

Emergency Action Guide



In times of disaster - Stay Informed

banana.qld.gov.au/disaster-management



Emergency Action Guide for Banana Shire

This Emergency Action Guide has been developed by the Banana Shire Council Local Disaster Management Group, with acknowledgements to the Qld Resilience Authority and the Get Ready Queensland initiative, supported by the Queensland Government.

Please read the contents and keep the booklet in a place where all members of the household can refer to it in times of emergency. It is intended as a guide only and you should listen to your radio during any emergency for further instructions.

The Banana Shire Council acknowledges First Nations Peoples and recognises their continuous connection to Country, Community and Culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and honour the sharing of traditional stories and knowledge passed down through the generations.

Disclaimer: This brochure is for information only and is provided in good faith. The Queensland Government and Banana 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.



“Natural disasters impact thousands of Queenslanders every year. Each disaster has lasting effects on people, their property and their possessions. Disasters can happen fast and without much warning. This means that it is hard to react to a disaster if you have not planned for one.

People who get ready before a disaster will know what to do and have the things they need to act quickly and stay safe. The best way to protect you and your family is to have a good plan.”

- Get Ready Queensland

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Message from the Mayor

As we continue to experience the challenges that living in our region can present, it is essential to remain prepared and proactive in the face of potential emergencies. Our Shire has shown incredible resilience over the years, but as we all know, the risk of natural disasters such as

storms, floods, and fires is ever-present. It is vital that each of us takes responsibility for being informed and ready to act when necessary.

This Emergency Action Guide is designed to help you and your family stay safe and prepared. Inside, you'll find important information on the steps to take before, during, and after a disaster, including vital contact details, preparedness tips, and guidelines for ensuring your home and loved ones are protected.

I encourage you to make this guide a key part of your household's preparedness plan and keep it accessible. In the event of an emergency, staying connected and informed is crucial. Please regularly check Banana Shire Council's Disaster Dashboard via our website, and stay tuned to your local radio stations, social media, and television for real-time updates and instructions.

Our community is strongest when we work together, and your safety is our priority. Let's be ready, stay informed, and protect what matters most.

Stay safe,

Nev Ferrier
Mayor, Banana Shire Council
Chairman for the Local Disaster Management Group

Local Disaster Management Group

The Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) plays a vital role in coordinating disaster responses for Banana Shire. Comprising representatives from emergency services, government, and community organisations, the LDMG ensures timely and coordinated action during disaster events.

The LDMG's primary responsibilities, as outlined in the **Disaster Management Act 2003**, include:

- **Planning:** Developing comprehensive Local Disaster Management Plans that address the four key phases of disaster management.
- **Prevention:** Mitigating risks to reduce the impact of disasters.
- **Preparation:** Ensuring that

plans and resources are in place before a disaster strikes.

- **Response:** Coordinating actions during a disaster to protect life and property.
- **Recovery:** Facilitating community recovery efforts after a disaster.

The Banana Shire LDMG plays a crucial role in decision-making during disaster events, guiding the community through the challenges of any event that impacts the region.

For more information about the LDMG and how to stay informed, visit the Disaster Dashboard via Banana Shire Council's website.



SCAN QR CODE

<https://www.banana.qld.gov.au/disaster-management>





Emergency Contacts

Emergency Services (Police, Fire, Ambulance):	Dial 000
BSC Disaster Dashboard:	(07) 4992 9500
State Emergency Service (SES):	132 500
Ergon Energy (Electricity Issues):	13 22 96
Road Conditions and Closures:	13 19 40

Disaster Dashboard

The Disaster Dashboard is an essential resource that provides live updates on weather warnings, emergency events, road closures, and recovery efforts. Access the dashboard through the Banana Shire Council's website to stay informed during emergencies.

Where and How Do I Find Information?

During an emergency, having quick access to accurate information is vital. The Banana Shire Council and other local authorities work closely with the state and national bodies to keep residents informed during disasters. Below is a guide on where and how you can find up-to-date information during emergencies.

Sources of Information:

Banana Shire Council's Disaster Dashboard

Provides real-time updates on local disasters, including road closures, evacuation orders, and emergency shelters.



How to access:

- Visit the **Banana Shire Council website**.
- Monitor updates on Council's social media platforms (**Facebook and Instagram**).
- During significant disaster and emergency events and depending on the circumstances, the **Local Disaster Co-ordination Centre (LDCC)** MAY be activated. Should this be the case, notification will be provided through the media team. The LDCC can be contacted by phoning **4992 4027 or 4992 3511** (NOTE: these numbers will only be activated in the event of an emergency).





Local Media

Local radio stations and news outlets provide emergency broadcasts and updates from authorities.

How to access:

Tune into your local radio station for live updates.

Check online local news websites for up-to-the-minute information.

Biloela

- ABC Capricornia 94.9FM
- Rebel FM 88.9FM
- Breeze FM 89.7FM

Moura

- ABC Capricornia 96.1FM
- Rebel FM 88.9FM
- Breeze FM 89.7FM

Theodore

- ABC Capricornia 105.9FM
- Rebel FM 94.7FM
- Breeze FM 99.5FM

Taroom

- ABC Southern Qld 106.1FM
- Rebel FM 92.5FM
- Breeze FM 94.1FM

Queensland Government Emergency Alert System

The Emergency Alert system sends warnings directly to your phone during severe weather events and disasters. Sign up for alerts via the Queensland Government website or install their emergency alert app.

State Emergency Service (SES)

SES provides information and assistance for flood, storm, and natural disaster-related incidents. Call SES on 132 500 or check their website for updates during emergencies.

Bureau Of Meteorology (BOM)

Check the BOM website www.bom.gov.au for updates in relation to current and future weather information.

Other Sources Of Information

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| - QPS | - QFES |
| - Telstra | - Ergon |
| - Other Councils | - QLD Traffic |

Historical Disasters in Banana Shire

Past Disasters

Floods

- Flooding has historically impacted multiple towns in Banana Shire, with major events recorded in:
- *Biloela, Goovigen, Jambin, Moura, Banana, and Baralaba* (1954–2022)
 - *Taroom*: 1890 flood reached the Leichhardt Tree; notable peaks include 14.78m (1890), 10.43m (2010–11).
 - *Theodore*: Fully evacuated in 2010, with 14.7m peak flood levels recorded. Other significant floods occurred in 1954, 1978, 1983, 1991, and 2010.
 - *Wowan/Dululu*: Minor flooding in 2010, leading to the installation of a warning siren.

Cyclones

- *Cyclone Oswald (2013)*: Brought severe weather across eastern Queensland, causing record flooding in the Burnett River and tornado outbreaks in Bundaberg.
- *Cyclone Marcia (2015)*: Impacted Biloela on February 20, causing wind gusts up to 85 km/h before tracking south and re-entering the ocean.

Bushfires

- The region has not recorded fatalities from bushfires but is surrounded by National Parks and farmland.
- National Parks have a mitigation program in place to manage fire risk.

Pandemics

COVID-19: Declared a global pandemic in 2020 and later downgraded as a public health emergency in 2023.

The pandemic caused significant disruptions to health services, travel, and the economy.

Earthquakes

The region has experienced minor tremors and earthquakes up to 6.23 magnitude off the coast. Historical records show activity south of Gladstone in the early 20th century.

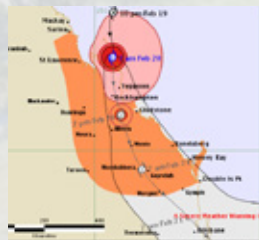
Chemical & Industrial Accidents

Moura Mining Disasters:

- *1975 (Kianga Mine)*: 13 miners died in an underground explosion; the mine was sealed without body recovery.
- *1986 (Mine 4)*: Another underground explosion killed 12 miners; all bodies were recovered.
- *1994 (Mine 2)*: A second explosion at Moura No. 2 Mine ended rescue attempts, leading to 11 unrecovered bodies.



2010 Flood - Palm Tree Creek, Taroom



Cyclone Marcia - 2015
Image Credit: BOM



1986 Moura Mine 4
Explosion
Image Credit: MSIA



Cyclone Oswald
- 2013
Image Credit: Extreme
Storms



1975 Kianga Mine
Explosion
Image Credit: MSIA



2010 Flood - Apex Park,
Moura

Know your warnings

The Australian Warning System is a new national approach to information and Calls to Actions for hazards like bushfire, flood, storm, cyclone, extreme heat and severe weather.

What are the warning levels?

There are three warning levels:

Advice (Yellow):

An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

Watch and Act (Orange):

There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.

Emergency Warning (Red):

An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Example:



ADVICE

Monitor Conditions



WATCH AND ACT

Conditions are changing



EMERGENCY WARNING

You are in danger



BUSHFIRE



EXTREME HEAT



CYCLONE



STORM



FLOOD



OTHER



Listen for the **Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS)**. The SEWS is a wailing siren sound that has been adopted by all States and Territories to alert the community to the broadcast of an urgent safety message relating to an emergency/disaster.

What to include in your EMERGENCY KIT

When a natural disaster strikes, have an Emergency Preparedness Kit pre-stocked and ready to go with basic items that meet the needs of your family.

EMERGENCY PLAN AND
IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

PORTABLE RADIO

BATTERIES AND CHARGERS

WATERPROOF TORCH

FIRST AID KIT &
MEDICATIONS

MULTI-TOOL, WRENCH &
CAN OPENER

DRINKING WATER AND
NON-PERISHABLE FOODS

MONEY

PET FOOD & SUPPLIES

TOILETRY ITEMS

ANY ADDITIONAL
HOUSEHOLD
REQUIREMENTS

CLOTHING & BLANKETS



Four Steps to be Ready:

1. PLAN

Being prepared means taking proactive steps to protect yourself, your family, community, and business in the event of a disaster.

Key Preparations:

- Review your insurance policies (home, car, contents) to ensure they are current.
- Identify the safest room in your home to shelter in during a storm.
- Learn how to turn off your home's power, water, and gas mains.

- First aid kit and necessary medications
- Flashlights with extra batteries
- Important documents (ID, insurance papers)
- Portable phone charger and power bank
- Personal hygiene items
- Warm clothing and blankets

Consider Your Family's Needs:

- Pet food and supplies
- Baby essentials (formula, diapers)
- Prescription medications
- Books, toys, or games for children

2. PACK

Assemble an Emergency Kit with enough essential supplies to last at least three days—longer if you live in a remote area.

Essentials:

- Non-perishable food and bottled water

Storage Tip: Keep your kit in a waterproof, durable container in a safe and accessible place. Ensure older children know its location but keep it out of reach of toddlers.

3. LISTEN

Staying informed is crucial. Monitor official updates and warnings through:

- Local radio stations
- Emergency apps
- Reliable online sources (government websites and social media)

4. ACT

When disaster strikes, quick action can make all the difference.

What to Do:

- Follow all instructions from emergency services.
- Evacuate immediately if advised, using the safest routes.
- If staying home, move to your designated safe area and keep your emergency kit close.

Being prepared can help keep you and your loved ones safe.
Plan today—stay safe tomorrow!



Know your seasons



Storm Season

November to April



Flood season

November to April



Bushfire season

July to November



Heat wave

November to February



Cyclone Season

November to April

OTHER DISASTERS



PANDEMICS



EARTHQUAKES



LANDSLIDES



Severe Storms

Thunderstorms, or electrical storms, bring lightning and thunder. They often come with strong winds and heavy rain and can develop with little warning.

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) issues Severe Thunderstorm Warnings when the following dangerous weather conditions are expected:

- Wind gusts of at least 90 kilometers per hour
- Tornadoes
- Frequent lightning
- Hail
- Very heavy rain, which may result in flash flooding

Since the exact location of a thunderstorm is difficult to predict well in advance, Severe Thunderstorm Warnings often come with a lead time of no more than an hour. It's important to stay alert during storm seasons and be ready to act quickly.



Before a Severe Storm

Stay Informed: Monitor weather updates and warnings from reliable sources, such as the BOM, radio stations, and weather apps.

Prepare Your Home:

- **Secure Loose Items:** Move or tie down outdoor furniture or garden tools.
- **Move Vehicles:** Park in sheltered spots.
- **Trim Trees:** Remove dead branches near your home.
- **Emergency Kit:** Keep your emergency kit accessible.
- **Secure Windows and Doors:** Close everything tightly.

Know the risks of thunderstorms and take precautions before, during, and after the event to protect your family, home, and community. Stay alert to warnings, respond quickly, and always put safety first.

During a Storm

- **Stay Indoors:** Avoid going outside during the storm. Stay inside and away from windows, doors, and electrical appliances.
- **Unplug Electrical Items:** Disconnect electronics from power sources to protect them from power surges caused by lightning.
- **Avoid Using Landline Phones:** Refrain from using landline phones during a storm, as lightning can strike telephone lines and cause injuries.
- **Take Shelter:** If you are caught outside and cannot reach a building, avoid trees, water bodies, and metal structures. Instead, find a low-lying area and crouch down with your feet together.
- **Stay Off Roads:** If possible, avoid driving during a thunderstorm. Heavy rain can reduce visibility and create dangerous road conditions, and strong winds can make driving hazardous.

After a Storm

- **Assess Your Property for Damage:** Once the storm has passed, inspect your home for any damage, particularly to roofs, windows, and trees.
- **Stay Away from Power Lines:** Report any downed power lines to the local utility company, and stay clear of them as they may still be live.
- **Avoid Flooded Areas:** Thunderstorms may cause flash flooding. Avoid walking or driving through flooded areas, as the depth and safety of the water may be unclear.
- **Help Neighbours:** Check on elderly or vulnerable neighbours to see if they need assistance after the storm.
- **Be Cautious of Hazards:** Be aware of debris, fallen branches, and possible damage to infrastructure that could pose a hazard in the aftermath of a storm.



Flood

A flood happens when too much water covers normally dry land. This can be caused by heavy rain and may happen slowly or very quickly, like flash floods.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) issues warnings when flooding is expected, and alerts for flash flooding when there's a severe weather threat.

Before a Flood

- **Hold a Family Meeting:** Create a household Emergency Plan to ensure everyone knows what to do, where to meet, and how to evacuate.
- **Pack Emergency & Evacuation Kits:** Ensure you have supplies for several days.
- **Yard Cleanup:** Secure or remove loose materials.
- **Relocate Items:** Move outdoor equipment, chemicals, and garbage bins to a safe location.
- **Move Animals and Equipment:** Relocate livestock, pets, and machinery to higher ground.
- **Turn Off Utilities:** Know how to turn off water, power, and gas at the mains.
- **Secure Buildings:** Tie down sheds, caravans, and other small structures.
- **Use Sandbags:** Protect doors and windows from flooding with sandbags if necessary.
- **Store Potable Water:** In case water sources become contaminated.
- **Protect Important Documents:** Store documents and valuables in high places.
- **Know Your Evacuation Zones and Routes:** Be aware of evacuation zones and safe routes, especially in storm tide areas.
- **Check on Neighbours:** Especially the elderly or new residents who may need help.

During a Flood

- **Stay Informed:** Use a battery-operated radio to listen to flood warnings.
- **Boil Tap Water:** Floodwaters can contaminate water supplies. Boil water before drinking.
- **Avoid Floodwaters:** Stay out of flooded areas. If it's flooded, forget it.
- Never drive, walk, or swim through floodwaters. Hazards like submerged objects and contamination may be present.
- **Keep Refrigerators Closed:** In a power outage, keep the refrigerator and freezer closed to preserve food for several hours.





After a Flood

- **Wait for the All-Clear:** Only return home when authorities have declared it safe to do so.
- **Inspect Your Home:** Check for structural damage such as cracked walls, floors, or foundations. Avoid electrical outlets, appliances, and circuit boards if they have been submerged or exposed to water. Have them inspected by a licensed electrician before use.
- **Continue Boiling Water:** Floodwaters may have contaminated drinking water, so continue to boil tap water until authorities declare it safe.
- **Clean Up Safely:** Wear protective clothing, including gloves and boots, while cleaning up. Disinfect all surfaces and items that have come into contact with floodwaters. Dispose of any food that has been in contact with floodwaters or has been unrefrigerated for an extended period.
- **Document Damage for Insurance:** Take photos or videos of the damage to your home and property for insurance claims. Contact your insurance provider as soon as possible to discuss claims and repairs.
- **Beware of Wildlife:** Floodwaters can displace wildlife, including snakes and other animals. Be cautious when moving through debris or flood-damaged areas.
- **Help Neighbours:** Check on elderly or vulnerable neighbours and offer assistance if needed.
- **Stay Informed:** Continue listening to emergency services and local authorities for updates on conditions, recovery efforts, and available assistance.





Bushfire

You don't have to live in the bush to be threatened by a bushfire—just being close enough to burning material, embers, and smoke can put you at risk.

Bushfires can start from multiple causes:

- *Arson (deliberately lit fires)*
- *Carelessness (e.g., discarded cigarettes, sparks from machinery, unattended campfires)*
- *Accidents or very rarely from controlled burns or lightning*

If you light a fire—whether intentionally or accidentally—you are responsible for controlling it.



Bushfire Dangers

Bushfires can move faster than a person can run and are often unpredictable. They can change direction suddenly, putting you in danger without warning. The combination of heat, wind, smoke, and burning material can make it hard to see, hear, or breathe.

Fire risk increases during long spells of hot, dry weather combined with wind. In North Queensland, the fire season typically occurs during the winter and spring months (the “dry” season).

Types of Fires

- **Grassfires:** These are fast-moving fires, usually lasting five to ten seconds as they pass, with smouldering for minutes afterward. They tend to have low to medium intensity, mainly affecting crops, livestock, and farming infrastructure, such as fences.
- **Bushfires:** These are generally slower moving but with a higher heat output. A bushfire passes in about two to five minutes, but it can smoulder for days. Fires that reach the tree canopy can move quickly and cause extensive damage.
- **Cane Fires:** In cane farming areas, large controlled fires are used to burn off trash after the sugar cane harvest.

Before a Bushfire:

Prepare your Home: Clear leaves from gutters and create a firebreak around your property.

Emergency Plan: Know where to go and what to take if you need to evacuate.

Monitor Weather: Follow bushfire warning during, hot, dry seasons

During a Bushfire:

Stay Informed: Listen to emergency broadcasts.

Evacuate if Advised: Follow directions from authorities

After a Bushfire

Wait for All-clear: Only return when it is deemed safe

Inspect for Damage: Be cautious with debris or fire damaged areas.

If you plan to leave early, ensure you evacuate well before a bushfire approaches and road conditions become dangerous.



Heatwave

A heatwave occurs when there are three or more days of unusually high maximum and minimum temperatures for a location. Heatwaves are especially dangerous for:

- Elderly individuals
- Pregnant women
- Young children and babies

However, even healthy people are at risk during extreme heat if precautions aren't taken.



Heatwave Risks

Heatwaves are periods of very hot weather for several days in a row. Heatwaves are dangerous, especially for:

- Older adults
- Pregnant women
- Young Children

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

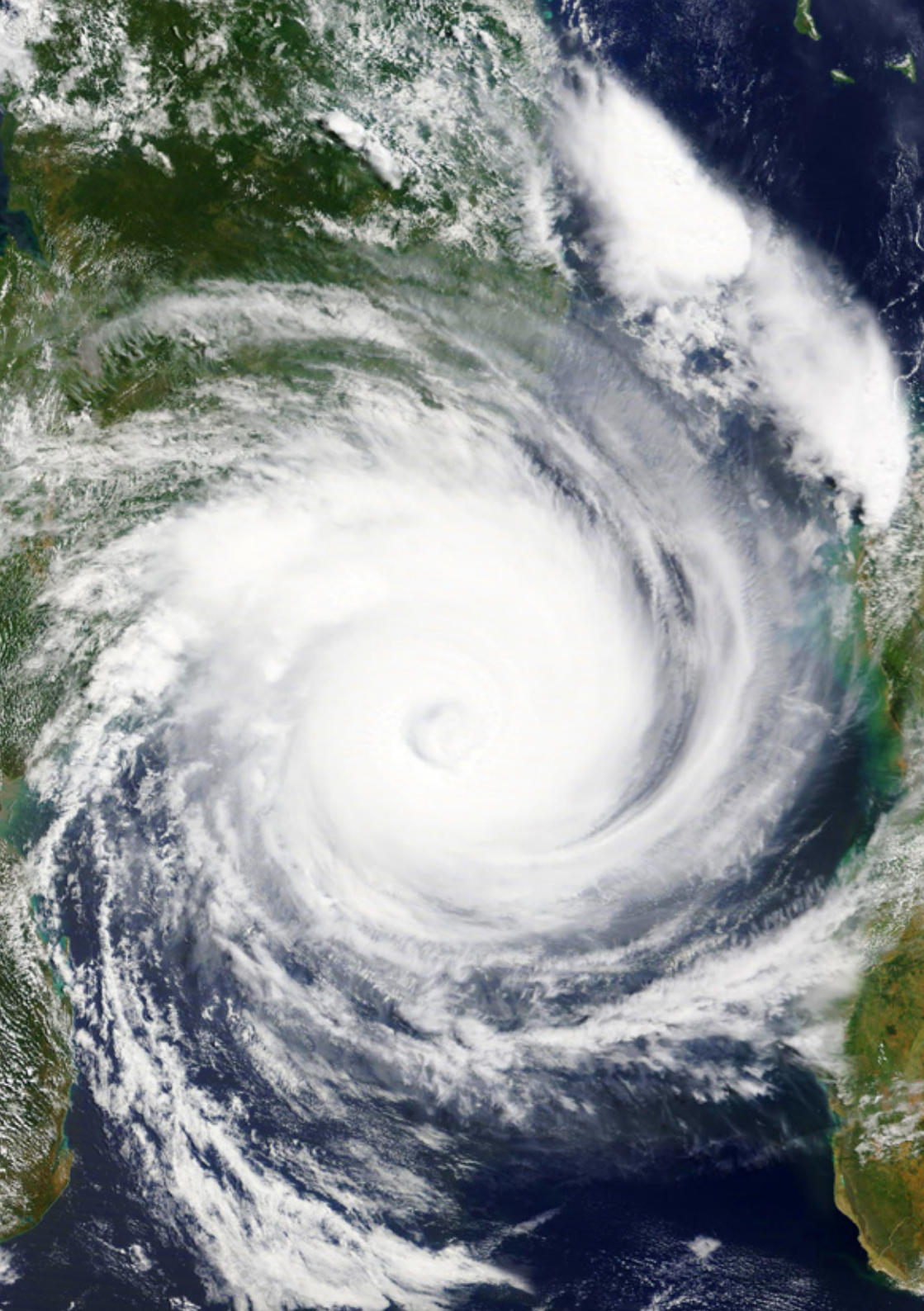
Heatwave Safety Tips

- **Modify Activities:** Avoid strenuous outdoor activities during the heat of the day and seek out indoor or air-conditioned environments.
- **Install Blinds and Curtains:** Use window coverings to keep heat out.
- **Check Fans and Air-Conditioners:** Ensure your cooling systems are in good working order.
- **Stock Up on Supplies:** Plan ahead by ensuring you have enough food, water, and medications to last during the heatwave.

Know the Signs of Heat Stress

- Breathlessness
- Chest pain
- Confusion
- Intense thirst
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Cramps that worsen or don't go away

If you or someone you know experiences these symptoms during a heatwave, it's critical to seek medical attention immediately.



Cyclone

A cyclone is a powerful tropical storm with intense winds and heavy rain, capable of causing significant damage and injuries.

The eye of the cyclone may bring light winds and clear skies, but this is not the end—strong winds will return from the opposite direction. Always remain indoors until authorities confirm it is safe.

Australia experiences an average of 13 cyclones per year, with around 4.7 impacting Queensland's warning area. While not all make landfall in our region, 207 cyclones have affected Queensland's east coast since 1858.



Before a Cyclone

Prepare early to protect your home and family:

- **Secure your property:** Park vehicles under shelter, secure outdoor furniture, and bring loose items inside.
- **Protect windows:** Close shutters or tape glass to reduce shattering risk.
- **Prepare supplies:** Stock up on food, water, batteries, and first aid essentials.
- **Pack an Evacuation Kit:** Include essential documents, medications, and emergency supplies.
- **Stay informed:** Tune in to local radio, monitor official updates, and follow emergency alerts.
- **Be ready to evacuate:** Follow instructions from the local authorities if directed to leave.

During the Cyclone

- Stay indoors with pets and keep Emergency Kits nearby.
- Disconnect electrical appliances and keep fridge/freezer doors closed.
- Shelter in the strongest part of your home, away from windows.
- If the structure becomes unstable, protect yourself under a sturdy table or with blankets.
- Beware of the calm eye – If the wind stops, do not go outside until the official “all clear” is given.

After a Cyclone

- Stay indoors until authorities confirm it's safe.
- Check for gas leaks and fallen power lines; do not use wet electrical appliances.
- If you evacuated, return only when advised and use recommended routes.
- Avoid damaged infrastructure and never enter floodwaters – If it's flooded, forget it.
- Check on neighbours, friends, and family, but avoid unnecessary phone calls.
- Follow instructions on water safety and discard any food exposed to floodwaters.

A Cyclone Warning is issued when destructive winds are expected within 24 hours. Updates are given every three hours, increasing to hourly if the threat grows. These warnings include details on the cyclone's location, movement, intensity, and potential impacts like heavy rain, flooding, and storm surges. If you haven't already, activate your household Emergency Plan.



Earthquakes

An earthquake happens when rocks deep in the Earth suddenly shift, causing shaking on the surface. Earthquakes can happen at any time, often without warning.

Understanding Earthquake Impact

The impact of an earthquake depends on several factors, including:

Depth: Deeper earthquakes tend to cause less surface damage.

Proximity to Populated Areas: The closer an earthquake is to inhabited regions, the greater the potential for damage.

Magnitude: Earthquakes are rated on a scale from 1 to 10 based on their magnitude.

- A magnitude of 1 may go unnoticed.
- A magnitude of 10 can cause significant destruction to buildings and infrastructure.



Before an Earthquake

- **Secure Heavy Items:** Fasten bookshelves and appliances securely to walls.
- **Know Safe spots:** Identify safe spots in each room, such as under sturdy furniture, where you can take shelter during an earthquake.
- **Turn off Mains Supply:** Know how to turn off the mains supply of gas, water, and electricity in case of a rupture during an earthquake.
- **Create an Emergency Plan:** Discuss earthquake preparedness with your family and have a plan for what to do during and after a quake.
- **Emergency Kit** includes essential supplies, including a first aid kit, flashlights, and battery-operated radios.
- **Strengthen Your Home:** If living in an earthquake-prone area, consider having your home inspected and reinforced to withstand seismic activity.

During an Earthquake

- **Drop, Cover, and Hold On:** Drop to your hands and knees to prevent being knocked over by shaking.
- **Cover your head** and neck by taking shelter under sturdy furniture (such as a table or desk) or against an interior wall.
- **Hold On to your shelter** until the shaking stops. If no shelter is available, cover your head and crouch low near an interior wall, away from windows and heavy objects.
- **Stay Indoors:** If you are inside, stay there. Do not run outside during the shaking, as falling debris can pose serious hazards.
- **Avoid Elevators:** Do not use elevators during an earthquake, as they may malfunction or become stuck.
- **If Outside:** Move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires. Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops.



After an Earthquake

- Check for Injuries: Ensure that you and those around you are safe. Administer first aid where necessary, but avoid moving anyone who is seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger.
- Inspect Your Home: Look for signs of structural damage, such as cracks in walls or foundations. Be cautious of weakened structures that may collapse.
- Turn Off Utilities: If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the gas supply and leave the building. Report the leak to authorities once you're safe.
- Expect Aftershocks: These smaller tremors can follow the main quake, and may cause additional damage. Be prepared to Drop, Cover, and Hold On again.
- Avoid Using Phones: Unless necessary for emergencies, avoid using the phone to keep lines open for critical communication.
- Stay Informed: Use a battery-powered radio to listen to emergency broadcasts and instructions from local authorities.
- Help Neighbours: Check on those nearby, especially the elderly or anyone with disabilities, to ensure their safety.
- Stay Away from Damaged Areas: Avoid buildings or areas that may be unstable after the earthquake.





Landslides

A **landslide** is the movement of **rock, debris, or earth** down a slope, driven by the force of **gravity**. Landslides are also referred to as **landslips, slumps, or slope failures**.

In Queensland, landslides are primarily triggered by heavy rainfall, although they can also be caused by events such as earthquakes or volcanic activity.

Causes of Landslides:

When rain saturates the soil on a hillside—especially in areas that have undergone human activity like construction, which removes vegetation—the stability of the slope can be compromised. The weight of the saturated soil overcomes the support provided by the remaining vegetation, causing the top layer of soil to slip down the slope. This can carry debris, trees, rocks, and even structures along with it.

Stay Prepared for Landslides

If you live near a hillslope, cliff, or steep rocky area, be aware of the potential risks, especially after periods of heavy rain.

Key steps to stay prepared include:

- **Know the History:** Be aware if your area has a history of landslides.
- **Monitor Heavy Rain Events:** If there's been sustained rainfall, assess whether you are at risk.
- **Prepare Your Emergency Plan:** Ensure that your household Emergency Plan accounts for landslides, particularly if your property is located on or near a slope.
- **Recognize Early Signs:** Pay attention to unusual sounds, cracks in the ground, or changes in the landscape that may indicate an impending landslide.



Pandemics

A pandemic is when a disease spreads across large areas, sometimes worldwide, affecting many people. Pandemics can spread quickly through human contact and can disrupt daily life. They can also impact things like school, workplaces and travel.

The most likely threat to QLD is influenza (the flu) or a new virus, which can spread rapidly and overwhelm the public health systems. When a pandemic is declared, governments and health experts act quickly to contain it, providing guidelines to keep communities safe.

How to Stay Safe During a Pandemic:

- **Stay Informed:** Follow updates from trusted sources like Queensland Health and the Australian Government.
- **Practice Good Hygiene:** Wash hands often with soap and water, use hand sanitiser, and cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when your cough or sneeze.
- **Social Distancing:** Try to maintain physical distance from others, especially in crowded places.
- **Stay home if sick:** Avoid going out if you are unwell and seek medical advice if you have symptoms.
- **Wear a Mask:** Depending on the guidance, wearing masks in public spaces can help reduce the spread of germs.



Pets

Preparing Your Pets for Emergencies

Just as you prepare your family and home for emergencies or disasters, it's essential to include your pets in your emergency planning. Pets are part of your household, and taking the time to prepare now can improve their safety and well-being during an emergency.

Although individual needs will vary depending on the type of pet and your location, you should develop a plan that fits your circumstances.

Be Prepared for Your Pets

If you need to relocate your pets to a safer place, act early to avoid unnecessary risks. Evacuation shelters may not allow pets, so it's important to plan ahead. Consider the following actions:

- **Secure Animals Indoors:** Before an emergency strikes, secure your pets inside your home to prevent them from running away out of fear.

- **Use Pet Carriers and Leashes:** When moving your pets to safety, use secure carriers, cages, leashes, or harnesses.
- **Keep Vaccinations Up to Date:** Ensure your pets' vaccinations are current and have their medical records readily available.
- **Boarding Options:** Consider the possibility of boarding your pets in a safe environment away from the emergency zone.
- **Temporary Foster Homes:** If using a foster home for your pet during an emergency, ensure they have your pet's medical and feeding information, along with necessary supplies.
- **Proper Identification:** Ensure your pets are properly identified (microchipped, collar with ID tags). In a disaster, phones may not work, so identification should include your current address.
- **Current Photographs:** Keep a recent photograph of your pet to assist in identifying them if they become lost.

Trained Assistance Dogs

In most cases, trained assistance dogs will be allowed to stay with their owners in emergency shelters. However, shelters may require proper identification and proof of vaccination.

Pets Other Than Dogs and Cats

While most pets are dogs or cats, the principles of emergency preparedness apply to all animals, including birds, reptiles, and small livestock. If your pet doesn't fall into the common categories, such as aquariums, reptiles, or livestock like pigs, goats, or horses, it's essential to contact specialized agencies like the Department of Agriculture, RSPCA, or your veterinarian for specific emergency planning advice.

Pet Emergency Kit Checklist

Ensure that your Pet Emergency Kit is easily accessible and includes the following:

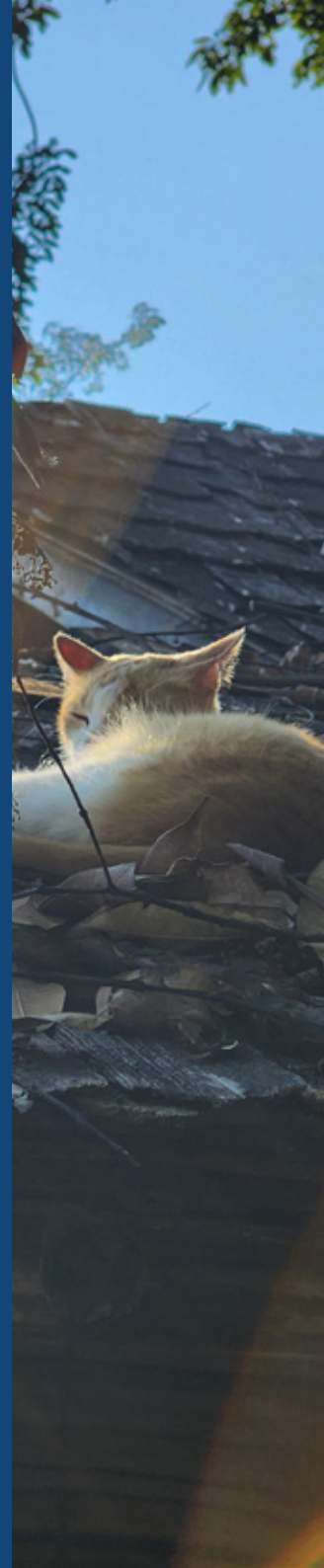
- **Medications:** Pet medications for up to two weeks, including medical records, vaccination history, and veterinarian contact details.
- **Food and Water:** Sufficient pet food (including treats) and water for up to two weeks, and don't forget a can opener if using tinned food.
- **Familiar Items:** Your pet's blanket, bedding, toys, and grooming equipment to provide comfort.
- **Transportation Gear:** A secure carrier, leash, or harness for safely moving your pet.
- **Sanitation Supplies:** Consider your pet's sanitation needs, such as newspapers, disinfectant, paper towels, and rubbish bags.
- **Birds:** Ensure birds have daily food and water with specialized dispensers, and a cage cover to protect them.
- **Identification:** Keep important telephone numbers (veterinarian, pet information services), identification details, and current photos of your pets.

Preparing Livestock for Emergencies

Livestock also need to be part of your disaster preparedness planning. Whether you have cattle, horses, sheep, or goats, taking steps to protect them is crucial.

- **Identify Safe Containment Areas:** Survey your property for the safest location to contain livestock during a disaster.
- **Secure Food and Water:** Identify food and water sources that don't rely on electricity, as power outages are common during disasters.
- **Identification and Inventory:** Photograph livestock, document any brands or tattoos, and maintain an inventory of animals by age, sex, weight, and breed. Identify valuable breeding stock or animals of high priority for rescue.
- **Vaccinations and Health Records:** Keep vaccinations and boosters up to date. Record medical histories, dosages of medications, and dietary requirements.
- **Evacuate Early:** If possible, evacuate livestock early to ensure their safety and protect your investment.
- **Check Fences and Pasture:** Ensure fences are intact and that pastures are free of debris that could injure livestock.

By including your pets and livestock in your household emergency plan, you ensure their safety and well-being, even in times of disaster. A little preparation now can prevent panic and confusion during a crisis.





Evacuation Preparedness

Evacuation is a risk management strategy that may be used as a means of mitigating the effects of an emergency or disaster on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location.

Although evacuation is considered an important element of emergency response which may be effective in many situations, there will be occasions when it may be assessed that people would be safer to stay and shelter in place. Depending on the nature of the hazard, measures such as closing windows, isolation of air conditioning systems and listening to the radio or following social media to receive information can be taken to reduce vulnerability.

Preparing for Evacuation:

- Plan where you will go if you need to evacuate – remember official evacuation centre shelters may be crowded or offer only minimal services. Make arrangements with friends or relatives outside of the at-risk area.
- Listen to local radio, television and social media pages to heed all warnings/advice
- Ensure all householders are aware of the warnings and advice provided.
- Check your evacuation kit
- Don't wait to be told – Self-evacuate to your predetermined evacuation destination if a disaster event is imminent – inform your neighbours/friends/emergency services if you do plan to self-evacuate.
- Plan your evacuation route to avoid hazards such as flood water
- Charge your mobile phone.
- For non-emergency communications, use text messaging, email or social media instead of making voice calls on your mobile phone to avoid tying up voice networks. Data-based services like texts and emails are less likely to experience network congestion. You can use social media to post your status to let family and friends know you are ok.
- Check your neighbours and friends who may need special assistance.
- Consider what you will do with your pets – remember public welfare centres may not cater for animals. In some circumstances, it may be advisable to leave your pets in a secure location in your house.
- Fill your petrol tank and stock your car with emergency supplies.
- Think about treasured family memorabilia i.e. photo albums and other items such as passports, licences, important documents and jewellery. What are you going to do with them?
- If you don't have transportation or are disabled, make arrangements with relatives, friends or neighbours.



When you have been told to evacuate

- Act quickly and remain calm.
- Follow all instructions by emergency authorities and allow for changing conditions.
- Take your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit and commence your evacuation arrangements.
- Turn off the main power, water and gas supply and unplug all appliances.
- Ensure all family members are wearing strong shoes and suitable clothing.
- Travel light – do not risk your safety for replaceable possessions
- Take your pets.
- Seek shelter at your redetermined evacuation location.
- If you are a visitor and do not have family or friends to shelter with, contact your accommodation management immediately to identify options for evacuation.
- Continue to listen to the radio, watch your phone for SMS updates and heed official warnings.

Items to include in your Evacuation Kit

- Multiple changes of clothes for all household members, stored in watertight plastic bags (long pants, long sleeved shirts, hats and strong shoes are recommended).
- Extra essential medicines and repeat prescriptions.
- Extra First Aid Supplies, sunscreen, insect repellent.
- Extra toiletry and sanitary supplies
- Pillows, sleeping bags and blankets for each household member.
- Books and games for children.
- Extra baby formula, food and nappies.
- Valuables, passports, insurance documents and other important documents into waterproof plastic bag.
- Extra money as cash.
- Mobile phone, spare battery and charger.

Important Documents

Keep original or certified copies of all of the following documents in your Emergency Kit and your Evacuation Kit.

Scan copies of these documents and save on a USB, memory stick or to the cloud to include in your kit as well. Keep these items in sealed plastic bags:

- Insurance papers for the house and contents.
- Insurance papers for vehicles and valuable items.
- Inventory of valuable household goods.
- Wills and life insurance documents.
- House deeds/ mortgage documents.
- Birth and marriage certificates.
- Passport/ visa details.
- Stocks and bonds.
- Medicare and pension cards.
- Immunisation records.
- Bank account and credit card details.
- Back-up copies of important computer files.
- Emergency contact phone numbers.





RECOVERY

Disasters impact people in unique ways – some recover quickly, while others may take longer to feel a sense of normalcy. It's helpful to establish a routine and keep moving forward if possible. Don't hesitate to seek support from family and friends. If you're able, reach out to neighbours or others in similar situations; building a support network can benefit everyone during the times of need.

Recovery Assistance:

After the immediate danger has passed, it's essential to focus on recovery. The SES will work to assist residents in debris removal and waste disposal services. Here are key areas to consider during the recovery phase:

Returning Home:

Only return to your home once authorities have declared it safe to do so.

Be careful when entering your property, checking for damage to the structure, potential water contamination, and any electrical hazards.

Discard any food, medicine, or perishables that may have been exposed to floodwater or have been without power for a long time.

Power and Solar:

If you have solar panels, contact your service provider to confirm your system is safe and working properly after the disaster.

Do not use any electrical appliances that have been in contact with water until they have been inspected by a

professional.

For assistance with power outages or to report electrical hazards, reach out to Ergon Energy.

Insurance:

Contact your insurance company as soon as possible to begin the claims process.

Take photos or videos of all damaged items and areas before starting any cleanup or repairs.

Keep detailed records of all conversations with your insurer, including dates and notes.

Save receipts for emergency repairs, accommodation, and other related expenses, as they might be covered by your insurance.

Review your insurance policy to understand what is and isn't covered, and ask your insurer for clarification if needed.





SES Services

The State Emergency Service (SES) provides vital assistance during emergencies. They help residents with storm damage, rescue operations, and evacuation support. You can also volunteer with the SES to help your community.

When to Call the SES

SES volunteers have limited resources, so it's essential to assess whether your situation is an emergency before calling. You should call the SES for the following:

- Trees or branches have fallen, blocking access to your home.
- Major flooding or storm damage requires temporary roof repairs.
- You need tarpaulins to cover damaged areas of your home.
- Information on where to access sandbags.

The SES does not undertake general maintenance tasks, such as:

- Fixing leaking roofs or clearing gutters during rain or cyclone events.
- Addressing maintenance issues related to rental properties—contact the property owner or manager for these issues before the wet season.

For the SES to access your property or roof:

- The property owner's permission is required.
- Power must be turned off for SES workers to access your roof safely.
- A licensed electrician or Ergon must be contacted to restore power after the SES has finished.





Get Ready Queensland

In Queensland, extreme weather events are a matter of “when” rather than “if.” The more prepared we are as a community, the faster we can recover afterward. The Get Ready Queensland initiative by the Queensland Government provides valuable information on disaster preparedness through detailed fact sheets, guides, and resources to help you and your family prepare for emergencies.

Each person in the Banana Shire is encouraged to take time to engage in preparedness activities around their home or business and have a discussion with family members about a Household Emergency Plan.

For more information and helpful resources, visit the Get Ready Queensland website.





Community Resilience

Community resilience refers to a community's ability to absorb and respond positively to crises. A resilient community is connected, supportive, and capable of functioning effectively despite stress and trauma. It is adaptable, learns from experience, and improves over time.

Building resilience allows us to focus on our strengths rather than our vulnerabilities, enhancing the community's ability to bounce back after a disaster. Strengthening resilience doesn't just happen during times of crisis—it's an ongoing process.

Consider these steps to help strengthen community resilience:

- Know your neighbours: Strong connections create a support network during emergencies.
- Get involved in your local community: Engagement helps build trust and knowledge.
- Prepare for disasters: Understand what to do before, during, and after a natural disaster.

By working together and staying informed, we can build a stronger, more resilient community ready to face any challenge.

GIVIT and Volunteering

GIVIT connects people in need with donors who can provide essentials such as food, clothing, and appliances. Consider donating through GIVIT during a disaster to help your fellow community members.





Important Resources

- Banana Shire Council Disaster Dashboard: Your main hub for updates on emergency events, weather warnings, and recovery efforts.
- SES (State Emergency Service): 132 500 for help during storms and emergencies.
- GIVIT: Donate or request assistance at givit.org.au.
- Queensland Government Emergency Alerts: Register for text alerts from Queensland Government.

Key Websites and Contact Information:

Here is a list of essential websites and resources to stay connected and informed during emergencies:

Category	Service/Organization	Contact Information
Emergency Services	Police, Fire, Ambulance	000 / 112
	Police (Non-Emergency)	131 444
	Ambulance Service (General Enquiries)	137468
	Queensland Fire & Emergency Services (General Enquiries)	137468
	Rural Fire Service (Rockhampton Area Office)	4938 4736
	Rural Fire Service (Gladstone Regional Office)	4899 2200
	State Emergency Service (Flood/Storm Emergency)	132500
	Electrical Life-Threatening Emergencies	000 or 131670

Category	Service/Organization	Contact Information
Local Authorities	Banana Shire Council	www.banana.qld.gov.au - 07 4992 9500
	Disaster Dashboard	www.emd.banana.qld.gov.au
	Emergencies Local Disaster Coordination Center	07 4992 3511 / 07 4992 4027
Weather and Road Conditions	Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)	www.bom.gov.au
	Queensland Government Alerts	www.qld.gov.au/alerts
	Get Ready Queensland	www.getready.qld.gov.au
	Road Closures	www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au - 13 19 40
Infrastructure & Public Services	Road Maintenance	0408 067 196
	Stock Route & Straying Stock	0427 148 783
	W&S Retic Maintenance (Burst Water Mains, Blocked Sewers) – Taroom, Theodore & Cracow	0409 376 344
	W&S Retic Maintenance (Other Areas) – Banana, Baralaba, Biloela, Callide Dam, Goovigen, Moura, Thangool, Wowan	0417 641 994
	Town Water Quality – Taroom	0409 376 344
	Town Water Quality – Theodore, Cracow	0418 986 107
	Town Water Quality – Biloela, Callide Dam, Thangool, Goovigen, Wowan, Baralaba	0418 787 033
	Town Water Quality – Moura, Banana	0419 021 584
	Dog Attacks/Menaces, Cats & Dogs Posing a Risk to Health & Safety	0448 701 140
	Environmental Incidents	1300 130 372
Animal & Environmental Issues	Wildlife Rescue Queensland	www.wildliferescuequeensland.org.au
	RSPCA	www.rspcaqld.org.au - 1300 363 736

By keeping this information accessible, you can ensure that you stay connected with the latest updates and take appropriate action during an emergency.

Category	Service/Organization	Contact Information
Health and Wellbeing	Queensland Health	www.health.qld.gov.au - 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)
	Lifeline (Counseling & Crisis Support)	www.lifeline.org.au - 13 11 14
	Beyond Blue (Mental Health Support)	1300 22 4636
Telecommunications	Telstra	www.telstra.com.au - 1800 22 44 22
Education	School Closures	www.closures.qld.edu.au/
Emergency Assistance & Recovery	GIVIT (Donation Platform)	www.givit.org.au
	Australian Government Emergency Information Line	www.disasterassist.gov.au - 180 22 66
	Centrelink	www.centrelink.gov.au
	Department of Communities – Community Recovery	1800 173 349
	Department of Housing	1800 806 197
	Legal Aid – Assistance with Insurance Claims	www.legalaid.qld.gov.au - 1300 651 188
	Queensland Disaster Management Services	www.disaster.qld.gov.au
	Red Cross	www.redcross.org.au - 1300 554 419
	Volunteering Queensland	07 3002 7600
Police Stations	Biloela	4992 2333
	Baralaba	4998 1222
	Goovigen	4996 5201
	Moura	4997 1923
	Theodore	4993 1222
	Wowan	4937 1333
	Taroom	4627 3200
Ergon Energy	Customer Service	131046
	Faults & Power Outages	www.ergon.com.au - 132296
General Emergencies	Police / Fire / Ambulance (Emergency)	000
	State Emergency Service (Flood/Storm Emergency)	132500



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07 4992 9500

www.banana.qld.gov.au

Biloela

Shire Chambers
62 Valentines Plains Road
Biloela QLD 4715

Moura

Administration Office
34 Gillespie Street
Moura QLD 4718

Taroom

Administration Office
Yaldwyn Street
Taroom QLD 4420