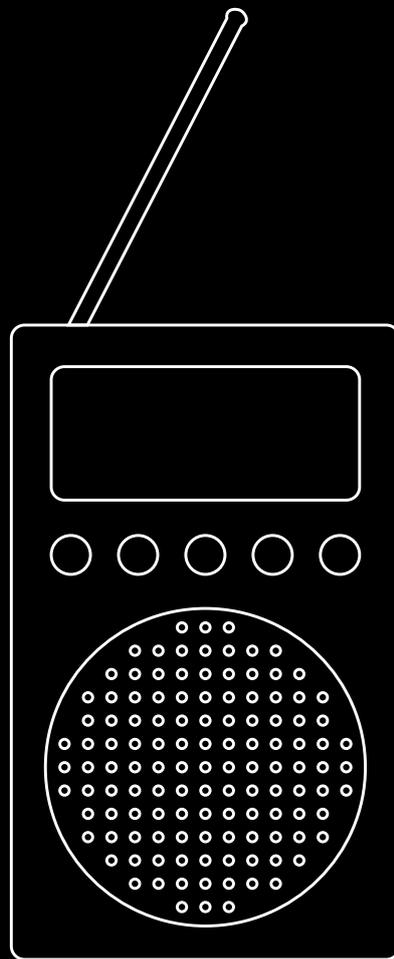


# RESPONSE

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Check out the new **Emergency Dashboard** on our website:  
[mackay.qld.gov.au/emergencydashboard](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/emergencydashboard)

Vital information you need to know during an emergency is a simple click away, including:

- Road conditions
- Power outages
- Weather warnings
- BoM weather radar
- River heights
- Evacuation zones
- Emergency Action Guide






# HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN EVACUATION

Many threats to the Mackay region may require a partial or total relocation of the population.

## Follow the below steps

- Know your local risks (cyclones, floods, storm surges, fires, etc).
- Consult the storm tide inundation maps in this booklet.
- Find out what inundation area/s your residence is in.
- Talk to neighbours and find out what events have occurred in the past.
- Find friends and relatives outside the inundation area and reconfirm arrangements.
- Regularly update your Emergency Kit.
- Familiarise yourself with the route you should take.
- Prepare an Evacuation Kit (including treasured family memorabilia, such as photos, passports, licences, important documents, etc).



## IMPORTANT!

For severe cyclones (Category 3 or above), consider voluntarily relocating until the threat has passed.

If a storm tide evacuation is ordered, the relevant coloured evacuation zone will be broadcast over the radio.

Remember: It's not just cyclones and floods we need to prepare to evacuate for. An evacuation can be ordered for industrial fires, chemical spills and other types of events.

Are you ready?

# WHEN TOLD TO EVACUATE

**When told to evacuate, or if you decide to evacuate prior to being asked, follow the below checklist:**

Check the storm tide and riverine flood inundation maps included in this booklet to see what colour zone/s your place of residence corresponds with. NOTE: Your location may be featured in more than one coloured zone map (eg if you are in the storm tide inundation red zone, then you are also in the orange, brown, yellow and blue zones)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help friends and neighbours, particularly the elderly, deaf and blind by passing on the warnings and their meaning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Find friends and relatives in high places who are outside of evacuation zones	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take your prepared Evacuation Kit (including your Emergency Kit and First Aid Kit) with you	<input type="checkbox"/>
Switch off electricity, gas, water and hot water system	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dress appropriately (eg jeans, jumper, strong footwear and a raincoat)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Load your car quickly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lock up your house	<input type="checkbox"/>
Listen to your radio at all times	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do not ignore warnings or advice	<input type="checkbox"/>
Household pets should be taken to your predetermined location along with your Pet Emergency Kit (including food and water)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drive to your pre-arranged location, and register with Register. Find. Reunite (at <a href="http://register.redcross.org.au">register.redcross.org.au</a> , an Australian Red Cross and Commonwealth initiative)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inform friends and relatives of your movements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continue to tune in to warnings	<input type="checkbox"/>



## HANDY TIP

- Remember to remain calm, act quickly and beware of hazards, such as fallen powerlines
- For a complete list of Get Ready disaster preparedness checklists visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/emergency](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/emergency)
- Checklists include: Prepare Your Emergency Plan, Prepare for Evacuation, Emergency Kit, Prepare Your Home, Tune in to Warnings, Check Your Neighbours and a Pet Emergency Plan

## + REGISTER. FIND. REUNITE.

The Australian Red Cross has established a Register. Find. Reunite. website at [register.redcross.org.au](http://register.redcross.org.au) and national telephone number (which will be broadcast at the time) to reunite friends and family during a disaster.



## PUBLIC CYCLONE SHELTER

Please note that Mackay Regional Council does have one public cyclone shelter located at the Northern Beaches High School available for use during a Category 3 cyclone or above. Space is very limited and conditions of entry will apply.

**Most residents should be seeking alternate accommodation, as the shelter is a last resort for those most vulnerable.**



## JUST VISITING?

- Follow instructions from your accommodation manager
- If safe to do so, remain indoors with a supply of non-perishable food and water
- Consider leaving town to a location away from the path of the cyclone

**For more information, download a copy of council's Cyclone Shelter and Evacuation Options at [mackay.qld.gov.au/emergency](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/emergency) or pick up a hard copy at any of council's client service centres.**

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Always assume that fallen powerlines are live and lethal.
- Water around fallen powerlines should be considered live and could cause injury or death.
- Do not endanger yourself or others.
- Warn others and stay well away.
- If powerlines have fallen or been damaged, phone Ergon Energy immediately on 131 670.
- If unable to contact Ergon Energy regarding fallen powerlines, notify police on 000.
- Switch off your power at the switchboard if any wire is short-circuiting or if water enters your ceiling.
- Do not use electrical appliances while barefoot or in wet conditions.
- Go to the Outage Finder at [ergon.com.au](http://ergon.com.au) or the Outage Finder App for updates.



## INDUSTRIAL OR CHEMICAL SPILL ACCIDENT

### What to do when you come upon the scene of an accident/spill involving hazardous materials

- Notify the police and/or fire service.
- Avoid contact with the material and keep onlookers away.
- Stay upwind and on high ground well away from the hazard.
- Tune in to warnings for further advice.
- Do not endanger yourself or others.

### What to do when a hazardous accident or spill occurs within your area

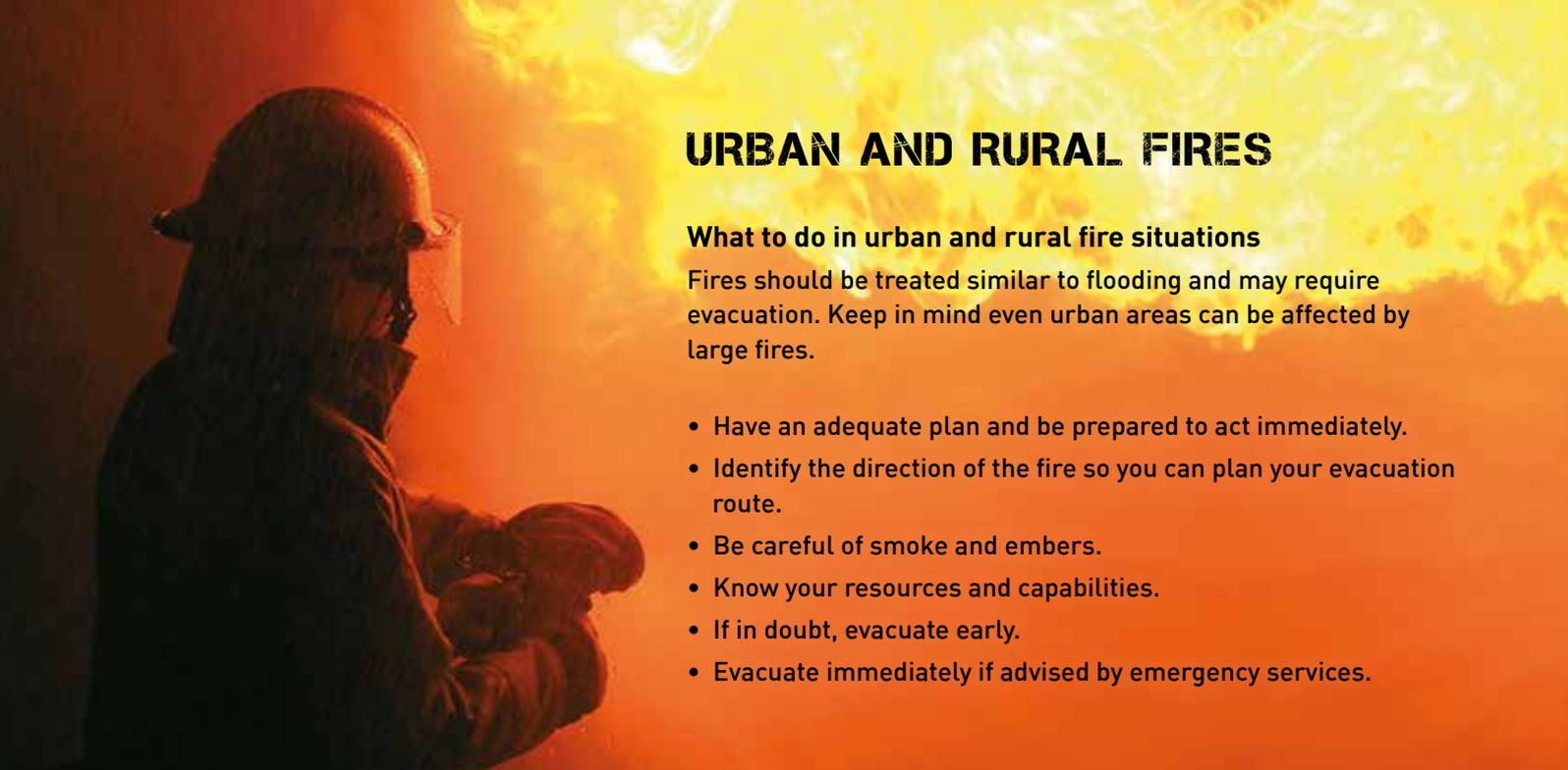
- Stay indoors and close doors and windows.
- Tune in to warnings for further advice.
- Evacuate only when advised by police or the fire service.
- Prepare to act immediately.



### IMPORTANT!

Are you prepared to lose electrical power for four-to-six days?

- Consider purchasing a generator to run essential appliances during disasters.
- Ensure that generators are only run in well ventilated areas.
- Ensure that a generator changeover point is installed by a licensed electrician.
- Ensure children do not go near generators that are operating.
- Be considerate of neighbours when using generators at night.



## URBAN AND RURAL FIRES

### What to do in urban and rural fire situations

Fires should be treated similar to flooding and may require evacuation. Keep in mind even urban areas can be affected by large fires.

- Have an adequate plan and be prepared to act immediately.
- Identify the direction of the fire so you can plan your evacuation route.
- Be careful of smoke and embers.
- Know your resources and capabilities.
- If in doubt, evacuate early.
- Evacuate immediately if advised by emergency services.



### PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

It is essential you have a plan in case you or your family are ever at risk. Prepare. Act. Survive. is a bushfire survival plan designed to help you make the right decisions, depending on your home, environment and personal circumstances.

The decision to stay and protect your home or to evacuate is up to you in most cases. It is important that you assess your resources, preventative actions, capabilities and safety before making a decision. If requested by the authorities to evacuate your residence, you should follow the evacuation procedure listed in this guide.

### USEFUL LINKS AND HANDY TIPS:

- Visit [ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://ruralfire.qld.gov.au)
- Click on Understanding Community Warnings to learn more about what actions to take and the type of warnings issued.
- Click on Bushfire Survival Plan to create your plan.

#### Remember:

Late evacuation can be deadly.

### Lighting fires in Queensland

Prior to lighting any fire, a check must be made with your local fire warden, Rural Fire Brigade or fire station. Anyone who is unsure of the local laws regarding lighting and the use of fire in their area should visit council's website [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au) (and search for "smoke").

In many instances, before lighting any fire, you must acquire a permit and check if any fire restrictions and/or bans apply in your area. Some fires do not require a permit. **For more information (eg such as does your fire require a permit, applying to light a fire and obtaining a permit, restrictions and/or bans regarding the use of fire in your area and becoming a volunteer), visit [ruralfire.qld.gov.au](http://ruralfire.qld.gov.au)**

If you believe your property (area or home) could be at risk from a bush fire, please feel free to contact your local Rural Fire Brigade or the Rural Fire Service Queensland Area Officer in Mackay to assess the concern and provide advice on how to protect your property.