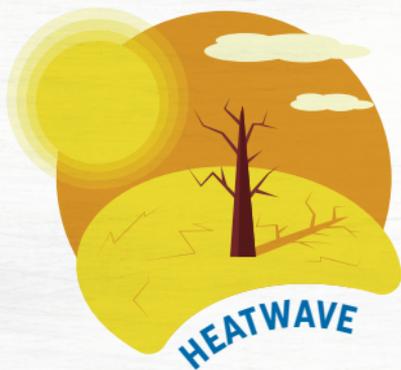
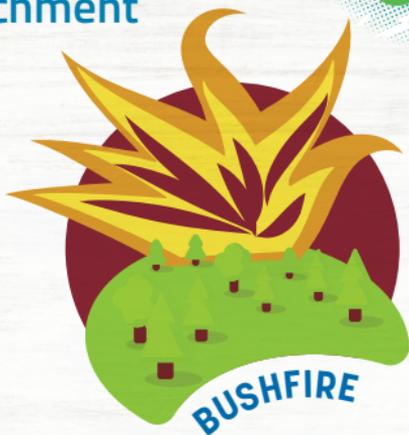


# BE PREPARED

Your guide to severe weather in  
the Burnett River Catchment



<b>FLOOD</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>BUSHFIRE</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>EARTHQUAKE</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>HEATWAVE</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>EMERGENCY CONTACTS</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>EVACUATION STRATEGY</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>TRAVELLING</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>TUNE INTO WARNINGS</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>EMERGENCY KIT</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>YOUR EVACUATION PLAN</b> .....	<b>18</b>

# 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.

Flooding can also occur when a dam fails, which is most likely to happen during a flood. Flood water may arrive sooner and flow faster than usual. Paradise Dam, 80 kilometres upstream of Bundaberg, is undergoing repairs during 2020 to increase its safety.

### **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

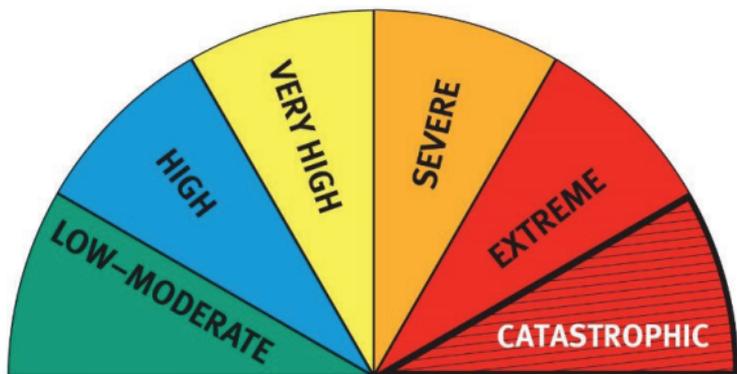


The bushfire season in Queensland runs from early July to February.

You can check the fire danger rating at [www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au)

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

- *A fire with a rating of 'catastrophic' may be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving.*
- *Homes are not designed to withstand fires in catastrophic conditions so, for your survival, you should leave early.*



## EXTREME

- *A fire with an 'extreme' rating may be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving.*
- *Leaving early is the safest option for your survival.*





## SEVERE

- *A fire with a 'severe' rating may be uncontrollable and move quickly.*
- *Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – but only stay if you are physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.*
- *If you're not prepared, leave early in the day.*



## VERY HIGH

- *A fire with a 'very high' danger rating is a fire that can be difficult to control.*
- *Be ready, listen for information and warnings.*



## HIGH

- *A fire with a 'high' danger rating is a fire that can be controlled.*



## LOW TO MODERATE

- *A fire with a 'low to moderate' rating can be easily controlled and pose little or no risk to life or property.*

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

The Queensland Bushfire Warnings system has three levels:

**Advice** - monitor conditions

**Watch & Act** - conditions are changing

**Emergency Warning** - you are in danger

Read more about warnings here

[www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/BushFire\\_Safety/Pages/tune-in-to-warnings.aspx](http://www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au/BushFire_Safety/Pages/tune-in-to-warnings.aspx)



# 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 10am to 3pm*
- *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 & 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 firefighters 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](http://disaster.bundaberg.qld.gov.au) OR [emergency.northburnett.qld.gov.au](http://emergency.northburnett.qld.gov.au)) for:*
  - *Up to date information on current emergencies*
  - *Information regarding power outages, road conditions & weather updates*
  - *Information on evacuation centres and evacuation routes if they are opened*
- *Visit the Bureau of Meteorology ([bom.gov.au](http://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 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 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

- Keep original or certified copies of driver's licence, birth & marriage certificates, passports etc
- Scan copies to USB, portable storage 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
- 

