



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

PRE-CYCLONE PREPARATIONS

- Be aware of Cyclone Warning Systems: http://met.gov.to/index_files/WarningServices.htm
- Check your house for structural weaknesses
- Identify the safest room in your house
- Clear your property of loose objects/material that could blow about during extreme winds. Trim tree branches away from windows and power lines
- In case of a storm surge warning, know the nearest safe high ground and the safest access route to it.
- Prepare your 72 hour emergency kit for the family containing a portable radio with spare batteries, torch, fuel lamp, candles, matches, water containers, canned food with opener, spare clothes and beddings, masking tape for windows and plastic bags and first aid kit.
- Clear all drains and waterways on the property.

WHEN YOU RECEIVE A CYCLONE ALERT/ WARNING

- Listen to your radio for further information.
- Fill water containers and fuel car (if you have one)
- Store or tie down all loose objects in the house.
- Batten down roof. Fix any loose parts of the house.
- Close off shutters. If you live in a flood-prone area, take flood precautions, know where and how to get to safe, high ground
- Ensure all the members of the family are present; keep children away from swollen drains and waterways.
- If your house is not structurally safe, prepare to move to the nearest evacuation centre. Allow more time to plan/leave if you have elderly or persons with disability or heavily pregnant person/s in your family unit and ensure your 72 hour emergency bag has the appropriate provisions
- Ensure fellow community members are also aware of the alert/ warning so they can also prepare

DURING THE CYCLONE

- Disconnect all electrical appliances but listen to your battery radio for further information.
- Open louvres on side away from wind to reduce the pull force of the wind on the roof.
- 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 (eg. A water pipe).

BEWARE OF THE EYE OF THE STORM: If the cyclone eye passes over, a sudden lull in winds occurs and may last up to two (2) hours. The other side of the cyclone then hits and winds resume with equal strength but blowing from the other direction. It is vitally important to **remain** in shelter during and after the eye passes.

AFTER THE CYCLONE WIND STORM HAS PASSED

- Don't go outside until officially advised it is safe
- Do not attempt to drive and don't allow children to roam around outside.
- Beware of fallen power lines, damaged buildings, trees or flooded waterways.
- Beware of power surges as the power may have been turned off during the cyclone
- Boil all drinking water and make use of available crops and fallen fruit before they spoil
- Help others who may need it such as people who are injured, disabled, young and elderly and other vulnerable groups
- Listen to your radio/ Town Officer for further advice and updates

