

# FLOOD: READINESS & SAFETY

With the Wet Season approaching you should make sure you and your family are Storm ready. With these few simple steps you may mitigate the damage and make sure you and your family get through this season safely.

## BEFORE, PREPARE YOUR HOME

- Develop an emergency plan with the rest of your household.
- Know your nearest safe high ground and the safest access route to it.
- Clear your property of loose items.
- Relocate garbage, chemicals and poisons to a safe location well above flood threat level.
- Check the condition of your roof and repair any loose tiles, eaves, screws and sealing any leaks.
- Trim trees and overhanging branches.
- Clear gutters and downpipes to ensure water can drain away freely.
- Identify which items you need to raise or empty if flooding threatens your home.
- Consider alternatives to carpet floor coverings.
- Consider relocating electrical sockets and power points well above floor level.

## BEFORE, PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT

**Having an emergency kit is an important step to prepare for, survive and cope with emergencies. All householders should know where the Emergency kit is kept and update the contents of your kit regularly.**

- 3 days supply of bottled water, non-perishable food items like dried or canned food, and a can opener including pet food and water for animals;
- Mobile phone/ charger & additional power batteries;
- Portable battery radio, torch and spare batteries;
- Matches, lamps, portable stove, cooking & eating utensils;
- First aid kit and manual, essential medications, prescriptions and adequate supply/ dosage; Insect repellent;
- Toiletries including toilet paper;
- Masking tape for windows and waterproof bags;
- Waterproof jacket, hat and gloves for everyone;
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers on display;
- Important documents, in sealed bags, including some cash;
- Special items for infants & elderly or people with special needs.

## FLOOD WARNING ISSUED

**Local authorities may issue FLOOD warnings as the event evolves; the following actions may be warranted.**

- Find your evacuation zone and evacuation route.
- Pack an evacuation kit.
- If requested by authorities, collect children from school or childcare centre and go home.
- Listen to your local radio/ TV for further information and warnings.
- Check your emergency kit and fill water containers.
- Disconnect electrical items.
- Know how to turn off water, power and gas mains supply.
- Re-check your property for any outdoor furniture or loose material.
- Secure boats in safe anchorage.
- Sandbag your property, the toilet bowl and indoor drains to prevent back-flow.
- Check that neighbours are aware of the situation and are preparing.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

**In an emergency always call 000 for Police, Ambulance or Fire brigade.**

**State Emergency Service (SES) - Call 132 500 for assistance following events like severe storms and floods.**

## DURING THE FLOOD

- Stay in a safe location. Move to higher storey if possible.
- Remember, if it's flooded, forget it - do not enter floodwaters. Do not drive or play in flood waters.
- Stay updated with emergency alerts and heed all warnings and advice.
- Preserve the power of electronic devices such as mobile phones and laptops. Use battery operated radio where possible.
- The water could be contaminated, and hazards may be hidden by the water.
- Limit the opening and closing of the fridge and freezer. This allows the food to stay cool.
- Boil any tap water in case of contamination.



## PREPARE AN EVACUATION KIT

- Your emergency kit, including emergency numbers, plus:
- Multiple changes of clothes for all household members, stored in watertight bags. Long sleeve shirts, long pants, strong shoes and hats are recommended.
- Pillows and sleeping bags and or blankets for each household member.
- Important documents, such as passports, visas, birth and marriage certificates, bank account cards and details, stock bonds, Medicare cards, Health records, insurance records, house mortgage/ deeds, wills and life insurance details.
- Laptop computers and back-ups of important files.
- Valuables, photos, mementos in waterproof bags.
- Inventory of household goods.

## WHEN LOCAL EVACUATION IS ISSUED

**Depending on the nature of the event, official advice may be given to evacuate on local radio/TV regarding safe routes and when to move.**

- Has official advice been given to evacuate?
- Have you planned where you will be evacuating to? Is it further inland, on higher ground and secure?
- Do you have a preferred route and alternative in case roads are blocked?
- If evacuating out of town, leave early to avoid heavy traffic, flooding and wind hazards.
- Do you have enough petrol in your vehicle?
- Are you dressed appropriately, strong shoes (not thongs) and tough clothing for protection?
- Sandbag in the toilet bowl and internal drains to avoid sewage back-flow.
- Lock doors; turn off electricity, gas, and water; take your evacuation and emergency kits.
- If going to a public shelter, take bedding needs and books or games for children.
- Have you packed your emergency water supplies?
- Are your pets safe and secure?
- Have you checked on neighbours who are elderly or disabled?
- Follow police and State/Territory Emergency Services directions

## AFTER THE FLOOD

- If you have evacuated, or did so earlier, don't return until advised. Use a recommended route and don't rush. Beware of damaged powerlines, bridges, buildings, trees, and don't enter floodwaters.
- Do not return to a flood zone until there is official advice it is safe to do so. Wait until the water has fallen below floor level to enter a house.
- Check whether electricity, gas or water supplies have been affected. Check for gas leaks and treat all electrical items with extreme caution and don't use electric appliances that have been wet.
- Beware of fallen powerlines and trees.
- Follow any instructions for treating water and discard any food exposed to floodwater.
- Treat all items exposed to floodwater as contaminated. Bury or dispose of rubbish, wash away mud, dirt or debris as soon as you can.
- Wash yourself thoroughly after handling anything that has been in contact with floodwater.
- Take photos of any items which could become a health and safety hazard and throw them out. Keep your home well ventilated to help it dry, but do not leave your home open when unattended.
- Heed all warnings and don't go sightseeing.
- Check and help neighbours.
- Contact emergency services if you need help.

