

## Flood ready ... flood safe!

### In this factsheet:

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- Before a flood
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- Basic checklist



Courtesy Burnett Mary Regional Group

**Know your land; know your floods** – if your land is associated with a floodplain, creek or drainage depression, it is susceptible to periodic flooding. Knowing your land, understanding the behaviour of water, and planning for a flood event are important factors in staying safe, minimising damage and maximising recovery.

### These factsheets

This is the introductory factsheet of a series to assist rural and urban-fringe landholders in preparing for, and recovering from, flood events. Although web based, they are print friendly, and are colour coded into the following six themes for ease of use:

1. Planning (beige) 
2. People (red) 
3. Infrastructure (yellow) 
4. Rubbish and debris (blue) 
5. Natural assets (green) 
6. Production (brown) 

This overview factsheet provides an outline, while additional factsheets provide greater detail. Be sure you get the full set as information is cross referenced throughout.

### Before a flood

Floods are a part of life. They are a natural process bringing life and regeneration... they can also bring death and destruction. There is a range of actions landowners can undertake to ensure personal safety and to minimise damage to their infrastructure, production unit and the natural environment.

- Queensland Community Recovery hotline: **1800 173 349**
- Police attendance: **13 14 44**
- Crime stoppers: **1800 333 000**

People in rural and urban fringe areas get to see our periodic flood events in a slightly different light to city dwellers. When our rivers, streams, creeks, gullies and depressions swell with the runoff of heavy and sometimes torrential rain, houses, fences, roads and dams may be damaged or destroyed, crops devalued or decimated, and livestock stranded or swept away. In worst case scenarios, our people are traumatised or lost.

If you are in an area that is subject to flooding, learn how to protect yourself, your family, pets, livestock and property from its effects.

How you plan for flood events goes a long way to dictating how severely you are affected by them, and how quickly and efficiently you recover.

Before an event occurs, it is your responsibility to see if there is a risk of a flood affecting your life and property, and to be well prepared. Know and understand the impact of the local flood gauge levels which relate to each of the official Bureau of Meteorology flood warning categories (*see **Beige Planning***).

Floods rarely behave the way we think they should; if you're a relative newcomer to an area, tap into the local knowledge. Remember, high gradients mean fast floods and lots of energy; level land means slower floods and less energy.

Police/Fire/Ambulance: **000** from landlines; **112** from mobiles

**Know your land; know your floods... plan for floods, stay safe, minimize damage, maximize recovery.**

### OVERVIEW

#### Disclaimer:

Information provided is broad level guidance only; landowners should seek region-specific and location-specific information and professional advice prior to action.

Your local council should have 'Floodplain Maps' showing flood danger areas based on flood histories. However, it needs to be borne in mind that no two floods are the same, and if you live on the urban fringe, new developments may affect runoff and river flow. Know whether your house or land becomes isolated or likely to require evacuation. Don't wait for a flood to learn what to do; now is the time!

## During a flood

Personal safety is of prime importance, so ensure you and your family remain in a safe place – property can be replaced... loved ones can't!

Flood events place a lot of strain on emergency services, so the more people who are prepared and self-sufficient, the better. Roads can be cut, power and phone services disrupted, and people dislocated. Emergency services will be focused on the most needy, so it pays to have enough food, water and equipment to sustain your family and your livestock for several days or weeks, depending on where you live.

Keep the following phone numbers handy in case of emergency:

- Police/Fire/Ambulance: 000 or 112 (mobile phones)
- SES assistance in floods and storms: 13 25 00
- Sth East Qld: Downed Power Lines call [Energex](#) - 13 19 62
- Sth East Qld: Supply & Outages [Energex](#) - 13 19 62
- All Other areas QLD Ergon Energy: Downed Power Lines - 13 16 70
- All Other QLD Areas Ergon Energy: Supply & Outages - 13 22 96

## After a flood

Floods can be traumatic and damaging, no matter how prepared you are, so it's comforting to know that there is help for those who need it. Disaster Management Groups, run by councils, are a local point of coordination to assist with urgent needs associated with floods, including health, safety and personal hardship, as well as fodder and stock movements. To find your local council, call 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or visit the [Department of Local Government website](#).

If you are an aficionado of smart phones, consider installing the Self Recovery App which features vital tips for preparing for disasters and cleaning up after them, including insurance information, personal and family support and business support. It is available for both Android and Apple... web search for 'self recovery app'.

- Queensland Community Recovery hotline: **1800 173 349**
- Police attendance: **13 14 44**
- Crime stoppers: **1800 333 000**

More subject-specific contacts, resources and references are provided in relevant, colour-coded factsheets listed above.

## Basic checklist

- written property management plan with flood preparedness and recovery section;
- property assessed for flood risk;
- whole of family (including children) involved in flood planning;
- whole of family (including children) involved in flood response practice;
- comprehensive evacuation plan and checklist to ensure nothing is overlooked;
- identified safe evacuation place with adequate food and water;
- prepared for the loss of electricity;
- current list of emergency phone numbers;
- confirmed adequate insurance cover;
- current assessment of structural integrity of on-property dams
- identified practical storage area out of flood reach for machinery and consumables;
- identified safe areas for livestock - must be large enough to sustain them for an extended period, or if not, must remain accessible for fodder deliveries;
- identified fodder requirements for livestock where adequate safe ground is not available;
- identified appropriate crops and farming practices to ensure ground cover at high risk times to minimise soil loss;
- identified critical post flood activities such as assessing access roads, infrastructure and livestock; and
- identified financial, physical and emotional support agencies and contact details - in the event you have suffered major damage and losses.

Compile your own, more detailed, checklists where necessary - remember, if it's written down and referred to, it won't be forgotten. Importantly, collect and read all the factsheets in this series, they are full of useful information and helpful hints.