Brisbane is a great place to live, work and relax – it’s a safe, vibrant, green and prosperous city, valued for its friendly and optimistic character and enjoyable lifestyle. Flooding in Brisbane is natural and part of our environment, and we need to be prepared for flooding and the impact it can have on our homes and families.

While Brisbane City Council is working hard to reduce the impact of flooding, there are simple things residents can do to protect themselves, their homes and families.

### Be prepared for flooding

Don’t wait until it’s too late. Council has a range of free tools and information to help residents understand their property’s potential flood likelihood and how to be prepared. These include the following:

**Interactive Flood Awareness Map** – Identify the likelihood and sources of flooding that may affect your property. Learn about the extent of Brisbane’s major historic river floods.

**FloodWise Property Report** – Download a FloodWise Property Report for flood information relating to building or renovating your home.

**Severe Weather Early Warning Alert Service** – Sign up to receive free alert notices of severe thunderstorms, destructive winds and potential flooding.

For more information and to access these tools, visit brisbane.qld.gov.au, call Council on 3403 8888 or visit your nearest Council regional business centre.
What do the shaded areas on the Flood Awareness Maps mean?

The Flood Awareness Maps are an awareness tool to provide an indication of the likelihood of a flood occurring from one or more sources: creek, river, overland flow and storm tide. Flood Awareness Maps do not provide information about the depth or speed of flood water. Use the FloodWise Property Report for information about flood levels specific to your property. Visit brisbane.qld.gov.au/planning-building

### High flood likelihood

Flooding is almost certain to occur during a single lifetime (70 years) in a high likelihood area. A flood of this size or larger has a 1% chance of occurring in any year. Residents and businesses are strongly advised to learn about the flood likelihood for their property so they can be prepared to help minimise the impact on their home, business and family.

### Medium flood likelihood

Flooding is likely to occur during a single lifetime (70 years) in a medium likelihood area. A flood of this size or larger has a 1% chance of occurring in any year. Residents and businesses are advised to learn about the flood likelihood for their property so they can be prepared to help minimise the impact on their home, business and family.

### Low flood likelihood

This area may experience flooding in a rare flood event. A flood of this size or larger has a 0.2% chance of occurring in any year. Residents and businesses should consider how flooding may affect their local area, suburb or community. Flooding is unlikely in a low flood likelihood area, but may still occur.

### Very low flood likelihood

This area is unlikely to flood except in a very rare or extreme flood event. A flood of this size or larger has a 0.05% chance of occurring in any year. Residents and businesses should consider how flooding may affect their local area, suburb or community. Flooding is very unlikely in a very low flood likelihood area, but may still occur.

### Overland flow

Overland flow can occur in this area. Residents and businesses are strongly advised to learn about the overland flow paths surrounding their property so they can be prepared to help minimise the impact on their home, business and family.

### High impact

In high impact areas, overland flow is almost certain to occur during a single lifetime (70 years). An event of this size or larger has a 5% chance of occurring in any year. The overland flow is generally unsafe for people, vehicles and buildings.

### Medium impact

For the majority of medium impact areas, overland flow is very likely to occur during a single lifetime (70 years). An event of this size or larger has a 2% chance of occurring in any year. The overland flow is generally unsafe for people, vehicles and buildings, however these hazards are experienced less frequently than in high impact areas.

### Low impact

For the majority of low impact areas, overland flow is likely to occur during a single lifetime (70 years). An event of this size or larger has a 1% chance of occurring in any year. The overland flow is generally safe for people, vehicles and buildings, however certain areas can experience greater hazards.

Use Council’s Flood Awareness Maps to determine your flood likelihood

Council’s Flood Awareness Maps help you understand your property’s flood likelihood. Visit brisbane.qld.gov.au/beprepared, call Council on 3403 8888 or visit your nearest Council regional business centre to identify your property’s potential flood risk.
Flood Awareness Maps include flooding from all sources: creek, river, overland flow and storm tide.

All floods are different and may occur from one or a combination of these four sources.

**Creek flooding**

happens when intense rain falls over a creek catchment. Run-off from houses and streets also contributes to creek flooding. The combination of heavy rainfall, run-off and the existing water in the creek causes creek levels to rise.

**Overland flow**

is run-off that travels over the land during heavy rainfall events. Overland flow can be unpredictable because it is affected by localised rainfall and urban features such as stormwater pipes, roads, fences, walls and other structures. The actual depth and impact of overland flow varies depending on local conditions but it generally occurs quickly.

**River flooding**

happens when widespread, prolonged rain falls over the catchment of a river. As the river reaches capacity, excess water flows over its banks causing flooding. River flooding downstream can occur hours after the rain has finished.

**Storm tide flooding**

happens when a storm surge creates higher than normal sea levels. A storm surge is caused when a low pressure system or strong onshore winds force sea levels to rise above normal levels. The impact from storm tide or storm surge is increased during high tides and king tides and can affect low-lying areas close to tidal waterways and foreshores.

Floodwater may rise very slowly and be slow moving. This is normally associated with Brisbane River flooding, which occurs after prolonged periods of heavy rain across the whole catchment. Floodwater can also rise quickly and be very fast moving, and then recede quickly. This is normally associated with creek flooding.

Many properties unaffected by the 2011 Brisbane River flood may still be at risk from other sources of flooding including creek, storm tide and overland flow.
Don’t wait until it’s too late. Be prepared.

Council is working hard to reduce the impact of flooding but we all have a responsibility to understand our flood likelihood and be better prepared to minimise the impact of flooding on our homes, property and businesses. **Once you have used Council’s Flood Awareness Map to identify the likelihood of flooding on your property, use the tips in the following tables to put a plan in place for your home and family.**

### Personal possessions
**Consider how and where to move valuables during a flood event**

- Store valuables and possessions (jewellery, passports, financial statements etc.) safely during a flood event.
- Consider where you can safely store your vehicle/s.
- If you have a home computer, back up your files regularly and keep a copy that you can easily take with you in an emergency.

### Your local area
**Know your local area and talk with your neighbours**

- Consider how potential loss of power, road closures and interruptions to public transport could affect you.
- Talk to your neighbours. Those living in the area for a long time may have experienced previous flood events.
- Consider how you can help your community. The elderly, disabled or families with young children may need your help to evacuate during a flood. You could help by storing other’s belongings, transporting valuables, cooking meals or donating items such as clothes or blankets.
- During heavy rain or flooding, observe where water is likely to rise from, flow through or collect around your property and local area.
- Even if you live or work on top of a hill, heavy rain can cause damage to possessions and structures.
- Consider that the type of building you live in (unit complex, two-storey or low-set house) may influence how your household and property are affected during a flood.
- Never drive through or enter flood waters.
How to prepare for flooding

Brisbane’s weather checklist
Understand Brisbane’s climate and weather patterns

• Sign up for Council’s Early Warning Alert Service. Visit brisbane.qld.gov.au/beprepared
• Pay attention to radio, television and online weather updates.
• Visit bom.gov.au for the latest weather updates.

Flooding and your property
Understand how water flows in and around your property and street

• Observe where water flows from and to during heavy rain. This will indicate the path of potential floodwaters.
• Consider that properties near a river, creek, gully or tidal waterway are more likely to flood.
• Consider how fast-moving floodwaters may damage your home and interfere with evacuation plans.
• Consider loss of power, road closures and interruptions to public transport.
• Consider how close your property is to bordering other Flood Awareness Map flood likelihood areas.

Building or renovating
Check Brisbane’s City Plan

• You must comply with City Plan planning requirements. Visit brisbane.qld.gov.au/planning-building
• Download a FloodWise Property Report for information about building and development for a specific property. Visit brisbane.qld.gov.au/planning-building

Insurance
Make sure you are appropriately insured

• Talk to your insurer about flood insurance and your property.

Have an evacuation plan
Use the information on the back page of this guide to create an emergency plan and emergency kit

• Prepare an emergency kit.
• Have emergency contact phone numbers easily accessible.
• Consider your pets. They may need temporary-to-long-term alternative shelter away from your home during a flood.
• Plan multiple evacuation routes. Some roads may be cut off by floodwaters.
Don’t wait until it’s too late. Be prepared.

**EMERGENCY KIT CONTENTS checklist**

Prepare your emergency kit in advance and keep it somewhere you can easily access. Consider including the following items in a waterproof container.

**Household**
- waterproof torch with spare batteries and bulbs, or wind-up torch
- portable radio with spare batteries
- mobile phone with charger (preferably car charger)
- first aid kit, including essential medications and copies of prescriptions
- list of emergency and personal phone numbers
- credit cards and cash
- drinking water and non-perishable food
- manual can opener
- toiletry items, e.g. toilet paper, anti-bacterial wipes, toothpaste, toothbrush and soap
- sealable waterproof bags
- spare keys for house and car
- tools, e.g. wrench, pliers, utility knife
- sturdy gloves and rubber boots
- personal valuables
- back-up copy of computer files.

**Baby and children**
- baby needs, e.g. formula, nappies
- change of clothes
- toys.

**Pets**
- pet supplies, e.g. water and food dishes, food, blankets.

**Important documents**
- inventory of house and contents
- wills
- insurance documents and policy numbers e.g. life/car/house/contents
- birth and marriage certificates
- passports/visa details
- medical details, e.g. medicare, immunisation records and private health funds
- financial documents, e.g. bank statements, credit cards, shares.

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**Emergency plan**

1. Prepare a list of important phone numbers, including key family members and friends who can help. Other important contacts include medical, service and financial providers.
2. Put emergency numbers somewhere you can easily access.
3. Find out which radio station you should listen to for frequent flood updates.
4. Designate a person outside your area, such as a relative or friend, as your emergency household contact.
5. As a household, discuss and agree on your evacuation plan. Remember to include your pets and consider if your neighbours need help to evacuate.
6. Make sure everyone in your family knows what to do in a flood.
7. Prepare an emergency kit (use the checklist on this page as a guide).

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**Emergency contact details**

**Life threatening emergencies** 000
Police/fire/ambulance (mobiles 000 and 112)
**State Emergency Service (SES)** 132 500
**Energex** 13 19 62
**Brisbane City Council** 3403 8888

Check Council’s website (brisbane.qld.gov.au), Facebook page (facebook.com/BrisbaneCityCouncil) and Twitter feed (@brisbanecityqld) for regular updates during an emergency event.

The Queensland Government will also update its alert website (qldalert.com) during a flood or other emergency event.

Check the Queensland Police Service Facebook page (facebook.com/QueenslandPolice) or Twitter feed (@qpsmedia) for regular updates.

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Brisbane City Council excludes all liability to any person arising directly or indirectly from using this flood preparedness guide, titled Flooding in Brisbane – A guide for residents, and any information or material cited in it. The information in this guide is general information provided to help you decide if you need professional advice relevant to your particular situation.