



# GET READY

*THIS WET SEASON*

YOUR ESSENTIAL CYCLONE AND STORM GUIDE



# PREPARE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN

- The Top End is affected by severe storms, cyclones and storm surges
- Make a plan
- Preparation is the key

Plan ahead to help reduce the risk of injury and damage to yourself, family and property.



## DEVELOP YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN

Include the entire household and children. Make sure you discuss:

- ✓ plans for when your household members will and will not be home
- ✓ workplace, school or apartment plans that may impact members of your household – how will you stay in touch if you're separated and where you will meet
- ✓ what you will do to reduce damage to your home or contents. Make sure you have adequate insurance
- ✓ how and where:
  - you turn off power, gas and water supplies
  - valuables and important documents are stored
  - your household emergency kit is stored
- ✓ your emergency telephone list
- ✓ what role each family member will take during an emergency
- ✓ what arrangements you will make for your pets to ensure they are safe with food and water
- ✓ know where you will shelter or where to go if you need to self-evacuate

Be prepared! Complete the emergency plan at the back of this guide to keep on the fridge or download a copy from [www.securent.nt.gov.au](http://www.securent.nt.gov.au)

## HOW TO BE "MOBILE PHONE PREPARED"

1. Receive free SMS Severe Weather Alerts tailored for your postcode - [www.tiofi.com.au/alerts](http://www.tiofi.com.au/alerts)
2. Save important phone numbers to your phone
3. Prepare a family contact sheet
4. Download informative smartphone apps
  - a. SecureNT
  - b. Rain Radar
5. Keep charged power banks and car-phone chargers in your emergency kit



Having adequate insurance is essential to be prepared this cyclone season. Talk to TIO today, **131 846**. Terms, conditions limits and exclusions apply to all insurance covers.





# PREPARE YOUR EMERGENCY KIT

- You may be alone for up to 3 days
- Ensure your kit will sustain you and your household

**Prepare for disruption to power and water supplies, unreliable communication methods, injury and dangerous elements.**

## EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

- Battery-operated radio with spare batteries
- Torch with spare batteries, candles and waterproof matches
- Three days of non-perishable foods and a can opener
- 10 litres of bottled water per person
- First aid kit and manual with any essential medicines
- A change of warm clothes for each person and closed-in shoes
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Toilet paper and essential toiletries, including sunscreen and insect repellent
- Special needs for infants, the aged and people with disabilities
- Money
- Important documents (birth & marriage certificates, driver's licence, passports, insurance policies and photos)
- Sealable waterproof bags
- Mobile phone, charger and power bank
- Extra car and house keys
- A copy of your household plan
- Pet supplies
- Portable cooker (if using gas remember to have spare canisters or bottles)
- Cooking and eating utensils

## TIPS FOR KITS

- ✓ Store your kit in an easy to reach, dry place
- ✓ Every member of your house knows where the kit is stored
- ✓ Check the contents of your kit at least once a year to ensure items still work and consumables are not past their use-by date – batteries, water and non-perishables will perish over a period of time
- ✓ An emergency kit can also double as a camping kit – stock your kit at the beginning of the wet season and use it in the dry each year





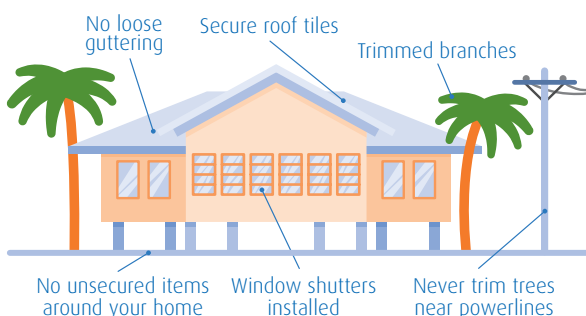
## PREPARE YOUR HOME

- Prepare for severe storms, cyclones and storm surges
- Buildings deteriorate unless they are properly maintained
- Prepare your home for the worst

Prepare your home by following some of the suggestions listed below.

### MAINTAINING YOUR HOUSE AND APARTMENT

- ✓ Check with a building practitioner to see if your home has been built to cyclone code
- ✓ Check that the walls, roof and eaves of your home are secure
- ✓ Trim treetops and branches well clear of your home (with council permission)
- ✓ If trees are near powerlines call Power and Water on 1800 245 090
- ✓ Fit shutters or metal screens to windows
- ✓ Clear your property and balcony of loose material that could cause injury or damage during extreme winds
- ✓ Check for signs of corrosion, rotten timber, termite attacks or loose fixings
- ✓ Arrange for a qualified practitioner such as a building certifier, structural engineer, architect or builder to inspect your home, specifically roof, gable end walls, doors & windows, garage doors, roof eaves, leaks and house attachments
- ✓ The overflow relief gully (ORG) protects your home from sewage overflows; ensure your ORG is free of debris
- ✓ No power means no water in high-rise apartments, so keep water aside for flushing toilets



### PREPARING YOUR SHELTER

- ✓ Identify the strongest room in your house to shelter, e.g. bathroom, internal laundry, hallway, closed storage rooms, etc. This is generally the smallest room with little or no windows
- ✓ Turn off the electricity, gas and water at the mains
- ✓ Secure outdoor furniture, garden items, caravans and boats
- ✓ Close and lock all windows and doors
- ✓ Follow your household emergency plan
- ✓ Have your emergency kit ready in your shelter area
- ✓ Pack away loose household items in cupboards and secure cupboard doors if possible
- ✓ Pack and water-proof your valuables, electrical equipment, etc.
- ✓ Have some activities available for children, e.g. deck of cards

**Warning: Never use portable generators indoors or in enclosed spaces**





## KNOW THE WARNING SERVICES

- Listen for official warnings and advice
- Follow instructions of emergency services

When warnings occur, you should finalise your preparations, activate your emergency plan and follow any advice issued by the Northern Territory Government.

### THE BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY ISSUES THE FOLLOWING TROPICAL CYCLONE SERVICES:

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE OUTLOOK

- risk of cyclone formation within the next three days

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE WATCH

- gales expected in 24-48 hours; forecast updates every 6 hours

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING

- gales expected within 24 hours; forecast updates at least every 3 hours



#### LOG ON

Weather and warnings - [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

Information on emergency situations in the NT - [www.securent.nt.gov.au](http://www.securent.nt.gov.au)

Northern Territory Emergency Service - [www.emergency.nt.gov.au](http://www.emergency.nt.gov.au)

Update on power, water and sewerage services - [powerwater.com.au](http://powerwater.com.au) or follow @PowerWaterCorp on Twitter

Update or take out an insurance policy - [www.tiofi.com.au](http://www.tiofi.com.au)



#### RECEIVE

Free severe weather alerts - register for SMS, email or voice alerts at [www.tiofi.com.au/alerts](http://www.tiofi.com.au/alerts)



#### CALL

NT Tropical Cyclone Information Service - **1300 659 211**

NT Marine and Land Weather Warnings - **1300 659 214**

Australian Tsunami Threat Information - **1300 878 6264**

NTES emergency help in floods, storms and cyclones - **132 500**

Power and Water Corporation - enquiries **1800 245 092**

or emergencies/faults **1800 245 090**



#### TUNE IN

ABC Darwin - **105.7 FM** (official emergency broadcaster)

Or find your local ABC frequency - [www.abc.net.au/reception/freq/Frequency-NT.pdf](http://www.abc.net.au/reception/freq/Frequency-NT.pdf)



#### LISTEN OUT

- For local **community safety announcements**
- For **Emergency Alert messages** sent to your phone
- For the **Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS)**. SEWS is a distinct audio signal that has been adopted to alert the community to the broadcast of an urgent safety message relating to a major emergency/disaster. It is intended for use on public media (such as radio, television, public address systems, mobile sirens), to draw attention to an emergency warning.

Within the Northern Territory, you can expect to hear SEWS before a cyclone advice when the cyclone is approximately 6-12 hours away and is still expected to impact your area.

**When you hear SEWS ensure that you stop and listen.**





## SEVERE STORM

- On average, storms are responsible for more damage as measured by insurance costs than floods and bushfires
- Be prepared

### Severe storms can occur anywhere in the Territory and do more frequently than any other major natural hazard.

Storms are dangerous; each year, between five to ten deaths are caused by lightning strikes across Australia. Deaths also occur when strong winds cause tree limbs to fall, debris to become projectiles and small boats in open water to capsize.

### HOW DO I PREPARE FOR SEVERE STORMS?

1. Prepare your emergency plan
2. Prepare your emergency kit
3. Prepare your home and make sure you have adequate insurance
4. Log on, call up, tune in and listen out to warnings

### WHEN A SEVERE STORM THREATENS

- ✓ Listen to your local radio station for storm warnings
- ✓ Shelter and secure pets and animals
- ✓ Secure outdoor furniture, garden items, caravans and boats
- ✓ Park vehicles under solid shelter
- ✓ Secure all external doors and windows
- ✓ Identify the shelter area inside your home
- ✓ Fill your bathtub and buckets with water
- ✓ Unplug non-essential electrical items



### WHEN A SEVERE STORM STRIKES

- ✓ Activate your household emergency plan
- ✓ Stay inside and shelter well clear of windows, doors and skylights
- ✓ Listen to your portable radio for severe storm warning updates
- ✓ If outdoors, seek a solid enclosed shelter (not a tree) and stay out of water
- ✓ If driving, stop clear of trees, powerlines and streams
- ✓ Don't use a landline telephone during a severe storm due to lightning
- ✓ Avoid touching brick or concrete, or standing bare-foot on concrete or tiled floors
- ✓ Always assume downed powerlines are live and lethal
- ✓ Stay out of flood waters

Having adequate insurance is essential to be prepared this cyclone season. Talk to TIO today, **131 846**. Terms, conditions limits and exclusions apply to all insurance covers.



- On average 2 to 3 cyclones affect the Top End each year
- Prepare for cyclone season between November and May
- Gales can extend hundreds of kilometres from the cyclone centre

**Cyclones can produce destructive winds and heavy rainfall with flooding and storm surges. This can cause extensive damage to property and turn debris into dangerous missiles.**

They typically have erratic paths that are difficult to predict and can last for a few days or up to two or three weeks.

### HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE CYCLONE SEASON?

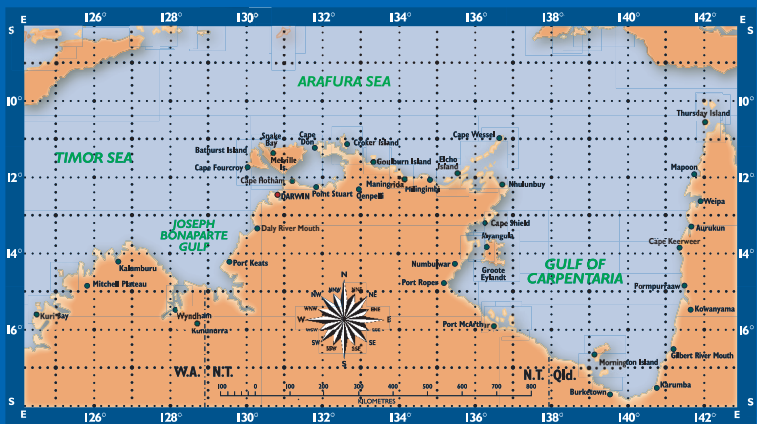
1. Prepare your emergency plan
2. Prepare your emergency kit
3. Prepare your home and make sure you have adequate insurance. Important - Insurance changes or purchases take 72 hours to cover for cyclone, storm surge and flood.
4. Log on, call up, tune in and listen out to warnings

### WHAT DO I DO WHEN A CYCLONE **WATCH** IS ISSUED?

- ✓ Re-check your property for any loose material and tie down (or fill with water) any large or relatively light items such as boats and rubbish bins
- ✓ Fill your vehicles' fuel tanks and jerry cans with fuel
- ✓ Check your emergency kit and fill any water containers you may have
- ✓ Ensure household members know what the strongest part of the house is and what to do in the event of a cyclone warning or evacuation
- ✓ Tune in to your local radio and/or television stations for further information and warnings
- ✓ Check neighbours are aware of the situation and are prepared

### TRACKING MAP

Manually use the tracking map to show the projected path of the cyclone by using the coordinates announced on radio. The map can be downloaded from [www.pfes.nt.gov.au](http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au)



### WHAT DO I DO WHEN A CYCLONE **WARNING** IS ISSUED?

- ✓ Activate your household emergency plan and finalise your emergency kit
- ✓ Collect children from school or childcare centres and go home
- ✓ Park vehicles under solid shelter (handbrake on and in gear)
- ✓ Secure outdoor furniture, garden items, caravans and boats. Loose items may be locked inside
- ✓ Close shutters and board up or block all windows
- ✓ Draw curtains and secure all external doors and windows
- ✓ Shelter and secure pets and animals
- ✓ Stay tuned to your local radio/television for further information
- ✓ Fill your bathtubs and buckets with water





## CYCLONE SHELTER OPTIONS FOR RESIDENTS IN DARWIN AND THE GREATER DARWIN REGION

### 1. Sheltering in your home

Stay at home if your house is built to code, well maintained and is outside of the storm surge/flood prone areas of Darwin. If your house is not to code, you should consider sheltering with family or friends who have a house built to code.

### 2. Self-evacuation by road

If you choose to evacuate, you should leave early. Evacuate well before strong winds affect your area, allow time to secure and protect your property, activate your household emergency plan, pack your emergency kit and advise friends of plans.

### 3. Cyclone shelters

Shelters are provided for residents who are at risk from storm surge, live in caravan parks or other non-coded homes.

#### Points to remember with shelters:

- ✓ shelters have a limited capacity and do not guarantee safety in all circumstances
- ✓ not all shelters allow animals
- ✓ they are mainly staffed by voluntary personnel with a police and medical presence
- ✓ they do not provide meals or special baby needs
- ✓ they might become welfare assembly centres after the cyclone
- ✓ they are used at your own risk – the Northern Territory Government accepts no liability for any loss, injury or death arising from the use by the public during a cyclone
- ✓ only go to an emergency shelter when officially advised over radio or television and remember to take your emergency kit with you!

For the location or map of emergency shelters and underground car parks within the Darwin and the greater Darwin region please refer to [www.securent.nt.gov.au](http://www.securent.nt.gov.au)



## WHAT DO I DO WHEN THE CYCLONE STRIKES?

- ✓ Turn off power, gas and water supplies. Disconnect all electrical appliances
- ✓ Stay inside your shelter area in the strongest part of your home
- ✓ Listen to your portable radio for cyclone updates
- ✓ If the building starts to break up, protect yourself with mattresses, rugs and blankets under a strong table, or hold onto a solid fixture, e.g. water pipe
- ✓ **Beware of the calm 'eye'.** If the wind drops, don't assume the cyclone is over; violent winds will soon resume from another direction. Wait for the official 'all clear'
- ✓ If driving, stop clear of trees, powerlines and streams

## WHAT DO I DO AFTER THE CYCLONE?

- ✓ Listen to the local radio for official warnings and advice
- ✓ Don't go outside until advised officially that it is safe. If you need to go outside, beware of fallen powerlines, damaged buildings and trees, and flooded water courses
- ✓ Check for gas leaks and don't use electrical appliances if wet
- ✓ If you had to evacuate, don't go home until advised. Use the route recommended and stay calm
- ✓ Don't ignore warnings and don't go sightseeing, stay where you are if it's safe
- ✓ Check on neighbours, render assistance if necessary
- ✓ Don't make unnecessary telephone calls
- ✓ Always assume downed powerlines are live and lethal







# STORM SURGE

- As a cyclone nears the coast, sea levels can rise
- The peak storm surge level can occur several hours prior to a cyclone

## Breaking waves on top of the surge act like a giant bulldozer, sweeping everything in its path.

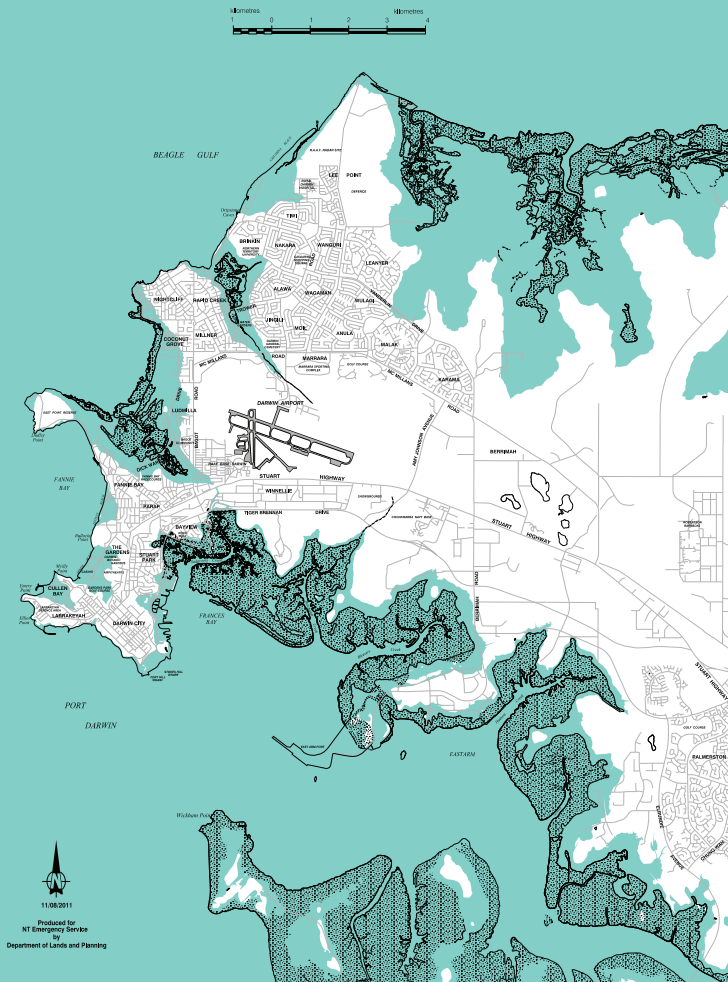
The worst impacts occur when the storm surge/tide arrives on top of a high tide, as it can reach areas that may have otherwise been safe.

People who live in low lying coastal areas need to be aware of storm surge dangers and be prepared to evacuate to higher ground when advised by emergency management authorities.

## WHO COULD STORM SURGE AFFECT IN DARWIN?

As it is very difficult to predict the time and location a threatening cyclone will hit land. To minimise the chance of people being trapped, instructions to evacuate may be issued before the cyclone for people in a possible storm surge area.

### ESTIMATED MAXIMUM STORM SURGE RISK AREAS IN THE DARWIN AREA



## WHAT TO DO!

For people living in areas of risk, you should:

- ✓ be aware that you may be subject to flooding and wave action caused by storm surge. Make sure you have adequate insurance
- ✓ be prepared to evacuate and move to shelter on higher ground at short notice
- ✓ listen to warnings, advice and instructions broadcast by the emergency management authorities via radio and television if a storm surge is expected to occur
- ✓ plan well ahead for the action you will be required to take in such an event

## CHECKLIST FOR RESIDENTS EVACUATING AREAS AT RISK

- ✓ Could your property be affected by storm surge?
- ✓ Know where to shelter on higher ground and plan your evacuation route
- ✓ Have fuel in your vehicle
- ✓ Follow the advice broadcasted by emergency management authorities

Having adequate insurance is essential to be prepared this cyclone season. Talk to TIO today, **131 846**. Terms, conditions limits and exclusions apply to all insurance covers.





# HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY PLAN

Emergency only - 000  
NTES assistance – 132 500  
Police assistance – 131 444



**Be prepared – complete this plan with all members of your household and keep it on your fridge.**

**1. If we cannot make it home or contact each other, we will meet or leave a message at:**

---

**2. An out-of-town person that our family can contact if we lose contact with each other:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. The person responsible for collecting the children from school:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. The person responsible for checking and replenishing the emergency kit:**

---

**5. In an emergency we will remain in our home, unless advised otherwise.** We will need to prepare to look after ourselves for three days or more. In an emergency we will:

- Secure our home
- Collect our emergency survival items for our Emergency Kit
- Place all valuables for our Emergency Kit into leak proof plastic bags or containers
- Listen to the radio for advice and information

**6. If we have to evacuate our home we will:**

- Take our Emergency Kit and important documents with us
- Turn off water, electricity and gas (always seek professional advice before reconnecting)

**7. Neighbours that may need our help or can help us:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details: \_\_\_\_\_

**8. A plan of our house showing:**

- Places to shelter
- Exits
- Assembly area
- Where to turn off water, gas and electricity

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





Northern Territory  
Emergency Service

132 500

[www.securent.nt.gov.au](http://www.securent.nt.gov.au)



Territory  
Insurance Office

131 846

[www.tiofi.com.au](http://www.tiofi.com.au)

# GET READY

## THIS WET SEASON

TIO Home Insurance covers



CYCLONE



STORM SURGE



FLOOD

To make sure you have the right level of cover,  
phone 131 846 or visit [tiofi.com.au](http://tiofi.com.au)

Do YOU have  
what it takes  
to STAND OUT?



Become an NTES  
Volunteer today, go to  
[emergency.nt.gov.au](http://emergency.nt.gov.au)

This brochure is written and published by the Territory Insurance Office (TIO) and the Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES) for general purposes only and is not a substitute for qualified advice. Any user of this brochure does so at its own risk.

The Northern Territory of Australia (through NTES) and TIO exclude all warranties in relation to the information and, to the extent permitted by law, disclaim all liability (including consequential loss) suffered or incurred by any person, whether directly or indirectly, by reason of any use or reliance upon, on the information contained in this brochure, or any of the information being incomplete, incorrect or out of date.

Any references to third party websites are provided for your convenience only, and do not represent any endorsement or approval of the content of those websites.

TIO do not provide advice on insurance based on any consideration of your objectives, financial situation or needs. Before making a decision about your insurance needs please consider the insurers Product Disclosure Statements for TIO available from [tiofi.com.au](http://tiofi.com.au).

Policy terms, conditions, limits and exclusions apply to insurance. TIO is a trading name of the insurer Allianz Australia Insurance Limited ABN 15 000 122 850 AFS Licence No. 234708.