

Call2View's Cyclone Safety Guide

This storm season in the Northern Territory, we want to help you protect what's important to you: your home, your family and your belongings.

The following guide will help you plan for the unexpected, and ease or eliminate some of the stress and worry that is brought on by a cyclone.

We've created our guide in a checklist format so that you can print off each section and put it on the fridge or keep it in a place of easy access in case of an emergency.

Cyclone emergency kit

Don't leave this until the last minute. Can you imagine the madness at the shops when a cyclone watch is issued? Be smart and stock up on the following items so that you can have peace of mind this wet season.

- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, family photos) – place them in waterproof bags
- Copies of house and car keys
- Emergency money including coins for public telephones
- First aid kit
- Plenty of batteries
- Torch (waterproof is recommended), candles and matches
- Battery operated radio
- Fuel cans for your car
- Enough water to keep you and your family hydrated for at least 72 hours
- Enough food to feed you and your family for at least 72 hours (canned food, longlife milk)
- Pet supplies
- Sheets, blankets, sleeping bags and pillows
- Two spare outfits of protective clothing for each household member
- Medications, special needs for infants, the elderly or disabled
- Toiletry items
- Games or books to keep the kids happy.

Note that these items should be stored together, ready to take with you if a cyclone hits. Make sure all family members know where your cyclone emergency kit is stored. Try and store your kit in a waterproof carry bag so no items are damaged in the event of a flood.

Checklist of what to do before, during and after the cyclone

Before

This section of the guide addresses what you should do in preparation for a cyclone, when a cyclone warning has been issued and when an evacuation has been ordered.

Preparation

- Trim all branches and tree tops (with council permission)
- Circle your house and remove any loose items that could cause injury or damage during extreme winds
- Ensure that all family members know and understand what your family plan is, in case of a cyclone emergency. This should include where to meet when a warning is issued, who to contact or where to stay if you are unable to reach a certain location
- If your house has been built to code, ensure your family members know where the strongest part of the house is
- If your house has not been built to code, ensure your family knows where to seek shelter, whether that is at a friend's house that has been built to code, or a public emergency shelter.

Warning has been issued

- Locate your cyclone emergency kit and check that everything is ready to go in case of an evacuation in your area
- Listen to your local radio to keep up to date with the movement of the cyclone
- Be prepared to pick your children up from school
- Park cars in the garage or under shelter with the handbrake on
- Bring outside furniture indoors
- Board your windows and shut all doors
- Keep listening to your portable radio to find out how the cyclone is progressing.

Evacuation

- Listen out for safe routes and when to evacuate
- Take your cyclone emergency kit, turn off your power, gas and water at the mains and lock your doors
- Evacuating inland: leave early to avoid heavy traffic, flooding and wind hazards
- Evacuating to a public shelter: follow Police and Emergency Service directions
- Note: if you take pets to a designated underground car park, they must be restrained and you must remain with them at all times.

During

If you are taking shelter at a public emergency shelter, stay calm and follow the advice given by Emergency Service personnel. If your home is built to code and you are staying home:

- Stay inside and shelter in the strongest part of the house (bathroom and passage way) and stay away from windows
- Ensure you have turned off all power in the house
- Protect yourself with a mattress, rugs or blankets if damaging winds have broken through your house
- Move under a strong table or bed if winds persist
- If you happen to be driving when a cyclone hits, stop somewhere clear of power lines, trees, streams and high-rise buildings where debris can fall.

A word of caution – if winds die down, don't assume the cyclone is over as it may be the eye of the storm. Do not move from where you are and listen to your radio to hear for updates on the cyclones position.

After

- Don't go outside until advised that it is safe to do so – listen to your radio for updates and advice
- If or when you go outside, beware of fallen power lines and trees, broken glass, loose items and broken sewerage and water lines
- If you took shelter at a public emergency shelter, don't go home until the area is deemed safe to return and only use a recommended route by emergency personnel.

Emergency shelters in Darwin and Greater Darwin region

Berry Springs Primary School

1150 Cox Peninsula Road, Berry Springs

Casuarina Senior College

61 Trower Road, Moil

Cox Peninsula Community Government Council Office

Lot 62 Wagait Tower Road, Wagait Beach

Dripstone Middle School

326 Trower Road, Tiwi

Girraween Primary School

Carruth Road, Girraween

Nightcliff Middle School

90 Aralia Street, Nightcliff

Palmerston Senior College

Tilston Avenue, Driver

Rosebery Primary & Middle School

Corner Forrest Parade & Belyuen Roads, Rosebery

Supreme Court Building

The Esplanade, Darwin

Taminmin College

Challoner Circuit, Humpty Doo

Car parks in the Darwin and Greater Darwin region

Casuarina Square Shopping Centre

247 Trower Road, Casuarina

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Esplanade

116 The Esplanade, Darwin

Palmerston Hub Complex

3 Maluka Street, Palmerston

Palmerston Shopping Centre

Temple Terrace, Palmerston