



Safety Plan

What to do before a cyclone:

- Listen to the radio in the emergency kit (Making sure that there are spare batteries)
- Check that the emergency kit is ready and in a nearby place
- Tie down or pack away all outdoor items and furniture
- Cover the windows with timber sheeting or tape the window with masking tape and close all doors.
- Part the car undercover (not under trees)
- Place all important documents and valuables in plastic bags/ waterproof containers and put them in a safe place
- Turn off and unplug all non-essential electrical equipment (Kettle, lamps, TV, all power points)

What to do During a cyclone:

- Listen to the battery powered radio for any warnings and advice that is given out.
- Stay safe and stay calm
- Seek shelter in the strongest parts of the building (Bathroom, toilet, or the hallway)
- Always stay inside during the eye/ centre of the cyclone

What to do During a cyclone:

- Stay inside until it is officially advised on the radio that the cyclone has passed
- Stay clear of any fallen power lines – Always assume that they are ‘Live’
- Always stay out of floodwaters
- Take care of electrical appliances which have gotten wet.

Before a flood:

Prepare your home

- Work out what the safest route to leave your property would be
 - If you are cut off by floodwaters
- Sandbags can help to protect you home when used correctly.
 - SES or the local council is the best place to start
- Might get advanced warning if a river is rising
 - Flash flooding after heavy rainfall can happen within hours or minutes when runoff or drainage can't disperse the water
- If a flood is likely, tune into the local ABDC Radio station and listen for any advice and warnings

What to do when you hear or see a flood warning:

- Identify the safest route to your nearest relief centre and leave before the roads are closed by water
- Get ready to move vehicles, outdoor equipment, garbage, chemicals, and poisons to higher locations
- Work out which indoor items you want to put in a higher spot
- Think about what you will do with the contents of your fridge and freezer
- Check your emergency kit
- Let friends, family and neighbours know what your plans are
- Consider what conditions will be like if a flood arrives and you choose not to evacuate
 - Example – will be stuck in your home with no power if there's a blackout

What to do if you need to evacuate:

- Along with your emergency kit, pack the following:
 - warm clothes
 - essential medications
 - valuables
 - personal paper
 - mobile phone and charger
 - photos and mementos in waterproof bags
- Raise furniture, clothing and other valuables onto beds, tables and into roof spaces
- Empty freezer and refrigerators, leaving the doors open
- Turn off the power, water, and gas
- Lock the house and take the safest evacuation route out of the area
- Don't drive through floodwater
- *Remember* – Walking, driving, or riding through floodwater is very dangerous
- Put sandbags in the toilet bowl and over all drains
 - This will stop sewage back-flow

During a flood:

- Avoid driving, walking, swimming, or playing in floodwater.
- If you must walk through floodwater, do so very carefully
 - Wear solid shoes
 - Use a stick to check depth and current
 - Floodwater may contain sewage
- Avoid drains, culverts and water that is knee- deep or higher.
- Stay well away from fallen powerlines
 - Electrical current passes easily through water
- Identify your nearest relief centre and safest route to get there
 - Only go if you are sure, it is safe
- Let family and friends know where you are and where you are going
- Keep listening to the local ABC Radio station on a battery- powered radio for updates and instructions

After a flood:

- Stay tuned to the local ABC Radio station on a battery – powered radio for official advice and warnings
- Don't return home until authorities have said it is safe to do so
- Don't turn on your gas or electricity until it has been checked by a professional
 - Same goes for appliances
- Don't eat any food which has been in floodwater
- Boil tap water until supplies have been declared safe
- Take lots of photos of all the damage for insurance claims
- Let your family and friends know where you are

Before a Severe Thunderstorm:

Know your Risk:

- Know the area's risk for thunderstorms
 - Most places can occur year – round and at any hour

Strengthen your home:

- Cut down or trim trees that may be in danger of falling on the house.
- Consider buying surge protectors, lightning rods, or a lightning protection system.
 - To protect the house, appliances, and electronic devices

During a Severe Thunderstorm:

- Stay indoors, move from outdoors into a building or a car with a roof
- Pay attention to any alerts and warnings
- Avoid using electronic devices connected to an electrical outlet
- Avoid running water
- Do not drive through flooded roadways

After a Severe Thunderstorm:

- Pay attention to authorities and weather forecasts for information on whether it is safe to go outside and instructions regarding potential flash flooding
- Watch for fallen power lines and trees
 - Report them immediately