

2024/25 CYCLONE INFORMATION BOOKLET



**AN INITIATIVE OF THE EXMOUTH
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**



Welcome

YOUR SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

CYCLONE SEASON START: 01 NOVEMBER

CYCLONE SEASON END: 30 APRIL

EXMOUTH CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

This booklet is a joint initiative of the Exmouth Local Emergency Management Committee, Exmouth State Emergency Service, Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), and the Shire of Exmouth. It provides essential cyclone information for residents and visitors to the Exmouth district.

WHY EXMOUTH?

The northwest Australian coastline, stretching from Broome to Exmouth, is the region most susceptible to cyclones in Australia. A staggering 75% of severe tropical cyclone crossings between 1970 and 2018 alone occurred in Western Australia.

YOUR GUIDE TO CYCLONE SAFETY

This guide aims to equip you with the knowledge and resources you need to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a cyclone.

It covers:

- **Understanding Cyclone Risk:** Learn about cyclone formation, intensity, and the specific threats they pose to Exmouth.
- **Before a Cyclone:** Tips on creating a family emergency plan, preparing your home, and stocking essential supplies.
- **During a Cyclone:** Safety measures to take during a cyclone, including staying indoors, securing loose items, and listening to emergency broadcasts.
- **After a Cyclone:** Post-cyclone safety advice, including checking for damage, cleaning up debris, and accessing support services.

By following the advice in this guide, you can significantly reduce your risk and protect yourself and your loved ones during a cyclone.

YOU WOULDN'T TAKE THE KIDS TO THE BEACH WITHOUT A GAME PLAN.

Preparing for cyclone season is no different.



Have a plan, pack your emergency kit and stay informed via Emergency WA. Make sure you know the new warning levels, too.



ADVICE



WATCH AND ACT



EMERGENCY WARNING

Q EMERGENCY WA

[WHAT'S YOUR CYCLONE GAME PLAN?]



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WHAT IS A TROPICAL CYCLONE?

Tropical Cyclones are low-pressure systems that form over warm tropical waters and have gale-force winds (sustained winds of 63 km/h or greater and gusts over 90 km/h) near the centre, which can extend hundreds of kilometres from the cyclone centre. The system is called a severe tropical cyclone if the sustained winds around the centre reach 118 km/h (gusts in excess of 165 km/h).

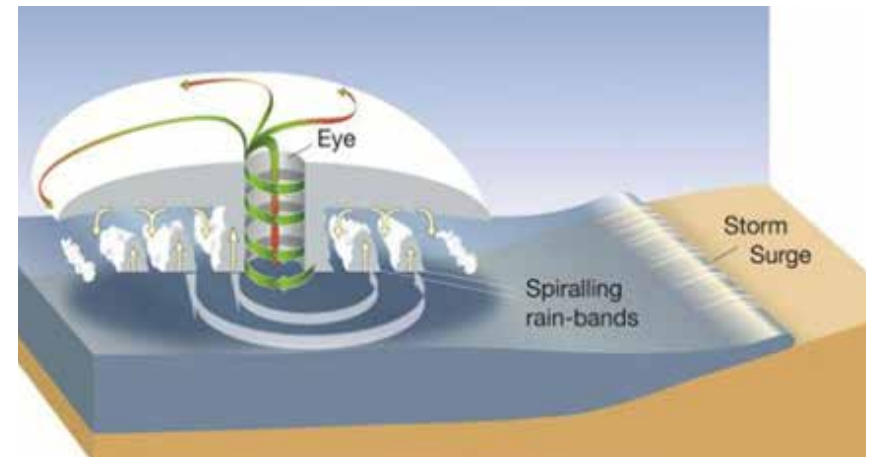


Figure 1: Diagram of a Tropical Cyclone (Courtesy of the Bureau of Meteorology)

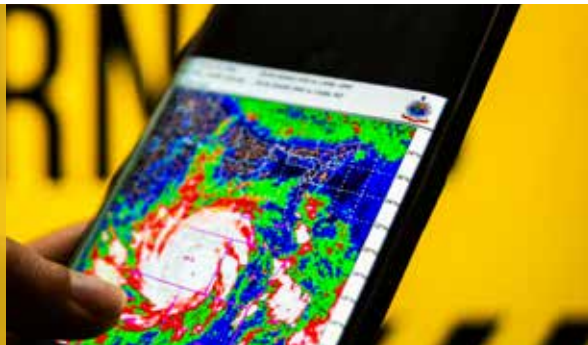
HOW ARE TROPICAL CYCLONES NAMED?

There is a list of 104 names that are used by the Bureau of Meteorology to name tropical cyclones in the Australian Region. The name of a new tropical cyclone is usually selected from this list of names. The names are normally chosen in sequence; when the list is exhausted, we return to the start of the list.

For further information on tropical cyclones and the list of name visit the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website at bom.gov.au/cyclone/about/.

HOW STRONG IS A TROPICAL CYCLONE?

The severity of a tropical cyclone is described in terms of Categories ranging from 1 (weakest) to 5 (strongest) related to the maximum wind gusts as shown in the table below.



CATEGORY 1

Typical Effects: Negligible house damage; damage to some trees and caravans; boats may drag moorings.
Maximum wind speed: 63–88 km/h
Typical strongest gust: up to 125 km/h

CATEGORY 2

Typical Effects: Minor house damage; significant damage to signs, trees and caravans; risk of power failure; small boats may break moorings.
Maximum wind speed: 89–117 km/h
Typical strongest gust: 125–164 km/h

CATEGORY 3

Typical Effects: Very destructive winds. Some roof and structural damage. Some caravans destroyed. Significant damage to trees. Power failures likely.
Maximum wind speed: 118–159 km/h
Typical strongest gust: 165–224 km/h

CATEGORY 4

Typical Effects: Significant roofing loss/ structural damage; caravans destroyed and blown away. Extensive damage to vegetation. Dangerous airborne debris. Widespread power failures.
Maximum wind speed: 160–199 km/h
Typical strongest gust: 225–279 km/h

CATEGORY 5

Typical Effects: Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction of buildings and vegetation.
Maximum wind speed: min 200 km/h
Typical strongest gust: min 279 km/h



Figure 2: A Steel power pole bent by the wind strength of Tropical Cyclone Vance, 1999

WHAT IS A STORM SURGE?

A storm surge is generated by tropical cyclones forcing water onshore over a generally limited stretch of coastline. It will normally build up over a few hours as the cyclone or similar weather system approaches. Typically, wind waves on top of the surge will contribute to its effect.

Storm surges are most dangerous when they arrive at high tide when the sea is already at its high point. The resulting 'storm tide' can inundate inland areas.

Storm surges, like cyclones themselves, are hard to predict. The paths of cyclones are often erratic, making it hard to forecast where and when they will make landfall - or how high the tide will be when a storm surge strikes. Other elements contributing to the risk of storm surge include*:

- The cyclone's speed and intensity.
- The angle at which it crosses the coast.
- The shape of the sea floor.
- Local topography.

*Reference: Bureau of Meteorology

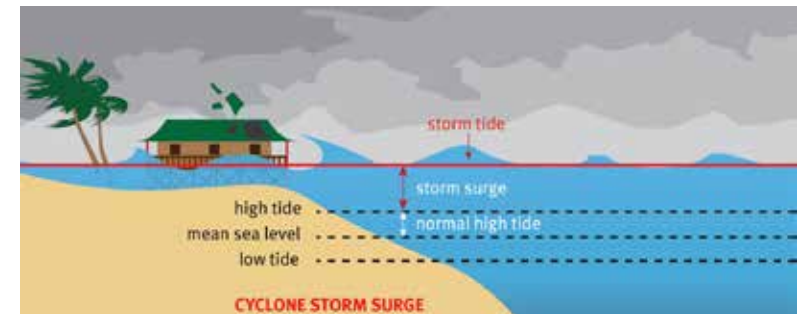


Figure 3: Normal High Tide vs Cyclone Storm Surges
 Courtesy of the State Emergency Service (SES)

Did you know?

- The average life of a cyclone is one week.
- After the eye passes and the other side of the cyclone hits, the wind blows with equal strength but in the opposite direction.
- Cyclone Tracy (Darwin) was Australia's most destructive cyclone.
- Tropical Cyclone Vance (Exmouth) has the strongest wind gust recorded on the Australian Mainland at 267km/h.



What can you do?

Prepare!

We never know if cyclones will be approaching Exmouth every year, but we know we need to prepare for cyclone season every year as if one will come our way.

One of the most important things that everyone can do is to prepare your property for cyclone season - before 01 November.

PREPARING YOUR PROPERTY FOR CYCLONE SEASON

Preparing your property means that damage from a cyclone impact is minimised, contributing to saving both life and property. Use the following checklist as a guide only and tick the boxes once you have completed the task. For a more comprehensive list, visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website (www.dfes.wa.gov.au).

- TRIM TREES AND BRANCHES AWAY FROM YOUR HOUSE AND REMOVE / TRIM ANY TREES YOU THINK MAY BLOW OVER**
- KEEP YOUR PROPERTY NEAT AND TIDY, READY TO PACK THINGS AWAY IF NEEDED**
- HAVE SANDBAGS READY TO PUT IN FRONT OF DOORWAYS IN CASE OF HEAVY RAINFALL OR FLOODING**
- MAKE SURE YOUR ROOF IS IN A GOOD CONDITION AND THE SHUTTERS ON THE WINDOWS WORK AND ARE IN A GOOD CONDITION**
- FIND OUT HOW TO TURN YOUR WATER, POWER AND GAS OFF**
- CHECK IF YOUR INSURANCE IS UP TO DATE AND COVERS CYCLONES AND FLOOD / WATER DAMAGE**
- KEEP A LIST OF EMERGENCY NUMBERS AT HAND**

- HAVE A HOUSEHOLD CYCLONE ACTION PLAN SO YOUR FAMILY KNOWS WHAT TO DO IN A CYCLONE**
- MAKE OR CHECK YOUR EMERGENCY KIT. REMEMBER YOU MAY NOT HAVE POWER, WATER OR PHONE FOR A WHILE AFTER A CYCLONE**
- KNOW WHERE THE WELFARE CENTRE IS AND HOW TO GET THERE**
- DECIDE WHERE BEST TO SHELTER YOUR PETS. REMEMBER IF YOU GO TO A WELFARE CENTRE THEY CAN'T COME IN**
- HAVE A PLAN TO SECURE YOUR BOAT, CARAVAN OR TRAILER**

CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS

- MAKE A PLAN
- SECURE DOCUMENTS
- STAY INFORMED
- BUILD A KIT
- FILL UP YOUR CAR
- PREPARE GROCERIES
- CHARGE DEVICES
- SEEK SAFE SHELTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

<https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/cyclone/prepare#>



Scan me

PREPARING YOUR CHILDREN FOR CYCLONES

Encourage children and young people to be involved by including them in the emergency planning process from a young age, giving them active roles in preparing themselves, their homes, and schools. Meaningful activities can include cleaning up; putting things away; and putting together emergency kits and relocation kits

for their classroom and their homes. When given the chance to contribute to cyclone planning and executing the plan, children and young people are less likely to be anxious and more likely to be prepared for a cyclone and/or flood emergency.

PREPARING YOUR PETS AND ANIMALS FOR CYCLONES

Remember to prepare for your pets as well as your family. Be prepared to bring your pets inside early and pick a spot in your house where they will stay during the cyclone. Ensure your pets will be comfortable during a cyclone by having extra bedding and toys available for them.

cyclone, and you don't want your dog wandering. Make sure you have the means to be able to contain them within your property after the cyclone.

If you are evacuating and leave your pets at home, try to keep them comfortable and safe in a room with no windows whilst you are away.

Ensure you have at least 2 weeks' worth of food and water for your pets just in case shops sell out. Fences may be down following a

Keep them in separate rooms, even if they are friends, cyclones can tend to make animals act differently to normal.

PACK YOUR CYCLONE EMERGENCY KIT

An emergency kit provides essential items for your family's short-term survival and should be stored in an easy-to-grab place.

Remember when packing your kit that you may be without power and water for several days or weeks after a cyclone, and shops may not be open.

Keep your family emergency kit in an easily accessible place and ensure all members of the household are aware of its location.

Make sure everyone knows to call 000 in a life-threatening situation.

For an extensive packing list visit the DFES website <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/cyclone/prepare>.



An emergency kit provides essential items for your family's short-term survival and should be stored in an easy-to-grab place.

PREPACK YOUR EMERGENCY KIT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Portable, battery-operated AM/FM radio with spare batteries
- Waterproof torch with extra batteries or a wind-up torch that doesn't need batteries
- A complete first-aid kit
- Bottled drinking water and non-perishable food items, can opener and cutlery
- Protective clothing, such as sturdy footwear, gloves and protective goggles/glasses
- A waterproof bag containing important documents like passports, identification, insurance documents and prescriptions
- Precious items such as jewellery and medals
- Cyclone Plan
- Cash
- Toiletries and sanitary supplies



ITEMS TO GRAB WHEN LEAVING:

- Wallet
- Special medical supplies or equipment
- Phone and laptop with charger
- House and car keys
- Pets and supplies (food, bowl, cage, leash, etc.)



IF RELOCATING TO A SAFER PLACE, ADD IN THE FOLLOWING ITEMS INTO YOUR PREPACKED EMERGENCY KIT:

- Sleeping bags, blankets and towels
- Waterproof ponchos
- Spare clothing
- Pen and paper
- Books, playing cards or game



GET PREPARED

SEARCH CYCLONE SAFETY WA



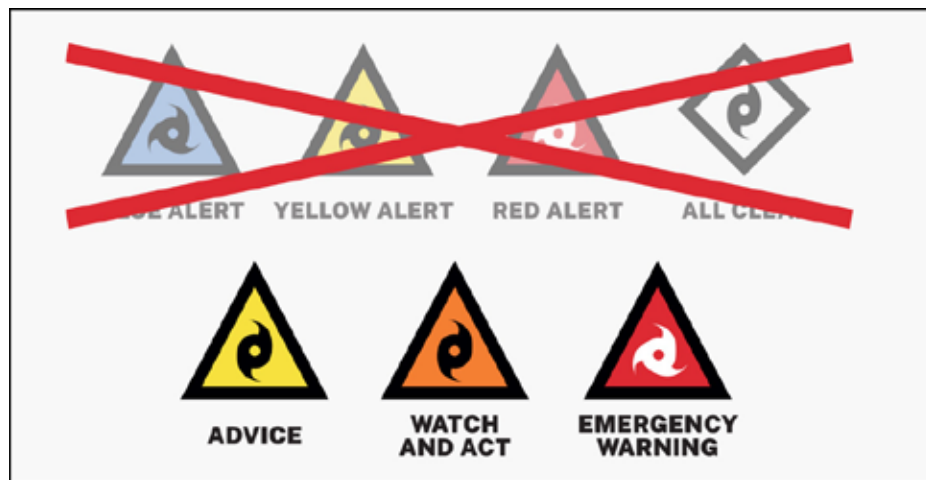
Know when to take action!

AS OF 15 JULY 2024, WA'S CYCLONE WARNINGS HAVE CHANGED.

DFES is no longer using the old Blue, Yellow, Red Alert and All Clear system!

There are now three warning levels which move up and down to reflect the risk to your life or property before, during and after a cyclone.

Learning these three levels and how to respond to them could save your life.



ADVICE	An incident is active. Be aware and keep up to date.
WATCH AND ACT	There is a possible threat. Take action now to stay safe.
EMERGENCY WARNING	There is a threat to lives and homes. You may be in danger and need to take immediate action.

CYCLONE ADVICES, ALERTS AND WARNING LEVELS

DFES and the Bureau of Meteorology work together to inform the community when there is a cyclone risk.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) issues the following Tropical Cyclone Advises:

1. **Tropical Cyclone Watch**; when gales are expected within 48 hours
2. **Tropical Cyclone Warning**; when gales are expected within 24 hours

These advises will also contain the following community Cyclone Alerts and warning levels issued by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

The warning level will be followed by an action such as "Monitor Conditions" or "Shelter Indoors Now" giving you clear information about how to stay safe.



For more information visit [EMERGENCY.WA.GOV.AU](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)

The Australian Warning System is a nationally consistent approach to keeping everyone informed, prepared and safe.

HOW WILL I KNOW A CYCLONE ALERT HAS BEEN ISSUED?

Once a Cyclone Alert has been issued by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), warning levels and actions will be communicated through local radio, television, Social Media, SMS and signage around the Exmouth town site.

Ways to stay informed

All emergencies, including cyclones and severe weather, can be unexpected, occur suddenly and cause disruptions to power, internet and telecommunications systems. This is why it's important you know how to access a range of official information sources during an emergency and take action based on your individual circumstances to stay safe.



EMERGENCY WA

Download the Emergency WA app from the App Store or Google Play, or visit emergency.wa.gov.au.



LISTEN TO THE RADIO

ABC (1188AM) is the State's official emergency services broadcaster and provides regular updates.



GET CONNECTED

Stay in touch with neighbours, friends and family in any way you can, as they may be able to alert you to potential emergencies.



CALL 13 DFES

You can call 13 DFES (13 3337) at any time to listen to emergency information for your area.



ENGAGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

DFES' Facebook account provides important community safety information in a timely manner.

THE EMERGENCY WA APP IS HERE!

- > Set custom watch zones
- > Receive push notifications relevant to you
- > Access a live feed of incidents
- > Get official emergency information, fast



EmergencyWA



Download on the App Store



GET IT ON Google Play

Cyclone Advice

AN INCIDENT IS ACTIVE. BE AWARE AND KEEP UP TO DATE.

- The community should commence taking precautions. A cyclone is in the region and may produce strong winds.
- Keep up to date with the development of the cyclone through radio, television or internet (www.bom.gov.au).
- Find out when shops and businesses will close, and when to collect your children from school.
- Secure or remove loose material and rubbish from around your home or work and take them to the tip. **Be aware that the landfill site (the tip) will be closing upon the WATCH AND ACT to allow for the tip staff to prepare the rubbish tip and their own homes for the cyclone.**
- Organise your emergency kit including first aid kit, essential medications, torch, portable radio, spare batteries, food and water.
- **Be aware that shops will be closing upon WATCH AND ACT.**
- Consider relocating people with special needs including people who are pregnant, elderly or have disabilities.
- Identify the strongest part of your house or the closest welfare centre. The location of the closest welfare centre will be communicated through Emergency Messaging.
- Fill your car with fuel.
- Charge your mobile phones and other electrical devices in case the power goes out. Identify a safe place for your pet (welfare centres in Exmouth do not accept animals, except registered assistance animals).
- Ensure you have adequate tie down materials or anchor points for loose items.
- Organise a gas barbecue or portable stove to use outside in a dry, ventilated area, in case electricity is cut.
- **Remind your family of cyclone procedures and where to find your Emergency Kit.**

Watch and Act

THERE IS A POSSIBLE THREAT. TAKE ACTION NOW TO STAY SAFE.

- The community should commence action in readiness for the cyclone's arrival because the cyclone has moved closer and there is a significant risk that destructive winds will develop.
- Continue to monitor radio, television or internet for information on the cyclone's progress, particularly any storm surge advice. Prepare to move quickly to the strongest part of your house or relocate to the nearest welfare centre if required. If you live in a low-lying coastal area and the cyclone is likely to create a storm surge, you may be advised to relocate now.
- Know where your family and pets are located. Consider sheltering pets early.
- Secure boats, caravans, trailers, garden sheds, rainwater tanks and LPG bottles to tie down points.
- Store or secure other loose items like outdoor furniture that is likely to be thrown about by destructive winds.
- Obtain cash as banking services may not be available after the cyclone passes. Put fuel in your vehicle and park it in a sheltered area with the handbrake on and in park or first gear.
- Ensure your emergency kit is complete and fill emergency containers with water.
- **Make sure your neighbours have received this warning. If you are ready and they need help, give them a hand.**
- Fasten all cyclone screens. Board up or heavily tape exposed windows. Close curtains and lock doors.
- Pack a relocation kit, including warm clothes.
- Place valuables, important papers and photos in waterproof bags to be taken with your emergency kit.
- **Refer to your cyclone plan and charge your mobile phones.**
- **Be aware that shops and the landfill site (the tip) will now be closing.**

Emergency Warning

THERE IS A THREAT TO LIVES AND HOMES. YOU MAY BE IN DANGER. TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION.

- **ONLY Emergency Services should be outside during an EMERGENCY WARNING.**
- Continually listen to your portable radio or check on the DFES Emergency App for announcements about the cyclone's progress and follow the advice issued.
- Go to the strongest, safest part of your house - it is too late to leave now.
- Keep your emergency kit with you at all times.
- Ensure pets and animals are safely sheltered.
- Park vehicles in the most sheltered position and make sure they are in gear or park and handbrake applied.
- Disconnect electrical appliances and turn off the gas supply valves.
- Stay away from doors and windows. Keep them all closed.
- If the building starts to break up protect yourself with a mattress, rugs or blankets and shelter under something strong such as a table or bench.
- Remain indoors until the Emergency Warning has been de-escalated to **WATCH AND ACT** through the Emergency Warning System.

Remember the NEW de-escalation of Emergency Alerts!



After the Cyclone

ONCE THE CYCLONE HAS PASSED YOU MUST FOLLOW THE SAFETY ADVICE IN THE WARNING.

- An **ADVICE** or **WATCH AND ACT** might still be issued, depending on the remaining hazards and risks still present.
- Keep listening to your radio or check the DFES Emergency App for further announcements.



- If you relocated from your home, wait for advice from authorities before you go back. Do not enter your property if it is seriously damaged. It may be unsafe. Call the State Emergency Service on 132 500 for assistance.
- Care should be taken to avoid dangers caused by damage such as fallen power lines, structural debris and road hazards.
- Check on your pets and see if your neighbours are okay and/or need help.
- Begin cleaning up; stack debris where it can be easily collected but won't interfere with services (i.e. power, water).

Act responsibly and stay safe!

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES CALL 000
FOR SES ASSISTANCE DURING A CYCLONE PLEASE RING 132 500

Exmouth State Emergency Service
9949 1488 - general enquiries

Exmouth Hospital
9949 3666

Exmouth Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
9949 1664 - general enquiries

Learmonth Airport
9949 1326

Police
9947 8700 - general enquiries

Main Roads (Carnarvon)
9941 0777

Ambulance
9949 2933 - general enquiries

Shire of Exmouth
9949 3000

Horizon Power (faults & emergencies)
13 23 51

Shire of Exmouth - Depot
9949 3080

Watercorp (faults & emergencies)
13 13 75

Exmouth Volunteer Marine Rescue
9949 2426 or 0418 183 416

Road Condition Reports
138 138

Department of Communities (Carnarvon)
9941 7222

Centacare Family Services
9949 2225

YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS (FAMILY, FRIENDS):



MORE INFORMATION
WWW.DFES.WA.GOV.AU
WWW.BOM.GOV.AU
WWW.MAINROADS.WA.GOV.AU
WWW.EXMOUTH.WA.GOV.AU

