

Glossary of Suggested Warning Phrases

General Advice:

Check your family, friends and neighbours know what to do. Help them if you can.
Charge all electronic devices including mobile phones and torches.
Get ready to take your pets, mobile phone charger, battery-powered radio, torch, and valuables like photos, cash, and important documents (like identification, insurance, or banking records).
Limit use of devices to save batteries. Listen to local radio for updates.
Listen to your local radio station for warnings and traffic updates.
Mobile phones and internet might not work.
Warn family, friends, and neighbours in the area. Help others if you can.

Power:

Be ready to turn off power, solar, water and gas to your house if you can and if it is safe.
Be aware of fallen powerlines, trees, and other hazards.
Be prepared to have no power. Charge mobile phones and other electronic devices now.
Power is off in some places. These will be restored when it is safe.
You may lose services like power, communications, water, sewerage, and gas.

Water Supply:

Allow tap water to cool to a reasonable temperature before drinking.
Boil and conserve water for drinking, cooking, and bathing, in case water supplies are impacted.
Bottled water can be collected from [address].
Drink bottled water if available or boil tap water before drinking.
Fill up containers and the bath with clean water for drinking in case the water supply is cut off.
Monitor water in your household to ensure it runs clear before consuming.
Prepare baby formula and beverages in advance.
Some places do not have clean water. Tap water is not safe to drink.
Water supply [might be / has been] impacted. Drink only water from your emergency supply.

Flood:

Block toilets, sinks and drains with sandbags to stop sewerage backflow if you can.
Consider the consequences of road and bridge closures. Damage to roads, bridges or buildings caused by flooding and landslip may exist in your area. Consider the need to make alternate arrangements for work, children, and travel.
Decide how you will get to your safe place. If you come to a flooded road, turn around and go another way. Do not drive, walk, or swim through flood water.
Decide if you, and the people you live with, will leave if floodwaters get close to your house. Decide where you will go if you decide to leave.
Drive to conditions and remain alert. Be aware of road hazards including mud, debris, and water in low lying areas.
Driving now is dangerous. Find a high safe place to pull over away from trees, creeks, and rivers. Floodwater is dangerous - do not drive through floodwater. If the road is flooded, go a different way.
Get and fill sandbags in case you need to block doors and stop water getting inside. You can get sandbags from XX.
Go and stay in a safe place in a high part of [town/your suburb/your city] away from creeks and rivers.
Go to a safe place, away from flooding. This could be with family or a friend.
If floodwater comes inside, move to a higher point like the kitchen bench or second storey and call Triple Zero (000).
If you come to a flooded road, turn around and go another way. Do not drive through floodwater. Do not walk or swim through flood water.
Lift important things onto bed, tables, shelves or upstairs to protect them.
Lift waste containers, chemicals, and poisons up high to stop them polluting the water.
Some places do not have clean water. Tap water is not safe to drink.
Stay where you are and get up as high as you safely can. This could be upstairs or on the roof if it is safe to do so.
You may be isolated for an extended period of time. Make sure you have essential supplies to last for [three / five / other] days, including food, drinking water, medications, pet food, and livestock feed.

Severe Weather (Dust Storm):

Close all windows and doors, turn aircon on re-circulate mode.
Do not go sight-seeing. Keep roads clear for emergency services.
Driving now is dangerous due to low visibility. Seek shelter indoors away from the impact of dust.
Visibility can be low during a dust storm, avoid driving where possible. Watch for road hazards.

Severe Weather (Thunderstorm):

Be alert and prepared for strong winds, rain, and lightning.
Clean up around your home and tie down anything outside that could blow away in strong winds.
Find out how to get ready for a thunderstorm and pack an emergency kit at Get Ready Queensland website.
Stay indoors. Lightning and hail is possible.
Strong winds, rain and flooding will make conditions dangerous.

Severe Weather (Tropical Low):

Block toilets, sinks and drains with sandbags to stop sewerage backflow if you can.
Consider the consequences of road and bridge closures. Damage to roads, bridges or buildings caused by flooding and landslip may exist in your area. Consider the need to make alternate arrangements for work, children, and travel.
Decide how you will get to your safe place. If you come to a flooded road, turn around and go another way. Do not drive, walk, or swim through flood water.
Decide if you and the people you live with will leave if floodwaters get close to your house.
Find out how to get ready for severe weather and pack an emergency kit at Get Ready Queensland website .
Get and fill sandbags in case you need to stop water getting inside. You can get sandbags from XX .
You may be isolated for an extended period of time. Make sure you have essential supplies to last for [three / five / other] days, including food, drinking water, medications, pet food, and livestock feed.

Tropical Cyclone:

Boil and conserve water for drinking, cooking, and bathing, in case water supplies are impacted.
Clean up around your home and tie down anything outside that could blow away in strong winds.
Close cyclone shutters if you have them, or cover windows with plywood, mattress, or heavy blanket.
Do not go sight-seeing. Keep roads clear for emergency services.
Do not use gas or generators inside. Fumes can be deadly.
Fill up containers and the bath with clean water for drinking in case the water supply is cut off.
Fill your car with fuel or charge it. Park it undercover. Do not park under a tree.
Find out how to get ready for a tropical cyclone and pack an emergency kit at Get Ready Queensland website .
Find the strongest and safest room in the building you are in. This will be away from big windows. It could be a bathroom, walk-in wardrobe, or hallway. Shelter here when the tropical cyclone comes.
If the roof comes off, shelter under your mattress and blankets.
If you are near the beach or a coastal waterway, storm surge could cause flooding. This is dangerous. Decide now where you will evacuate to.
If you have evacuated, stay where you are until you are told it is safe to leave.
If your home is not safe, plan to stay with family or friends.
Move outdoor furniture inside or sink it in your pool so it doesn't fly around in strong winds.
Put your emergency kit in your safe room.
Roads may be blocked or badly damaged.
Stay away from creeks, rivers, and floodwater.
Stay in your safe place until you are told it is safe. This could take several hours.
Store or tie down outside items, like caravans, boats, trailers, outdoor furniture, gas bottles, toys and play equipment.
You may be isolated for an extended period of time. Make sure you have essential supplies to last for [three / five / other] days, including food, drinking water, medications, pet food, and livestock feed.

Tropical Cyclone (Storm Surge):

Be aware of road hazards including mud and debris.
Collect or create sandbags by filling pillowcases or shopping bags with sand and place them around doorways, in toilets and over drains to prevent rising sewage.
Consider the consequences of road and bridge closures. Damage to roads, bridges or buildings caused by storm surge and landslip may exist in your area.
Decide if you, and the people you live with, will leave if floodwaters get close to your house.
Do not drive through floodwater. If the road is flooded, go a different way.
Drive slowly, plan your route carefully to avoid any flooded roads and allow extra travel time.
Driving now is dangerous. Find a high safe place to pull over away from trees, creeks, and rivers.
Get and fill sandbags in case you need to block doors and stop water getting inside. You can get sandbags from XX .
Get your family members, pets and emergency kit and go to a safe place away from the storm surge.
If floodwater comes inside, move to a higher point like the kitchen bench or second storey and call Triple Zero (000).
If you cannot shelter inside, get to higher ground away from trees. Trees can fall down when the ground is very wet.
If you did not leave, stay in your safe place until flood waters go down.
If you evacuated, stay where you are until you are told it safe to go back.
Lift important things onto bed, tables, shelves or upstairs to protect them.
Lift waste containers, chemicals, and poisons up high to stop them polluting the water.
Move away from creeks, rivers and drains.
Remain aware as there could be water in low lying areas.
Stay where you are and get up as high as you safely can. This could be upstairs or on the roof if it is safe to do so.
Strong winds, rain and flooding will make driving dangerous. Slow down and be careful.
You may be isolated for an extended period of time. Make sure you have essential supplies to last for [three / five / other] days, including food, drinking water, medications, pet food, and livestock feed.

Boat or Jet Ski:

Check your area's Extreme Weather Contingency Plan on the Maritime Safety Queensland website .
If your boat is in a marina, batten down and check-in with the marina manager.
If your boat is kept on the water, relocate it to a safer mooring if possible.
Take your boat, jet-ski, canoe or kayak out of the water and store securely.

Children:

If you have children make sure they are with you or an adult you trust.

If you choose to leave now, consider the consequences of road conditions and closures, and make alternate arrangements for work, children, and travel.

Pack enough clothes, food, water, medicine, baby items (like nappies, formula) and pet food for [three / five / other] days. Plan not to have a fridge or microwave.

Pets and Livestock:

Check if your local evacuation centre or assembly area is pet friendly.

Get ready to take your pets with their essential supplies such as, lead, crate, harness, pet food, food and water bowls.

Keep pets in a safe place inside.

Make sure animals can be identified if they get lost.

Move livestock to higher ground or a safe place. Block access to low-lying fields or areas that can flood.

Provide livestock enough food and clean water in a safe area.

Put your pets somewhere safe and make sure they can be identified in case they get lost.

Take your pets and companion animals for safe travel.

Rural or Remote Properties:

Ensure you have enough food, water, medication, and other essential items to last [three / five / seven] days.

Rural or remote properties may become isolated sooner than expected.

Special or Medical needs:

Call your support person or service to organise transport if you need to leave.

If anyone in your house uses powered medical equipment, like a dialysis machine or ventilator, decide now where you will go in case you lose power.

Leaving early is safer than waiting.

Make sure you have enough medicine for at least one week.

Use your Person-Centred Emergency Plan (P-CEP) now if you have one.

Tourists:

Airports and highways could close if the [hazard] gets closer.

Ask the campground owners whether the site is affected by [hazard].

Be ready to move if the situation gets worse.

Campers and caravanners should [avoid the area / consider packing up now / pack up now / start packing up now].

Check road conditions and plan your travel routes.

Check your surroundings and monitor conditions.

If you choose to stay, ask accommodation staff where to shelter if the [hazard] gets closer.

If you do not need to be in the warning area, [do not enter / leave now].

Recovery:

Avoid returning to homes or businesses due to [damage / possible damage]. If you choose to return, drive slowly and remain alert.

Drive slowly if going back home, remain alert. Be aware of fallen powerlines, trees, and other hazards.

Gas appliances and bottles that have been exposed to water or damaged should be inspected for safety before use.

If power points, electrical equipment, appliances or electrical hot water systems have been exposed to water or are water damaged in any way, they must be inspected by a qualified electrician before use.

If safe, clean, and dry out the building as soon as you can.

Make sure your property is safe before entering. Check for damage to windows, walls and the roof and be careful of potential dangers including asbestos.

Make sure the electricity and gas are turned off before going inside.

Protect your health and safety; wear boots, gloves and protective clothing when cleaning up, wash your hands and clothes often, throw away food that should be kept cold or frozen if you lost power.

Sandbags that have been in contact with water need to be thrown away. Sturdy gloves should be worn when handling wet sandbags as they can contain chemicals, waste, and diseases from water.

The number of mosquitos can grow after a flood. Protect your health and safety by using repellent, wear closed in shoes, long sleeves and pants, and empty containers that have water in them.

Support and Recovery help:

For flood emergency help, call the SES on 132 500 or download the SES Assistance Queensland app.

Go to [insert council name and website] for clean-up and recovery information.

Recovery services are available [insert details of organisations actively involved; ideally on the ground]:

- o Agency – Location, full address and times.

Natural disasters can affect your mental health. If you need help, call any of these groups:

- o Lifeline: Go to lifeline.org.au or phone 13 11 14.
- o Beyond Blue: Go to beyondblue.org.au or phone 1300 224 636.
- o Kids Helpline: Go to kidshelpline.com.au or phone 1800 551 800.