



Plan

Be prepared

BEFORE THE CYCLONE

- Listen to your radio (ensure you have spare batteries)
- Check your emergency kit is ready and nearby
- Tie down or pack away all outdoor items and furniture
- Cover windows/doors with timber sheeting
- Make sure your vehicle is full of fuel and park under cover if possible
- Ensure your boat and/or caravan is garaged, or if not, make every effort to secure it with strong ropes to a dependable anchor point
- Evacuate caravans and tents
- If visiting the area, talk to your accommodation provider about what you should do and where you can go
- Fill drinking containers and your bathtub and wheelie bin with water – this water can be used to flush toilets if water supplies are affected
- Freeze water in case of power failure
- Place important documents and valuables in plastic bags or other waterproof containers and put in a safe place
- Turn off and unplug all non-essential electrical equipment

DURING THE CYCLONE

- Continue to listen to your battery-powered radio for all warnings and advice
- Stay safe inside and keep calm
- Shelter in the strongest part of the building. This is often the bathroom, toilet or hallway
- Mattresses and blankets may protect you
- Beware of the calm eye/centre of the cyclone – stay inside!

AFTER THE CYCLONE

- Stay inside until officially advised on the radio that the cyclone has passed
- Stay well clear of fallen lines! Always assume that fallen powerlines are 'live'
- Stay out of floodwaters
- Take care with electrical appliances which may be wet.



Pack

Emergency kit checklist

- Battery-operated radio and spare batteries
- Torch and spare batteries
- Candles, lighter and waterproof matches*
- Water in sealed containers (10L per person)
- Non-perishable food – enough for 3-4 days
- Portable gas stove with fuel*
- Can opener and utensils
- Combination multi-tool
- First aid kit and manual
- Medication
- Toiletry and sanitary supplies
- Change of clothes and strong shoes
- Special need items for infants, the elderly and people with disabilities
- Pet food, water and other animal needs*
- Cash money (ATMs may not be available)
- Personal documents (insurance details, photographs etc)
- Emergency phone numbers
- Strong plastic bags

* You may not be able to use these items at a place of refuge.



Listen

Tune into your local radio station

ABC Far North	801 AM, 106.7 & 95.5 FM
Cairns FM (Community Multicultural) Radio	89.1 FM
Bumma Bipperra Media	98.7 FM

Council's Emergency contacts

For information BEFORE a cyclone	1300 69 22 47
For information DURING a cyclone	4044 3377

Other Emergency contacts

Police / Ambulance / Fire	000
State Emergency Service (SES)	132 500
Ergon Energy	132 296
Main Roads	131 940

Stay informed

Cairns Disaster Dashboard	disaster.cairns.qld.gov.au
Facebook	@CairnsDisasterCentre
Bureau of Meteorology	www.bom.gov.au

Cairns alert

Sign up for critical information to your phone
www.cairns.qld.gov.au/cairnsalert



Preparing for cyclones

Information for residents and visitors



PREPARE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN



PACK YOUR EMERGENCY KIT



LISTEN AND BE AWARE

Keep informed at Cairns Disaster Dashboard.
www.disaster.cairns.qld.gov.au

Small steps can make a world of difference. Recycled paper.

About cyclones

Cyclone categories

About storm surges

Evacuation procedures

What is a cyclone?

A cyclone is a violent tropical storm with very strong winds and heavy rain which can cause extensive property damage. The 'eye' or centre of a cyclone is an area made up of light winds and often clear skies. However beware, this is not the end of the cyclone. Very destructive winds from the other direction are to come. Stay inside!



CYCLONE WATCH

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a Cyclone Watch 48 hours before a cyclone's predicted landfall. Information is updated every six hours.



CYCLONE WARNING

A Cyclone Warning is issued as soon as stronger winds are expected to affect coastal or island communities within 24 hours. It will tell you where the cyclone is, its movements, how strong it is and predict the areas being threatened. Forecasts of heavy rain, flooding and storm surge are included where necessary. Residents and visitors to Cairns should take immediate precautions to safeguard their lives and property.

What is the rating?

The severity of a tropical cyclone is described through the following categories. An estimate of severity is included in tropical cyclone advice notices, providing a general idea of expected worst conditions.

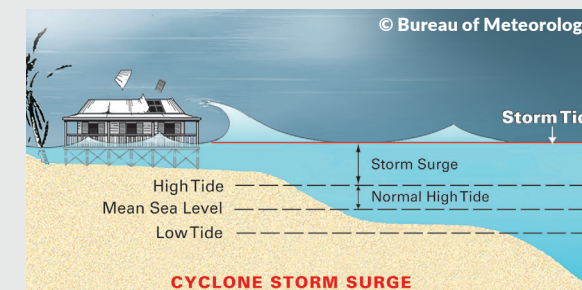
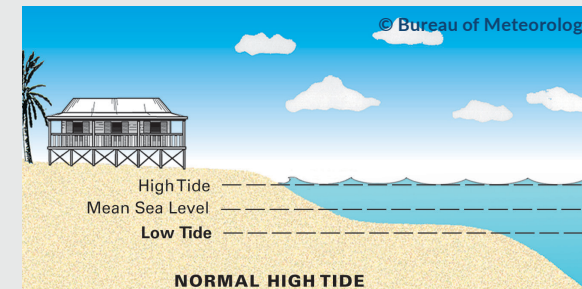
Using this scale, communities can assess the degree of threat and take appropriate action. Damage will vary depending on factors such as distance from the zone of maximum winds, how exposed your location is, building standards and vegetation types. The categories do not refer to the amount of flooding nor storm tide surge.

	Strongest Gust	Typical Effect of Cyclones
1	90-124 kph	Negligible house damage; damage to some crops, trees and caravans; craft may drag at moorings.
2	125-164 kph	Minor house damage; significant damage to signs; trees and caravans, heavy damage to some crops, risk of power failure, small craft may break mooring.
3	165-224 kph	Some roof and structural property damage; some caravans and crops destroyed; power failure likely.
4	225-279 kph	Significant roofing loss and structural damage; many caravans destroyed and blown away, dangerous airborne debris; widespread power failures.
5	More than 280 kph	Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction.



What is a storm surge?

A storm surge is a rise in the ocean level associated with cyclones.



Storm surge is caused by high winds pushing on the ocean's surface and lower than normal air pressure from the storm. As a cyclone reaches the coast the huge winds whip up the sea and push the dome of water over low-lying coastal areas, causing flooding, damaging buildings and cutting off evacuation routes.



Storm Tide Property Search and detailed maps indicating storm surge zones for the Cairns Regional Council area are available on the Council's website and are included in the Storm Tide Evacuation Guide available from the Cairns Regional Council.

When and why you should evacuate

- For cyclones affecting the Cairns region, evacuation will only be ordered if a storm tide surge is expected in developed areas.
- Unless you have been advised to evacuate, make yourself secure inside at home and keep calm.
- If you live in a storm surge zone you should make pre-arrangements for safer temporary accommodation with family or friends in "higher places", outside threatened zones. This is your best option.
- If an evacuation has been ordered, places of refuge will be activated for people with no alternatives. Pets, alcohol and weapons are not allowed.
- Take your household emergency kit, bedding and towels if you need to leave home.
- Accommodation providers will assist their clients.
- Register your details on Register, Find, Reunite by phoning 1800 727 077 or online at www.redcross.org.au

Cairns Disaster Dashboard

Keep informed all year round

- Road conditions
- Power outages
- Flood cameras
- Weather warnings



www.disaster.cairns.qld.gov.au