GET READY TOWNSVILLE

Your guide to living in North Queensland

disaster.townsville.qld.gov.au







Queensland



TOWNSVILLE EMERGENCY CONTACTS

EDUCATING RESIDENTS ABOUT THE NATURAL DANGERS THAT CAN OCCUR IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

SERVICE	NUMBER
Emergency Calls	000
State Emergency Service (SES) Tarping/branches down	13 25 00
Queensland Police Service Policelink (non life-threatening calls)	000 13 14 44
Queensland Ambulance Service Queensland Ambulance Service (non life-threatening calls)	000 13 12 33
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	000
Townsville City Council Emergency after hours, flood information, dengue outbreaks, sun safety information	13 48 10
Emergency Management and Disaster Dashboard	13 22 96
Ergon Energy Loss of supply and emergencies	13 16 70
Origin Energy Natural and LPG gas emergencies (leaks only)	1800 808 526
North Regional Gas LPG gas emergencies	4774 5111
Telstra	13 22 03
Optus	13 13 44
Townsville Hospital and Health Service	4433 1111
Department of Transport and Main Roads Road closures	13 19 40
Translating and Interpreting Service	13 14 50
Veterinary Emergency Centre and Hospital	4781 3600



Living in the North

Townsville and North Queensland is a beautiful place to live with over 300 days of sunshine. Like many regions in northern Australia, there is a potential risk for natural disasters such as flooding and cyclones, tropical diseases (e.g. dengue) and higher rates of skin cancer.

Townsville City Council is committed to educating residents about the hazards that can occur in North Queensland.

EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

IT IS VITAL YOU PREPARE AN AIRTIGHT, WATERPROOF KIT

ENERGENCYP

PLAN. PREPARE. **ACT**. **Plan for cyclones**

Special items

- Baby needs such as nappies and bottles
- Medication and scripts
- Contact lenses or prescription glasses
- Games, books and puzzles for entertainment
- Ensure you have enough cash on hand to last one week
- □ Fuel for car
- □ Pet food and supplies

In a waterproof wallet

- Will and insurance policies
- Passports and immunisation records
- Bank account and credit card numbers
- Inventory of household contents
- □ Important phone numbers
- Family records such as birth and marriage certificates
- USB with the above documents saved electronically

Use this checklist when packing and updating your emergency kit.

Water

- Water in plastic containers
- A three day supply; minimum 4L of water per person, per day

Food

- □ Minimum three day supply
- Ready to eat canned meats, fruit and vegetables
- □ Canned juices, milk and soups
- Staples such as sugar, pepper, salt and high energy foods such as peanut butter, honey, jams and muesli bars
- □ Vitamins
- Food for babies, children, elderly persons or any special dietary requirements
- Comfort foods such as biscuits, lollies, cereals, coffee and tea

Tools and supplies

- Cooking facilities such as gas BBQ/camping stove
- Plates, bowls, cups, utensils (paper or plastic plates don't require washing)
- Battery operated radio
- Battery operated torches
- Spare batteries
- Utility knife
- □ Toilet paper
- □ Soap/detergent
- Personal hygiene items
- Duct and masking tape
- Matches in waterproof container
- Disinfectant
- Mobile phone and charger
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Tools for temporary repairs

- Rope and chains for securing outdoor items
- Extension cords and power boards
- Plastic sheeting or tarps

First aid kit

□ Replace any used contents

Clothing and bedding

- At least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person
- Long sleeve shirts and trousers
- Sturdy shoes
- Rain gear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Hats and work gloves
- Sunglasses

PREPARE YOUR FAMILY AND HOME FOR CYCLONES

CLEANING UP AROUND YOUR HOME HELPS YOU PREPARE FOR CYCLONES

PLAN. PREPARE. **ACT**. **Prepare your family and home for cyclones**

To help protect your home and loved ones during cyclones, take steps prior to the wet season to prepare your family and maintain your property. Don't leave it to the last minute. It pays to be prepared. Are you cyclone ready?

Council assists residents with the storage of important documents and photos. Citylibraries have scanning stations and residents can:

- Visit any Citylibraries branch with their important documents
- Copy and download their documents and/or photos to a USB. The library staff can assist if required.

Prepare your home

- Repair corrosion, particularly inside the roof
- Replace rotten and termite-infested timber
- Secure and tighten fixings and tie-down bolts on your roof
- Clean gutters and downpipes
- Trim trees and overhanging branches
- Find out how to turn off mains power for gas, water and electricity
- Purchase emergency supplies such as masking tape, tarpaulins, sandbags and water containers
- Is it possible that your house could contain asbestos? This could become damaged in a disaster event. It is important to know how to safely handle and dispose of asbestos.

Prepare your family

- Have a family meeting and explain the need for a family disaster plan and likely threats. Discuss what your family will do during a disaster event.
- Is your house in a flood or Storm Tide Zone? Check the Storm Tide Evacuation Maps on Council's website and prepare an evacuation plan.
- Prepare an Emergency Kit for your family.

There are many things you can do to reduce your chances of becoming a victim during a disaster. Taking these simple precautions will help protect you, your family and your property before the onset of a disaster.

STORM TIDE

YOU MAY NEED TO EVACUATE YOUR HOME DUE TO A STORM TIDE. ARE YOU CYCLONE READY?

PLAN. PREPARE. **ACT**. Know your storm tide zone

The Emergency Action Guide will assist you in determining if your property is at risk of inundation from a storm tide and whether evacuation is required. If you are not required to evacuate, your home is often the safest place for you.

As a local resident, Council recommends that you:

- Review the storm tide information on Council's website to determine if your property is located in an evacuation zone. Maps on the website are listed by suburb and can be viewed at street level* or
- 2. Pick up a copy of the Emergency Action Guide from Council's Customer Service Centres (for detailed mapping please refer to the website)

- 3. Consider the tips contained in the guide for preparing a household emergency plan and emergency kit.
- Familiarise yourself with the local emergency contact details and radio station information.

If your residence is located in a coloured evacuation zone, your property may be inundated in a storm tide event. The height of the predicted storm tide during the disaster event will determine which zones will be affected.

*PLEASE NOTE: If you are not located in a coloured evacuation zone, your suburb will not be shown on the detailed maps located on Council's website.

Authorities will advise evacuations by coloured zones, NOT streets or suburbs. This year be prepared, know your evacuation zone.

Evacuation zones

EVACUATION ZONE	RISK OF INUNDATION
Red	Extreme
Orange	High
Yellow	Medium
Blue	Low



WARNINGS AND EMERGENCY ALERTS Council advises storm tide warning for red zone.

TUNE INTO YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATION, LOG ON TO COUNCIL'S WEBSITE AND FOLLOW THEM ON FACEBOOK, LISTEN OUT FOR EMERGENCY **ALERTS AND ACT QUICKLY ON THE ADVICE GIVEN.**

PLAN. PREPARE. ACT Tune into warnings

Emergency Alert System

The Townsville Local Disaster Management Group (TLDMG) utilises the Queensland Government's 'Emergency Alert Svstem'.

The 'Emergency Alert System' is the national telephone based emergency warning system that sends voice messages to landlines (based on the location of the handset) and text messages to mobile phones (based on the location of the mobile phone).

The 'Emergency Alert System' provides emergency service organisations and Council's Local Disaster Management Group with another way to warn communities in the event of an emergency such as a storm tide warning and other extreme weather events.

For more information visit the Queensland Government **Emergency Alert website** emergencyalert.gov.au

DO NOT BLOCK +61 444 444 444.

044444444

People in zone are

directed to evacuate.

And townshile ald avail Check zones at

or ph 1300 878 001

This number is related to Emergency Alert service. If the caller ID number or message header on your phone displays the number '+61 444 444 444' it is genuine.

Do not rely on receiving a warning message on your phone. You still need to prepare for an emergency and a warning before you act.



When warnings are issued you may be directed to:

- Finalise preparations
- Secure items around your home
- Activate your Emergency Plan
- · Shelter in your home, or
- · Commence evacuation to your predetermined safer location.

Radio stations

Tune into your local radio station for emergency information.

5,	
ABC North QLD	630AM
Triple M	102.3FM
Hit FM	103.1FM
Power100	100.7FM
Star	106.3FM
Triple T	103.9FM
4K1G	107.1FM
Live FM	99.9FM

Website

disaster.townsville.gld.gov.au 🖳 bom.gov.au

Social media

Townsville Disaster Information X @TSVCouncil



POTENTIAL HAZARDS

HAZARDS IN YOUR HOME COULD CAUSE HARM TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN THE EVENT OF A DISASTER

PLAN. PREPARE. **ACT**. **Potential hazards in the home**

Managing food safety in disasters

During disasters there may be disruptions to our normal environment, such as power failure, debris through homes and businesses and increased contaminants in the air. These changes in our environment can increase the risks associated with food safety. In a disaster, always remember the following tips:

- Store food and drinks away from potential contaminants such as flood waters and debris
- If drinking water is contaminated, follow directions from the relevant Health Authority.
- Store ready to eat foods away from raw foods
- If you can't keep cold foods below 5°C, use the 2hr/4hr rule:
 - If food is out of refrigeration for up to 2 hours, use immediately or store below 5°C
 - From 2 to 4 hours, eat straight away or discard
 - If food is out for longer than 4 hours, throw it away if in doubt, throw it out
- Thoroughly wash your hands before preparing and handling food
- Ensure your utensils and food contact surfaces are sanitised before use
- When heating food, ensure it is heated until steaming

These tips can help you and your family avoid a bad case of food poisoning.

Asbestos – don't take the risk

In a well maintained condition, Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) poses a very low risk to health. However, after a disaster, ACM may be damaged, increasing the risk of exposure to asbestos fibres.

Cleaning up asbestos after a disaster

The safest option is to have a licensed asbestos removalist clean up your yard. If there is more than 10m² of ACM to remove, you are required by law to employ a licensed asbestos removalist contractor.

If there is less than $10 \mbox{m}^2$ of ACM, you may choose to remove the asbestos yourself.

Some points to consider are:

- If you're unsure whether it is ACM, treat it as if it were or have it tested by a laboratory
- Do your research by referring to the Queensland Government's "Asbestos: A guide for minor renovation" for removal of less than 10m²
- Use single-use personal protective equipment such as a P2 respirator, disposable coveralls, boot covers and latex gloves when handling or around damaged ACM
- Follow appropriate handling, removal, transport and disposal procedures for ACM, including the use of wetting agents, wrapping using a double layer of builders plastic and duct tape, and asbestos labelling.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

A VOLUNTEER ORGANISATION DESIGNED TO HELP THE QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY IN TIMES OF EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS



PLAN. PREPARE. **ACT**. **How can the SES help you?**

The role of the SES

The State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer organisation designed to help the Queensland community in times of emergencies and disasters.

Each year the SES receive thousands of calls for assistance. The SES is involved in preparing for, and responding to, many different types of disasters and emergencies including:

- Cyclones
- Storms
- Floods
- Crime scene/forensics searches
- Public events
- Body recovery
- Earthquakes
- Cliff rescues
- Transportation incidents (road/rail/air)
- Landslides
- Searches for missing persons, and
- Animal disease outbreaks.

The SES performs the following functions in the above emergencies:

- Search and rescue
- Help injured persons
- Protect persons or property from danger or potential danger associated with an emergency, and
- Other activities to help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster events.

When to call the SES

For non-life threatening emergencies call the SES on **13 25 00**.

SES volunteers have limited resources to respond to emergencies. Please ensure that your situation is an emergency before you call. You can call the SES for the following assistance during emergencies:

- Trees and branches down and access to your home is blocked
- Major flooding and temporary repairs/covering of damaged or leaking roof
- Access to tarpaulins for homes, and
- Access to sandbags.

The SES is not available to undertake general maintenance on leaking roofs or cleaning blocked gutters during rain or cyclone events. If you rent your property please contact the property owner or manager for maintenance issues. This should be done prior to the wet season. The SES must have the owner's permission to enter a property or access a roof. Power will be turned off by the SES before access. You will need to have a licensed electrician or Ergon turn it back on.



LIVING WITH THE WET SEASON

TOWNSVILLE IS BUILT ON A NATURAL FLOOD PLAIN AND THE CITY WILL SOMETIMES EXPERIENCE LOCALISED FLOODING

WATER OVER ROAD

PLAN. PREPARE. **ACT**. **Be safe in the wet season**

Townsville is built on a natural flood plain and the city will sometimes experience localised flooding. Inundation through homes is generally limited and tends to occur in older suburbs.

During the wet season, water may build up over low lying roads. It is important to note that some roads are designed to channel water away when flows exceed the capacity of the underground drainage system. These roads act as protection, directing stormwater away from properties to lakes, creeks and the ocean. As a result, flood is short lived.

Be flood safe!

- Don't drink flood waters
- Don't drive around barricades
- Don't swim or play in flood waters, and
- Don't play or swim in stormwater drains.

King tides

King tides are a natural phenomena that can result in low lying areas of Townsville being inundated, namely parts of Railway Estate, South Townsville and Hermit Park. King tides usually take place in January and February. If they coincide with storm surges from cyclones, water levels can greatly exceed than the forecasted level. If you live in a suburb prone to king tides, tune into warnings and take precautionary action by moving items to higher ground.

Avoid driving through saltwater on roads wherever possible to prevent permanent damage to your vehicle. Speeding should also be avoided as it can send waves along streets, pushing water into homes and yards.

Be road safe!

- Do a safety check on your car – tyres, wipers, brakes
- Slow down in the wet, and
- Don't drive through flooded roads.







SHELTERS, EVACUATIONS AND RECOVERY

PRIOR TO EACH CYCLONE SEASON, TOWNSVILLE RESIDENTS NEED TO DEVELOP A HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY PLAN.

PLAN. PREPARE. **ACT**. Know your options

Prior to each cyclone season, Townsville residents need to develop a Household Emergency Plan that includes evacuation and shelter considerations based on their circumstances and exposure to risk. Follow these key steps to determine your best sheltering option in the event of a disaster:

1. What is your risk?

- Consider the location of your home.
- Consider the construction and condition of your home, caravan or temporary dwelling.
- Consider your needs. Do you live alone, have pets or have special needs?

2. Consider your shelter options:

- Shelter in place if you live in a well-constructed home located outside of a Storm Tide Evacuation Zone, your best option is to shelter in your home.
- Evacuate to shelter in a safer place - prearrange your evacuation with friends or family first, consider shelter options in your community as a last resort.

PLEASE NOTE: Shelters such as Places of Refuge or cyclone shelters are intended as shortterm options, have very basic amenities and limited capacity.

Managing your pets in disasters

Owners should include pets in their emergency plans. A disaster may mean you need to evacuate or confine a pet at home. The following are tips to care for your pets:

- Plan ahead your animals are your responsibility. Not all shelters and evacuation centres will accept pets. By acting early, you will avoid unnecessary danger and anxiety.
- Pets should be moved to a safer place before a potential disaster. This might be with relatives, friends or an animal boarding facility.

If you are evacuating and taking your pet with you, ensure you have the following:

- Non-perishable pet food and water bowls
- A leash, a muzzle (if required), sturdy cage or pet carrier
- Plastic bags, litter or urine pads to clean up animal waste, and
- Pet's medication, medical history and vet contact details.

Recovering together Support | Strengthen | Sustain

1. What is your wellbeing recovery plan?

- Consider the wellbeing of yourself, your family and your friends after a disaster
- Check on your neighbours
 Consider your ability to
- Consider your ability to volunteer or donate

Community support & counselling services

Beyond Blue	1300 224 636
Lifeline	13 11 14
Kids Helpline	1800 551 800
Parentline	1300 301 300
Salvo Care Line	1300 363 622
Red Cross	1800 733 111
NQ Domestic Violence	4721 2888
Gambling Helpline	1800 858 858
St Vincent de Paul	4721 2030
Salvation Army	4779 3791
	4723 5607
Mensline Australia	1300 789 978
Seniors Enquiry Line	1300 135 500
Centacare	4772 9000
Women's Centre	4775 7555
Lifeline Financial First Aid	1300 007 007

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR BUSHFIRES

EVERY YEAR BUSHFIRES PUT THE LIVES AND PROPERTIES OF QUEENSLANDERS AT RISK.

PLAN. PREPARE. **ACT**. **Don't fuel the fire - prepare your home and family for bushfires**

Every year bushfires put the lives and properties of Queenslanders at risk. Everyone has a part to play in bushfire mitigation and it is vitally important that we all take steps to ensure we prepare for bushfires.

- Do you live within a few kilometres of bushland?
- Does your local area have a bushfire history?
- Is your home built on a slope?Do you have trees and shrubs
- within 20m of your house?
- Is your 'Bushfire Survival Plan' more than one year old?

If you answered 'Yes' to one or more of these questions you may be at risk in the event of a bushfire. Visit **ruralfire.qld.gov.au** and develop a Bushfire Survival Plan.

The following are few simple steps to prepare yourself, family and property for bushfires.

1. Report bushfire activity

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (wildfires) – 000

Townsville Police (illegal activity) – 000

2. Check regularly

Check your local Fire Danger Rating regularly and understand the current fire risks.

3. Prepare your property

Properties that are well prepared are far more likely to survive a bushfire, so everyone living in a bushfire-prone area should prepare their property:

- Clear space around buildings
- Clear and remove undergrowth
- Fill any gaps in the eaves and around windows and door frames
- Clear debris and grass from fence lines
- Remove any fire hazards from around the house
- Reduce debris in and around your property e.g. remove fallen palm fronds and piles of grass clippings, rake up bark and maintain your yard
- Make sure you have appropriate water and firefighting equipment
- Make sure your property has cleared access for fire trucks

More tips for preparing your property are available at ruralfire.qld.gov.au

PLEASE NOTE: It is illegal to dump green waste over your fence line, including dumping on public land, parks, bushland and creeks. This activity can increase fuel for fires and put your property at risk.







MOSQUITOES DON'T GET BITTEN

MOSQUITOES CARRY MANY DISEASES. PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM MOSQUITO BITES.

PLAN. PREPARE. **ACT**. It only takes ONE BITE

Mosquitoes can have a large impact on our tropical outdoor lifestyle and on the health of our community due to their nuisance capabilities and the potential to transmit mosquito-borne diseases.

How does Council manage mosquitoes?

Townsville City Council runs a proactive mosquito management program to target mosquito breeding on public land across the city. These public lands include the upper tidal saltmarsh lands and freshwater grassy plains and drains where water pools.

Council's control activities are scientifically managed, targeting areas where mosquito breeding is known to occur. Treatments are carried out after rain and/or king tides by helicopter and ground, staff on foot and all-terrain vehicles, using environmentally sound products designed to kill mosquito larvae but no other marine life. Council does not undertake controls to kill the adult mosquitoes as research has shown this to be an ineffective solution, environmentally unfriendly and reactive measure.

Mosquito diseases

Common mosquito-borne diseases that can be transmitted to humans all year round in Townsville include the Ross River Virus and Barmah Forest Virus. There are also a number of imported viruses from travellers visiting or residents returning to Townsville from mosquito-borne infected areas. The most common virus is Dengue Fever which can be spread by the dengue mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*.

It is important to protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites.

All mosquito-borne diseases must be diagnosed by a medical practitioner. Consult your local doctor if showing symptoms and avoid contact with mosquito bites.

How to avoid mosquito bites

Protect yourself from mosquito bites by:

- using effective mosquito repellent
- limiting your time in mosquito areas especially around peak mosquito activity times eg. dawn and dusk
- wearing loose fitting, light coloured clothing that covers you
- using mosquito nets and screens
- using mosquito coils and lanterns











MOSQUITOES AROUND YOUR HOME

DO YOUR WEEKLY YARD CHECK AND STOP THE MOSQUITO BREEDING.

PLAN. PREPARE. **ACT**. Protect yourself against disease-carrying mosquitoes

Controlling mosquitoes at your home lies with you.

Follow these three simple steps to defend against mosquitoes:

1. Don't get bitten – they are daytime biters

- Use repellent
- Burn mosquito coils
- Use surface sprays
- Screen your house
- Wear loose clothes they can't bite through

2. See your doctor if you feel unwell. Symptoms of mosquitoborne diseases include:

- Headache
- Muscle and joint pain
- Skin rash
- Loss of appetite, vomiting, and diarrhoea
- Fever
- Bleeding of gums or nose.

Ask your doctor for a blood test.

3. Do your weekly yard check

Are you making mosquitoes welcome around your home?

Take responsibility to protect yourself and your family by checking your yard for anything that can hold water.

Where do mosquitoes breed?

Check potential breeding sites weekly, including:

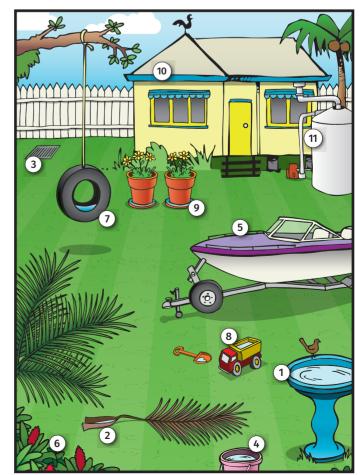
- 1 Bird bath
- 2 Palm frond
- $(\mathbf{3})$ Sump pit
- (4) Bucket



 $(\mathbf{11})$ Water tank







SUN SAFETY STINGER SAFETY AND LIFEGUARDS

REMEMBER THESE SAFETY TIPS WHEN YOU'RE ENJOYING TOWNSVILLE'S GREAT OUTDOOR FACILITIES

PLAN. PREPARE. **ACT**. **Safety tips for enjoying the outdoors**

With over 300 days of sunshine every year, Townsville is a great place to live. However, it is important to remember these safety tips when enjoying Townsville's great outdoor facilities and swimming venues.

Sun safety

- Wear a long sleeve shirt
- Wide brim hat
- Sunglasses
- Re-apply sunscreen, and
- Drink plenty of water.

It only takes six minutes to burn, avoid the sun between 10am and 3pm when UV levels are extreme.

Stinger safety

November to May is stinger season:

- Look for and observe warning signs
- Swim in swimming enclosures along coastal regions
- Do not swim when nets are closed
- Wear a full body length lycra swimming suit or wetsuit during the stinger season.

This attire can reduce your chances of being stung by a jellyfish by well over 75%

- Refrain from swimming at night
- Dogs are not allowed in the stinger net enclosures so please refrain from swimming or wading dogs within the vicinity, and
- Do not jump or play on stinger nets.

Lifeguard hours

FACILITY	STINGER NETS	LIFEGUARD PATROLS	
The Strand	Net 1	9am - 5pm daily	
	Net 2	9am - 5pm Sept - May	
Rockpool	N/A	9am - 5pm daily (Closed Wed for cleaning)	
Magnetic Island Alma Bay	No	9am - 4pm daily	
Magnetic Island Horseshoe Bay	Yes	9am - 4pm daily	
Magnetic Island Picnic Bay	Yes	No lifeguard on duty	
Pallarenda	Yes	Summer, Easter holidays, weekends & public holidays	

Balgal Beach	Yes	Easter and Christmas holidays
Rollingstone	No	No lifeguard on duty
Toomulla	No	No lifeguard on duty
Toolakea	No	No lifeguard on duty
Saunders Beach	No	No lifeguard on duty
Bushland Beach	No	No lifeguard on duty





🔆 SUN SAFETY, STINGER SAFETY AND LIFEGUARDS

Household Emergency Plan

EMERGENCY PLAN ACTIVATION			
Contact all householders	Tune into warnings		Check on neighbours
□ Shelter in our strongest room	Locate Emergency Kit		Make final preparations
EVACUATION DESTINATION			
Place to meet:	Address:		
Phone number:	Email address:		
OUT OF TOWN EMERGENCY CONTACT			
Name:	Address:		
Phone number:	Email address:		
MAIN SERVICE SUPPLIES LOCATION	SWITCH OFF		
Electricity:	🗆 Yes 🗆	No	
Gas:	🗆 Yes 🗆	No	
Water:	□ Yes □	No	
VEHICLE REGISTRATION	OUR STRONGEST	ROOM I	S

PETS		
Name:	Description:	
Name:	Description:	
EVACUATION CHECKLIST		
Prior to evacuation:		
 Ensure vehicle is full of fuel Ensure you have cash on hand 	Know the preferred evacuation routesKnow the location of our evacuation place	
When evacuating:		
 Pack Emergency Kit, and a copy of our Emergency Plan Contact our out of town emergency contact 	 Turn off mains supply for power, gas and water Secure and lock our home and proceed to our predetermined evacuation destination 	
If flooding or storm surge is imminent:		
Sandbag home	□ Store electrical items off the ground	
 disaster.townsville.qld.gov.au 13 48 10 Townsville Disaster Information 		
	Modified: 16 October 2023	