

Household Severe Weather Emergency Plan

Community
Engagement
Toolkit



SCAN ME

ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

GET YOUR COMMUNITY READY

Supporting your community to Get Ready

The new Get Ready Queensland Household Severe Weather Emergency Plan is helping Queenslanders plan for extreme weather. Research shows that while 59% of Queenslanders have an emergency plan, only 19% have written their plan down, which is why Get Ready Queensland have developed a new online tool to make it even easier to be prepared.

Our plan

This toolkit provides everything you need to know about the new Household Severe Weather Emergency Plan and steps you through how you can use it as part of your local community engagement program.

About the plan

- Users are stepped through the planning process and provided with localised risk information to help them know what to do and who to contact.
- The finalised plan is a downloadable PDF and includes essential contacts and comprehensive checklists which can be saved and printed.
- Accessibility is a priority and has also been designed with online translation tools in mind.

After finalising their plan, users receive a detailed PDF that includes:

- Their completed Household Severe Weather Emergency Plan.
- Their personal important contact details from their completed plan, plus crucial information such as local disaster dashboards.
- A checklist of essential actions to take before the severe weather season begins to protect their home.
- A guide to building an emergency kit.
- A packing list for an evacuation kit.



UNDERSTAND YOUR RISK

Knowing what weather happens where you live is key to preparing your property.



FLOODING

Floods happen everywhere in Queensland. Think about the creeks, rivers, dams and low-lying areas on your property and on the roads you regularly use.



STORMS

Storms can happen anywhere, anytime. Know what can be impacted by strong winds and hail and be pre-prepared to secure property from damage.



BUSHFIRE

Fires can happen anytime, with peak season from July - February. Your Rural Fire Service and council will have your local fire information.



HEATWAVE

Heatwaves can be deadly to people and stock. Track your dam levels and/or other water sources, and make sure stock have access to water and shade.



CYCLONE

Cyclones mainly impact northern and coastal areas, but all of Queensland can have wind and rain from cyclones. Secure equipment and loose items.

Understand more about your risk getready.qld.gov.au/understand-your-risk

Watch for the warnings

Australia has a national warning system to help you understand the risk and impact of severe weather.



Advice



Watch and Act



Emergency Warning

Find out more: australianwarningsystem.com.au



Get Ready Queensland is assisted through the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



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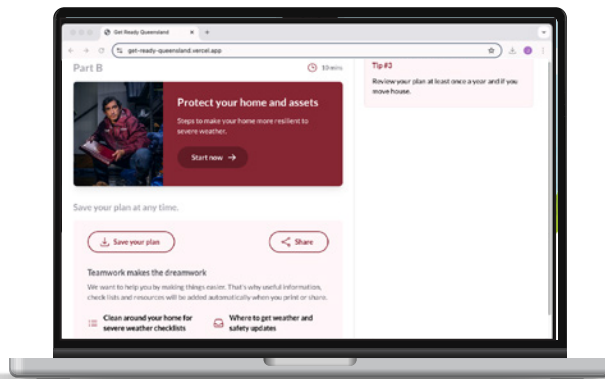
Helping people in your community to use the plan



Scan the QR Code to access the Household Severe Weather Emergency Plan



- Ensure users understand the importance of having this information readily available.
- Walk users through each section of the plan and why they might need that information in a severe weather event.
- Part A: This will help people close to each other stay connected even if their phone doesn't work or the network is down. It also keeps essential information known to all those in the household who might need it.
- Part B: Helps protect your home and your assets.



A little local knowledge can go a long way

Additionally, you can make connections between the online plan, which automatically includes local disaster dashboard and council Facebook pages and other local council resources, showing how the plan can be used in conjunction with these tools. Such as:



FLOOD MAPS
EVACUATION MAPS
LOCAL FLOOD WARNING SERVICES

By discussing these assets, you can demonstrate specific local risks and engage people with a deeper understanding of their community's unique challenges. This not only showcases the tool's capabilities but also increases awareness of broader local risk information, fostering a more resilient community.

Frequent Statements and Answers

We all know that people don't need to add extra things to their to-do list. The following are some statements, topics and questions that might arise from members of your community when you're talking with them, and how you can address them and encourage them to complete a plan for their household.

"I'm not at risk, so I don't need a plan."

All Queenslanders have some risk when it comes to severe weather. Having a plan ensures when unexpected weather comes, you're prepared and able to protect yourself and your family. Creating a plan helps you think through all the things you do every day and how they'd be affected in severe weather.

"It's not relevant to me; I bought a home in an area that's not at risk."

Weather can be unpredictable and can impact more than just your home. Think about:

Isolation: Your home may get cut off from schools, your elderly parents, shops or your work.

Lack of essential supplies: Shops, including pharmacies, may be under-supplied or need to close for days at a time due to road closures.

Damage to your belongings and your property: Check your insurance.

Evacuation: Consider how you might communicate with your family about where to evacuate to and how you all will get there.

Your pets: Have a plan for what to do with your pets, and livestock if you need to evacuate. Remember, evacuation centres don't always take animals.

"I don't have time to sit down and do this."

It takes less time than you think and you can come back to it if you leave your plan open on your device.

"I can't use these online tools; they're too complicated."

This tool is designed to be so easy. There's guidance available, and you can complete it at your own pace. You can also fill out a hard copy plan if you'd prefer.

"I'm worried about my personal data's safety online."

Data security is a top priority. All details you input remain on your device's browser memory. You can print out or save your plan and then clear your browser memory for added security.

"I'll just follow what the authorities do in an emergency."

That's great, and exactly what you should do. However, in the event of an emergency, you should have a plan that reflects your unique needs. Your plan can be put in place before authorities need to contact you, which will allow you to stay ahead of any severe weather issues.

Emergency services are crucial, but if we all relied on them to save us at the same time, it would be disastrous. Self-reliance makes sure their efforts can be focused where they're needed most.

"I think these plans are useless if a real disaster happens."

Having a plan helps reduce panic and confusion. It gives you clear steps to follow and is very practical in emergencies when you can't think straight. Plus, being prepared with a plan gives you the best chance at a quick recovery.

Also check out: getready.qld.gov.au/plan

101 data safety

Protecting personal information is an essential part of our Severe Weather Household Emergency Plan. Encourage your community members to follow these simple tips to keep their plan secure and ensure it stays in the right hands.

Use Your Own Device

Always fill out your plan on your personal device, not on public devices such as from a library or café.

Choose Private Wi-Fi

Use your data or home Wi-Fi. When in public, avoid open networks and consider using a VPN.

Keep Your Device Updated

Regularly update your device's software to protect it from hackers.

Store Your Plan Safely

Keep a copy of your plan in a secure place, such as on a USB drive at home or in a protected online location like Google Drive or OneDrive.

Share Wisely

Share your plan only with those who need to know, like trusted family members or friends.

Thank you

We hope you find this document helpful. Thank you for your custodianship of this initiative in your area. You play the most important part in helping to keep Queensland communities safer during severe weather.

Together, let's ensure that everyone is prepared and ready for whatever the weather may bring.

For more information, contact us at getready@qra.qld.gov.au



Australian Government



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