



# Prepare your household for evacuation

**We enjoy a wonderful climate and lifestyle in Queensland. However, natural hazards such as cyclone, storm, and flood are an inevitable part of our environment. History has shown that we cannot afford to be complacent about the dangers they present.**

Take time now to prepare for emergencies by:

- Preparing your Emergency Plan;
- Preparing your Emergency Kit,
- Preparing your home; and
- Tune into warnings

These simple tasks can help you prepare for, survive, and minimise the impact of natural disasters.

If you live in an area prone to flood or storm surge, planning for an evacuation now can save you time and stress in the event of such an emergency.

Here are three steps to help prepare evacuation arrangements for your Emergency Plan.

## 1. Research evacuation requirements

- Is your home in an area prone to flood, storm surge or tsunami inundation?
  - Check with your local library and council for information on potential hazards.
  - Check with your local council about local warning systems, evacuation process and nominated evacuation routes.
- What support is available to you and your household in case of emergency?
  - Ask for contact details of local support agencies.
  - If your household will need support to evacuate, find out what assistance is available from local council and support agencies.
  - Decide how you will look after your pets if you cannot take them with you.

## 2. Record evacuation details on your Household Emergency Plan

- Identify a safe place to evacuate to if storm surge or floods are threatening.
  - Family or friends who live in secure accommodation that is further inland and on higher ground are the best option.
  - Record the contact and location details of your evacuation options on your Emergency Plan.
- Identify and document all tasks required prior to evacuating and ensure household members know how to complete each task (e.g. storing electrical items off the ground, switching off water, power and gas at the mains, sandbagging drains)

## 3. Ensure your household is prepared and remains informed

- Make a list of personal and household items to take with you in your Evacuation Kit (see overleaf for suggested Evacuation Kit contents)
- Review and practise your Emergency Plan regularly (three times per year) to ensure everyone is familiar with required tasks for evacuation.
- Ensure you have a supply of fuel stored safely in your garage in case you need to evacuate at short notice.
- Listen to local community safety announcements (on radio and television) to identify the preferred evacuation routes for your area.
- Help your friends and neighbours, particularly the elderly and those who need special assistance, by helping them to prepare and passing on information on warnings.
- If you are visiting or holidaying in Queensland, or interstate, and do not have family or friends to shelter with, contact your accommodation manager to identify options for evacuation.

## Checklist for Evacuation

- Has official advice been given to evacuate?
- Do you know where you will be evacuating to?
- Is your evacuation point further inland, on higher ground and secure?
- Do you know the preferred route for evacuation?
- Is your vehicle full of fuel?
- Have you packed an Evacuation Kit?
- Have you included your Emergency Kit and a copy of your Emergency Plan?
- Do you have essential medications for your family?
- Have you packed important documents and valuables?
- Have you turned off all the power, gas and water mains to your home?
- Are your pets safe and secure?
- Have you secured and locked your home?
- Have you packed emergency water supplies?
- Have you checked on neighbours who are elderly or disabled?
- If you have completed the items above, then ensure you have your Emergency Kit and Evacuation Kit and commence your Evacuation Plan.

## always remember

**Having an Emergency Plan is an important step for your family to prepare for, survive and cope with emergencies.**

**All householders need to know where your Emergency Plan is kept.**

**Practise your Emergency Plan and evacuation arrangements every few months to make sure everyone knows what to do if an emergency occurs.**

# Evacuation Kit



Your Evacuation Kit should be kept in a sturdy, easy to carry bag or waterproof storage box and stored in a safe place that is easy to access.

Your Evacuation Kit is designed to be an addition to your Emergency Kit. If you evacuate, when activating your Emergency Plan take your Emergency Kit, your Emergency Plan, and your Evacuation Kit with you.

## Items to include in your Evacuation Kit

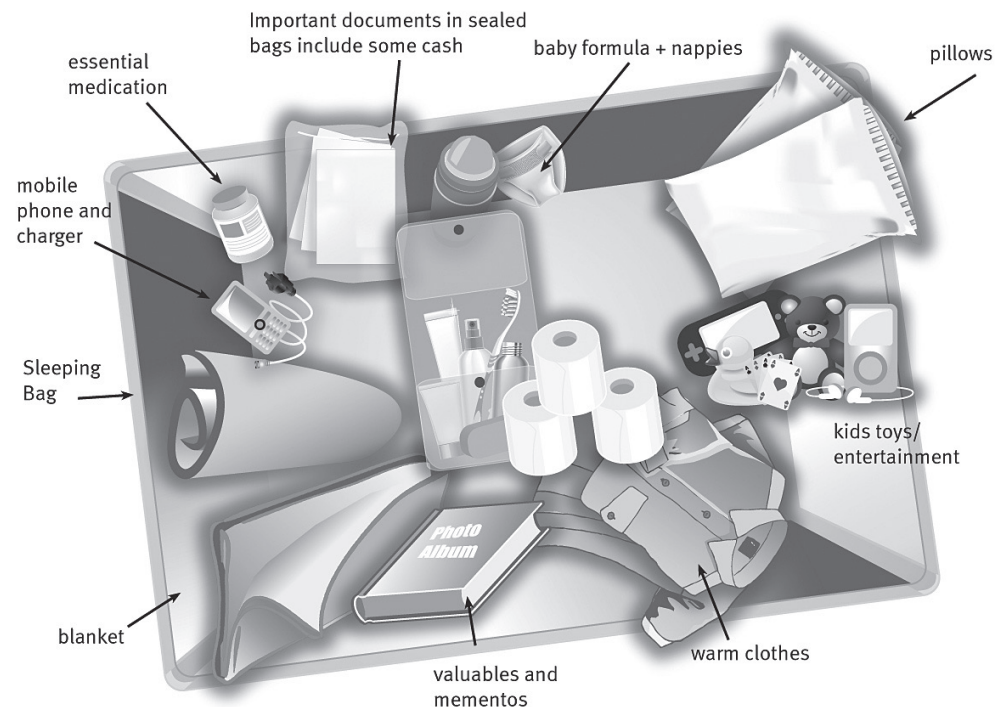
- Multiple changes of clothes for all household members, stored in watertight plastic bags (long pants, long sleeved shirts, hats and strong shoes are recommended)
- Extra essential medicines and repeat prescriptions
- Extra First Aid supplies, sunscreen, insect repellent
- Extra toiletry and sanitary supplies
- Pillows, sleeping bags and blankets for each household member
- Books and games for children
- Extra baby formula, food and nappies (if required)
- Valuables, photos (prints, compact disks, USB data stick) and mementos in waterproof plastic bags
- Extra money as cash
- Mobile phone, spare battery and charger

## Important documents

- Keep original or certified copies of all the following documents in your Emergency Kit and your Evacuation Kit.
- Scan copies of these documents and save on a USB memory stick or CD to include in your kit as well. Keep all these items in sealed plastic bags.

- Insurance papers for house and contents
- Insurance papers for vehicles and valuable items
- Inventory of valuable household goods
- Wills and life insurance documents
- House deeds/mortgage documents
- Birth and marriage certificates
- Passports/visa details
- Stocks and bonds
- Medicare and pension cards
- Immunisation records
- Bank account and credit card details
- Back-up copies of important computer files
- Copy of household Emergency Plan
- Emergency contact telephone numbers

## Evacuation Kit



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For more information on preparing for emergencies visit [www.disaster.qld.gov.au](http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au)

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