

Tropical cyclones and flooding

Summertime is tropical cyclone season in our North West. It's important to know your risks and be prepared for cyclones and flooding.



GET PREPARED BEFORE YOU GO

KNOW THE RISKS

Tropical cyclones hit the Kimberley and Pilbara coasts from November to April, and the Midwest-Gascoyne often floods as they move south.

Cyclones can be severe, and hit WA every year with destructive winds, torrential rainfall, flooding, dangerous storm surges and heavy swells.

Your safety is your responsibility. Follow the advice below to get prepared, stay informed and keep safe during the cyclone season.

KNOW THE WARNING SYSTEM

For current cyclone alerts and warnings visit emergency.wa.gov.au

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues cyclone information to the public in the form of a Cyclone Watch and Cyclone Warning. DFES then issues community alerts to keep people informed and safe.

The alert level changes to reflect the increasing risk to your life and advises what you need to do before, during and after a cyclone.

> BLUE ALERT

Get ready for a cyclone. You need to start preparing for cyclone weather.

> YELLOW ALERT

Take action and get ready to shelter from a cyclone. You need to prepare for the arrival of a cyclone.

> RED ALERT

Take shelter from the cyclone. You need to shelter immediately.

> ALL CLEAR

The cyclone has passed but take care. Wind and storm surge dangers have passed but you need to take care to avoid the dangers caused by damage.

BE READY FOR TRAVELLING

To ensure you are prepared for a cyclone when travelling in the North West:

> PACK A WATERPROOF EMERGENCY KIT

As a minimum, your emergency kit should include a battery-operated radio, torch, spare batteries, mobile phone and charger, medications, first aid kit, toiletries and sanitary items. For more information visit dfes.wa.gov.au/cyclone

> TAKE SUPPLIES FOR 5 DAYS

Roads and supplies are often blocked during a cyclone. You need to take enough food, water and fuel for at least five days.

> PLAN YOUR ROUTE(S)

Plan how you can leave safely from your destination or route if impacted by a cyclone. For information on roads in Western Australia, including current road closures and conditions, visit mainroads.wa.gov.au or call **138 138**.

**BE THE CALM
BEFORE THE STORM**

STAY AWARE WHEN YOU GET THERE



> KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEATHER

Tropical cyclones are forecast weather events, so you have time to plan. Stay up to date with weather and cyclone warnings in the weeks and days before your trip:

- Visit bom.gov.au for current and forecasted weather and warnings
- Visit emergency.wa.gov.au for current warnings and alerts
- Listen to ABC radio or local radio station.

Remember, there may be no mobile phone reception in remote areas, so it is important to have a battery-operated radio with you.

> KEEP YOUR FUEL TANK TOPPED UP

Service stations are limited in the North West. In the event of a cyclone, queues will be long and fuel supplies may be cut off. Keep your tank as full as possible during your trip and carry spare fuel.

> PEOPLE WITH CARAVANS WILL BE TOLD TO LEAVE

Caravans cannot be made safe in a cyclone. If you are travelling with a caravan you will be told to leave the area before the cyclone arrives. You may not be able to tie down or anchor your caravan at a local caravan park.

> NEVER DRIVE THROUGH FLOODWATERS

Most cyclone-related deaths are from drowning. Floodwaters can take control of your 4WD in just 30cm of flowing water. For other cars it's only 15cm. Download the Driving in Floodwater factsheet from dfes.wa.gov.au/cyclone for more information.

> TELL SOMEONE ABOUT YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

Ensure someone knows your travel itinerary, including when you are expecting to be travelling between destinations. Let them know when you have arrived safely.

BOAT OWNERS

If you own a boat ensure you are aware of the following:

> SEVERE WEATHER CAUSES UNPREDICTABLE SEAS AND SWELL

Don't go out on the water when there is an incoming cyclone as conditions can change contrary to forecasts and without notice.

Visit the **Bureau of Meteorology** to find out about current marine and ocean weather conditions and warnings.

> STAY INFORMED

When a cyclone is coming community alerts will be issued on the radio and other media. Listen carefully and do what the alerts say to help keep safe.

We recommend you use a range of sources to keep informed about weather conditions and current alerts. You can find information through the following:

- **Emergency WA:** For current alerts
- **Bureau of Meteorology:** For weather and warnings
- **DFES Facebook**
- **DFES Twitter feed**
- **DFES Public information line:** Call 13 DFES (13 3337)
- **Bureau of Meteorology cyclone information line:** Call 1300 659 210
- **ABC radio and other local media.**

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BEFORE THE STORM**