

# GET READY FOR

## STORM SEASON

### BEFORE STORM SEASON

Prepare an emergency kit. Your emergency kit is a collection of items that provides for your household's essential needs in the event of emergencies. Your kit should be kept in a sturdy bag or waterproof storage box and stored in a safe, easy to access place. For a list of items to include in your emergency kit, visit [www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/disaster-management](http://www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/disaster-management) or contact Cook Shire Council. The best place to be during a natural disaster, unless you have been advised by emergency services to evacuate, is in your own home or the home of a friend or family member.

#### Disaster Preparation

- [www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/disaster](http://www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/disaster)

#### Roads Status

- [www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au](http://www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au)
- [www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/disaster](http://www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/disaster)
- 13 19 40

#### Weather and Disaster Updates

- [www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/disaster](http://www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/disaster)
- ABC Far North 105.7FM
- Print media, Shire noticeboards and letterboxes

#### Flood and Storm Assistance

- SES 132 500

### AFTER A DISASTER EVENT

Keep informed about what is happening in your community and for advice on when it is safe to go outdoors. Do not go outdoors unless you are sure the disaster has passed and it is safe to do so. Stay away from fallen trees or debris which may contain live power lines or hazardous materials. Do not drive unless necessary, and do not attempt to cross flooded roads.

### ARE YOU PREPARED?

Preparing for a natural disaster is your responsibility.

Do you have an emergency kit? Each household should have an emergency kit with essential items for survival after a disaster.

Do you have an emergency plan? Having an emergency plan is an important step to prepare for, survive and cope with emergencies. If you have pets, don't forget to include them in your emergency plan. If you live in a flood or bushfire prone area, planning for an evacuation can also save time in the event of an emergency.

Do you know your neighbours? Neighbours can help each other in many ways before, during and after a disaster, and can include not only the people in your street but also the wider community.

Is your home prepared? The best time to prepare your home is before storm, cyclone, bushfire and wet season. Make sure your home is well maintained and insured. Identify the strongest room in the house and consider fitting storm shutters. If you are a business owner, remember to prepare your place of work as well.

Visit [www.getready.qld.gov.au](http://www.getready.qld.gov.au) for more information, and a step by step guide to being prepared for a natural disaster.



### PLACES OF REFUGE

Cooktown, Lakeland, Coen and Rossville have identified buildings for community members to go to if they have been evacuated, have no friends or family to go to, or feel unsafe in their home during a disaster such as a cyclone, flood or bushfire.

A place of refuge is not specifically designed as a public cyclone shelter, but is a building that will provide a level of protection from the effects of the cyclone as it passes.

The opening of a Place of Refuge will be announced when it is needed by the Local Disaster Management Group.

### ARE YOU ABLE TO VOLUNTEER?

In the event of a disaster, the successful operation of the places of refuge in Cook Shire will depend on the number of available skilled volunteers.

Volunteers will be required to carry out various roles once the refuges have been opened by the Local Disaster Management Group.

These include:

- Registration of people;
- Allocation of space;
- Distributing resources;
- Admin duties and record keeping;
- First Aid, health and wellbeing services;
- Assisting with general management;
- Communications internal and external; and
- Social and emotional support.

If you are able to volunteer either pre or post disaster, contact Cook Shire Council on 4069 5444.