

Banana Shire

EMERGENCY

ACTION GUIDE



This Emergency Action Guide has been produced by the Banana Shire Council Local Disaster Management Group.

It contains valuable information on what action you should take in emergency situations such as Storms, Floods, and Fires.

READ IT THOROUGHLY

Please read the contents and keep the booklet in an obvious place (suggest with the phonebook) so that all members of the household can refer to it in times of emergency. It is intended as a guide only and you should listen to your radio during any emergency for further instructions.

Introduction – Message from the Mayor

Banana Shire has been impacted by several significant events in recent years.

Therefore it is essential that the community as a whole recognise the importance of taking all steps to ensure that they “Prepare – Act – Survive” .

My message to the community is that disasters come in many varied size, shape and forms, as historically has been evident within the shire.

The Banana Shire Emergency Action Guide is an integral component of Council’s ongoing public education program.

The guide is prepared to assist you in the preparation for such events and to protect yourself and your family, and property.

This booklet is designed as a local guide and contains information that will assist the community in gaining an understanding of some of the relevant hazards which pose a potential threat to the community, encouraging the community to take responsibility to make personal preparations to protect themselves and property, and advice on precautions that may be taken before during and after an event.

You are encouraged to read this emergency guide, and retain as a guide in the case of a future event.

This action guide includes information on severe storms, flood, bushfires and other hazards in addition to general evacuation information.

I would take this opportunity to remind everyone that community safety responsibility lies with each and every one of us, and I would encourage you to use this guide to develop your own emergency plan so that you and your family are well prepared for any disaster should it arise.

Remember that “Prevention, Preparation, Response, Recovery” is the critical message. By being prepared for an emergency you can reduce your risk, and ease the demand on emergency service agencies.



Nev Ferrier
Mayor
Banana Shire Council



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Acknowledgement:

In developing this emergency action guide Banana Shire Council acknowledges information provided by Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, Queensland Health, and Ergon Energy.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Some important phone numbers are listed below for your convenience. In the event of a disaster occurring Council may activate its Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC). It should be noted that the role of the LDCC during disasters is to interpret and act on warnings received, by co-ordinating resources and support organisations to combat the disaster event.

Police Stations

- Biloela ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 4992 2333
- Baralaba ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 4998 1222
- Goovigen ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 4996 5201
- Moura ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 4997 1923
- Theodore ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 4993 1222
- Wowan ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 4937 1333
- Taroom ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 4627 3200

Ambulance Service

- General Enquiries ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 137468

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

- General Enquiries ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 137468

Rural Fire Service

- Rockhampton Area Office ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 4938 4736
- Gladstone Regional Office ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 4899 2200

Ergon Energy

- Customer Service ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 131046
- Faults Only ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 132296

Banana Shire Council ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 4992 9500

Emergencies

Local Disaster Coordination Centre

(only operational in the event of a disaster) ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ (07) 4992 3511
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ (07) 4992 4027

Police/Fire/Ambulance ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 000

State Emergency Service (Flood/Storm Emergency) ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 132500

Ergon Energy (life threatening emergencies only) ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 000 or 131670



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Websites

- Banana Shire Council** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ www.banana.qld.gov.au
- Bureau of Meteorology** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ www.bom.gov.au
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority** ~ www.qldreconstruction.org.au

Follow us on Facebook

Banana Shire Disaster Management Information
www.facebook.com/pages/Banana-Shire-Disaster-Management-Information/182147428505827
 Facebook site is only activated during disaster events

Radio Stations

The current configuration of Local Radio services that can provide some coverage in the Banana Shire is:

- **Biloela**
 - ABC Capricornia 94.9FM
 - Rebel FM 88.9FM
 - Breeze FM 89.7FM
- **Moura**
 - ABC Capricornia 96.1FM
 - Rebel FM 88.9FM
 - Breeze FM 89.7FM
- **Theodore**
 - ABC Capricornia 105.9FM
 - Rebel FM 94.7FM
 - Breeze FM 99.5FM
- **Taroom**
 - ABC Southern Qld 106.1FM
 - Reel FM 92.5FM
 - Breeze FM 94.1FM



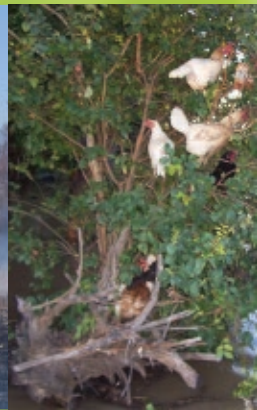


What is the LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Disaster management planning for Banana Shire Council is not solely the responsibility of the Council. It is a joint responsibility held by all member agencies of the Banana Shire Local Disaster Management Group, and each member agency has a vital role to play in the provision of an appropriate operational response to any event impacting upon the community.

The Banana Shire Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is a group comprising local and state government agencies including emergency service organisations, that are responsible for the planning stages of disaster management, as well as making important decisions during a disaster event, to assist the community.

Functions of a Local Disaster Management Group are identified within the Disaster Management Act 2003 and include the requirement to develop effective Local Disaster Management Plans encompassing the four aspects of Prevention, Preparation, Response and Recovery.



Prevention
Preparation
Response
Recovery



Severe Storm



What is a severe storm?

There are two types of severe storms: thunderstorms and land gales. Thunderstorms can produce hail, wind gusts, flash floods, tornadoes, and lightning which can cause death, injury and damage to property. Thunderstorms are more common and generally more dangerous than land gales. Land gales are simply gale force winds that occur over the land.

What can you do to prepare for severe storm season?

- Be aware of severe storm patterns in your area
- Trim trees, remove overhanging branches and clear gutters and downpipes clear yard of loose materials and rubbish
- Secure loose roof tiles or sheets
- Protect sky lights with wire mesh and fit glass windows and doors with shutters or insect screens
- Prepare an emergency kit (*emergency phone numbers, portable radio, torch, spare batteries, first aid kit, strong plastic bags for clothing, valuables, and plastic sheets, timber strips, hammers and nails for temporary repairs*)
- Check boats are securely moored, or protected on land; and
- Check home insurance is current and adequate (*Include building debris clean up/disposal costs*)

What can you do when a severe storm approaches?

- Listen to a local radio station for severe storm advice and warnings
- Shelter and secure animals
- Put loose garden furniture, toys etc inside
- Park vehicles under solid shelter or cover with firmly tied tarpaulins/blankets
- Secure all external doors and windows and draw curtains
- Keep valuables, medications, spare clothing in plastic bags and your emergency kit handy; and
- Disconnect all electrical items, external TV/radio aerials and computer modems

What can you do when a severe storm strikes?

- Listen to your (portable) radio for severe storm updates
- Stay inside and shelter well clear of windows, doors and skylights
- If the building starts to break up, shelter in the strongest part (cellar, internal room, hallway or built-in wardrobe) under a mattress, doona or a strong table or bench
- If outdoors, seek solid enclosed shelter
- If driving, stop clear of trees, power lines and streams; and
- Don't use a fixed telephone during a severe storm due to lightning danger

What can you do after a severe storm has hit

- Listen to your local radio station for official Advices and Warnings
- Check for structural property damage and cover with plastic sheeting and nailed on wood strips
- For emergency assistance refer to the emergency phone numbers within this guide
- Beware of fallen power lines and trees, damaged buildings and flooded watercourses; and
- Don't go sight-seeing

The Bureau of Meteorology issues Severe Weather Warnings whenever severe weather is occurring in an area or is expected to develop or move into an area. The warnings describe the area under threat and the expected hazards. Warnings are issued with varying lead-times, depending on the weather situation, and range from just an hour or two up to about 24 hours.

Floods



What is a flood?

The flooding of rivers following heavy rainfall is the most common form of flooding in Australia. Flooding of rivers in inland areas of central and western Queensland can spread for thousands of square kilometres and may last for weeks or even months. In hilly or mountainous areas of these inland rivers, as well as in rivers draining to the coast, flooding can occur more quickly. As these rivers are steeper, flooding often lasts for only one to two days.

Flash flooding usually results from relatively short intense bursts of rainfall, commonly from thunderstorms. This flooding can occur in any part of Australia, but is a particularly serious problem in urban areas where drainage systems may not cope and in very small creeks and streams. Flash floods tend to be quite local and it is difficult to provide effective warning because of their rapid onset.

Due to its immense size and fan-like shape, the Fitzroy River catchment is capable of producing severe flooding following heavy rainfall events. Its major tributaries, the **Dawson**, Mackenzie and Connors Rivers rise in the eastern coastal ranges and in the Great Dividing Range and join together about 100 kilometres west of Rockhampton. Major floods can result from either the **Dawson** or the Connors-Mackenzie Rivers.

Flood Warnings

The Bureau of Meteorology provides a flood warning service for most major rivers in Australia. The Flood Warning Service provides different types of information that depends on the type of flooding and the flood risk. The range of information, which may vary between States and areas within a State, includes:

Flood Watch of possible flooding, if flood producing rain is expected to happen in the near future. The general weather forecasts can also refer to flood producing rain.

Flood Warning that flooding is occurring or is expected to occur in a particular region. No information on the severity of flooding or the particular location of the flooding is provided. These types of warnings are issued for areas where no specialised warning systems have been installed. As part of its Severe Weather Warning Service, the Bureau also provides warnings for severe storm situations that may cause flash flooding.

Warnings of 'Minor', 'Moderate' or 'Major' flooding in areas where the Bureau has installed specialised warning systems. In these areas, the flood warning message will identify the river valley, the locations expected to be flooded, the likely severity of the flooding and when it is likely to occur.

Predictions of the expected height of a river at a town or other important locations along a river, and the time that this height is expected to be reached. This type of warning is normally the most useful in that it allows local emergency authorities and people in the flood threatened area to more precisely determine the area and likely depth of the flooding. This type of warning can only be provided where there are specialised flood warning systems and where flood forecasting models have been developed.

Major Causes of Death or Injury

Most flood-related deaths result when people attempt to drive, walk, swim or play in floodwaters. Depth and current are easily misjudged and floodwater will sweep away and submerge even very large vehicles. Therefore, do not drive or walk into floodwater, especially where a current exists, even if the water appears to be shallow.

Definitions and Terminology

Minor flooding: Causes inconvenience. Low-lying areas next to watercourses are inundated which may require the removal of stock and equipment. Minor roads may be closed and low-level bridges submerged.

Moderate flooding: In addition to the above, the area of inundation is more substantial. Main traffic routes may be affected. Some buildings may be affected above the floor level. Evacuation of flood affected areas may be required. In rural areas removal of stock is required.

Major flooding: In addition to the above, extensive rural areas and/or urban areas are inundated. Properties and towns are likely to be isolated and major traffic routes likely to be closed. Evacuation of people from flood affected areas may be required.

Interpreting Flood Warnings

In order to get the most benefit from flood warnings people in flood prone areas will need to know what, if any, effect the flood will have on their property and some knowledge of how best to deal with a flood situation. Sources of such information could include;

- Flood Bulletins/Warnings issued by the Bureau of Meteorology and/or the local Council or emergency services which often contain details of areas affected by flooding, road closures and other advice on what the community should do if they are likely to be flooded
- Long term residents who may have experienced a similar flood in the past and remember how it affected them
- To check if your property is located within the QRA indicative flood line go to the Queensland Reconstruction Authority website
- Information pamphlets – www.emergency.qld.gov.au

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Accessing Flood Warnings

Flood Warnings and River Height Bulletins are available via some or all of the following:

- **Local Response Organisations:** These include the Council, Police, and State Emergency Service in the local area
- **Bureau of Meteorology:** Flood Warnings and general information are available directly from the Bureau in each State
- **Radio:** Radio stations, particularly local ABC and local commercial stations broadcast Warnings (and Bulletins) soon after issue
- **Telephone Recorded Information Services:** Flood Warnings are available in some States on a Bureau of Meteorology recorded message service. Charges apply
- **Internet:** The Bureau's home page is www.bom.gov.au

What can you do to prepare for a Flood?

- Prepare an emergency kit
- Ensure family members are familiar with the kits location and contents
- Familiarise yourself with the evacuation route you should take if required
- Know your emergency contact numbers
- Ensure your portable radio is working and has fresh batteries. This could be your only information link if power and phones fail.

If Flooding is Predicted

- Listen to your radio (particularly local ABC and local commercial stations)
- Heed all warnings and advices
- Check your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit is fully stocked (including essential medications and means to deliver dosage)
- Prepare your Household for Evacuation
- Consider if early evacuation is appropriate for you and especially for frail or mobility impaired family members
- Consider where you would go if you had to evacuate your property (family or friends) and ensure sufficient time to do so
- Check your Neighbours - Help friends, family and neighbours by passing on warnings
- Tune into Warnings - stay tuned into additional warnings and updates

- Move vehicles, outdoor equipment, garbage, chemicals and poisons to higher locations
- Secure any items that may float away or move in flood waters e.g. gas bottles, garbage bins
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, sinks, plastic bottles, cooking pots and any other safe storage containers
- Plan which indoor items you will raise or empty if water threatens your home
- Prepare your Pets - Consider moving your pets to a safer place otherwise secure animals inside so that they do not take flight, run away or hide
- If you have livestock, move them to a safe area
- Businesses should activate their Emergency Plans and plan to relocate stock and equipment to high ground

If Flooding Occurs

- Collect your emergency evacuation kit and listen to your radio for information/advice
- Switch off electricity and gas if you leave your home
- Do Not drink flood-water
- Avoid entering flood-waters, on foot or in a vehicle

After the Flood

- If you had to evacuate don't return home until advised that it is safe to do so, then use the route recommended by authorities
- Do not eat food, which has been in contact with flood water. Boil all tap water until supplies have been declared safe
- Do not use gas or electrical appliances, which have been flood-affected, until they have been checked for safety by qualified personnel
- Beware of snakes and spiders, which may move to drier areas in your property
- Avoid wading, even in shallow water, as it may be contaminated
- Check with police for safe routes before driving anywhere

To help prepare and assist your community in preparing for and responding to floods – consider joining the State Emergency Service or register with Volunteering Queensland.



Bushfire



Wildfires (Bushfires) occur within areas ranging from grasslands to treed plains and ranges. The main problem period is between September and the start of the wet season. The problem becomes more severe if the summer rains fail to eventuate.

Much of the Banana Shire Council area consists of rural environments with small and large holdings and small townships. Wildfires are therefore a potential risk to lives, homes, pastures and livestock.

Prepare - Act - Survive

You don't have to live in the bush to be threatened by bushfire, just close enough to be affected by burning material, embers and smoke. For Queensland residents, that can be just about anywhere.

Everyone has a part to play in bushfire mitigation, and it is vitally important that we all take steps to ensure we **PREPARE - ACT - SURVIVE** the bushfire season.

Are you bushfire prepared? Are your family and home at risk?

- 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.

Prepare – To prepare your Bushfire Survival Plan visit www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au and follow the links.

Some of the issues you need to consider:

- Does everyone in your family understand the dangers of bushfire and how your plan will be put into action?
- Have you arranged appropriate car and household insurance?
- Do you know what you will take with you if you need to leave early?
- Have you considered how to deal with pets and livestock?

No matter what the details of your Bushfire Survival Plan are, there are other important preparations you need to make. These include preparing your property, preparing to leave and preparing yourself. These are essential steps and you can find out more about them at www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au

Act – There are different actions you need to undertake depending on the circumstances and your Bushfire Survival Plan.

If you decide to stay

If your plan is to stay you need at least the following fire-fighting equipment and protective clothing. Some of these include:

- Sufficient lengths of hose to reach all buildings that could be threatened
- Buckets and alternative water supplies
- Shovels, rakes and wet towels, sacks or other heavy material that can be used to put out small fires
- Torch
- First aid kit
- Full length clothing (wool, cotton)
- Gloves
- Water bottles or containers to carry drinking water with you.



High fire danger days

On hot dry days when bushfires are likely, listen to local radio stations for bushfire information, drink plenty of water and, if you live on acreage or a farm, move stock to fully grazed areas. It is also a good idea to check water pumps and generators (if you have them) to make sure they are working, and prepare your protective clothing in case you need it quickly.

To find out more information visit www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au

Survive – If you choose to stay:

- shelter in your house on the opposite side of approaching fire
- maintain a means of escape
- continually monitor conditions.

After the fire front has passed

- wear protective equipment
- go outside once it is safe
- check for small spot fires and burning embers:
 - inside roof space
 - under floor boards
 - under house space
 - on veranda and decks
 - on window ledges and door sills
 - in roof lines and gutters
 - garden beds and mulch
 - woodheaps
 - outdoor furniture
- monitor media outlets – radio, TV and internet

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The safest place is to be away from the fire. Being involved in a fire may be one of the most traumatic experiences in your life. Survival and safety depend on the decisions you make. Are you bushfire prepared?

On days where the Fire Danger Rating is predicted to be extreme or catastrophic for you and your family's survival, leaving is the best option. Thinking 'I will leave early' is not enough. You must **PREPARE - ACT - SURVIVE**

It is important, no matter what your decision, that you are thoroughly prepared. To find out how visit www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au

Fire in the area

- Listen to local broadcasts or check websites for updates
- Put on protective clothing
- Drink lots of water
- Move car/s to a safe location
- Close windows and doors and shut blinds
- Take down curtains and move furniture away from windows
- Bring pets inside and restrain them (leash, cage, or secure room) and provide water
- Block downpipes (at the top) and fill gutters with water if possible
- Wet down the sides of buildings and close shrubbery in the likely path of the bushfire
- Wet down fine fuels close to buildings
- Turn on sprinklers in garden for 30 minutes before bushfire arrives



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When the fire front arrives

- Disconnect hose and fittings and bring inside
- Go inside for shelter
- Drink lots of water
- Check and patrol for embers inside, particularly in the roof space
- Check family and pets

Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP)

A NSP is a local open space or building identified by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service where people may gather, as a last resort, to seek shelter from a bushfire. Use of an NSP may be your contingency plan when:

- Your Bushfire Survival Plan has failed
- The extent of the fire means you have planned to stay but your home cannot withstand the impact of the fire and therefore is not a safe place to shelter
- The fire has escalated to an extreme or catastrophic level and relocation is your safest option

The main purpose of an NSP is to provide some level of protection to human life from the effects of a bushfire.

Your NSP will not guarantee safety in all circumstances. The following limitations of an NSP need to be considered if you plan to use one as a last resort:

- Fire-fighters may not be present, in the event that they will be fighting the main fire front elsewhere
- NSPs do not cater for animals or pets
- NSPs do not provide meals or amenities
- NSPs may not provide shelter from the elements, particularly flying embers
- If you are a person with special needs you should give consideration to what assistance you may require at an NSP

Although QFES cannot guarantee an immediate presence during a bushfire, every effort will be made to provide support as soon as resources are available.

Not all areas will have a designated NSP and a register can be found on the Rural Fire Service website www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au. Remember to regularly visit the website for changes and updates.



Earthquake



Whilst most of Australia is rated as having a “low-risk” status with regard to earthquake hazard the historical data of this assumption is of relatively short duration.

Historically, quite a number of seismic disturbances have occurred along the eastern seaboard of Queensland from the Gold Coast in the south, through to Daintree in the north. These have been relatively low in magnitude. The region has experienced earthquakes of up to 6.23 off the coast and 5.8 south of Gladstone in the early part of the 20th Century and other minor tremors.

While loss of life and severe property damage has not been evident following these disturbances the consequences of a severe happening such as Newcastle 1989 has proven the necessity of planning for just that type of disaster.

What you should do

- Research whether tremors or earthquakes have ever occurred in your area
- Study that information and consult qualified building professionals about ways to make your house safer in the event of an earthquake
- Find out how and where to turn off power, gas and water supplies
- Plan together where your family will meet if separated
- Know your safe areas during an earthquake
- Check that you have adequate household and contents insurance and which hazards are not covered by the policy

Watch for possible warning signs

- Erratic animal behaviour - scared or confused pets or birdcalls not usually heard at night may indicate that an earthquake is imminent
- Ground water levels - Watch for sudden water level changes in wells or artesian bores

When an earthquake hits

- If you are indoors - stay there (clear of falling debris outside). Keep clear of windows, chimneys and overhead fittings. Shelter under and hold onto a door frame, strong table or bench
- In high rise buildings, stay clear of windows and outer walls. Shelter under a desk near a pillar or internal wall
- **DO NOT** use elevators
- In crowded areas or stores, do not rush for doors, but move clear of overhead fittings and shelves
- If outside, keep well clear of buildings, overhead structures, walls, bridges, power lines, trees etc
- In a city street, shelter from falling debris under strong archways or doorways of buildings. Don't go under awnings as they may collapse
- In a vehicle, stop in an open area until shaking stops
- Beware of downed power lines and road damage, including overpasses and bridges. Listen to your car radio for warnings before moving

After an earthquake

- Turn off electricity, gas, water and **DO NOT** light matches until after you have checked for gas or fuel leaks
- Check for injuries and apply first aid. **DO NOT** move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger
- Check for broken water, sewerage or electrical mains
- **DO NOT** use the telephone immediately (to avoid congestion) unless there is a life threatening situation
- Check for cracks and damage to the roof, chimney etc
- Evacuate the building if it is badly damaged and be prepared for aftershocks
- Listen to your local radio station and heed warnings and advice on damage and service disruptions
- Try to avoid driving unless for an emergency (to keep the streets free for emergency services)
- Do not go sightseeing or enter damaged buildings
- Try to stay calm and help others if possible

Further information about earthquakes

Queensland University Advanced Centre for Earthquake Studies
Seismology Research Centre
Geoscience Australia: Earthquake Information

Heatwave



There is no universal definition of a heatwave although in a general sense it can be defined as a prolonged period of excessive heat.

The term is relative to the usual weather in the area. Temperatures that people from a hotter climate consider normal can be termed a heat wave in a cooler area if they are outside the normal climate pattern for that area. The term is applied both to routine weather variations and to extraordinary spells of heat which may occur only once a century.

Prolonged hot weather can affect anybody. It may make existing medical conditions worse and can cause heat-related illness. In some cases heat effects may be fatal. It may also affect community infrastructure such as power supply and other support services and may have the potential to impact agricultural crops.

Who is at risk?

The heat can affect anyone; however some people are at a higher risk of harm. This includes:

- The elderly—especially those who live alone
- Babies and very young children
- Pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers
- People who suffer from a pre-existing medical condition—such as diabetes, kidney disease or mental illness
- People who take medication—such as allergy medicines (antihistamines), blood pressure and heart medications (beta-blockers), water pills (diuretics) and anti depressant or antipsychotic medications. If you take medication, consult with your doctor for more information
- People with an alcohol or other drug problem

- People with mobility problems or disability, who may not be able to identify or communicate their discomfort or thirst
- People who are physically active—such as manual workers and people who play sport

Coping during prolonged heat

- Keep hydrated by drinking water regularly during the day. This generally means drinking two to three litres of water a day, depending on heat, humidity and your physical activity
- If your doctor normally restricts your fluid intake, check how much to drink during hot weather as drinking too much water can also be dangerous
- Avoid drinking carbonated drinks with high levels of sugar, caffeine and alcohol and very cold drinks
- Eat smaller cool meals, such as salads. Do not take additional salt tablets unless prescribed by a doctor
- Keep yourself cool. Use wet towels or scarves, put your feet in cool water or take cool (not cold) showers. Stay indoors in cool or air-conditioned facilities—either at home or at local shopping centres, libraries and cinemas
- Close curtains and blinds, and open windows (if there is a cool breeze blowing) to reduce heat entering your home
- Avoid strenuous outdoor activities. If you can't avoid outdoor activities don't go out in the hottest part of the day, stay in the shade, drink plenty of water and wear a hat and light coloured, loose fitting clothing. Ensure infants and children do too
- Do not leave children, adults or animals in parked vehicles, even for a short period of time
- Keep in touch with sick or frail friends, neighbours and relatives to ensure that they are coping with the heat wave conditions
- Watch or listen to news

Heat-related illnesses

Heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke are the most common heat-related illnesses. Heat may worsen some pre-existing medical conditions, such as heart disease or diabetes.

Illness	Symptoms	What to do
Heat stroke (a life-threatening emergency)	<p>More severe and dangerous form of heat exhaustion</p> <p>Mental condition affected and may be deteriorating.</p> <p>Hot, dry skin with no sweating.</p> <p>Confusion.</p> <p>Seizure.</p> <p>Stroke-like symptoms or collapsing.</p> <p>Unconsciousness.</p>	<p>Call an ambulance. Seek urgent medical advice if ambulance delayed.</p> <p>Do not give the person fluids to drink if consciousness affected or mental condition worsening, except on medical advice. Most important treatment is to cool the person.</p> <p>Get the person to a cool area and lie them down.</p> <p>Remove their clothing.</p> <p>Wet their skin with cool (not icy) water, spray water on them, and fan continuously.</p> <p>Position an unconscious person on their side and clear their airway.</p>
Heat exhaustion	<p>Pale complexion and sweating.</p> <p>Rapid heart rate.</p> <p>Muscle cramps, weakness.</p> <p>Dizziness, headache.</p> <p>Nausea, vomiting.</p> <p>Fainting.</p>	<p>Get the person to a cool area and lie them down.</p> <p>Give cool drinks. Do not give alcohol, caffeine drinks or high sugar drinks.</p> <p>Remove their outer clothing.</p> <p>Wet their skin with cool water or wet cloths.</p> <p>Seek medical advice.</p>
Heat cramps	<p>Muscle pains</p> <p>Spasms in the abdomen, arms or legs.</p>	<p>Stop activity and sit quietly in a cool place.</p> <p>Increase fluid intake.</p> <p>Rest a few hours before returning to activity.</p> <p>Seek medical help if cramps persist.</p>

Preparing for a heat wave

- Check air-conditioning at your home has been serviced and is working effectively
- Ensure you have enough food, water, medicines and toiletries to avoid going out in the heat
- Store foods and medicines at a safe temperature. Find out more about food safety at **www.health.qld.gov.au**
- Consider your options if the heat wave causes a loss of electricity or disrupts public transport.
- Ensure you have a torch, fully charged mobile phone or a telephone that will work without electricity, a battery operated radio and sufficient batteries.
- Find ways to make your home cooler—such as installing awnings, shade cloths or external blinds on the sides of the house facing the sun. Dark metal shutters and dark curtains may absorb heat and make the room warmer and should be avoided. The use of pale curtains or reflective materials is better.

Further information:

In an emergency, ring **000** for urgent advice from the Queensland Ambulance Service.

For more information or support following a heatwave:

- Call **13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)** at any time for practical medical advice
- Contact your doctor, hospital or health clinic
- Visit the Queensland Health website for further information on sun safety **www.health.qld.gov.au**
- Visit the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention website for information on personal health and safety during a heat wave **www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/index**
- Contact your local Queensland Health public health unit



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Hazardous Material Incidents



The Banana Shire has four highways (Capricorn, Leichhardt, Burnett & Dawson) passing through it, along which there is transport of hazardous materials. The Shire itself also contains different types of agricultural and mining industries requiring many different types of chemical, petroleum's and explosives. The transport of these products is generally by road and/or rail and the potential therefore exists for a Hazchem accident to occur.

Although managed under dangerous goods legislation the potential for an incident involving dangerous goods and chemicals is moderate.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services would control any such incident with assistance from other relevant agencies.

Industrial/Chemical/Dangerous Goods Spills or Accidents

Vehicle Accident or Load Spill

- Stay clear – an unplanned approach could result in exposure to hazardous substances
- Stay clear of fallen power lines
- Stay upwind and on higher ground
- Call **000** to advise of the situation
- Warn others to keep away

In a Residential Area

- Stay indoors – going outside could result in exposure to hazardous substances
- Close all windows and doors
- Stay clear of fallen power lines
- Listen to your radio: HEED OFFICIAL WARNINGS OR ADVICE
- Consider the need to evacuate if directed by the relevant authorities



Electrical Safety



Around fallen power lines

High winds and flying debris can bring down overhead power-lines. Take care when cleaning up after a storm or other event, as fallen power-lines hidden in branches, debris or water can be extremely dangerous. Don't take chances and if you find something you think might be a power line, always assume it is 'live' and dangerous even if it's not sparking.

Keep well away, warn others and call Triple Zero **000**.

Do not allow children to play or swim in floodwaters as there may be unseen 'live' and dangerous electrical wiring or fallen power-lines which may be hidden by debris in the water.

Going away?

If you're going away during the storm and cyclone season, it's a good idea to empty, clean and unplug refrigerators and freezers. Leave their doors open. This will avoid spoilage problems if the power fails.

You should also switch off and unplug all non-essential electrical equipment to avoid damage from power surges and you'll save electricity as well.

What to do if the power goes out

While Ergon Energy do everything in their power to keep the power on, sometimes interruptions are inevitable during storm season. When restoring power supplies, Ergon always makes time for safety - both your safety and the safety of their staff. While Ergon crews are mindful of the importance of restoring power as quickly as possible, their first responsibility is to make the network safe.

If your power goes out, from the safety of your own home, look out the window or contact neighbours to check if the interruption is affecting only your property or is more widespread.

If you can see or hear something that could help identify the problem, like a loud bang or hanging power lines, stay well clear and contact Ergon on **13 22 96**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Precise details will assist their emergency crews to restore power.

If not, listen to your local radio station or call **13 22 96** which provides regular advice on the power interruption and, if possible, when Ergon expects to have power restored.

If you're experiencing dull or flickering lights, 'brown out', low voltage or partial supply, turn off and unplug appliances like your refrigerator, television, computer and DVD at the power point. Do not touch your switchboard or anything metal in your home and call **13 22 96** immediately.



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Evacuation Preparedness



Evacuation is a risk management strategy that may be used as a means of mitigating the effects of an emergency or disaster on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location.

Although evacuation is considered an important element of emergency response which may be effective in many situations, there will be occasions when it may be assessed that people would be safer to stay and shelter in place. Depending on the nature of the hazard, measures such as closing windows, isolation of air conditioning systems and listening to the radio and/or TV to receive information can be taken to reduce vulnerability.

Legislation

In Queensland, three main Acts exist that can be used to direct an evacuation;

- **The Disaster Management Act 2003**

The Disaster Management Act 2003 can be used by declaring a Disaster Situation. This would require a District Disaster Coordinator (who is a Police Officer) to make a request through to the appropriate government Minister, for approval to declare a disaster situation. In accordance with Section 77 (c) of the Act, under a Disaster Situation declaration, emergency services and other persons declared as Disaster Officers can use powers provided to evacuate persons from the declared disaster area or part of the area

- **The Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990**

Evacuation for events that fall within the statutory authority of Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES) - the Fire and Rescue Services Act 1990 can be used. An authorised fire officer may require any person not to enter or remain within a specified area around the site of the danger.

- **The Public Safety Preservation Act 1987**

Only a commissioned officer of the Queensland Police Service can use the *Public Safety Preservation Act 1987* (PSPA) to effect an evacuation by declaring an Emergency Situation.

In practice, there are three degrees of evacuation:

1. *Self Evacuation* – where an individual makes the decision to evacuate based upon their perceived risk of the threat.
2. *Advised Evacuation* – where a decision to evacuate has been made by the appropriate authority but legislation is not used. The intention is to remove all vulnerable elements from the risk and is reliant upon the community obeying instructions.
3. *Directed Evacuation* – using legislation such as the Disaster Management Act 2003, Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990 or the Public Safety Preservation Act 1987 to direct the removal of the “at risk” community.

Preparing for Evacuation

- Plan where you will go if you need to evacuate – remember official evacuation centres/shelters may be crowded or offer only minimal services. Make arrangements with friends or relatives outside of the at risk area
- Listen to local radio/TV – heed all warnings/advice
- Ensure all householders are aware of the warnings and advice provided
- Check your evacuation kit
- Don't wait to be told – Self evacuate to your predetermined evacuation destination if a disaster event is imminent – inform your neighbours/friends/emergency services if you do plan to self evacuate
- Plan your evacuation route to avoid hazards such as flood water
- Charge your mobile phone

For non-emergency communications, use text messaging, e-mail, or social media instead of making voice calls on your mobile phone to avoid tying up voice networks. Data-based services like texts and emails are less likely to experience network congestion. You can also use social media to post your status to let family and friends know you are okay.

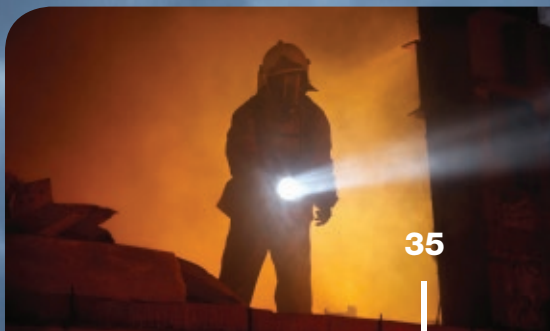
- Check your Neighbours and friends who may need special assistance
- Consider what you will do with your pets – remember public welfare centres may not cater for animals. In some circumstances, it may be advisable to leave your pets in a secure location in your house

- Fill your petrol tank and stock your car with emergency supplies
- Think about treasured family memorabilia (e.g. photo albums) and other items such as passports, licences, important documents and jewellery. What are you going to do with them?
- If you don't have transport or are disabled, make arrangements NOW with relatives, friends or neighbours

When you have been told to evacuate

- Act quickly and remain calm
- Follow all instructions by emergency authorities and allow for changing conditions
- Take your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit and commence your evacuation arrangements
- Turn off all the main power, water and gas supply, unplug all appliances
- Ensure all family members are wearing strong shoes and suitable clothing
- Travel light – do not risk your safety for replaceable possessions
- If available – consider putting call-forwarding on and forward your home phone number to your mobile phone number
- Lock your home and take the recommended evacuation routes for your area
- Take your pets
- Seek shelter at your predetermined evacuation location
- If you are visiting or holidaying in Queensland and do not have family or friends to shelter with, contact your accommodation manager immediately to identify options for evacuation
- Continue to listen to your radio and heed official warnings and advice

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Evacuation Kit

Your Evacuation Kit is designed to be an addition to your Emergency Kit. If you evacuate, take your Emergency Kit, and your Evacuation Kit with you.

Items to include in your Evacuation Kit

Multiple changes of clothes for all household members, stored in watertight plastic bags (long pants, long sleeved shirts, hats and strong shoes are recommended)

Extra essential medicines and repeat prescriptions

Extra First Aid supplies, sunscreen, insect repellent

Extra toiletry and sanitary supplies

Pillows, sleeping bags and blankets for each household member

Books and games for children

Extra baby formula, food and nappies (if required)

Valuables, photos (prints, compact disks, USB data stick) and mementos in waterproof plastic bags

Extra money as cash

Mobile phone, spare battery and charger





Important documents

Keep original or certified copies of all the following documents in your Emergency Kit and your Evacuation Kit

Scan copies of these documents and save on a USB memory stick or CD to include in your kit as well. Keep all these items in sealed plastic bags

Insurance papers for house and contents

Insurance papers for vehicles and valuable items

Inventory of valuable household goods

Wills and life insurance documents

House deeds/mortgage documents

Birth and marriage certificates

Passports/visa details

Stocks and bonds

Medicare and pension cards

Immunisation records

Bank account and credit card details

Back-up copies of important computer files

Emergency contact telephone numbers

Emergency Kit

Items to include in your Emergency Kit at all times;

Food and water

Range of non-perishable food items

Bottled water

Medical and sanitation supplies

First Aid Kit and manual

Essential medications, prescriptions and dosage

Toilet paper

Toothbrush/toothpaste

Soap/shampoo

Personal hygiene items

Light

Flashlight/torch with extra batteries

Battery powered lantern

Communications

Battery powered radio with extra batteries

Traditional wired telephone

Prepaid phone cards and coins for phone calls

Clothing and footwear

Warm jumper, waterproof jacket, hat and gloves for everyone

Closed-toed shoes or boots for everyone

Tools and supplies

Whistle, utility knife, duct/masking tape

Plastic garbage bags, ties

Safety Glasses and sun glasses

Miscellaneous items

Special Items for Infants (nappies, formula etc)

Special items needed by elderly or people with special needs

Spare house and car keys

Pet food, water and other animal needs

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Pets

Just as we need to prepare our family and our home for times of emergency or disaster, we also need to prepare our pets. Your pets are part of your household; by taking time to prepare now you can improve the safety and well being of your family pets by ensuring their needs are included in your household preparedness planning.

Although individual needs will vary, you need to decide on the best plan for your circumstances and region.

Be prepared

If considering moving animals to a safer place, do so early to avoid unnecessary risk. It may not be possible to take your pet with you to an evacuation shelter - plan ahead and be prepared.

- Secure animals inside before an emergency event, so that they do not take flight or run away
- Use a secure pet carrier/cage, leash or harness to move any animals to safety
- Ensure all vaccinations remain current
- It may be possible for your pet to be boarded in a safe environment away from the emergency zone
- If you are able to house your animal in a temporary foster home, ensure your pet's medical and feeding information, food, medicine and other supplies accompany them to the foster home
- Ensure all pets are properly identified. Remember – during times of disaster, telephones may not be available and it is important any registered method includes your current address
- Have a current photograph. This may assist in easily identifying you as the legal owner



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Trained assistance dogs

In most cases, trained assistance dogs will be allowed to stay in emergency shelters with their owners. Those that are accepted may require proper identification and proof of vaccination.

What if your pet is not a dog or cat?

Although the majority of household's companion pets are commonly dogs, cats and birds; the suggested information can be applied to all household pet emergency planning.

Should your companion pet not fall within this category, e.g. aquariums, reptiles, small livestock (pigs, fowls, goats, horses, cattle, sheep), it is suggested you contact specialised agencies, e.g. Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation (DPI), the RSPCA, your animal's veterinarian or local pet shop for specialised advice in planning for emergencies.

Pet Emergency Kit

Ensure your Pet Emergency Kit is easily accessible and includes:

Pet medications (for up to two weeks), medical and vaccination records and veterinarian details

Sufficient food (including treats) and water (e.g. bottled) for each animal – for up to a two week period. Don't forget the can opener if you have tinned food

A familiar pet blanket or bedding, toys, grooming equipment

A secure pet carrier, leash or harness to move any animals to safety

Consider your animal's sanitation needs, which is important for their (and your) health; e.g. newspaper, paper towels disinfectant, rubbish bags

Birds must eat daily - put special food and water dispensers in bird cages and have a cover for the cage

Important telephone numbers; e.g. your veterinarian, pet information and advisory services

Details of identification methods

A current photograph for identification purposes

Livestock

- Survey your property for the best location for livestock containment during a disaster event
- Identify food and water sources that do not rely on electricity – as electricity could be lost during a disaster event
- Photograph and identify brands and tattoos and inventory by age, sex, weight and breed. Identify in a written list, which animals (such as breeding stock) are of the highest priority or most valuable in the event only some of them can be saved
- Keep vaccinations and boosters up to date. Record the dates, dosages and types of medications and health products the animals have received. Record dosing instructions and dietary requirements
- If possible evacuate your livestock early to ensure their safety, protect your investment and ease your stress – Better safe than sorry
- Check fences, ensure they are intact
- Check pasture and fences for sharp objects that could injure livestock



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