WHEN TO WARN

A warning using the Australian Warning System framework advises on what actions need to be taken to stay safe:

- there is a **direct** and **likely threat** to the **community.**
- the **community need to take action.**
- there is **adequate time** to get a warning out to the affected community.

HOW TO CREATE WARNINGS

- Identify the **HAZARD** (e.g., severe weather, flood, tropical cyclone, fire, extreme heat etc).
- Determine the **WARNING LEVEL** - this should reflect what the community is being asked to do:
  - **ADVICE** – An incident has started, there is no immediate danger, stay up to date in case the situation changes.
  - **WATCH AND ACT** – There is a heightened level of threat, conditions are changing, and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.
  - **EMERGENCY WARNING** – An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning, you may be in danger and need to take action immediately, any delay now puts your life at risk.
- Identify the **ICON** based on hazard and warning level.

Hazard Icons

Hazard	Bushfire	Cyclone	Severe Weather	Flood	Extreme Heat	Other
Descriptors	(Bushfire) (Smoke)	(Tropical Cyclone) (Storm Surge)	(Storm) (Dust Storm) (Tropical Low)	(Riverine Flooding) (Flash Flooding)	(Heat Wave)	(Water Supply)
Advice Icons						
Watch and Act Icons						
Emergency Warning Icons						

- Determine the **LOCATION** – use location names the community know. Be accurate and simple.
- Identify the '**CALLS TO ACTION**' statement - what action does the community need to take?

ADVICE	WATCH AND ACT	EMERGENCY WARNING
- Prepare now - Stay informed - Monitor conditions - Stay informed/threat is reduced - Avoid the area - Return with caution - Avoid smoke	- Prepare to leave/evacuate - Leave/evacuate now (if you are not prepared) - Prepare to take shelter - Move/stay indoors - Stay near shelter - Walk two or more streets back - Monitor conditions as they are changing - Be aware of ember attack - Move to higher ground (away from creeks/rivers/coast) - Limit time outside (cyclone/ heat/ asthma) - Avoid the area/avoid the flooded area - Stay away from damaged buildings and other hazards - Prepare for isolation - Protect yourself against the impacts of extreme heat - Do not enter flood water - Not safe to return - Prepare your property (cyclone/storm)	- Leave/evacuate (immediately, by am/pm/hazard timing) - Seek/take shelter now - Shelter indoors now - Too late/dangerous to leave

MESSAGE / WARNING TIPS
- Keep plain and simple language.
- Use the 'When to Warn Guides' if needed.
- Calls to Action statements can be used flexibly across all three warning levels depending on the hazard.

MESSAGE CONSTRUCTION
- Warning templates and a glossary of suggested warning phrases are available on the disaster website and can be adapted to suit your community needs.
- Create a social tile and save as a JPEG or PNG before posting on social media.
- Gain approval and publish.

WARNING TITLE
- A Warning title should include three core elements:
- action statement + Location & Hazard + warning level for example:
  - Stay Informed – Sunshine Valley Flooding – Advice
  - Prepare for Isolation – Sunshine Valley Tropical Cyclone Joe – Watch & Act

PUBLISHING A WARNING
Publishing a warning is dependent on community expectations. Varied methods of distribution might be required e.g.
- Social media
- Broadcast media
- Issuing agencies publish to State platforms / maps.
- Email warnings to the SDCC Watch Desk at sdcc@police.qld.gov.au for publishing on the State Warnings Map located at www.disaster.qld.gov.au/warnings
- Phone the SDCC Watch Desk at (07) 3635 2387 to confirm they have received the warning

Note: Warnings are able to be displayed on Local Disaster Dashboards using established CAP-AU feeds from the State Warnings Map.

SUPPORT CAN BE PROVIDED THROUGH YOUR LOCAL EMC OR THE WATCH DESK (07) 3635 2387

KEY CONTACTS	
SDCC WATCH DESK - Phone	(07) 3635 2387
SDCC WATCH DESK - Email	SDCC@police.qld.gov.au
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR	
DDMG EXECUTIVE OFFICER	
DISTRICT DISASTER COORDINATOR	
NEIGHBOURING LDMG/LGAs	

IMPORTANT LINKS
- Queensland Warnings
  https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/warnings
- Prevention preparedness response and recovery disaster management guideline
  https://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/disaster-management-guideline

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