

Emergency ACTION PLAN

Flooding, severe storms and bush fires are an inevitable part of living in the Gympie region. You cannot afford to become complacent about the dangers they present.

This information is designed to help you prepare for such events and to protect you and your family.

FLOODING

Prepare...

- If your area is flood prone, consider alternatives to carpets (eg removable rugs and tiles); and
- Prepare an emergency kit (see page 43)

Warnings have been issued...

- Listen to your local radio station for severe storm advice and warnings;
- Plan to move vehicles, outdoor equipment, garbage, chemicals and poisons to higher locations;
- Plan which indoor items you will raise or empty if water threatens your home (eg freezers and refrigerators);
- Check your emergency kit and safeguard your pets.

What to do in a flood...

- Avoid driving, walking or riding through flood waters;
- Obey road closed signs;
- Ensure children do not play in or near strongly flowing water, near culverts or open stormwater drains; and
- Drive carefully, assuming that flooding (either local or river) may be across the road you are driving on.

Road closures during flood events...

Council posts details of road closures for the Gympie Region's local roads on our website during flood events. For further information during flood events, please contact the Works Division on (07) 5481 0899.

River watch...

Consult the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au for information on river flooding.

Need to travel...

Consult the Main Roads website at www.131940.qld.gov.au for information on road closures.

FLOODING continued

Evacuate...

- Pack warm clothing, essential medications, valuables, personal papers, mobile phone, photos and mementos in waterproof bags to be taken with your emergency kit;
- Empty freezers and refrigerators, leaving doors open;
- Turn off power, water and gas;
- Whether you leave or stay, put sandbags in the toilet bowl and over all laundry/bathroom drain holes to prevent sewage back-flow; and
- Lock your home and take recommended evacuation routes for your area.

Stay or return...

- Listen to your local radio station for official advices and warnings;
- Don't allow children to play in or near flooded waters;
- Avoid entering floodwaters. If you must, wear solid shoes and check depth and current with a stick;
- Stay away from drains, culverts and water over knee-deep;
- Don't use gas or electrical appliances which have been in flood water until checked for safety;
- Don't eat food which has been in flood waters; and
- Boil tap water until supplies have been declared safe.

SEVERE STORMS

There are two types of severe storms: thunderstorms and land gales.

Thunderstorms can produce hail, wind gusts, flash floods, tornadoes and lightning which can cause death, injury and damage to property.

Thunderstorms are more common and generally more dangerous than land gales. Land gales are simply gale force winds that occur over the land.



Prepare...

- Be aware of severe storm patterns in your area;
- Trim trees, remove overhanging branches and clear gutters and down pipes, clear yard of loose materials and rubbish;
- Secure loose roof tiles or sheets;
- Protect sky lights with wire mesh and fit glass windows and doors with shutters or insect screens;
- Prepare an emergency kit (see page 43)
- Check boats are securely moored, or protected on land;
- Check home insurance is current and adequate (Include building debris clean up/disposal costs).

As the storm approaches...

- Listen to a local radio station for severe storm advice and warnings;
- Shelter and secure animals;
- Put loose garden furniture, toys etc inside;
- Park vehicles under solid shelter or cover with firmly tied tarpaulins/blankets;

More on as the storm approaches...

- Secure all external doors and windows and draw curtains;
- Keep valuables, medications, spare clothing in plastic bags and your emergency kit handy; and
- Disconnect all electrical items, external TV/radio aerials and computer modems.

During the storm...

- Listen to your (portable) radio for severe storm updates;
- Stay inside and shelter well clear of windows, doors and skylights;
- If the building starts to break up, shelter in the strongest part (cellar, internal room, hallway or built-in wardrobe) under a mattress, doona or a strong table or bench;
- If outdoors, seek solid enclosed shelter;
- If driving, stop clear of trees, power lines and streams;
- Don't use a fixed telephone during a severe storm due to lightning danger.

Afterwards...

- Listen to your local radio station for official Advices and Warnings;
- Check for structural property damage and cover with plastic sheeting and nailed on wood strips;
- For emergency assistance refer to your emergency phone numbers or contact your local Council;
- Beware of fallen power lines and trees, damaged buildings and flooded watercourses; and
- Don't go sight-seeing.

My Emergency Contacts

URBAN & RURAL FIRES

There are a number of measures you can take to prepare your home and property for bushfire. These include several preparations you must take annually prior to the bushfire season.

Prepare...

- Displaying a prominent house number.
- Ensuring there is adequate access for fire trucks to your property – 4 metres wide by 4 metres high with a turn-around area. Reduce vegetation loads along the access path.
- Mowing your grass regularly.
- Removing excess ground fuels and combustible material (long grass, dead leaves and branches).
- Clearing of leaves, twigs, bark and other debris from the roof and gutters.
- Purchasing and testing the effectiveness of gutter plugs.
- Trimming low-lying branches 2 metres from the ground surrounding your home.
- Enclosing open areas under your decks and floors.
- Installing fine steel wire mesh screens on all windows, doors, vents and weep holes.
- Pointing LPG cylinder relief valves away from the house.
- Conducting maintenance checks on pumps, generators and water systems.
- Checking that you have sufficient personal protective clothing and equipment.
- Relocating flammable items away from your home including woodpiles, paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets and garden furniture.
- Sealing all gaps in external roof and wall cladding.
- Checking that the first aid kit is fully stocked.

PROTECTING YOUR PETS

Make sure you have...

- Sufficient non-perishable pet food for several days
- A leash or a carry-cage, box or bag
- Toilet litter or old newspaper
- Essential medications and vet details
- Make sure your pet has current vaccinations, registration or other identification
- Prepare a room to house your pet, such as the bathroom or laundry

Never leave a cat with a dog in the same room even if they get along

EMERGENCY KIT

Every family should have a fully stocked emergency kit stored in their home. Record your next of kin telephone number on your mobile phone under "ICE" (In Case of Emergency).

- Battery-operated radio (with spare batteries)
- Torch (spare batteries)
- Candles, lighter and waterproof matches
- First aid kit
- Combination pocket knife
- Portable stove with fuel
- Cooking utensils
- Water in sealed containers
- Medications
- Toiletry and sanitary supplies
- Change of clothes and strong shoes
- Canned food – enough for 3 – 4 days
- Can opener
- Special needs for infants, the aged and people with disabilities
- Pet food, water and other animal needs
- Tent or tarpaulin and blankets
- Money
- Personal documents – insurance, certificates, photographs, prescription repeats
- Strong plastic bags
- Emergency phone numbers
- Insect repellent and sunscreen

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

The State Emergency Service supports and assists people in times of emergency eg storm and flood damage etc.

To contact the State Emergency Service for assistance during a disaster please phone 13 2500.

District offices for the State Emergency Service are situated at 6 King Street, Gympie.

The District Office may be contacted on (07) 5420 7568 (business hours) or the Area Director on 0407 647 142 (after hours).