

# HINCHINBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL

## STORM SURGE EVACUATION

Living in a cyclone prone region  
triggers a need for a heightened  
level of awareness in our  
community...



Natural disasters have the potential to, at some time, warrant an evacuation of certain areas within Hinchinbrook Shire. It is the nature of our location, that we sometimes become threatened by tropical cyclones and inundation from storm surge. As such we must be prepared for the cyclone season.

In the event of a cyclone approaching our coastline, an evacuation may be ordered if populated areas are identified as being prone to threat from inundation by water from a storm surge.

For your safety you should familiarise yourself with the Storm Surge Evacuation Guide so you are aware of your risk, and if you will be required to evacuate in the event of a storm surge.

## **STORM SURGE...what is it?**

A storm surge is a rise of water above the normal ocean level as a result of onshore winds and/or reduced atmospheric pressure. Storm surges accompany a tropical cyclone as it comes ashore. When this surge reaches the shore it means higher than normal tides and this means there is a risk to people and property. The worst time for a storm surge is when it comes with a high tide.

## **COASTAL LIVING IN A STORM SURGE AREA**

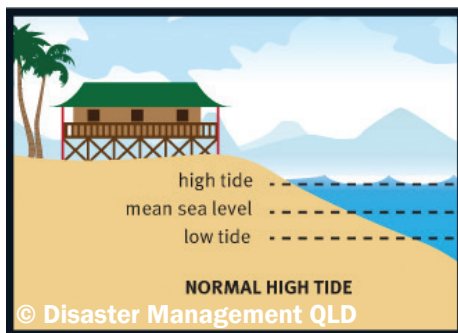
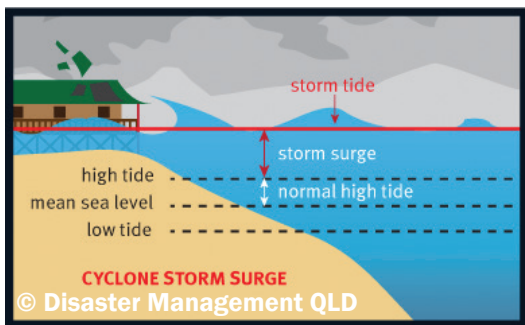
- If you live in Lucinda, Taylors Beach and Forrest Beach you should have a Red, Orange or Yellow zone indicator in your fuse or electricity box
- Any properties on the coastline, but are outside of these areas may still be vulnerable to a storm tide
- If an evacuation order is announced for a Red, Orange or Yellow zone, affected residents should move out of the area using the most direct evacuation route
- Arrange to evacuate to friends or family who live in a safe area
- No friends in a safe area...evacuate to your nearest community evacuation centre
- Take direction from emergency service workers involved - this might be the police, SES or Council staff
- Ensure all electrical/gas appliances are turned off before you leave
- Have an emergency kit already packed and take it with you when you leave

# HOW HIGH WILL THE STORM SURGE BE?

The height of the storm surge varies depending on several factors being

- The intensity of the cyclone – stronger winds allow for increase in wave height and the sea water is piled on top of this
- The movement of the cyclone – the faster the cyclone crosses the coast, the quicker the surge may build up and create a more powerful impact when it hits the coastline
- The angle the cyclone crosses the coast – a direct hit may encourage a larger surge, but other angles may lead to local zones of enhanced surge in areas such as narrow inlets and bays
- The profile of the sea floor - a shallow coastline may allow the surge to build up more strongly, whereas steep slopes or fringing reefs may mean the surge to be less
- Topography of the area – islands, bays, and headlands may amplify the storm surge

Regardless of this, when it is time to evacuate do so, better safe than sorry.



# EVACUATION ZONES - what they mean

Hinchinbrook Shire Council has developed evacuation maps, which are used to inform residents of predicted storm surge flooding associated with a tropical cyclone, and to identify areas that may require evacuation.

Three evacuation zones have been identified in the Hinchinbrook region – Red, Orange and Yellow. In the event of a storm surge, authorities will issue an evacuation for the required zones. It is important that prior to and during the disaster you stay tuned to local ABC or commercial radio and TV stations for updates.

If an evacuation order is announced for a Red, Orange or Yellow zone, affected residents should move out of the area using the most direct evacuation route.

**Australian Height Datum (AHD):** is the term used to describe the reference level for defining ground levels in Australia. The level of 0.0m AHD is approximately sea level.

## **RED ZONE:**

These properties face the highest risk of coastal flooding from a storm tide. They may experience flooding in areas located up to 2 and 3 metres above AHD.

## **ORANGE ZONE:**

These properties face a high risk of coastal flooding from a storm tide. They may experience flooding in areas located between 3 and 4 metres above AHD.

## **YELLOW ZONE:**

These properties face a moderate risk of coastal flooding from a storm tide. They may experience flooding in areas located between 4 and 6 metres above AHD.

# BE PREPARED

## CHECKLIST FOR EVACUATION

- Do you know the evacuation zone in your area?
- What is your zone colour?
- Is your zone currently under threat?
- Do you know your emergency evacuation route?
- Have you heard any official advice to evacuate?
- Have you packed your emergency evacuation kit?
- Is your vehicle full of fuel?

## PREPARE YOUR EMERGENCY KIT

- Portable radio with fresh spare batteries
- Torch, fuel lamp, candles and matches
- Non-perishable food, (three days supply) plus can opener, self contained cooking gear, plates and utensils
- Clean water in sealed containers, spare water containers (10L per person is recommended to last three days)
- Wet weather clothing e.g. waterproof jacket, hat, spare clothes
- Medical supplies to last at least 14 days
- First aid kit
- Knife, whistle, duct/masking tape, and plastic (garbage) bags
- Tarpaulin and blankets
- Pet food, water bowls and other pet needs

## DURING A NATURAL DISASTER ALERT

- Listen to your portable radio constantly
- Close up the house - secure doors, board or tape windows and secure outdoor furniture
- Disconnect electrical appliances
- Secure your pets in a safe place
- Fill water containers
- Fuel car and place under cover
- Remain indoors with your emergency kit

**Be prepared to leave your house in the event of a storm tide evacuation**

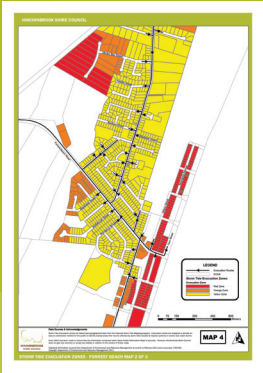
# STORM TIDE EVACUATION MAPS

For a copy of the Storm Tide Evacuation Maps and/or Storm Tide Evacuation Guide for the three coastal communities; Lucinda, Taylors Beach and Forrest Beach you can go to:

**[www.hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au](http://www.hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au)**

Or visit Council’s main office at 25 Lannercost Street, Ingham and ask for a copy of Hinchinbrook Shire Council’s Storm Tide Evacuation Guide.

## Example Storm Tide Evacuation Map



# IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Life Threatening Emergencies (Police, Ambulance, Fire)	000
SES Assistance	132 500
Road Information	131 940
Hinchinbrook Shire Council	4776 4600
Emergency Queensland/SES	<a href="http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au">www.emergency.qld.gov.au</a>
Bureau of Meteorology	<a href="http://www.bom.gov.au">www.bom.gov.au</a>
Traffic Management Centre	<a href="http://www.131940.qld.gov.au">www.131940.qld.gov.au</a>
Hinchinbrook Shire Council	<a href="http://www.hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au">www.hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au</a>



Australian Government



Queensland Government



HINCHINBROOK SHIRE COUNCIL

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