


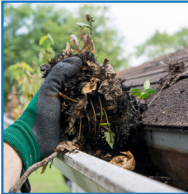


Flood Safety Tips

South-east Queensland, including Redlands Coast, often experiences severe weather events such as floods, droughts, heatwaves and bushfires, and the climate of our region is projected to continue to change.

Extreme rainfall events can often come with little warning, even during storm season, so it's important to take the time to prepare your home and family for flooding. By being prepared, you can help minimise the impact of flooding on your property.

Stay prepared

Protection of private property during times of natural disaster is the responsibility of the property owner. Thorough preparation for severe weather is vital, and the following steps can help protect your property:

- Check that your Overflow Relief Gully (ORG) is not obstructed. This is a raised, open drain covered by a grate, usually located outside the laundry. An ORG is designed to allow excess water or sewage to overflow into an outdoor space rather than inside your home. It is vital that your ORG is kept free of debris, pot plants or other obstructions. Properties with multiple bathrooms or toilets may have more than one ORG.
 
- Clean out your roof gutters and check your property's other drainage systems in advance of the event. For your safety and that of the community, please ensure your drains are correctly installed and water run-off is not directed into the sewer network.
 
- If you need sandbags, be prepared and collect them early before the event and, when placing them, be sure to place heavy plastic, a tarpaulin or other waterproof sheet down first, then lay the sandbags flat, with the heavy end overlapping the sealed open end. When the weather event has passed, sandbags can be disposed of by using the sand as topsoil on lawns and placing the empty bag into your kerbside waste bin. Please do not place full sandbags into kerbside bins.
 
- Move any outdoor furniture or other items that could block the natural flow of rainwater across your property.
 

Stay informed

When natural disaster strikes locally:

- Monitor Council's Disaster Dashboard and opt-in for Council's free emergency updates at disaster.redland.qld.gov.au to receive:
 - Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) weather warning emails
 - Flooding updates for four key local roads via text and/or email
 - Community alert texts and/or emails.
- Follow Redland City Council on Facebook and Twitter
- Visit our website: redland.qld.gov.au
- Listen to **612ABC Radio** and local **BayFM 100.3** Community Radio Station.

Accurate information can help keep you and your family safe.



Stay safe

Safety is paramount at all times during an extreme weather event and throughout the recovery.

Be sure to stay away from floodwaters and flooded stormwater pipes. Please do not travel around looking at the damage around the city or in neighbouring areas as this hinders the work of emergency crews.

Check in with your neighbours to see if they are safe and to offer assistance.

Queensland Health advises that before starting a clean-up, check with your general practitioner to see if you're up to date with your tetanus shot.

If you have experienced internal flooding of your home, please refer to the Queensland Health website at www.health.qld.gov.au to understand how to best dry and clean your house and belongings.



Mosquito protection

Heavy rainfall and flooding events create the perfect breeding ground for mosquitos, often leading to an increase in mosquitos.

In the February and March 2022 severe weather event in south-east Queensland, a confirmed case of Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV), a disease carried by mosquitos, was reported in regional southern Queensland. JEV spreads through the bite of an infected mosquito to people and animals.

Following heavy rain and flooding events, Council crews inspect public freshwater sites for mosquito breeding grounds. If a breeding site is identified, Council conducts treatments via drone, foot, quad bike and amphibious vehicle.

Given that flooding events can lead to an increase in mosquito activity, residents should take steps to reduce their chances of being bitten by mosquitoes by:

- repairing or installing insect screens on windows and doors
- checking your yards and emptying water pooling in items such as pot plant bases, boats and old tyres
- cleaning and screening gutters, drains and rainwater tanks
- avoiding going outside during peak activity periods at dusk and dawn where possible
- using insect repellent
- wearing light-coloured, long, loose-fitting clothing.



Did you know?

Redland Local Disaster Management Group

Redland City Council works within the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements. Throughout severe weather events, the Redland Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) will move to 'Stand up' Status, ensuring that disaster management operations are mobilised across the mainland and islands to help keep the community safe. Under the direction of the LDMG, Council's Local Disaster Coordination Centre – usually located at Council's Cleveland Depot – will remain operational. Local and state agencies work together to manage the situation, as well as issuing emergency information to keep the community informed.

Sandbags

During the course of severe storms and flooding, Council provides sandbags to residents on the mainland and islands to help keep them prepared.

Want to help?

People wishing to help more widely can join Volunteering Queensland. Following severe weather events, Volunteering Queensland is typically involved in the 'Mud Army' response.