



**MINISTRY OF METEOROLOGY, ENERGY, INFORMATION, DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMUNICATIONS**  
GOVERNMENT OF TONGA



As it is Tropical Cyclone season, the Division of Disaster Management (also known as the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO)) would like to take this opportunity to assist in your preparations.

In case of a Tropical Cyclone or any emergency you need to:

1. Have a plan and be familiar with it
2. Have your 72 hour emergency bag ready
3. Listen to your Town officer for further information and advice
4. Always listen to the radio for weather updates from Tonga Meteorological Services

**FOR FARMERS – CROPS AND LIVESTOCK – General tips on how to be cyclone prepared this season:**

**Pre-cyclone preparedness**

- Prepare a current inventory of livestock, infrastructure, equipment and supplies.
- Check and fix buildings and animal sties to ensure there is nothing loose that can fly away in winds.
- If you have animals (cows, horse, sheep, pigs, sheep and dogs), survey your property for the best location for animal sheltering if the larger animals are better off in the pastures than being moved.
- Map the flood prone areas on your property and make a plan as to when and where to move the animals away from flood prone areas.

**When you receive a cyclone alert/ warning**

- Ensure there are no tools on your plantation/ crop areas and these are stored in a safe and secure place.
- Ensure any larger tools and machinery is tied down so it does not blow away in the strong winds.
- Prepare to move your animals to a more secure place – out of the winds and rain if possible or to higher grounds away from places that trees could fall and flooding may occur, away from overhead power lines or poles, away from barbed wire fencing.
- Note – your animals may select safer places themselves but please check and assess too.

**During**

- Disconnect all electrical appliances but listen to your battery radio for further information.
- Remain calm, stay indoors but clear of doors and windows. Remain in the strongest part of the building.
- Only use the telephones for very urgent calls
- If the building breaks up, protect yourself with rugs or mattresses under a strong table/bench or hold onto a solid fixture (e.g. A water pipe).
- Normally open fields or pastures are much safer for animals (and some large pieces of farming equipment). Animals out in the open have a way of avoiding danger most of the time

**BEWARE OF THE EYE OF THE STORM:** It is vitally important to **remain** in shelter during and after the eye passes. Listen to your radio/ Town Officer for updates on when it is safe to move outdoors

**After**

- Listen to the radio or advice from your Town officer advising whether it is safe or not.
- Don't go outside until officially advised it is safe
- If deemed safe to move around, assess the damage to your crops and find your livestock as soon as appropriate to do so to check on their welfare
- Beware of fallen power lines, damaged buildings, trees or flooded waterways.
- Collect and make use of available crops and fallen fruit before they spoil.
- Assess if there is any damage/ loss to your livestock and crops and report this to your Town Officer during the Initial Damage Assessment.

