Cyclones

* Cyclones are a part of life for people living in Queensland’s coastal areas.
* In Queensland, communities within 50 kilometres of the coastline heading north from Bundaberg are most susceptible to cyclones, however, accompanying wind and rain from weakening cyclones can affect communities throughout all parts of Queensland.
* As a cyclone approaches, the wind and rain gradually increases over several hours.
* Winds caused by cyclones are powerful enough to break large trees, roll over sea containers, and blow away unsecured caravans, garden sheds and poorly constructed roof patios.
* Strong winds associated with cyclones can cause extensive property damage and turn loose items into wind-borne debris.
* Slow moving cyclones can take many hours to move past a particular location, causing extreme wind and rain that can last up to 12 hours.
* Completing a few simple tasks around your home can help protect yourself, your loved ones and your home from cyclones.

**Identify where to shelter**

* Identify which room is the strongest part of the house, in case you need to shelter in your home during a cyclone. Usually this would be the smallest room in the house, with the least windows like the bathroom.
* Include shelter details in your Household Emergency Plan.

**Pack your emergency and evacuation kits**

* Pack your emergency kit with enough supplies to last at least three days. Include:
  + water;
  + non-perishable food;
  + battery-operated radio;
  + torch;
  + spare batteries;
  + prescription medication;
  + toiletries including hand sanitizer, face masks, tissues and disinfectant wipes;
  + first-aid kit; and
  + copies of important documents.
* Pack essential items in a small backpack for easy access if you need to evacuate your home quickly. Include:
  + food;
  + water;
  + prescription medication;
  + a first-aid kit;
  + hand sanitiser;
  + gloves;
  + face masks;
  + spare clothes; and
  + copies of important documents.

**Conduct regular maintenance on your home:**

* Secure loose items around your home including trampolines, garden furniture, and toys that would need to be secured that could cause damage if blown around in high winds.
* Clear gutters and downpipes.
* Check the condition of your roof and repair loose tiles, eaves, screws and cracked guttering or flashing.
* Trim overhanging branches close to your home.
* Repair broken sealant around window sills.
* Have readily available hessian bags and sand for sandbagging indoor drains to prevent sewerage backwash from flooding.
* If you’re renting, alert your landlord or property manager of any maintenance that needs to take place in or around your home.

**Update your insurance**

* Whether you’re a home owner or renter, having up-to-date home and contents insurance is an important part of being prepared for severe weather.
* If you’re unsure what your policy protects you from or what’s included in your cover, talk to your insurance provider.

**For more information on how to prepare your home for cyclones and other severe weather this season, visit getready.qld.gov.au**