



**McKinlay Shire Council has put together some tips and points to consider in preparation for the upcoming wet season.**

**You can find other resources on the Get Ready Queensland website [www.qld.gov.au/getready](http://www.qld.gov.au/getready)**

## **Preparing for Flooding**

- **Plan to be isolated for weeks** if you live on a dirt road access and/or have rivers/creeks to cross to get to town.
- Flying any items in during flooding will be expensive and possibly put others at risk.
- Have a basic plan of what you want to do during a wet season. Will you have workers or extra family members that may be caught with you in a flood event?
- Most plan maintenance during the wet, make sure you have everything required eg; welding rods, steel etc.
- If planning maintenance around the house – timber, nails, paint, paint brushes, sandpaper etc.
- Machinery maintenance - have required parts, filters etc. on hand. Keep in mind a lot of suppliers have a break over Christmas/New Year so it may be hard to get a part at the last minute.
- Towards the end of the year service and run standby power plant.
- Have spare filters, coolant, oil, and plenty of fuel on hand for the plant.
- As well as supplies of diesel and ULP have a drum of AV GAS on hand for R22 (mustering helicopter).
- Think if the plant fails maybe a welder or other small camping generator can keep the essentials like the fridges going. Will also need fuel, oil etc. for the backup if different to the main stand by plant.
- Be aware some appliances require a lot of power (microwaves, air conditioners) and the smaller plants will struggle to run them without damage to the appliance and/or plant.

## **Food**

- A good supply of tinned food and dry goods (flour, sugar, tea, coffee etc) should form the basis for a wet order without going overboard and eating baked beans for the next 6 months!
- If stranded for prolonged periods maybe don't need to have 3 meals a day and smokos!
- Stock what you will eat not what you can get a lot of cheaply.
- Check use by dates before purchase especially on discounted items.
- A bread maker with a supply of ingredients takes up less space than loaves of bread in the freezer. Store the flour in the freezer, yeast in the fridge.
- Frozen vegies better over a long period as fresh have a short shelf life.
- Powdered milk rather than fresh if space is a problem.
- Have a beast for rations close if possible.
- Remember any special dietary needs in the family or workers and cater for them as well.
- If unsure about foodstuffs when isolated throw it out, better to be hungry than sick!

## Medication and safety

- Plan to get a couple of month's supply of prescription medicine for all staying. See GP for a special script to get the extras.
- Don't forget any over the counter medications that are used (headache tabs, eye flush, indigestion tabs etc.).
- Also, sunscreen, bug repellent for flies, sand flies, mosquitoes.
- Personal products, soaps, shampoos, razors, toothpaste and brushes etc.
- Best to avoid risks that could lead to accidents.
- In high humidity and flooding infection from bites or small cuts is a high risk.
- Be aware of snakes, spiders and other animals that have been displaced.
- Attend a First Aid Course during the year.
- First aid kit – Stocked Flying Doctor Kit is ideal.
- Good quality kits are available also and a good first aid book is an advantage.
- Contact number for medical help Local Hospital 47464000, 000 for Emergency – they will organise evacuation if required.
- Know emergency numbers for medical enquiries.
- Prevention always the best, avoid risk and keep personal hygiene a high priority.
- Check communications phone, internet, UHF radio base station & handhelds.
- Know numbers of Ergon, Telstra and other service providers in case of loss of service.
- Know number of SES and mustering helicopter companies in case of need.
- **Know the GPS location of house** in case of evacuation. Our country all looks the same under water.
- Know your neighbours, they maybe in a better position than you to relay or get information.
- Check the Council website for river rises as well as BOM site that now has a good array of monitoring stations.
- Keep in contact with friends or family during event to let them know how you are going.
- Let everyone know what is going on all the time.

## Preparing for Fire

- Service fire fighting equipment and know where all the gear is stored.
- Get some fire breaks in as soon as possible to make travel to a fire safe and a point to back burn from.
- Keep fire hazards away from around house and sheds.
- Know the Fire Warden for your area.
- Liaise with neighbours in the event of fire. You may be able to share equipment and manpower.
- Good coordination makes resources go further and the job easier.
- Many fires occur at night and can be confusing, think before committing.
- Do not fight a fire alone.
- Do stock need to be moved?
- Know the whereabouts of everyone all the time, visual or by radio.
- Once the fire is out it needs to be monitored to stop any flare ups - minimum 24 hours.

**In both flood and fire events, make decisions when calm.**

**Life threatening emergency - 000**

**Flood storm emergency – SES – 132 500**

**Julia Creek Police – 47 467 120**

**McKinlay Police – 47 468 420**

**Kynuna Police – 47 468 777**

