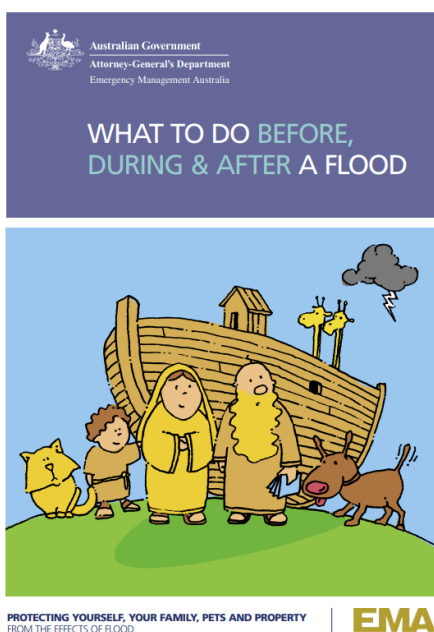
- Have a battery-operated radio and tune into your local radio station and heed warnings and advice (ABC North Qld 630 AM).
- Boil tap water in case of contamination.
- Do not enter floodwaters - IF IT'S FLOODED FORGET IT.
- Never drive, walk, swim or play in floodwaters. Hazards could exist below the surface which you cannot see, regardless of how well you know the area. Water could be contaminated.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed so food will stay cool without power for several hours, if necessary.

After Flood Waters Have Gone Down

- Have a battery-operated radio and tune into your local radio station and heed warnings and advice (ABC North Qld 630 AM).
- Know your evacuation routes.
- If you have evacuated, do not return home until officially advised it is safe and do not panic. Wait until water has fallen below floor level to enter a house.
- Do not use electric appliances if wet.
- Beware of damaged power lines, bridges and trees.
- Do not enter floodwaters - IF IT'S FLOODED FORGET IT.
- Heed all warnings and do not go sightseeing. Instead, check and offer help to neighbours, friends and family.
- Do not make unnecessary telephone calls.
- Check whether electricity, gas or water supplies have been affected.
- Wear rubber boots or rubber-soled shoes and rubber or leather gloves.
- Watch for damaged flooring, walls and ceilings as well as unexpected visitors such as snakes.
- Treat all items exposed to floodwater as contaminated.
- Dispose of rubbish, wash mud, dirt and debris as soon as you can and wash hands thoroughly after handling anything that has been in contact with floodwater.
- Follow any instructions for treating water and discard any food exposed to floodwater unless in airtight containers.

Useful links:

Download a flood information guide: www.bom.gov.au/water/floods/document/What_todo_floods.pdf



BUSHFIRE

Bushfires occur when both managed and unmanaged areas of vegetation ignite and burn through reserves, national parks, private property and urban corridors and are most likely to occur when the weather is very hot and dry. The higher the temperature and the lower the humidity, the more likely it is that a fire may start or continue to burn. They can start from human activity either accidentally or deliberately, or can start by natural causes such as lightning strikes.

Bushfires can cause serious property and infrastructure damage and lead to loss of life.

The fire itself is only one element of the danger. Other impacts from bushfires include the effects of radiant heat and smoke.

- Fire embers can spread many kilometres from the location of a large bushfire, causing smaller spot fires to break out.
- Radiant heat can be felt more than 100m away from a large bushfire and has the potential to melt or fracture objects including parts of cars, glass windows, etc.

Toxic fumes and heavy smoke produced from bushfires can impair vision and impact on air quality and create difficulties in breathing.

Due to the unpredictable nature of fast-moving fires, people are likely to be encouraged to evacuate from their homes as quickly as possible to ensure they are able to reach safety. It is important to make sure you follow any local alerts and warnings.

Vegetation, topography and weather conditions influence the size, intensity, speed and predictability of bushfires - understanding how fire responds to these elements and the peak bushfire seasons across Queensland means you can be better prepared.

All Queenslanders need to be prepared for bushfire. You don't have to live in the bush to be threatened by bushfires, just close enough to be affected by burning material, embers, and smoke.

When is bushfire season?

Fire season in Queensland often begins in July and runs through until October, and can extend through to February. However, bushfires in Queensland can occur at any time.

These times can vary each year depending on the condition of local bushland, long-term climate conditions, and short-term weather events.

The impacts of climate change are creating extended fire seasons that include higher temperatures with more frequent hot days, and increased fire danger across the state.

Types of fires:

Grassfires are fast moving, passing in five to ten seconds and smouldering for minutes. They have a low to medium intensity and primarily damage crops, livestock and farming infrastructure, such as fences.

Bushfires are generally slower moving, but have a higher heat output. This means they pass in two to five minutes, but they can smoulder for days. Fire in the crown of the tree canopy can move rapidly.

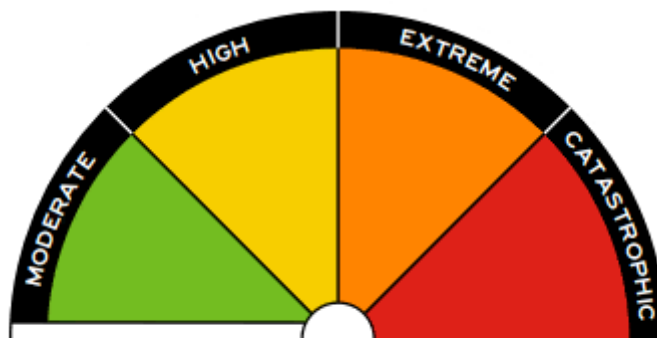
Fire Danger Ratings

The new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) improves and simplifies the reporting of fire danger, making it easier for you to stay safe.

Backed by the latest science, the new system more accurately predicts what areas are at risk.

The AFDRS is nationally consistent, so wherever you go in Australia, you can understand the level of threat and what you need to do to stay safe.

Fire danger ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start. They give you valuable information so you can take action to protect yourself and others. The AFDRS has four levels, each with a distinct title, colour and key message:



Find your local FDR forecast by visiting the QFES website at www.qfes.qld.gov.au.

Moderate

Plan and Prepare

Most fires can be controlled

- Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.

High



Be Ready to Act

Fires can be dangerous

- Decide what you will do if a fire starts.
- There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.
- If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.

Extreme



Take Action Now to protect your life and property

Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous

- These are dangerous fire conditions.
- Check your bushfire plan and make sure your property is fire ready.
- If a fire starts, take immediate action.
- If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.
- Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas.



For your survival, **leave bushfire risk areas**

If a fire starts to take hold, lives are likely to be lost

- These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire.
- Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.
- For your survival, do not be in bushfire risk areas.
- Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.
- If a fire starts and takes hold, lives and properties are likely to be lost.
- Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.

Bushfire Warnings

When there's a bushfire in your area, it's up to you to take notice, seek information, make decisions, and act. Tune into local media including radio, official social media feeds and websites. Don't assume you will receive an official warning as a fire approaches.


 Current Bushfires Map www.qfes.qld.gov.au/Current_Incidents	 QFES Facebook @QldFireandEmergencyServices
 Find your local ABC Radio Station www.abc.net.au/newsradio	 QFES Twitter @QldFES
 Find your local commercial radio www.commercialradio.com.au	 QFES website www.qfes.qld.gov.au



**Call Triple Zero (000)
if your life or property
is under threat.**

If lives or property are threatened, you will receive Advice, Watch and Act or Emergency warning messages.

- An advice message tells you a fire has started and will provide general information to keep you updated.
- A watch and act message represents a higher level of threat such as conditions are changing, a fire is approaching, lives may be threatened.
- An emergency warning is the highest-level message advising of impending danger and you may hear the State Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) first. With any fire warning, follow the instructions immediately.



ADVICE
THERE'S NO IMMEDIATE DANGER BUT YOU NEED TO STAY INFORMED IN CASE THE SITUATION CHANGES.

What to do

- Stay informed by following QFES on social media, listening to local radio and checking the QFES current bushfires map.
- If there's significant smoke, follow health guidance and monitor air quality.
- Stay indoors, close windows and doors, and keep medications close by.
- Refer to your bushfire survival plan.
- Avoid driving through smoke and be aware of firefighters working in the area.
- Decide what you will do if the situation changes.
- Call Triple Zero (000) if your life or property is under threat.



WATCH & ACT

**THERE'S A HEIGHTENED LEVEL OF THREAT AND CONDITIONS ARE CHANGING.
ACT NOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY.**

What to do

You'll be instructed to 'prepare to leave', or where people in the area have previously been evacuated and it's safe to return, you will be asked to 'monitor conditions', as the situation could change.

- Decide where you and other members of your home (including pets) will go if you need to leave. Plan how you will get there and advise family and friends of your plans.
- Pack essential items such as important documents, food and water, medications, and protective clothing.
- Stay hydrated.
- Move flammable items away from your house.
- Fill containers with water for drinking and firefighting.
- Help others prepare for the fire.
- Stay informed by following QFES on social media, listening to local radio and checking the QFES current bushfires map.
- Refer to your bushfire survival plan.
- Avoid smoke – stay indoors, close windows and doors, and avoid driving through smoke.
- Be aware of firefighters working in the area.
- Call Triple Zero (000) if your life or property is under threat.



EMERGENCY WARNING

YOU'RE IN DANGER AND NEED TO TAKE LIFE-SAVING ACTION IMMEDIATELY.

What to do

The direction will be to 'leave immediately' OR 'seek shelter immediately', depending on the situation.

- If you're leaving immediately, consider staying with friends or family. Follow your bushfire survival plan.
- Wear protective clothing and stay hydrated.
- Take vital medications with you.
- Check for road closures on 13 90 40 and let others know of your intended travel route.
- Stay informed by following QFES on social media, listening to local radio and checking the QFES current bushfires map.
- Do not expect a firefighter at your door.
- If you can't leave safely:
 - Identify a place to shelter, preferably inside a brick building.
 - Close windows and doors.
 - Move flammable items away from your house.
 - Fill containers with water for drinking and firefighting.
 - Bring pets inside.
- Call Triple Zero (000) if your life or property is under threat.

Before a Bushfire

- Become familiar with the Disaster Management page on Burke Shire Council's website, Burke Shire Council Facebook page and visit the Bureau of Meteorology website for information.



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- Keep an eye on the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services website: www.qfes.qld.gov.au
- Hold a family meeting to discuss your options with your family and prepare your Bushfire Survival Plan so that your whole household knows their roles.
- Prepare your Bushfire Emergency Kit (see following page).
- Clear gutters and roof of leaves, twigs, bark and other debris. Consider installing gutter guards.
- Enclose open areas under decks and floors.
- Install steel wire mesh screens on windows, doors, vents, and weep holes.
- Point LPG cylinder relief valves away from your house.
- Check and maintain firefighting pumps, generators, and water systems.
- Seal gaps in external roof and cladding.
- Remove flammable items away from your home (such as woodpiles, mulch, boxes, hanging baskets, and outdoor furniture).
- Reduce vegetation along access paths.
- Mow your lawn regularly.
- Remove excess flammable materials such as long dry grass, dead leaves, and branches.
- Trim low-lying branches around your home to a height of two metres from the ground.

- Ensure adequate space for fire trucks to access your home.
- Gather sufficient personal protective clothing and equipment for all persons and store so that they are readily accessible.
- Prepare your evacuation kit and/or emergency kit.
- Stock your first aid kit.
- Check insurance policies are adequate for home and vehicles.
- Review and update your Bushfire Survival Plan as a family each year.
- Make a contingency plan. Bushfires are unpredictable and plans can fail. A contingency plan that identifies your alternate options may save your life if you are caught in a fire
- Prepare your pets

Will you leave early? Will you stay?

Discuss with your family if you are capable and prepared to stay and defend your home or if leaving is the best choice for your family.

You need to consider:

- **Your health.**
Fire conditions may aggravate conditions, such as breathing conditions that may make it difficult to defend your property for an extended period of time.
- **Your physical abilities.**
You may need to defend your home for several hours in extreme heat and smoke which may require intense physical activity.
- **Your mobility.**
You will need to move around your property with ease, potentially in dark, windy, and noisy conditions.

- **Your mental health.**

The impact of bushfire can be traumatic and you will need to be mentally prepared.

- **Your ability** to make critical and informed decisions under stressful conditions.



If you plan to leave early, then you must leave your home well before a bushfire threatens and travelling by road becomes hazardous.

You have decided to leave early

You need to prepare for the season ahead and make your Bushfire Survival Plan with your family. The decisions you make now will help you be prepared in the event your home and family are impacted by bushfire.

- What will be your trigger to leave? This could be a Fire Danger Rating. Don't rely on an official warning to leave. Bushfires can start quickly and threaten lives and homes within minutes.
- Do you or your family members have any disabilities or medical conditions that you need to take into consideration?
- Will you leave early that morning or the night before?
- Where will you go? Can you stay with family and friends or at a hotel in a safe location?
- Who will you tell? You should let your family, friends, and neighbours know where you have relocated to in case you need to be contacted.
- What route will you take and what is your back up route if a fire is already in the area?
- What will you take with you?
- What are you going to do with your pets or livestock?
- Who else do you need to talk to about where you are going?
- How will you stay informed about warnings and updates?
- What do you need to do to prepare your home before you leave?

- What will you do if there is a fire in the area and you cannot leave? Make sure you have a contingency plan.

If you plan to leave early, then you must leave your home well before a bushfire threatens and travelling by road becomes hazardous.

Before you leave

Your property should be well-prepared for the fire, even in you intend to leave early. A well-prepared property stands a greater chance of surviving.

- Ensure vehicles have sufficient fuel and move them to a safe location.
- Relocate garden furniture, door mats and other outdoor items indoors.
- Block downpipes at the top and fill gutters with water if possible.
- Wet down the sides of buildings, decks and plants close to your home in the likely path of the bushfire.
- Move animals and livestock to a well- grazed or ploughed area.
- Turn on garden sprinklers for 30 minutes before you leave to soak the ground.
- Close windows, doors, and vents. Shut blinds.
- Take down curtains and move furniture away from windows.
- Seal gaps under doors and windows with wet towels.
- Fill containers with water, e.g. sinks, bathtub, buckets, bins.
- Bring pets inside, contain them in one room and provide them with plenty of water.
- Tune in to warnings to monitor local radio, websites or social media for updates.
- Put on protective clothing
- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated.

You have decided to stay

If you decide to stay at your home during a fire, you need to be well prepared.

Defending your home through a bushfire is a demanding task. You need to be mentally and physically ready and you need to have a plan.

A bushfire is a terrifying and stressful experience. Understanding what to expect and planning what you will do will help you cope.

- It will be hot and dark. The sky may turn orange.
- Strong gusty winds and intense heat will make you tired quickly.
- Thick, heavy smoke will sting your eyes.
- Smoke will make it hard to breathe easily.
- Strong winds will push you around.
- The roaring sound of the wind and fire approaching will make it hard to hear.
- Embers will rain down causing spot fires all around you.
- Power, water and internet may be cut off.
- You may be isolated.
- The fire could impact you very fast, so you need to remain calm and stay focused
- You may hear explosions nearby.
- While the fire front may pass quite quickly, it could be hours before the danger is over and you can rest.

On days when the fire danger rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, a bushfire can be uncontrollable, unpredictable, and fast moving. Leaving is the only option for your survival.

Bushfire Emergency Kit

You must prepare a Bushfire Evacuation Kit to ensure you and your family have important items and equipment ready to relocate until you can return to your home. Make sure you have enough supplies for everyone.

- Long sleeve shirt (made of natural fibres)
- Jeans or long pants (natural fibres)
- Boots
- Hat
- Safety glasses
- Drinking water
- Battery-operated radio
- Batteries
- Mobile phone and charger
- Blankets (natural fibres)
- Important documents such as insurance and home ownership papers.
- Drivers Licenses, Passports and birth certificates
- Wallets and purses
- Medications and Prescriptions
- Family photos, valuables & documents
- Pet supplies
- Children's toys



During a Bushfire

Before the fire front arrives

If you choose or are forced to stay at your property, it is essential you are prepared for the oncoming bushfire.

- Ensure vehicles have sufficient fuel and move them to a safe location.
- Relocate garden furniture, door mats and other outdoor items indoors.
- Block downpipes at the top and fill gutters with water if possible.
- Wet down the sides of buildings, decks and plants close to your home in the likely path of the bushfire.
- Move animals and livestock to a well- grazed or ploughed area.
- Turn on garden sprinklers for 30 minutes before you leave to soak the ground.
- Close windows, doors, and vents. Shut blinds.
- Take down curtains and move furniture away from windows.
- Seal gaps under doors and windows with wet towels.
- Fill containers with water, e.g., sinks, bathtub, buckets, bins.
- Bring pets inside, contain them in one room and provide them with plenty of water.
- Tune in to warnings to monitor local radio, websites or social media for updates.
- Put on protective clothing
- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated.

As the fire front arrives

- Disconnect hose and fittings and bring inside.
- Go inside for shelter.
- Drink lots of water.
- Shelter in your house on the opposite side of the approaching fire.

- Patrol and check for embers inside, particularly in the roof space.
- Check on family and pets.
- Maintain a means of escape.
- Continually monitor conditions.

After a Bushfire

After the fire front has passed

- In an emergency dial 000.
- Have a battery-operated radio and tune into your local radio station and heed warnings and advice (ABC North Qld 630 AM).
- If you evacuated, wait until the all-clear has been given by emergency services before leaving your safe area.
- Consider using a face mask or similar (e.g., hanky, flannel).
- Check around the property for live electricity, leaking gas, sewage leaks, hot embers, overhanging trees or branches or structural damage.
- If unsure about the safety of the property, seek advice from local emergency services.
- Do not take any risks.
- Drink lots of water.
- If you are stranded, hurt or need other help, contact emergency services on 000.

Also check for small spot fires and burning embers

- Inside the roof space.
- Under floor boards.
- Under the house space.
- On verandahs and decks.
- On window ledges and door sills.
- In roof lines and gutters.
- In garden beds and mulch.

HEATWAVE

A heatwave is three or more days of maximum and minimum temperatures that are unusual for that location.

Heatwaves will likely be more challenging for the elderly, pregnant women, young children and babies.

Heatwaves are a risk for anyone who does not take precautions to keep cool, even if you are healthy.

Heatwaves can also cause normally reliable infrastructure such as power and transport to fail.

Severe and extreme heatwaves have taken more lives than any other natural hazard in Australia's 200 year history. An example was in February 2009, in Victoria where 173 people perished as a direct result of the bushfires, however 374 people lost their lives to an extreme heatwave before the bushfires.

Heat stress and heat exhaustion can be serious, even fatal.

Know the signs:

- Breathlessness
- Chest pain
- Confusion
- Intense thirst
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Cramps which get worse or don't go away

Before a Heatwave

- Become familiar with the Disaster Management page on Burke Shire Council's website, Burke Shire Council Facebook page and visit the Bureau of Meteorology website for information.

 www.burke.qld.gov.au

 BurkeShireCouncil

 www.bom.gov.au

- Think about modifying your planned activities so that you are indoors or in air-conditioning.
- Install blinds, curtains or other devices which help to keep the heat out.
- Check your fans and air-conditioners are working properly.
- Plan ahead to make sure you have enough food, water and medicine.

During a Heatwave

- Drink plenty of water and avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- Stay out of the sun, especially between 11am – 3pm.
- Close curtains and blinds to keep rooms cool.
- Avoid physical exertion if possible.
- Wear loose, cool clothing, and wear a hat, glasses and sunscreen if going outside.
- Have cool baths or showers or splash yourself with cool water.

After a Heatwave

- Check on friends, neighbours and vulnerable people who may be less able to look after themselves.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Police, Fire and Ambulance (emergencies)..... 000

Police (non-emergency) 131 444

SES..... 132 500

www.ses.qld.gov.au

Burke Shire Council 07 4745 5100

www.burke.qld.gov.au

 BurkeShireCouncil

Burke LDMG Chair, Mayor Ernie Camp

..... 0458 117 287

Burke LDMG Coordinator, Dan McKinlay

..... 0437 238 957

Burketown Clinic 07 4745 5133

Burketown Police 07 4744 1611

Bureau of Meteorology

www.bom.gov.au

Weather and warnings 1300 659 219

Cyclone warnings 1300 659 212

BUSHFIRE WARNINGS

www.fire.qld.gov.au

ROAD CONDITIONS


QLD Traffic www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au

Department of Transport & Main Roads

..... 13 19 40

Burke Shire Council

www.burke.qld.gov.au

 BurkeShireCouncil

Where possible, Council will provide an update on local road conditions.

LOCAL RADIO STATIONS

ABC North QLD..... 630AM

ELECTRICITY & GAS

Ergon Energy

For emergencies..... 13 16 70

To report a fault 13 22 96

www.ergon.com.au

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telstra Faults..... 13 22 03

EMERGENCY WARNINGS

Australia's national telephone warning system – Emergency Alert – sends messages to mobile phones and landlines within a geographical area to advise of a disaster or emergency. It works across all carriers, you do not need to be on a mobile plan to receive messages, and you do not have to register for them.

For more information:

www.emergencyalert.gov.au

OTHER CONTACTS

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Line..... 180 22 66

www.disasterassist.gov.au

Centrelink

www.humanservices.gov.au

Department of Communities Community Recovery

..... 1800 173 349

Department of Housing 1800 806 197

GIVIT (Emergency Donations)

www.givit.org.au

Legal Aid..... 1300 651 188

Assistance with insurance claims

www.legalaid.qld.gov.au

Lifeline – Counselling 13 11 14

www.lifeline.org.au

Wildlife Care NQ 0414 717 374

Queensland Disaster Management Services

www.disaster.qld.gov.au

Red Cross - Nth Qld Volunteer Services

..... 07 4759 6111

www.redcross.org.au

RSPCA..... 1300 264 625

www.rspcaqld.org.au

Volunteering North Queensland 07 4725 5990

Volunteer Community Recovery Coordination Group

Pre and Post Disaster Volunteering..... 07 4725 5990