

Question on Notice
No. 1881
Asked on 27 November 2008

MR WENDT asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the severe storms and recent flooding that has affected the South East corner of Queensland: How can residents in my electorate of Ipswich West prepare themselves in the event of a flood and what precautions can they take to reduce the impact of flood inundation to homes and properties?

ANSWER:

Ipswich was particularly affected by the devastating effects of the severe storms and flooding which occurred across South East Queensland in late November 2008. During this time, 445 State Emergency Service volunteers responded to 672 requests for assistance.

Queenslanders can be affected by different types of natural disasters and there are important measures that can be undertaken by residents before, during and after any disaster to ensure they are better prepared and their families and homes are better protected. They are:

1. Prepare an emergency kit which contains items such as emergency contact numbers, a battery operated radio, a torch with spare batteries, candles, waterproof matches, basic food items, water and a first aid kit. This kit should also include any special items such as medication, baby and infant needs and any items of family or personal significance;
2. Carry out preventative property maintenance including trimming trees, removing overhanging branches, cleaning gutters and downpipes, ensuring the roof is secure and clearing the yard of loose materials and rubbish;
3. Check that home insurance is current and adequate;
4. Listen to television and radio stations for severe storm advice and warnings and develop plans to move vehicles, outdoor equipment, garbage, chemicals and poisons to secure locations;
5. During a storm, seek shelter in a protected area of the house away from windows and external doors.
6. Have a plan to care for pets;
7. Have a plan to safely leave the property should it be affected by flooding;

8. Avoid flooded watercourses and creeks. Do not drive vehicles into flood waters and prevent children from playing in or near these areas or drainage systems;

9. Avoid fallen powerlines; and

10. After a storm or flooding event check the property for damage.

If assistance is needed, residents should dial Triple Zero for life threatening emergencies and 132 500 for storm and flood assistance from the State Emergency Service.

The Queensland Government is committed to community safety in Queensland and works with Emergency Management Queensland, Local Governments, and community groups to help residents make informed decisions when it comes to natural disaster preparedness and response.

Further information is available from the Emergency Management Queensland Regional Office on (07) 3884 8085 or the following websites:
www.emergency.qld.gov.au, www.disaster.qld.gov.au, www.bom.gov.au and www.ema.gov.au.

The Bligh Government values the State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers who selflessly devote time and energy to assist their local communities and has reiterated its commitment to support the attraction, recruitment, training and recognition of emergency services volunteers in the recent "Toward Q2" vision statement.