

RESPOND

What to do immediately after a disaster

What should you do immediately after a disaster? These few simple steps will help you focus on what you can do. Do not rely on Emergency Services.

Step 1 Check your family and pets

Check that family members and pets are safe. 'Register Find and Reunite' online with Red Cross <https://register.redcross.org.au> if possible.

Text message family and friends (if possible), let them know you are ok and provide updates. This will avoid unnecessary calls jamming the telephone lines and allow for emergency calls to go through.

Do not go sightseeing as roads, bridges and some structures may not be safe. **IF IT'S FLOODED, FORGET IT.**

Step 2 Listen and Look

www.facebook.com/BurdekinDCC

ABC North Qld 630, Sweet FM 97.1, 4TOFM (92.3), HitFM (93.1) and ABC TV

Before, during and after an event, follow all instructions from your Local Disaster Management Group and Emergency Services through their Facebook pages, local radio stations and television channels. There will be regular updates regarding instructions and services available in your area.

Step 3 Check your home

Once it is safe to do so, check your house and yard. Remember there may be "live" power lines or solar panels, gas leaks, burst water pipes or mains and your house may not be structurally safe. Be careful. If you're not sure, don't risk it.

Check power supply

Emergency or Fault

Call Ergon Energy 13 16 70

Gas leak:

Call 000

For all other faults or enquires call the Burdekin Local Disaster Control Centre 4783 9800



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MORE INFORMATION

During a disaster the Burdekin Local Disaster Management Group is your number one source of information.

- www.burdekin.qld.gov.au
- <https://www.facebook.com/BurdekinDCC>
- T: 07 4783 9800
- SES: 132 500
- 000

Step 4

Check your neighbours

Help your neighbours or others in your street.

If you are able to, share what you can such as your generator, food, water or gas BBQ.

Step 5 Get help if you need it

- For a life threatening emergency 000
- For all further information Burdekin Shire Council / Disaster Coordination Centre 4783 9800
- For SES assistance 132 500

See page 39 of your Emergency Action Guide for other useful phone numbers and websites.

Step 6 start your clean up

If there is no threat from fallen powerlines or flooding, start your clean up.

For insurance purposes, make a note of all damage that occurred and take photos before starting your clean up.

Use your Emergency Action Guide to find out what to do after different types of disasters.

Keep fridges and freezers shut to preserve the food items inside. Make sure all contaminated food and water are disposed of.

Clearing debris from your yard:

Wearing safety gear, try to clean up your yard yourself if possible. The Burdekin Shire Council will provide information about which landfills and transfer stations are available and their opening times. If a major cyclone has affected our shire, there may be special roadside collections for clean up. Listen to the Local Disaster Management Group for instructions.

- All green waste should be put in one pile on your front footpath.
- All other household waste should be in a separate pile on your front footpath.
- Do not mix waste types as your waste may not be collected.
- Burdekin Shire Council will let you know if there are additional bin services.

ASBESTOS www.asbestosawareness.com.au

Most Homes built before 1990 are likely to have materials that contain asbestos, such as asbestos cement sheeting. Play it safe - if you are unsure or suspect it might be asbestos, assume it is asbestos.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CLEAN UP THE ASBESTOS YOURSELF

Don't move suspected asbestos materials unnecessarily - Check with your insurer regarding your damage and repairs which may include the removal and clean-up of asbestos by a license asbestos removalist.

Don't place it on the kerbside or street for collection, as machines picking up waste may damage the asbestos sheeting and spread harmful fibres.

If someone else's asbestos sheeting is in your yard, keep the sheeting wet if possible and call the Burdekin Shire Council on 4783 9800



SOLAR PANELS

When preparing for a storm, cyclone or flood event, it is important to always follow the manufacturer's or installer's shutdown procedures. Shutdown procedures should be located at the inverter and/or on the main switchboard.

It is critical to remember solar modules and their cables should be treated as if they are live.

A general shutdown procedure is as follows:

1. Turn off the inverter AC mains isolator (this is usually found in the meter box)
2. Turn off the PV array isolator (this is usually found next to the inverter)
3. If there seems to be a risk that the water level could reach up to the inverters and cables, also arrange to turn off the roof top array isolator (if fitted).

If you are unsure of the shutdown procedure, contact the manufacturer or installer.

For more information: <https://www.ergon.com.au/network/safety/home-safety/solar-power-safety>

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