Storm Tide Cyclone Shelter options for Cairns Residents

Everybody living in a cyclone-prone area should have a household emergency plan, which includes evacuation and shelter considerations. Residents should plan and prepare to shelter in a secure place either at home or with shelter in a safer place.

Tropical cyclones contain a range of dangerous hazards that include local rises in sea level known as storm surge/tide. When a storm surge arrives on top of a high tide, the resulting inundation can reach areas that might otherwise have been safe. This is the only circumstance leading to evacuation for cyclones in the Cairns region.

It is critical that you and your household have thought through and planned for your safety before the cyclone season. You need to develop your household emergency plan so you can make safe decisions and preparations at the beginning of the season, especially about where you will shelter during a cyclone.

1. **PLAN**
   - Make a household emergency plan

2. **PACK**
   - Pack an emergency kit

3. **LISTEN**
   - Stay informed

DON'T KNOW? Contact your local council, social media, local radio or credible websites.

For further information:
- Council social media: Twitter: www.twitter.com/Cairns DCC
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/CairnsDCC
- Bureau of Meteorology - QLD Tropical Cyclone
- Cairns evacuation maps are available at www.QldAlert.com
- www.qld.gov.au/getready
- 1300 659 212
- 1800 727 077 or online at www.redcross.org.au

Council Resources and Contacts:
- Register your details on the National Registration and Inquiry System by phoning 1300 659 212.
- Council social media: Twitter: www.twitter.com/Cairns DCC
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/CairnsDCC

Advice on the activation and location of such centres includes evacuation and shelter.

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Consider your storm tide risk and shelter options:

The best option for most people during a tropical cyclone is to shelter in their homes (shelter in place).

Find out if you need to plan and prepare to evacuate and seek shelter in a safer place by answering the following questions.

1. Is your home in a storm tide evacuation zone?
   - NO
   - YES
   - DON’T KNOW? Contact your local council if you are unsure.

2. Was your home built before 1982 or is your home in bad condition?
   - NO
   - YES
   - DON’T KNOW? Contact your local council if you are unsure. If you rent your home, contact your real estate agent or the home owner.

3. Do you live alone or have special needs?
   - NO
   - YES
   - Develop an evacuation and shelter plan with your care provider or contact the Cairns Disaster Management Unit.

Shelter in Place

Evacuate and shelter in a safer place

Cairns evacuation maps are available at www.cairns.qld.gov.au/disaster (follow the links to the Storm Tide Evacuation Guide).
**SHELTER IN PLACE**
If your home is safe, then plan and prepare now to shelter in place.

Plan and prepare to SHELTER IN PLACE (you can offer to shelter your friends and family).

If you answered no to all three questions in the diagram (on left), this is your best option.

- You will be more comfortable sheltering in your own home and can keep your pets with you.
- You still need to plan and prepare now – by following these steps:
  » Plan – make a household emergency plan;
  » Pack – pack an emergency kit;
  » Listen – stay informed. Identify your best options to tune into warnings (council social media, local radio or credible websites);
  » Prepare your home – check your roof is in good condition, keep gutters and downpipes clear, trim trees and overhanging branches, check and fix any corrosion, rotten timber, termite infestations and loose fittings; and
  » Identify the strongest room in your home. This is usually the smallest room with the least number of windows and external walls.

Following these steps will assist you and your household’s preparations for a cyclone.

**EVACUATE & SHELTER IN A SAFER PLACE**
If your home is not safe, then plan and prepare now so you can evacuate and shelter in a safer place.

Plan and prepare now so you can EVACUATE and shelter in a safer place.

If you answered yes to any of the questions in the diagram (on left), your best options are to:

- pre-arrange to evacuate and shelter with family or friends that live in a safer place – outside the storm tide zone, in a well maintained building/home built after 1982, or otherwise have been pre-arranged to leave the area altogether and shelter in another town outside of the storm tide zone (with family, friends or at a motel);
- Check now if you will be able to take your pets with you and determine what pet supplies you will need to prepare and take in your evacuation kit;
- Consider how you will get to your safer location and when you will need to leave;
- You may need to sustain yourself and your family for a few days, so ensure you have prepared supplies to take with you in your emergency kit – including food, water, change of clothing, medications, toiletries, radio, spare batteries, bed linen and towels etc. If you have children, take some games or toys for them. Take important personal and household documents, credit cards and cash; and
- When you enact your evacuation plan, ensure you leave early, before storm tide inundation or strong winds affect your area.
- Register your details on the National Registration and Inquiry System by phoning 1800 727 077 or online at www.redcross.org.au

For further information:
- Visit the Queensland Government’s website www.qld.gov.au/getready or call the Tropical Cyclone Hotline on 1300 659 212 or visit your local council website,
- Watch or listen to local news and radio announcements,
- Follow your local council’s social media accounts and websites, and
- Register your details on the National Registration and Inquiry System by phoning 1800 727 077 or online at www.redcross.org.au

**Warnings:**
- www.QldAlert.com

**Other Resources and Information:**
- www.twitter.com/Cairns DCC
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/CairnsDCC

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Public Shelter Options

Storm Tide Cyclone Shelters and local buildings activated as a Place of Refuge are the last option for residents that live in a storm tide zone, have exhausted all other shelter options and are unable to leave the warning area. Both types of facilities are intended as a short-term shelter option (up to 18 hours) and have very basic amenities.

You will be much more comfortable sheltering at home, or with family or friends located in an area outside storm tide zones or in commercial accommodation in a location outside storm tide areas.

People in storm tide zones with no other sheltering option will be advised when the Storm Tide Cyclone Shelter and any other local places of refuge are activated, via local radio stations and the council website. The location of these centres will be included in this advice.

Limitations of Storm Tide Cyclone Shelters and designated Places of Refuge

These facilities have limited capacity and will be used to accommodate as many people as possible. This means there will be limited space and you need to be aware of the following:

- You will need to sit in a chair and will not be able to lie or sit on a mattress or stretcher;
- Domestic pets and other animals are not allowed in the shelter. You need to make other arrangements for sheltering your pets prior to cyclone season. Note: Assistance animals are allowed into the shelter to stay with their owners;
- All personal belongings are to be kept within a backpack or small bag able to fit under a chair;
• You will need to be self-sufficient and support yourself and your family for the duration of the shelter period, so you need to include personal medications, essential non-perishable food and refreshments, identification papers and essential personal items. Anything deemed oversized and / or unnecessary will not allowed;

• There are no cooking facilities, limited bathroom facilities and limited medical support provided;

• There will be limited transport and parking options; and

• **When using a Storm Tide Cyclone Shelter: You may be in the facility for up to 18 hours or more.** During this time the building will be “locked down” when the cyclone is passing. To ensure the structural integrity of the building and the safety of occupants during this time, there will be no ability to enter OR leave the shelter.

### Storm Tide Cyclone Shelter Conditions of Entry

• Everyone seeking entry to a Storm Tide Cyclone Shelter will be required to agree to conditions outlined in the Storm Tide Cyclone Shelter Code of Conduct;

• Any person unable or unwilling to abide by these conditions will need to make alternate sheltering arrangements (e.g. sheltering with family or friends located outside the storm tide evacuation zone or leaving the area that is subject to the cyclone and storm tide impacts); and

• Shelter occupants who do not comply with the Code of Conduct prior to lock down may be required to leave the facility. Occupants who do not comply with the Code of Conduct after lock down may be prosecuted.
Prohibited items

It is a condition of entry that prohibited items must not be brought into the shelter, these include:

» Alcohol;

» Weapons including knives or similar edged items; and

» Non-prescription drugs and associated items.

People seeking entry to the shelter will have to surrender any prohibited items. You and your belongings may be searched by a Queensland Police Service officer if officers have a reasonable belief that such items have been taken into the shelter.

Storm Tide Cyclone Shelter Code of Conduct

Everyone occupying the shelter will:

• Provide the required registration details to shelter management staff prior to entry;

• Follow the directions of shelter management staff;

• Not use anything that is dangerous or interferes with the health and comfort of yourself and others. Non-compliance may result in prosecution;

• Be mindful of the large number of people in a small space and keep calm;

• Not intentionally cause damage to the shelter building, furniture, fittings and fixtures and immediately report any accidental damage, incidents of vandalism, theft and / or other illegal activity to shelter management staff;
• Supervise all children closely. Children remain the responsibility of parents or guardians and must be accompanied to the toilets and showers by a parent or guardian;

• Wear footwear at all times for safety and hygiene reasons;

• Occupy the seat allocated to them by the Shelter Management staff and stow personal items below that chair. Occupants are responsible for the security of their own valuables;

• Keep walkways and emergency exits clear;

• Remain within the main area of the shelter and not enter storerooms, kitchens or office space unless requested or permitted by Shelter Management staff;

• Respect others and not shout, yell or use loud obscene language;

• Use earphones to listen to personal music / electronic devices;

• Only use shower facilities at the direction of Shelter Management staff;

• Keep clean and dispose of rubbish in the bins provided; and

• Notify shelter management staff of any medical emergency or other critical incidents.

RESPECT

No smoking
Post event support for impacted residents

Depending on the scale of the event, local Evacuation Centres and Recovery Centres may be established after the event to support affected residents with short term accommodation and a range of recovery services.

Advice on the activation and location of such centres will be provided by local authorities at the appropriate time.

For further information:

Council Resources and Contacts:

- Council contact centre phone: 40443077
- Council social media:
  - Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CairnsDCC](http://www.facebook.com/CairnsDCC)
  - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/Cairns DCC](http://www.twitter.com/Cairns DCC)

Other Resources and Information:

- [www.QldAlert.com](http://www.QldAlert.com)
- Bureau of Meteorology - QLD Tropical Cyclone Warnings:
  - 1300 659 212

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