



# Flood/Cyclone Fact Sheet

## Advice for handling and disposing of hazardous materials

January 2013

**This fact sheet provides advice for residents and businesses about handling and disposal of hazardous materials after a flood or cyclone.**

### Examples of hazardous materials

During clean-up you may come across damaged/unknown containers of hazardous materials and chemicals that require disposal. Examples of hazardous materials include:

- pesticides
- herbicides
- fertilisers and other garden chemicals
- pool chemicals
- gas cylinders
- solvents
- corrosives (acids/alkalis)
- fuel cans & motor oils
- waste oils
- paints
- thinners, kerosene, turpentine, methylated spirits
- other packages of chemicals or unknown materials.

### Call Council to collect hazardous materials

Residents wanting to dispose of hazardous materials need to contact Council to arrange collection.

This material can NOT be taken to Council transfer stations, should not be placed on kerbside for collection and should not be placed in any skips or bins.

When dealing with hazardous materials, safety comes first. If you find a leaking container of chemicals, a leaking gas cylinder or some other chemical container that looks dangerous, do not handle it. Keep well clear and call Emergency Services on "000" as soon as possible.

Where it is safe to do so, containers of hazardous materials should only be picked up using gloves.

If you find an undamaged gas cylinder:

- Ensure that the cylinder is upright to allow for venting
- Secure as much as possible to prevent movement or further damage
- If you find more than one, handle carefully and do not allow them to fall upon one another

If you find a **punctured or damaged** gas cylinder:

- Isolate area, dial "000"

It is very important that these materials are kept separate from other wastes such as food waste and other general waste.

If you find large or heavy drums or containers, leave them where they are and contact Council to have these removed.

### Handling and disposing of materials containing asbestos

Avoid handling materials suspected to contain asbestos. If possible, keep the materials wet and covered in plastic. Do **NOT** put materials suspected to contain asbestos into bins or with items for kerbside collection. Please contact Council to organise collection.

### Using petrol/diesel driven generators

Ensure they are operating in well ventilated areas. Direct exhaust away from enclosed areas in residences and work areas.

For latest information visit Council's website