



Flood Emergency Response Planning

Flooding occurs from a variety of sources including rising river, dam failure, storm surge or even a tsunami. This can have a catastrophic impact on human lives, animals and property so it's important to be prepared. Being prepared with a Flood Emergency Response Plan can help you and your family cope during an emergency and make better decisions when disaster strikes.



What is a Flood Emergency Response Plan?

A written emergency plan that includes what action should be taken before, during and after a flood event to help avoid confusion and reduce the risk of injuries and property damage.



Why should I have a Flood Emergency Response Plan?

Planning ahead helps identify your risks and what to do in the event of a flood emergency — which could be the difference between saving the lives of your family, pets and protecting property and possessions.

Your Flood Emergency Response Plan should be specific to your own household and personal needs.



Who can prepare a Flood Emergency Response Plan?

Anyone — visit our website to learn more about how to prepare for a flood emergency or the NSW State Emergency Service (SES).



Where can I find information to help me prepare a Flood Emergency Response Plan?

To help you prepare visit:

- Port Stephens Council website contains resources to help get ready and what to do during an emergency: portstephens.nsw.gov.au/live/emergencies/get-ready or portstephens.nsw.gov.au/live/emergencies/during-an-emergency
- SES for the Port Stephens Flood Emergency Sub Plan and other useful tips: ses.nsw.gov.au
- Bureau of Meteorology for weather warnings, river gauge and tidal gauge data: bom.gov.au
- Geoscience Australia for a useful Flood Risk Information Portal: ga.gov.au



What sort of information should I include in a Flood Evacuation Response Plan?

A Flood Evacuation Response Plan should at least include:

- a map of your proposed evacuation route to a suitable location above the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF)
- directions and a description and identification of the depth of floodwater along the evacuation route for 1% Annual Exceedence Probability (AEP) flood and PMF events
- specific trigger heights linked to the nearest river gauges or tidal gauges used for flood warnings and the evacuation route cut-off times linked to the gauge heights
- a description of the specific flood inundation at the site and the surrounding area including flood depths, direction of flow, velocities, hazard and relevant vulnerabilities
- how you will consider the needs of the elderly, disabled or vulnerable on site
- how vehicle access will be affected by flood (for example, shallow floodwaters can be hazardous for small vehicles)
- how you'll adapt your plan for a flood at night
- how you'll adapt your plan when electricity, internet and phone are unavailable
- the source of the flood information used to prepare your plan (for example, studies and plans prepared for Council and available on our website).

It's also important to put timeframes on your evacuation and link these to trigger heights and evacuation route cut-off times. You should consider how long it will take to:

- locate important papers and valuables you'll take with you
- locate and stack possessions to be left behind above the predicted flood level
- locate and stack hazardous materials and items that could be washed away above the predicted flood level
- deal with utilities like electricity, gas, water, fuel, toilets, showers, wastewater system (including removing fuses) and moving pumps and machinery above the predicted flood level
- gather, identify and load animals including pets, livestock and other animals, plus the possible need for additional assistance in handling your animals in an emergency.

You can find more flood information on our website at

portstephens.nsw.gov.au/grow/land-environment-and-heritage/flooding