

Preparing a Family Emergency Flood Plan

Introduction

With the majority of Australia's population located along coastal areas, flooding is the most common disaster scenario, whether from severe storm activity or from cyclones.*

Public health significance:

Flooding happens quickly and often when you least expect it. It's easy to lose contact with family members. Preparing an emergency flood plan will help you through a serious situation. Creating the plan with your children, explaining what to do and even practising the plan will prepare them for the time when you may need it. Don't wait for a flood to find out whether your plan works. Try it now!

Action to take

Ideas for an emergency flood plan:

Make a list of useful phone numbers	Local council, emergency services eg. SES, insurance company.
Prepare a flood kit	Flood kit may contain: important personal documents, torch plus batteries, battery powered radio, mobile phone, rubber gloves, gum boots, water proof clothing, first aid kit, blankets, change of clothes.
Children's essentials	Make a list of the vital items: milk, baby food, sterilised bottles and spoon, nappies and wipes, nappy bags, spare clothing, dummies, favourite toy.
Medication	Consider what medication you would need to take.
Valuable & sentimental items	Store them upstairs or in a high place downstairs.
Floor boards and sandbags	Consider having a few floor boards and sandbags ready to block doorways and airbricks.
Gas and electricity	Know how to turn off these services, even when its dark.
Car	Know where high ground is to move it to.
Evacuation	Know what to take for your family and your family pet. Know where the evacuation centres are located and how to safely get there.

*Refer to information on how to "Prepare for cyclone, storm, flood and tsunami now!" at the Emergency Management Queensland website (see "Related Links" below).

Acknowledgement:

Information for this document was sourced from the Civil Contingencies Secretariat, The Cabinet Office, London, United Kingdom.

Related links:

- Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) at website:
www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq/css/beprepared.asp
- Emergency Management Australia Community Awareness Publications at website:
www.ema.gov.au/www/emaweb/emaweb.nsf/Page/Publications