



PACK

EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

- Battery-operated radio and spare batteries
- Torch and spare batteries
- Candles, lighter and waterproof matches
- Water in sealed containers (10L per person)
- Non-perishable food – enough for 3-4 days
- Portable gas stove with fuel
- Can opener and utensils
- Combination pocket knife
- First aid kit and manual
- Medication
- Toiletry and sanitary supplies
- Change of clothes and strong shoes
- Special need items for infants, the elderly and people with disabilities
- Pet food, water and other animal needs
- Cash money (ATMs may not be available)
- Personal documents (insurance certificates, photographs etc)
- Strong plastic bags (for clothing and valuables etc)
- Emergency phone numbers



LISTEN

TUNE INTO YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATION FOR UPDATES

ABC Cairns	801 AM, 106.7 & 95.5 FM
ABC Cairns (Mossman & Port Douglas)	639 AM, 90.1 FM
Zinc Cairns	102.7 FM
4CA AM	846 AM
Hot FM	103.5 FM
Sea FM	99.5 FM
4AM Port Douglas	1422 AM
Port Douglas FM	90.9 FM

www.cairns.qld.gov.au/disaster



COUNCIL'S EMERGENCY CONTACTS

For information BEFORE a cyclone	4044 3044
For information DURING a cyclone	4044 3377

Follow the Disaster Coordination Centre on

Facebook  & Twitter 

OTHER EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Police / Ambulance / Fire	000
State Emergency Service (SES)	132 500
Ergon Energy	132 296
Main Roads	131 940

preparing for cyclones

Information for residents and visitors



PLAN

Make a household emergency plan



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Pack an emergency kit



LISTEN

Stay informed

Small steps can make a world of difference. Recycled paper.



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WHAT IS A CYCLONE?

A cyclone is a violent tropical storm with very strong winds and heavy rain and can cause extensive property damage. The 'eye' or centre of a cyclone is an area made up of light winds and often clear skies. However beware, this is not the end of the cyclone, as very destructive winds from the other direction are to come.

Stay inside!

CYCLONE CATEGORIES

Category	Strongest Gust	Typical Effect
1	Less than 125 kph	Negligible house damage; damage to some crops, trees and caravans; craft may drag at moorings.
2	125-170 kph	Minor house damage; significant damage to signs; trees and caravans, heavy damage to some crops, risk of power failure, small craft may break mooring.
3	170-225 kph	Some roof and structural property damage; some caravans and crops destroyed; power failure likely.
4	225-280 kph	Significant roofing loss and structural damage; many caravans destroyed and blown away, dangerous airborne debris; widespread power failures.
5	More than 280 kph	Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction.



CYCLONE WATCH

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a Cyclone Watch 48 hours before a cyclone's predicted landfall. Information is updated every 6 hours.

CYCLONE WARNING

A Cyclone Warning is issued as soon as stronger winds are expected to affect coastal or island communities within 24 hours. It will tell you where the Cyclone is, its movements, how strong it is and predict the areas that are being threatened. Forecasts of heavy rainfall, flooding and storm surge are included where necessary.

Residents and visitors should take immediate precautions necessary to safeguard their lives and property.



PLAN

BEFORE THE CYCLONE

- Listen to your radio (ensure you have spare batteries)
- Check your Emergency Kit is ready and nearby
- Tie down or pack away all outdoor items and furniture
- Cover windows/doors with timber sheeting, or tape across the glass with masking tape and close all doors
- Make sure your vehicle is full of fuel and park undercover if possible
- Ensure your boat and caravan is garaged, or if not, make every effort to secure it with strong ropes to a dependable anchor point
- Evacuate from caravans and tents
- If visiting the area, talk to your accommodation provider about what you should do and where you can go
- Fill drinking containers and your bathtub and wheelie bin with water – this water can be used to flush toilets if water supplies are affected
- Freeze water in case of power failure
- Place important documents and valuables in plastic bags or other waterproof containers and put in a safe place
- Turn off and unplug all non-essential electrical equipment

DURING THE CYCLONE

- Continue to listen to your battery-powered radio for all warnings and advices
- Stay inside and keep yourself and your family calm
- Shelter in the strongest part of the building, this is often the bathroom, toilet or hallway
- Mattresses and blankets may protect you
- Beware of the calm eye/centre of the cyclone – **Stay inside!**

AFTER THE CYCLONE

- Stay inside until officially advised on the radio that the cyclone has passed
- Stay well clear of fallen lines! Always assume that fallen powerlines are 'live'
- Stay out of floodwaters

WHAT IS A STORM SURGE?

A storm surge is a rise in the ocean level associated with cyclones.

Storm surge is caused by high winds pushing on the ocean's surface and the lower than normal air pressure from the storm. As a cyclone reaches the coast the huge winds whip up the sea and push the dome of water over low-lying coastal areas, causing flooding, damaging buildings and cutting off evacuation routes.

Detailed maps indicating storm surge zones for the Cairns Regional Council area are available by going to Council's website: www.cairns.qld.gov.au/disaster

EVACUATION PROCEDURES

- Unless you have been advised to evacuate, always stay inside and keep yourself and your family calm
- Listen to your radio for evacuation information
- If you are in a storm surge vulnerable area you are encouraged to make pre-arrangements for more comfortable temporary accommodation with family or friends in "higher places", should the need to evacuate arise
- If you have to evacuate, emergency service workers may doorknock your street to direct you to a safer place
- Council has designated Evacuation Centres for people with no alternatives. They do not permit pets, alcohol or weapons
- Turn off all non-essential electrical/gas appliances before leaving
- Take your Emergency Kit with you plus bed linen and towels if possible

For more information on preparing for cyclones, visit the Council website

www.cairns.qld.gov.au/disaster

