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 under cover if possible
- Ensure your boat and/or caravan is garaged, or if not, make every effort to secure it with strong ropes to a dependable anchor point
- Evacuate 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 unplugged non-essential electrical equipment

DURING THE CYCLONE
- Continue to listen to your battery-powered radio for all warnings and advice
- Stay safe inside and keep 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
- Take care with electrical appliances which may have gotten wet.

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 multi-tool
First aid kit and manual
Medication
Toiletry and sanitary supplies
Change of clothes and strong shoes
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

You may not be able to use these items at a place of refuge.
**About cyclones**

**What is a cyclone?**
A cyclone is a violent tropical storm with very strong winds and heavy rain which 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. Very destructive winds from the other direction are to come. Stay inside!

**Cyclone categories**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Gust (kph)</th>
<th>Typical Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>90-124</td>
<td>Negligible house damage; damage to some crops, trees and caravans; craft may drag at moorings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>125-164</td>
<td>Minor house damage; significant damage to signs; trees and caravans, heavy damage to some crops, risk of power failure, small craft may break mooring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>165-224</td>
<td>Some roof and structural property damage; some caravans and crops destroyed; power failure likely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>225-279</td>
<td>Significant roofing loss and structural damage; many caravans destroyed and blown away, dangerous airborne debris; widespread power failures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>More than 280</td>
<td>Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**About storm surges**

**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 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.

**Evacuation procedures**

**When and why you should evacuate**
For cyclones affecting the Cairns region, evacuation will only be ordered if a storm tide surge is expected in developed areas.
- Unless you have been advised to evacuate, make yourself secure inside at home and keep calm.
- If you live in a storm surge zone you should make pre-arrangements for safer temporary accommodation with family or friends in "higher places", outside threatened zones. This is your best option.
- If an evacuation has been advised or ordered, places of refuge will be activated for people with no alternatives. Pets, alcohol and weapons are not allowed.
- Take your household emergency kit, bedding and towels if you need to leave home. Only essential items are allowed at shelters and places of refuge.
- Accommodation providers will assist their clients.
- Register your details on the National Registration and Inquiry System by phoning 1800 727 077 or on line at www.redcross.org.au

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**CYCLONE WATCH**
The Bureau of Meteorology issues a Cyclone Watch 48 hours before a cyclone’s predicted landfall. Information is updated every six 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 being threatened. Forecasts of heavy rain, flooding and storm surge are included where necessary. Residents and visitors to Cairns should take immediate precautions to safeguard their lives and property.