



blackcommunity
HOUSING SERVICE (QLD.) LTD.

Fact sheet 8) Storm season

Black Community Housing Service (QLD) Ltd. (BCHS) is committed to providing accessible and sustainable tenancy management and assistance services. We strive to provide access to affordable housing that will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to position themselves to transition over time into long-term and mainstream housing markets. Providing support and assistance to clients in understanding and meeting their tenancy obligations is a subsequent priority, to support current and future housing, social and economic aspirations for Indigenous individuals and families.

What can I do to prepare for storm season?

In Queensland, and especially during summer, many areas of Queensland can be subject to extreme storm and weather conditions. There are some important steps that you can take to prepare for the storm season:

- 1) Prepare your yard by clearing any loose items or materials that could become hazardous in dangerous winds (i.e. outdoor furniture, umbrellas)
- 2) Prepare an emergency storm kit for your household, including:
 - a. List of emergency phone numbers
 - b. Portable battery-operated radio, spare batteries, torch, candles and matches
 - c. Fresh water in sealed containers, canned food, pocket knife
 - d. Good supplies of essential medication and necessary toiletries
 - e. Pet food and other pet supplies
 - f. Cash, including change in case you need to use a pay phone
 - g. Blankets
 - h. First Aid kit
 - i. Car charger for your phone
- 3) Develop a household evacuation plan. This can be done by:
 - a. Making a task list of what needs to be done before evacuation (i.e. switching off water, power and gas at the mains and sandbagging drains)
 - b. Working out a place that you can evacuate to safely

What should I do when a storm is approaching?

Some considerations in the lead-up to a storm, include:

- Keep your mobile phone charged and close to you. Make sure you tune in to your local radio to get regular updates on the storm status.
- It is best and safest to disconnect all electrical appliances
- Get vehicles under cover in case of debris or hail. If you don't have a garage or anywhere to park the care that is undercover, you can use tarps and blankets.
- Make sure you shelter and secure your pets. They can get very distressed in storms and it is important to ensure they are safe and well.

Things to consider when a storm hits

During a storm, things to be aware of include:

- When a storm arrives, make sure you and all of your household stay inside
- Check on the location and wellbeing of your pets and make sure they are safe and secure
- Keep away from windows and position yourself in the strongest part of the house. This is usually the bathroom.
- If you are outside, find shelter urgently. Do not stand underneath trees or power lines.
- During the storm, keep listening to the radio for storm updates.
- If you happen to be driving when a storm hits, make sure you stop somewhere that is away from trees, power lines, drains and creeks, in case of flash flood and falling debris
- During the storm, it is best to try and not use your phone.

Tips for consideration after a storm

After the storm has hit, be sure to keep listening to the radio for latest updates. There might be a second wave of the storm coming, so you still need to be careful.

For emergency assistance call either of the following, depending on the nature of the situation:

- 000 – for life threatening emergencies
- 132 500 – the State Emergency Services (SES) for temporary repairs or sandbags

Remember, it is important that after the storm you:

- Check your home for any damage
- Stay away from fallen power lines (you can report fallen power lines to Energex on 13 19 62)
- Be aware and stay away from damaged builds, trees and flooded areas
- Check-in with others around you and on your pets, to see that they are safe and don't need care or assistance

What happens if my property has been damaged during the storm?

If your property has been severely damaged during the storm, then it is important you contact the SES on the number above, or 000 if you encounter a situation that is life threatening.

If your property sustains some minor damages, it is important to notify Coulson's Real Estate so that they can coordinate with BCHS for damages to be repaired. You should do this as soon as practical after the storm.

I have some further questions

If you require any further information or advice, please contact Coulson's Real Estate. They will be able to give you some further information and also refer you to a number of resources that are available about preparing for the storm season.

Email) Kerry@coulsonrealestate.com.au
Phone) 07 3372 9666

Note: Other tenancy factsheets are available via the BCHS website (www.blackcommunityhousingservice.org)

Regular weather updates and further information can also be found online via news and weather sites, as well as TV and Radio.