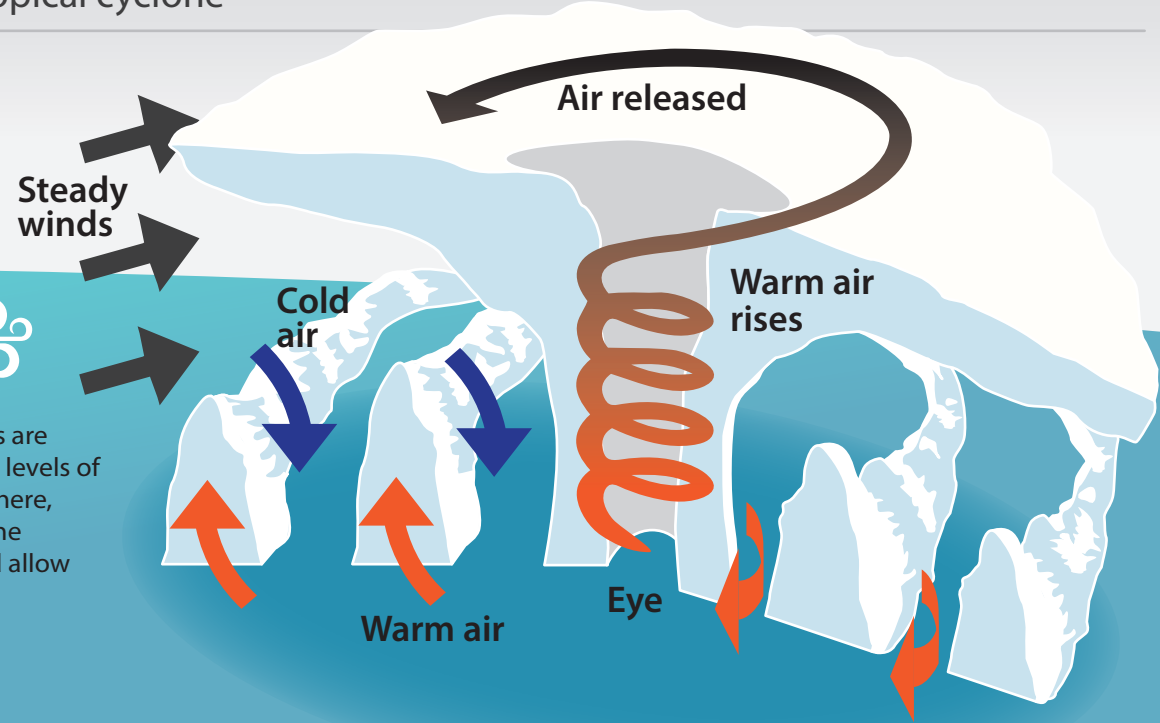
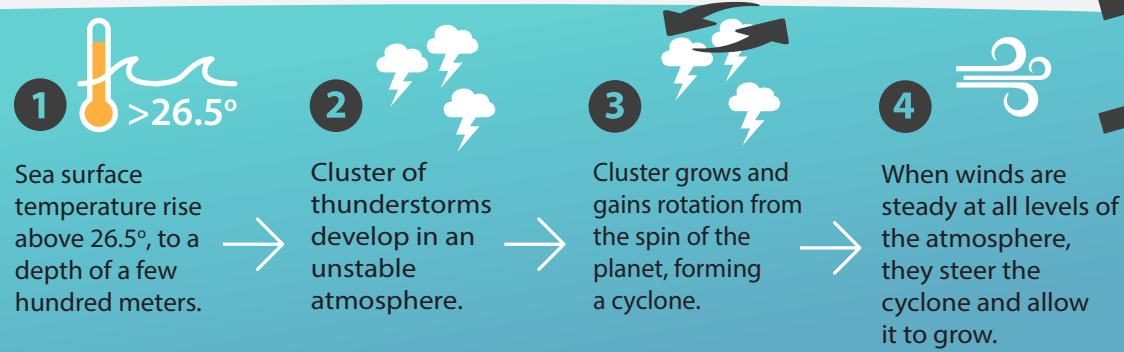


# Cyclone Awareness, Preparation and Response

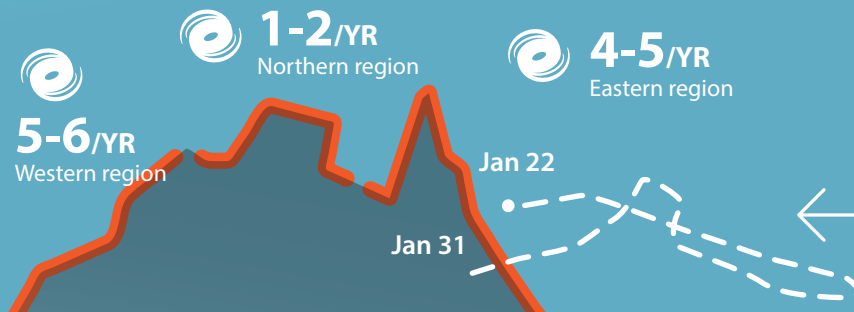
Preparation and action required before, during and after a tropical cyclone

## What is a cyclone?

A cyclone is a violent storm characterised by strong winds rotating around a calm center. It can produce destructive winds and bring heavy rain causing flooding and, in some events, cause a storm surge (i.e. a rapid rise in sea level).



## Cyclone season: November - April



### Tropical Cyclone Anthony

Impacting the Queensland coast during January 2011, Anthony initially developed as a tropical low over the Coral Sea, then strengthened into a **Category 1** cyclone and remained at this

strength and moved east for a couple of days. Changing direction, Anthony moved west, intensifying to a marginal **Category 2** system in the last 6 hours before making landfall.

Upon coastal crossing, Anthony produced wind gusts of up to 150km/h, resulting in minor structural damage, toppled trees, heavy rainfall with minor flooding, and power loss.

### CATEGORIES: TROPICAL CYCLONES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negligible house damage</li> <li>• Craft may drag moorings</li> </ul> | <p><b>2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor house damage</li> <li>• Significant damage to signs, trees and caravans</li> <li>• Risk of power failure</li> <li>• Small craft may break moorings</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**90-124 km/hr**

**125-164 km/hr**

### CATEGORIES: SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONES

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some roof and structural damage</li> <li>• Some caravans destroyed</li> <li>• Power failures likely</li> </ul> | <p><b>4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant roofing loss and structural damage</li> <li>• Dangerous airborne debris</li> <li>• Widespread power failures</li> </ul> | <p><b>5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extremely dangerous</li> <li>• Widespread destruction</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|

**165-224 km/hr**

**225-279 km/hr**

**280+ km/hr**

# Preseason preparation

The risk of danger and damage can be minimised if you take proactive response to protecting yourself and preparing your surroundings.

## PREPARE - General checklist

- ✓ Check that walls, roofs and eaves are secure
- ✓ Trim treetops and branches well clear of any structures
- ✓ Preferably fit shutters/metal screens to all glass areas
- ✓ Clear the property of loose material that could blow about and possibly cause injury or damage



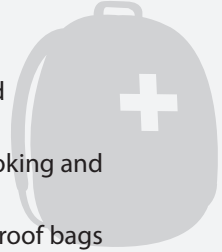
## BE AWARE - Know your surroundings

- ✓ In case of storm surge/tide, or other flooding, know your nearest safe high ground and the safest access routes
- ✓ Keep a list of emergency phone numbers on display
- ✓ Check with local authorities and/or management for evacuation procedures

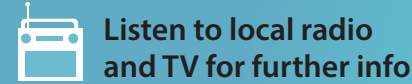
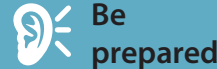


## EMERGENCY KIT - Keep somewhere safe

- ✓ Portable battery radio
- ✓ Torch and spare batteries
- ✓ Water containers, dried or canned food & can opener
- ✓ Matches, fuel lamp, portable stove, cooking and eating equipment
- ✓ First aid kit and manual, tape & waterproof bags



# What to do during the cyclone threat



## WHEN A CYCLONE WATCH IS ISSUED



### Gales

expected within

**48hrs**

but more than 24hrs

While the threat remains, a tropical cyclone watch will be issued every six hours.

- Re-check the property for any loose material and tie down (or fill with water) all large, relatively light items such as boats and rubbish bins.
- Fill vehicles' fuel tanks. Check your emergency kit and fill water containers.
- Ensure you know where the strongest part of the building is and what to do in the event of a cyclone warning or an evacuation.



## WHEN A CYCLONE WARNING IS ISSUED



### Gales

expected within

**24hrs**

or already occurring

Depending on official advice provided by your local authorities; the following actions may be warranted:

- Park vehicles under solid shelter (hand brake on and in gear).
- Put loose outdoor items inside.
- Close shutters or board-up or heavily tape all windows. Draw curtains and lock doors.
- Pack an evacuation kit of warm clothes, essential medications, valuables and important papers (as well as your emergency kit).
- Remain indoors.



## WHEN THE CYCLONE STRIKES

### Listen to news

### Stay inside

### Stay calm

- Disconnect all electrical appliances. Listen to your battery radio for updates.
- Stay inside and shelter (well clear of windows) in the strongest part of the building, i.e. cellar, internal hallway or bathroom. Keep evacuation and emergency kits with you.
- If the building starts to break up, protect yourself with mattresses, rugs or blankets under a strong table or bench or hold onto a solid fixture, e.g. a water pipe.
- Beware the calm 'eye'. If the wind drops, don't assume the cyclone is over; violent winds will soon resume from another direction. Wait for the official 'all clear'.
- If driving, stop (handbrake on and in gear) - but well away from the sea and clear of trees, power lines and streams. Stay in the vehicle.



## AFTER THE CYCLONE PASSES

### Wait for the official all-clear

- Don't go outside until officially advised it is safe
- Check for gas leaks. Don't use electrical appliances if wet
- If you have to evacuate, or did so earlier, don't return until advised. Use a recommended route and don't rush
- Beware of damaged power lines, bridges, buildings, trees, and don't enter floodwaters
- Heed all warnings and don't go sightseeing
- Don't make unnecessary telephone calls

