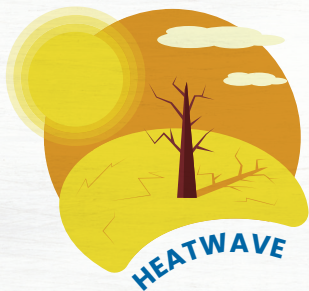


BE PREPARED

Your guide to severe weather in
the Burnett River Catchment



| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Flood | 1 |
| Bushfire | 3 |
| Earthquake | 7 |
| Heatwave | 8 |
| Emergency contacts | 9 |
| Evacuation strategy | 10 |
| Travelling | 12 |
| Tune into warnings | 14 |
| Emergency kit | 16 |
| Your evacuation plan | 18 |

Flood



Severe storms, floods and cyclones can happen at any time of the year.

Severe storms and cyclones can produce large hail, damaging wind, lightning, and heavy rainfall, which can cause widespread damage, injury and even death.

Some storms can also create a dangerous storm tide. If a storm tide warning is issued and you are on or near the beach, you should move inland and stay away from the coast.



Rivers and creeks in the Burnett Catchment can flood when we receive a lot of rain. People can be swept away if they enter floodwaters on foot, or in vehicles, due to the speed and power of the fast moving water. Flood water can rise and fall quickly from short, intense bursts of rainfall or can last for a week or more from wide spread heavy rain.

To stay safe it is important to:

- pay attention to where you are and warnings
- stay away from rivers, creeks and drains
- move to higher ground if water is rising fast
- follow all traffic and road closure signs
- never try to drive, ride or walk through flood water – if it's flooded, forget it



Bushfire

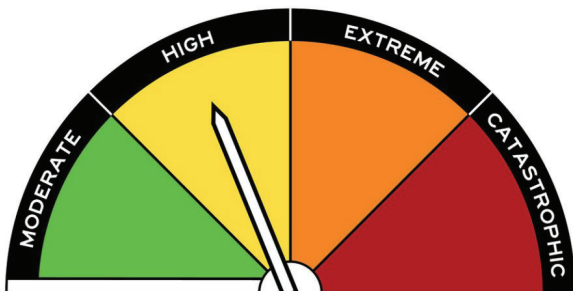


The bushfire season in Queensland runs from early July to February.

You can check the fire danger rating at qld.gov.au/fdr.

Look for these signs as you drive through our region:

FIRE DANGER RATING



Keep yourself informed and monitor conditions. Be ready to act if necessary. These ratings tell you what you should do if there is a bushfire:



CATASTROPHIC

Leave bushfire risk areas

- These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire.
- If a fire starts to take hold, lives are likely to be lost.
- Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.



EXTREME

Take action now

- Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.
- If a fire starts, take immediate action.
- Go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.



HIGH Be ready to act

- Fires can be dangerous.
- Decide what you will do if a fire starts.
- There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.




MODERATE Plan and prepare


- Most fire can be controlled.
- Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.



When there is a bushfire in your area, it is up to you to take notice, seek information, make decisions and act.

The Australian Warnings system for all hazards has three levels:

 **Advice** – no immediate danger but you need to stay informed in case the situation changes.

 **Watch and Act** – heightened level of threat and conditions are changing. Act now to protect yourself and your family

 **Emergency Warning** – you are in danger and need to take life-saving action immediately.

Read more about warnings here:

australianwarningsystem.com.au



Earthquake



**Earthquakes are rare
but they can occur.**

Follow the advice of emergency services if you are affected by an earthquake.

During an earthquake:



DROP



COVER



HOLD

If you are near the coast, a tsunami warning may be issued. If you are on or near the beach, immediately move inland or to higher ground (e.g. upper levels of a sturdy multi-storey building). **Stay away from the coast.**

Heatwave



A heatwave is an extended period of very high summer temperatures with the potential to adversely affect communities.

Heatwaves in Australia have caused the greatest loss of life of any natural hazard (except disease). During a heat wave:

Stay hydrated and nourished

- drink plenty of water throughout the day to avoid dehydration
- avoid drinks containing alcohol, caffeine and high sugar
- eat small, frequent meals





Stay cool

- keep your body cool
- find a cool shady spot and avoid hot, enclosed spaces
- wear light, loose cotton clothes
- stay out of the sun from 10 am to 3 pm
- slow down and take it easy – avoid strenuous activities

Emergency contacts

Emergency: Police, Fire, Ambulance...000 (Triple Zero)

SES storm and flood emergency assistance....132 500

Road traffic and travel information..... 131 940

Translation and interpreter service.....131 450

(TIS National)

Evacuation strategy

If the weather turns bad,
where should I go?

Follow the instructions of emergency services. If you can, leave the area and go to another location away from the danger.

Make sure someone knows your travel plans.

Agree on a meeting place with your fellow travellers and how you will contact each other in an emergency.



Shelter in place
If safe to do so

Evacuate to family or friends in safe places



Place of refuge or evacuation centre
If activated



Don't think it won't happen to you...



Tune in



Log on



Standard **Emergency**
Warning Signal



Listen out



And act

Travelling in the Burnett Catchment

Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained for the journey you are undertaking.

Check lights, tyre tread, ensure your vehicle has a full tank of fuel and have a spare supply of fuel (if possible). Pack your emergency kit in an easily accessible place within the vehicle.

Before you leave on a trip

- Check the weather reports and Fire Danger Rating for the area you are travelling in
- Consider packing a box of food and drinks that do not require cooking
- Pack spare clothing, blankets and wet weather gear in the car
- Tell someone about your travel plans and update them if your plans change.
- Be prepared to change your plans without notice

On the road

- Tune in to local radio – ABC Wide Bay radio is 100.1 FM or 855 AM.
- Always avoid travelling in areas affected by severe weather. Do not go sightseeing as conditions can change quickly.
- Never EVER drive through flood waters. The water may be deeper or flowing faster than you think. The road may be damaged underneath.
- Listen to warnings – follow advice given by Council, police or other emergency services if roads are closed.
- If you require emergency assistance from police, fire or ambulance; call 000.

Remember!

If it's flooded, forget it!

Tune into warnings

Ensure everyone knows how to Tune in, Log on, Listen out and Act.

Tune in

- To your local radio and TV station to listen for warnings, weather updates, and local community safety announcements.
- ABC Wide Bay radio is 100.1 FM or 855 AM

Log on

- Visit the Regional Council disaster dashboard (disaster.bundaberg.qld.gov.au OR emergency.northburnett.qld.gov.au) for:
 - Up to date information on current emergencies
 - Information regarding power outages, road conditions and weather updates
 - Information on evacuation centres and evacuation routes if they are opened
- Visit the Bureau of Meteorology (bom.gov.au) for weather warnings.

Listen out

- Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) – this siren sound is used at the beginning of serious warnings on radio and television. Pay careful attention to the message that follows the SEWS and act immediately on the advice given.
- Emergency Alert text messages may be sent to your mobile telephone. If you receive a text from Emergency Alert, follow the instructions.
- Emergency Services may use sirens and loud-hailer announcements.
- Emergency Services personnel may door-knock your local area to pass on warnings.

Act quickly on advice provided

- Ensure your travelling companions are aware of the warnings and advice provided.
- Check on neighbours and friends who may need special assistance.
- Locate your Emergency Kit.
- Activate your Evacuation Plan if required.

Emergency kit

Your Emergency Kit should contain essential items for at least 3 days of isolation in the event of an emergency.

Also include the equipment you will need to prepare meals with no power. Keep your kit in a waterproof storage container and store in an accessible location.

Medical and personal care supplies

- First Aid Kit
- A weeks' supply of essential medications, prescriptions and dosage information
- Essential toiletries for at least 3 days including toilet paper, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, sunscreen, insect repellent, personal hygiene items, etc.

Clothing and footwear

- Change of warm protective clothes and shoes for everyone
- A pair of sturdy gloves to help handle debris and prevent injury

Food and water for at least 3 days

- 10 litres of water per person
- Non-perishable food
- Can opener, cutlery and cooking equipment

Communications

- Battery powered radio (incl. extra batteries)
- Fully charged mobile phone and portable charger

Important documents

- Original or certified copies of driver's licence, birth and marriage certificates, passports, etc. including electronic copies on USB, portable storage device or online storage.

Light

- Battery powered torch/lantern (incl. extra batteries)



Evacuation plan

Evacuation destination

Place to meet:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Emergency contact

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Contact details for immigration, visa, consulate support, etc.

Prior to evacuation

- Ensure vehicle is full of fuel

- Check on your travelling companions

- Decide where you will go if you need to leave the area

- Know the location of evacuation meeting place

When evacuating

- Take Emergency Kit, and a copy of your Evacuation Plan

 - Contact your emergency contact before you leave and once you arrive at your evacuation destination
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