

Are you Cyclone Ready?

(Adapted from the checklist found at www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/about/checklist.shtml)

Before CYCLONE SEASON:-

- Check that the walls, roof and eaves of your home are secure.
- Trim treetops and branches well clear of your home (get council permission).
- Fit shutters, or at 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.
- Start your Generator to ensure it is working properly. Practice the procedure for starting your Generator Changeover Switch (if installed).
- Know your nearest safe high ground and the safest access route to it (in case of a storm surge/tide warning)
- Prepare an emergency kit containing:
 - a first aid kit and manual;
 - masking tape for windows;
 - waterproof bags;
 - 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 list of emergency phone numbers.
- Check neighbours, especially if recent arrivals, to make sure they are prepared.

When a CYCLONE WATCH is issued:-

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

When a CYCLONE WARNING is issued:-

- Pack an evacuation kit (to be taken with your emergency kit):-
 - warm clothes,
 - essential medications,
 - baby formula and nappies,
 - a supply of cash (no electricity = no ATMs)
 - valuables, important papers, photos and mementos in waterproof bags
- Secure large/heavy valuables in a strong cupboard.
- Start your Generator to ensure it is working properly. Practice the procedure for starting your Generator Changeover Switch (if installed).
- 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.

- 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).
- Fill bath and laundry tubs with water.

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.

- Lock doors; turn off power, gas, and water; take your evacuation and emergency kits.
- Wear strong shoes (not thongs) and tough clothing for protection.
- 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. Take bedding needs and books or games for children. Leave pets protected and with food and water.

WHEN THE CYCLONE STRIKES

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

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

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.