

Prepare for Evacuation and Shelter

Find out how to manage an evacuation and find shelter in the event of a disaster.



WHAT IS EVACUATION?

Evacuation is the movement of affected persons from a potentially or currently unsafe location, and their eventual return home. Evacuation can either be self-initiated by individuals, voluntary and encouraged by authorities, or directed through a mandatory order issued by authorities.

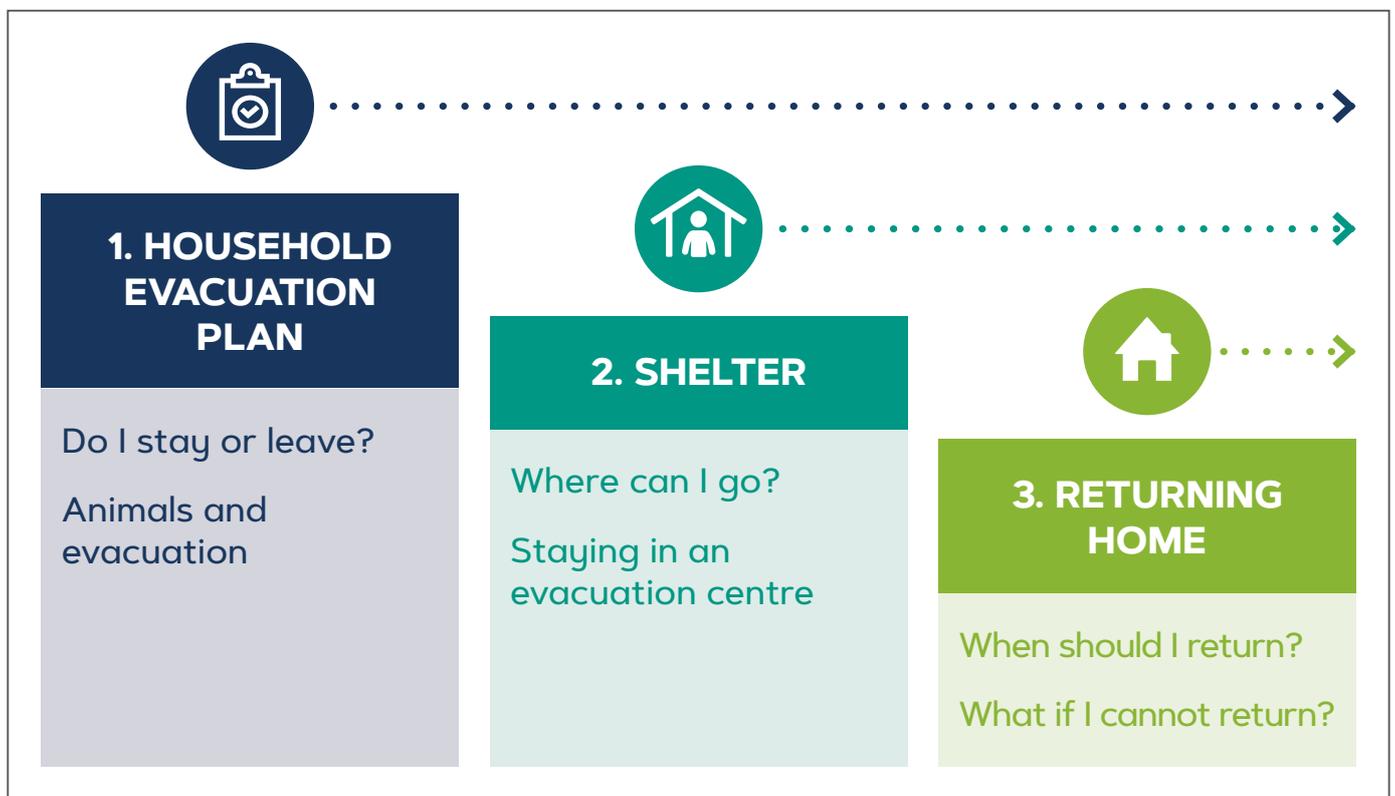
Developing an evacuation plan now can save you time and stress in the event of a disaster or emergency.

When do I need to evacuate?

The type of disaster or emergency will effect:

- your decision to evacuate
- the route and destination you will take
- the amount of time you may be away from your property.

It is your responsibility to monitor weather conditions and warnings and take action as needed.



1. HOUSEHOLD EVACUATION PLAN



Do I stay or leave?

1. Will your location become isolated from essential provisions and services?
2. Is your location at risk of bushfire, excess storm water, or flooding?
Visit lpswich.qld.gov.au/emergency to find out.
3. Is it safe and timely to travel on the roads, or public or commercial transport?
4. Can the structure you are in withstand the impact of the hazard?
5. Can you leave well before the hazard arrives at your location?
6. Is your **Emergency Kit** and **Evacuation Kit** fully stocked and ready for use?

Warnings to evacuate

1. Has official advice been given to evacuate?
2. Do you know what the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) sounds like? Visit lpswich.qld.gov.au/emergency to find out.
3. Remind your emergency contacts of your **Household Evacuation Plan**.
4. Register with Register.Find.Reunite as a precaution:
Register.redcross.org.au/

Have a plan and leave the kingdom early



Animals and evacuation

Animals are your responsibility, even during an emergency or disaster. They must be confined to their owner's property at all times.

Make every effort to evacuate animals to a safer location well in advance and away from the emergency or disaster zone.

In most cases, trained assistance dogs will be allowed to stay in an authorised evacuation centre with their owner.



**DO YOU HAVE
A HOUSEHOLD
EVACUATION
PLAN FOR YOUR
ANIMALS IN THE
EVENT OF AN
EMERGENCY OR
DISASTER?**



Where can I go?

Shelter in place

Depending on the severity of the event, the condition of the structure you are in, and warnings from authorities, sheltering in your current location may be your safest and most comfortable option.

Place of refuge

This is a short term place to shelter or take refuge as the effects of a disaster or emergency unfold, such as a shopping centre, place of worship, school, or another large building.

Voluntary evacuation

Residents and visitors exposed to a potentially or currently unsafe location may choose to move to other location/s for their own safety when the risk of sheltering in place is greater than the risk of evacuation.

OPTION 1: Evacuate to a location of your choice

This should be your **first and preferred** evacuation solution. You will be much more comfortable sheltering with family, friends or in commercial accommodation at a location outside of the event impact zone.

OPTION 2: Meet at an assembly point

An assembly point is a specifically selected, temporary location away from the immediate or potential effects of the hazard where residents and visitors may assemble (usually for no longer than six hours).

Assembly points may be used as designated transport pick up locations in the event of a directed evacuation.

OPTION 3: Shelter in an evacuation centre

Evacuation centres are opened to immediately preserve the life, wellbeing and safety of people with no other place to relocate to. They should be your **last choice** as a place to shelter or relocate.

Evacuation centres offer residents and visitors temporary accommodation, food, water, clothing, general physical and psychological first aid, and information (usually for no longer than four days).

Directed (mandatory) evacuation

This is the evacuation of residents and visitors by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) following the declaration of a disaster event.

QPS are responsible for the security of mandatorily evacuated areas. Do not return to your property until authorities deem it safe to do so.

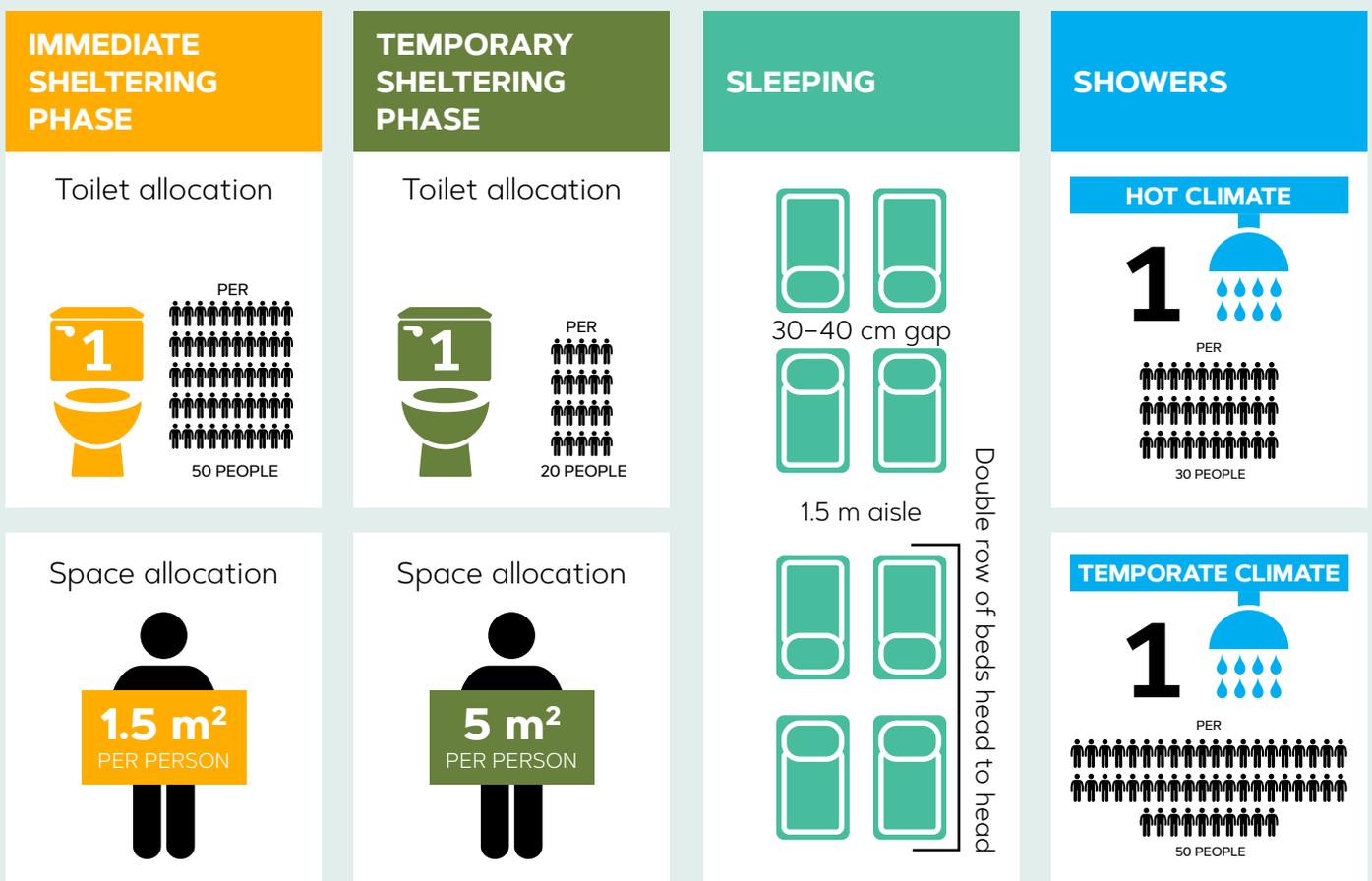
In the event of a mandatory evacuation, **relocation using your own transport should still be your primary method**. The coordinated transport of residents and visitors within the affected area may also be undertaken.

Staying in an evacuation centre

Preferred sheltering methods

Seeking refuge at an evacuation centre should be your last resort... because they are not a resort!

Evacuation centres established by Ipswich City Council follow the 'Australian Red Cross Preferred Sheltering Practices for Emergency Sheltering in Australia' guideline. This diagram displays some of the facilities provided for stays up to 18 hours and beyond.



Conditions of entry

If you enter an authorised evacuation centre you must:

- Register yourself and all other people, assistance and companion animals in your care upon arrival.
- Register as a day guest if you are seeking access to basic needs and services such as meals and information. A day guest may also include friends or family visiting a registered resident of the centre, although this is discouraged so as to prevent additional strain on the centre's resources. Day guests are not registered to sleep at the centre.
- Wear your registration wristband at all times.

Code of conduct

If you are staying at, or visiting, an evacuation centre you must:

- Provide the required registration details to evacuation centre personnel prior to entry to the facility.
- Comply with the directions of evacuation centre personnel.
- Not use anything that is dangerous or interferes with the health and comfort of yourself and others (this includes the consumption of alcohol and illicit drugs).
- Not smoke or use any tobacco products within 10 metres of the evacuation centre, and utilise designated outdoor smoking areas where applicable.
- Be mindful of the large number of persons within a small space and conduct yourself in a calm manner that does not create any unnecessary disruption, disorder, or conflict with fellow occupants.
- Not intentionally cause damage to the evacuation centre building, furniture, fittings or fixtures, and immediately report any accidental damage, incidents of vandalism, theft, and / or other illegal activity to evacuation centre personnel.
- Supervise children in your care closely. Children remain the responsibility of parents or guardians and must be accompanied to the toilets and showers by a parent or guardian.
- Wear footwear at all times for safety and hygiene purposes.
- Occupy the area allocated to you by evacuation centre personnel and stow personal items in that area. Evacuation centre occupants are responsible for the security of their own valuables.
- Keep walkways and emergency exits clear.
- Remain in the public areas of the evacuation centre and not enter storerooms, kitchens, or office spaces unless requested or permitted by evacuation centre personnel.
- Respect others, and not shout, yell, or use loud obscene language.
- Use earphones to listen to battery powered personal music / electronic devices, and keep volume to a minimum to avoid disturbing others.
- Not use evacuation centre power outlets unless approved by evacuation centre personnel.
- Maintain cleanliness and dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.
- Notify evacuation centre personnel of any medical emergency or other critical incidents.

In the event that centre residents' or visitors' behaviours are inconsistent with the Code of Conduct, particularly where they cause stress, danger, or discomfort to other residents, action will be taken by evacuation centre staff to rectify this.

Prohibited items

It is a condition of entry that prohibited items must not be brought into the evacuation centre. These include:



You and your belongings may be searched by a Queensland Police Officer securing the facility if officers have a reasonable belief that such items have been taken into an evacuation centre.



When should I return?

1. Has the immediate threat to your household's safety and wellbeing passed?
2. If your property was in an evacuation or exclusion zone, have the authorities declared it safe to return? A phased return might be implemented to control new and emerging safety issues such as traffic congestion, insufficient retail food supply.
3. Can you safely access and use your property, its building/s, equipment, fixtures, and contents?
4. Has power, water and/or gas services been permanently restored for use at your property?
5. Can you access an adequate supply of clean drinking water, food, medication, medical care, protection from the elements, and any other special needs at your property in its current state?
6. Can you adequately care for animals you are responsible for at the property?
7. Is the evacuation centre in which you are staying closing?
8. Can business operations adequately and safely resume from the property in its current state (if relevant)?

What if I cannot return?

You will be much more comfortable sheltering with family, friends or in commercial accommodation at a location outside of the event impact zone until you can return to your property.

If you are staying in an evacuation centre that is closing, transfer to another centre may be possible.

Where alternate or further accommodation must be provided for eligible displaced residents after an evacuation centre has closed, the relevant Queensland Government department is responsible for sourcing and providing it.

If it's flooded, forget it



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Service	Contact details
In an Emergency, always dial	000
Speak and Listen (TTY) Emergency Call	106
Translating and Interpreting Service	13 14 50
National Relay Service	133 677
<i>Teletypewriter</i>	1300 555 727
<i>Speak and listen SMS relay</i>	0423 677 767
Ipswich City Council	(07) 3810 6666
Emergency Management Dashboard <i>Comprehensive updates on road conditions, weather warnings, fire incidents, power and water outages, river heights, school closures, emergency news and more</i>	Emd.ipswich.qld.gov.au
1300 ANIMAL <i>animal emergencies</i>	1300 264 625
Energy/power <i>emergencies</i>	13 19 62
Energy/power <i>loss of supply</i>	13 62 62
QLD Traffic	13 19 40
Gas (Natural) Providers <i>emergencies</i>	1800 427 532
Gas (LPG) Providers <i>emergencies</i>	1800 808 526
Gas (Natural) High Pressure Transmission Pipelines	1800 017 000
Queensland Government Community Recovery <i>Hotline</i>	1800 173 349
Queensland Health <i>13 HEALTH</i>	13 432584
Queensland Police <i>Police Link (non-life threatening calls)</i>	13 14 44
Queensland Urban Utilities <i>emergencies</i>	13 23 64
State Emergency Service - Ipswich City Unit <i>tree damage to homes</i>	132 500
Rural Fire Service - West Moreton <i>non-urgent bushfire preparedness</i>	(07) 3294 4944