

Your Severe Weather Guide for storm, cyclone, storm surge and flood.

Be prepared
this wet season

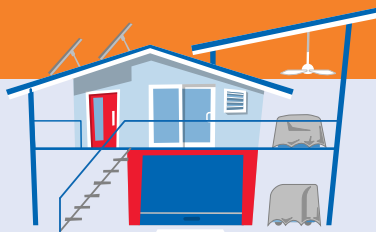




Prepare your emergency plan

- The Northern Territory is affected by severe storms, cyclone, storm surge and flood
- 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
- ✓ 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. It is important to note TIO do not provide cover for any loss of or damage to your property caused by cyclone, flood or storm surge, during the first 72 hours after you first take out or increase the cover on your policy.
- ✓ 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! Download an emergency plan template from www.secure.nt.gov.au and keep a copy in your emergency kit

How to be "mobile phone prepared"

1. Receive free SMS Severe Weather Alerts tailored for your postcode - **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 in your emergency kit





Prepare your emergency kit

- 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, per day
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Cash
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Hand sanitiser and face masks

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





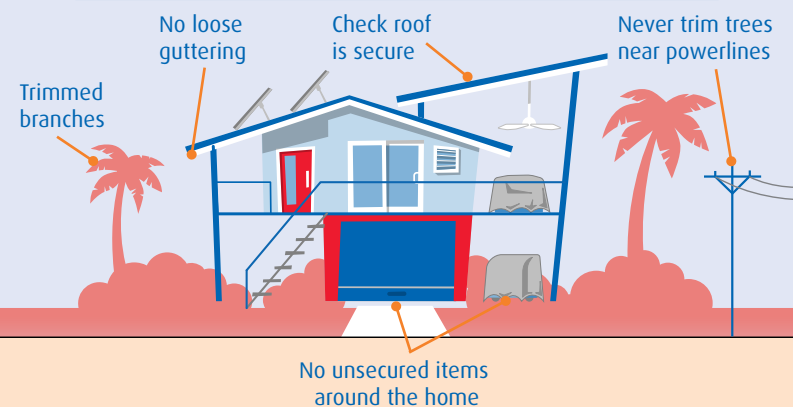
Prepare your home for severe weather

- 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 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
- ✓ 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.



Log on

Weather and warnings – www.bom.gov.au

Information on emergency situations in the NT – www.securent.nt.gov.au

Northern Territory Emergency Service – www.emergency.nt.gov.au

Update on power, water and sewerage services – www.powerwater.com.au or follow @PowerWaterCorp on Twitter



Receive

Free severe weather alerts - register for SMS, email or voice alerts at www.tiofi.com.au/alerts



Call

For life threatening emergencies – **000**

BOM Weather Service – **1300 659 210**

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

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

Power and Water Corporation emergencies/faults – **1800 245 090**

TIO emergency claims assistance – **131 846**



Tune in

ABC Darwin - 105.7 FM (official emergency broadcaster)

Or find your local ABC frequency – <https://reception.abc.net.au>



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; 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. It is important to note TIO do not provide cover for any loss of or damage to your property caused by cyclone, flood or storm surge, during the first 72 hours after you first take out or increase the cover on your policy.
4. Log on, call up, tune in and listen out to advice and 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





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

Cyclones can produce destructive winds and heavy rainfall with flooding and storm surge. 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. It is important to note TIO do not provide cover for any loss of or damage to your property caused by cyclone, flood or storm surge, during the first 72 hours after you first take out or increase the cover on your policy.
4. Log on, call up, tune in and listen out to warnings

The NT Emergency Service issues the following warning levels:



Advice (Yellow): An incident has started.

There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.



Watch and Act (Orange): 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 (Red): 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.

Each warning level has a set of action statements to give the community clearer advice about what to do.



What do i do when a cyclone advice is issued? (YELLOW)

- Review your household emergency plan
- Check supplies in your emergency kit and fill any water containers you may have
- 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
- Ensure household members know what the strongest part of the house is and what to do in the event of a cyclone emergency warning
- Tune in to your local radio and/or television stations or visit **www.securent.nt.gov.au** for further information and warnings
- Check neighbours are aware of the situation and are prepared



What do i do when a cyclone watch and act is issued? (ORANGE)

- 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
- Lock loose items 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 or visit **www.securent.nt.gov.au** for further information
- Fill your bathtubs and buckets with water



What do i do when a cyclone emergency warning is issued? (RED)

- Shelter indoors now
- Listen for further advice from emergency services





During a cyclone

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:

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

- ✓ 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**



What do I do when a 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.
- Always listen to emergency services for advice on when it is safe to go outside

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.

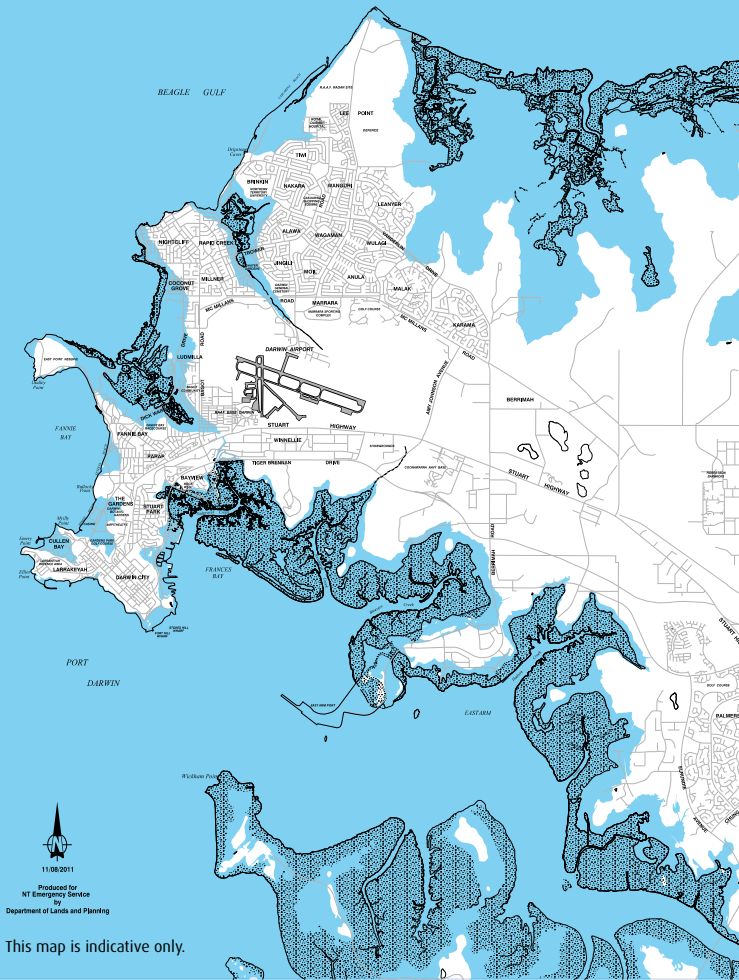
The worst impacts occur when the storm surge/tide arrives on top of a high tide, as it can reach areas that may have otherwise been safe.

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



This map is indicative only.

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. It is important to note TIO do not provide cover for any loss of or damage to your property caused by cyclone, flood or storm surge, during the first 72 hours after you first take out or increase the cover on your policy.
- ✓ be prepared to evacuate and move to shelter on higher ground at short notice
- ✓ listen to warnings, advice and instructions broadcast by the emergency services 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 services





Flood

- Flooding is common during the High Risk Weather Season, with small towns and remote communities often cut off by floodwaters
- You may lose services including access to supermarkets, power, water, sewage, gas and fuel

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Emergency Warning (Red): 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.

Each warning level has a set of action statements to give the community clearer advice about what to do.

If you live in a flood-prone area of the NT you need to know how to prepare and act in a flood.

Don't be fooled by a flood – they can happen in a flash. Take these simple steps to ensure the safety of you and your family.

Before:

- Make a household Emergency Plan
- Know your local flood history and community plans
- Decide if you will stay in your home, evacuate to an emergency shelter or suitable accommodation
- Prepare your Emergency Kit
- If you, your family and home become isolated, make sure you have essential supplies to last 3-5 days
- Store important documents in a portable, waterproof wallet
- Consider obtaining power backups (generator, solar panels and batteries) and a portable toilet
- Fill your vehicles' fuel tanks and jerry cans with fuel
- Make your home more flood resistant;
 - Clean gutters and keep outside drains clear
 - Think about whether you may need sand bags around your home
 - Always consider the chance of flooding when storing items. Pick out high points for stacking and storing possessions and furniture
 - Park your car on high ground. Ensure your caravan is secure and anchored
- Make sure you have adequate insurance. It is important to note TIO do not provide cover for any loss of or damage to your property caused by cyclone, flood or storm surge, during the first 72 hours after you first take out or increase the cover on your policy.
- Check neighbours are aware of the situation and prepared

During

If you plan to stay in your home during a flood you should:

- Stay informed – monitor weather warning, forecasts and river levels at the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website.
- Keep listening to ABC radio and visit secure.nt.gov.au for official advice
- Follow your Emergency Plan
- Remember, even if your property is not inundated by flood water, you may become isolated during a flood
- Remain in a safe part of the home and keep your
- Emergency Kit close by
- Be prepared to evacuate if advised by authorities
- Contact family members who are away from home and tell them to return only when safe
- Keep in touch with neighbours and help them if needed

After

- Listen to the local radio for official warnings and advice
- You should not drink water unless you know it is safe. Don't eat or drink anything that has come in contact with flood water as it often contains sewage and disease
- If you cannot avoid walking near/through floodwater you must wear covered shoes
- Stay safe by avoiding dangerous hazards such as floodwater, mud, debris, damaged roads, fallen trees and power lines
- Drive slowly, obey all road signs and never drive through floodwater
- Do not enter damaged or flooded buildings until authorities advise it is safe to do so
- If your home has been flooded, disconnect the power at the meter box.
- Have electricity and gas professionally tested to ensure your home is safe.
- Contact your insurance company to have your house inspected and the damage assessed.
- Put together a clean-up kit containing items such as a shovel, broom, mop, bucket, and cleaning supplies. Tackle one space at a time and take photos before disposing of items
- When cleaning wear strong boots, gloves and protective clothing, wash your hands and clothes regularly





**Northern Territory
Emergency Service**

132 500 | www.pfes.nt.gov.au



**Territory
Insurance Office**

131 846 | www.tiofi.com.au

Be ready for severe weather

**TIO Home Insurance covers cyclone,
storm surge and flood**



To find out more phone **131 846** or visit **tiofi.com.au**

Exclusions, eligibility criteria and minimum premiums apply. 72 hour exclusion period applies.



ORDINARY people doing EXTRAORDINARY things

**Become a NT Emergency Service volunteer today!
www.pfes.nt.gov.au**

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