By nature of our tropical coastal location, the Cairns region is prone to threats from cyclone and storm tide inundation.

All threats outlined in the Cairns Local Disaster Management Plan could, at some time, warrant an evacuation of certain areas within our region.

In the event of a cyclone, evacuation will only be ordered if a storm tide surge is expected to inundate developed areas. If storm tide flooding is not a threat, advice will be given to residents to make themselves secure in their own home. You should remain in your home and listen to the radio/TV for updates. Your home is often the safest place for you and your family.

Members of the community who feel they do not have secure surroundings should make alternative arrangements.

Cairns Regional Council’s disaster evacuation is based on self evacuation. On activation, advice will be given to seek temporary accommodation with family and friends in safer ‘higher’ locations.

If you are told to evacuate you should make your way to family or friends in ‘higher places’ outside threatened zones. Evacuation centres will be activated for those residents from low lying areas, with no alternative accommodation.

Evacuation centres do not allow pets, alcohol or weapons and may become very crowded prior to an event.

What should I take with me if I have to evacuate?
Take your emergency/evacuation 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.

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Storm Surge

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 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.

*Australian Height Datum (AHD)*: is the term used to describe the reference level for defining ground levels in Australia. The level of 0.0m AHD is approximately sea level.

What if I am in a Storm Surge area?

- 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.
Cyclones

What is a Cyclone?

A cyclone is a violent tropical storm with very strong winds and heavy rain that can cause extensive property damage and injuries to people. 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 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 that are being threatened. Forecasts of heavy rainfall, flooding and storm surge are included where necessary.

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

Cyclone Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>STRONGEST GUST</th>
<th>TYPICAL EFFECT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Less than 125km/hr</td>
<td>Negligible house damage; damage to some crops, trees and caravans; craft may drag at moorings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>125-170km/hr</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>170-225km/hr</td>
<td>Some roof and structural property damage; some caravans and crops destroyed; power failure likely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>225-280km/hr</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 280km/hr</td>
<td>Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tropical Cyclone Yasi, 2 February 2011. Satellite image originally processed by the Bureau of Meteorology from the geostationary meteorological satellite MTSAT-2 operated by the Japan Meteorological Agency.
Evacuation Maps

How to use Evacuation Maps

The evacuation maps enclosed in this booklet are to inform residents of predicted storm tide flooding associated with a tropical cyclone.

The storm tide evacuation maps identify where flooding may occur if a storm tide is predicted. There are three different coloured zones on each map.

Identify where your residence is located on the map and familiarise yourself with your evacuation zone and routes using the overview detailed evacuation maps (if applicable).

If you are in a Red, Orange or Yellow zone, you may be at risk of flooding from a storm tide. The height of the predicted storm tide will determine which zones will be affected.

If you are not located in a coloured zone, you are outside the predicted threat area (on higher ground).

During a disaster event, stay tuned to local ABC and/or commercial radio and TV stations for updates or online using:

Council disaster webpage
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/disaster

Facebook
www.facebook.com/CairnsDCC

Twitter
www.twitter.com/CairnsDCC
If an evacuation order is announced for a **Red**, **Orange** or **Yellow** zone, affected residents should move out of the area using the most direct evacuation route.

Households situated in red, orange or yellow zones may have a corresponding sticker in their electricity meter box or cupboard under the kitchen sink. If you are not located in a coloured zone, you are outside the predicted threat area (on higher ground).

### Evacuation Zones

**RED ZONE**: These properties face the **highest risk** of coastal flooding from a storm tide. They may experience flooding in areas located up to 2 metres above AHD.

**ORANGE ZONE**: These properties face a **high risk** of coastal flooding from a storm tide. They may experience flooding in areas located between 2 and 3 metres above AHD.

**YELLOW ZONE**: These properties face a **moderate risk** of coastal flooding from a storm tide. They may experience flooding in areas located between 3 and 4.5 metres above AHD.

**Australian Height Datum (AHD)**: is the term used to describe the reference level for defining ground levels in Australia. The level of 0.0m AHD is approximately sea level.
Evacuation Maps Legend

Storm Tide Evacuation Zones

RESIDENTS IN RED ZONE face the highest risk of flooding from a cyclone storm tide.

RESIDENTS IN ORANGE ZONE face a high risk of flooding from a cyclone storm tide.

RESIDENTS IN YELLOW ZONE face a moderate risk of flooding from a cyclone storm tide.

→ Primary Evacuation Route

→ Alternative Evacuation Route

Parks, Open Space and Sports Grounds

How to use the Storm Tide Evacuation Maps

• Identify where your residence is located on the map.
• If your property is coloured in a red, orange, or yellow evacuation zone, you may be at risk from storm tide flooding.
• If your residence is not coloured you are NOT in an evacuation zone and should read Cairns Regional Council’s advice on planning for disasters.
• If your residence is coloured, identify the primary and/or alternative evacuation routes to your pre-determined safer location on higher ground.
• During an event, stay tuned to local radio, Council’s disaster website and/or Facebook/Twitter sites for updates and advice on evacuations.
• Colour coding of evacuation zones has been provided to the boundary level for properties up to 1 acre (4047m²), if several zones occur then the property is coloured to the highest risk.

Disclaimer

Storm Tide Evacuation Zones are modelled using geographical data and may not be an exact representation of what an event may result in.

Evacuation Zones are designed to provide an easy to understand method for the public to identify coastal areas that may be affected by storm tides caused by tropical cyclones or severe coastal storms. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, Cairns Regional Council makes no representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitations, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damages) and costs which you might incur as a result of the data.

Photograph courtesy of Martin Durkan.

Cyclone Yasi 2011: Storm tide at Cairns Esplanade Lagoon.
AREA 1 - CAIRNS CBD
Barron River to Trinity Inlet
EVACUATION ROUTES OVERVIEW

MAP 1-301

MAP 1-302
MAP 1-303
MAP 1-304
MAP 1-305
AREA 1 - CAIRNS CBD
Cairns CBD (South)
EVACUATION ROUTES

EVACUATION ROUTES
MAP 1-304
The residents of Russell Heads to Evacuate by private boat to Deeral Landing, or Bellenden Ker Boat ramp, then by road to Babinda.
Our Household Evacuation Plan

**HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DESIGNATED EVACUATION DESTINATION**

*(Family and friends in ‘higher’ locations)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PREFERRED EVACUATION ROUTE**

*..............................*

**STRONGEST ROOM IN THE HOUSE**

*..............................*

**OUR EMERGENCY KIT IS LOCATED**

*..............................*

**ESSENTIAL MEDICATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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**INSURANCE DETAILS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Insurer</th>
<th>Policy No</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(home)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(contents)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(vehicle)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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**OUR EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICE/FIRE/AMBULANCE</th>
<th>000</th>
<th>SES</th>
<th>13 2500</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(for Life Threatening emergencies)</td>
<td>112 from Mobiles</td>
<td>Local Disaster Coordination Centre</td>
<td>4044 3377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ergon</td>
<td>13 1670</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Roads</td>
<td>13 1940</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinarian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our property is located in *evacuation zone* *(tick circle):*  
- RED  
- ORANGE  
- YELLOW  
- NONE

---

**OUR HOUSEHOLD EVACUATION PLAN**

Use this template as a guide to creating your household evacuation plan and keep a copy in a handy place like on the fridge.

---

**INFORMATION**

[29] Storm Tide Evacuation Guide
Plan / Pack / Listen - Evacuation Strategy

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, 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 advice
- 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 powerlines! Always assume that fallen powerlines are ‘live’
- Stay out of floodwaters

KEEP UP TO DATE ONLINE
- Council disaster webpage
  www.cairns.qld.gov.au/disaster
- Facebook
  www.facebook.com/CairnsDCC
- Twitter
  www.twitter.com/CairnsDCC
Emergency Evacuation Checklist

- Battery-operated radio (with spare batteries)
- Torch (with spare batteries)
- Candles, lighter and waterproof matches
- First aid kit and manual
- Combination pocket knife
- Portable (gas) stove with fuel
- Cooking gear
- Water in sealed containers (10L per person)
- Medications - additional supplies
- Toiletry and sanitary supplies
- Change of clothes and strong shoes
- Non-perishable food (cans) – enough for 3-4 days (can opener and utensils)
- Special needs for infants, the aged and people with disabilities
- Pet food, water and other animal needs
- Tent or tarpaulin, and blankets/bed linen
- Other camping equipment
- Cash money
- Personal documents (insurance certificates, photographs etc)
- Strong plastic bags (for clothing and valuables etc)
- Emergency phone numbers

Radio Stations

Tune into your local radio station for the latest emergency information:

- ABC Cairns - 106.7 FM, 95.5 FM, 801 AM
- ABC Cairns (Mossman & Port Douglas) - 639 AM, 90.1 FM
- Zinc FM - 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
- Country Mossman - 87.6 FM
- Community Radio - 89.1 FM

Emergency Contacts

For information **DURING** a cyclone phone 4044 3377.

Warnings and other emergency information will be made available to Cairns local radio and television stations for broadcast.

**QUICKFIND EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

**Police/Fire/Ambulance**
Phone: **000** for Life Threatening emergencies

**Disaster Coordinating Centre**
Phone: **(07) 4044 3377**

**State Emergency Service (SES)**
Phone: **13 2500**

**Ergon Energy**
Phone: **13 1670**

**Main Roads**
Phone: **13 1940**
Council Administration Centre: 119-145 Spence Street, Cairns.
Mossman Administration Centre: 64-66 Front Street, Mossman
Postal Address: PO Box 359 Cairns Qld 4870
Email: council@cairns.qld.gov.au
Phone: (07) 4044 3044
Fax: (07) 4044 3022

www.cairns.qld.gov.au/disaster
www.facebook.com/CairnsDCC
www.twitter.com/CairnsDCC