

**Be Prepared**

**If a Warning is Issued**

The actual flood extent may vary significantly throughout the Katherine district. If a flood warning is issued, these are some considerations to be aware of, however, a more active response may be required in your area.

**Activate your flood action plan**
- Ensure family and neighbours are aware of the situation
- Check your car and refuel. Check gas bottles and fill
- Charge mobile phone

**Add to your emergency kit**
- Important documents, cash money and small valuables
- Non-perishable food and fresh water for at least three days
- Toiletries, medication, fresh batteries, mobile phone charger
- A change of clothing for each person, waterproof jacket and strong, protective closed shoes
- Any special requirements for babies and the elderly
- Swag, blankets and bedding

**Listen to the radio for information and advice 106.1 FM ABC Radio Katherine**

Be prepared to evacuate if advised by authorities
- Listen to the radio for information and follow directions
- Empty freezers and refrigerators, leaving doors open
- Turn off the power, gas and water at the main
- Whether you stay or leave, place a sandbag in the toilet bowl to prevent sewage backflow into your house

**Protect your property**
- A more active response may be required in your area
- Stack furniture and possessions above likely flood level, on beds and in the roof (select critical items on top)
- Move garbage, chemicals and poisons to higher ground
- Secure objects that could float and cause damage
- Protect or relocate valuables and lock your home when you leave

**During a flood, whether you remain at home, evacuate, or when you are returning home, observe the following precautions:**
- Flood related deaths may result when people attempt to drive, walk, swim or play in floodwaters
- Check for safe routes before driving anywhere
- Do not enter water without checking depth and current
- Drive slowly through flooded sections to reduce wave action and possible damage to property
- Keep your emergency kit safe and dry
- Do not eat food which has been in contact with flood water
- Boil tap water until water supplies are declared safe
- Do not use gas or electrical appliances that have been flood affected, until they have been safety checked
- Beware of snakes and spiders which may move to drier areas in your house
- Keep listening to the radio or TV and heed all warnings and advice

**Take Precautions**

Listen to the radio for information and advice on how to protect your family and property from floods.

**SecureNT website - your gateway to information on preparing for life threatening emergencies Police, Fire, Ambulance 000 Northern Territory Government**

**Stay Informed**

**Every household needs a basic emergency kit**

A basic emergency kit stored in a water-proof container should be ready all year round. This could double up as your camping kit.

- Check supplies and restock your kit at the beginning of every wet season. Plan what you will need for each person for at least three days.

Your basic emergency kit should include:

- Your flood action plan
- Your emergency contact numbers
- A portable radio and torch with spare batteries
- A first aid kit and rubber gloves
- Toilet paper and essential toiletries
- A waterproof bag for clothing and valuables

You may need your kit either at home or if you evacuate and stay with family, friends or at an emergency shelter.

If a Flood Warning is issued, you will need to check supplies and add other items to your emergency kit.

**Lessons from our past**

Please read this guide carefully and learn how you can help to protect your family, property or business from floods.

The Katherine area has flooded several times in the past:

During the 1998 floods in the Katherine area, 5000 people had to evacuate their homes and almost 2000 buildings were flood damaged.

Source: Australian Government EMU Disasters Database

**Start preparing now! Set up your flood action plan.**

**Are you at risk from flood?**

Please review the likely flood extent on the Katherine Town Flood Extent Map on the other side of this brochure.

Additionally, you can view or download Flooding Maps - Katherine and Rural Areas from www.nt.gov.au/floods

If you live or work in a flood prone area, plan where you will evacuate; to either family, friends or an emergency shelter. Familiarise yourself with safe road routes.

Remember, even if your property is not inundated by flood water, you may become isolated during a flood.

**Check your insurance cover**

Check that your property and contents are covered by insurance for flood damage. Once an alert is issued, many companies will not renew, update or provide new insurance policies.

**Listen to the radio or TV for information and advice on how to protect your family and property from floods.**

**Important documents, cash money and small valuables**

**Non-perishable food and fresh water for at least three days**

**Toiletries, medication, fresh batteries, mobile phone charger**

**A change of clothing for each person, waterproof jacket and strong, protective closed shoes**

**Any special requirements for babies and the elderly**

**Swag, blankets and bedding**

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Emergency Shelters

Katherine Town - Flood Extent

Katherine River levels are measured upstream near the Nitmiluk Visitor Centre. The maps display the extent of likely inundation areas about 12 hours AFTER the Flood Warning has been issued.

Katherine Town - Location of Emergency Shelters

The decision to open emergency shelters, and when, is made by the Katherine Regional Counter Disaster Controller. You should seek refuge with family or friends in the first instance. Emergency shelters should only be used when alternative accommodation cannot be found. Shelters may be crowded, noisy and uncomfortable. Register on arrival at the emergency shelter. For major incidents, the National Registration and Inquiry Service (NRIS) may be activated. NRIS is used to unite families and close friends of persons affected by an emergency. The possession of alcohol and illegal drugs is NOT permitted at emergency shelters. Alternative arrangements should be made for pets as they are not permitted at emergency shelters. See overleaf for more information.

Location of Katherine Emergency Shelters

There are three designated emergency shelters located in Katherine East. These are displayed as a red location point on the Katherine Town - Flood Extent map.

- Katherine High School, Grevillea Road
- MacFarlane Primary School, Grevillea Road
- Casuarina Primary School, corner of Casuarina Street and Needham Terrace

Additional emergency shelters may be established according to the severity and location of flooding.

Other identified emergency location points are:

- Emergency Operations Centre Police Station, Stuart Highway
- Animal Shelter, Chardon Street (Industrial Area)
- Vehicle Compound, Chardon Street (Industrial Area)
- Vehicle Hard Stand, Gorge Road (east of Janchi Rd)

CAUTION!

Information about the Flood Extent

- The flood extent boundaries displayed are only approximate
- This information should only be used as a guide
- No two flood events are the same
- The actual extent of a flood may vary significantly at some locations
- The maps in this brochure do not show water depth levels when flows and flooding occur

Katherine Town - Flood Warnings

Minor Flood Warning for Gorge Road

This warning is issued when the Katherine River level is 0.8 metres at the Nitmiluk Centre and predicted to rise.

General Situation: Flood waters are still largely confined within riverbanks. Maud Creek will be closed and a rise in the level could close Gorge Road at Bullock Creek Crossing (Morris Road) and likely to flood areas of Kalano Community and Flora Road crossings.

Moderate Flood Warning for Katherine; and Moderate Flood Warning for Gorge Road

This warning is issued when the Katherine River level is 1.5 metres at the Nitmiluk Centre and predicted to rise.

General Situation: Flood waters are still largely confined within riverbanks. Maud Creek will be closed and a rise in the level could close Gorge Road at Bullock Creek Crossing (Morris Road) and likely to flood areas of Kalano Community and Flora Road crossings.

Major Flood Warning for Katherine – SEWS (Standard Emergency Warning Signal) is played on media

This warning is issued when the Katherine River level is 5.5 metres at the Nitmiluk Centre and predicted to rise.

General Situation: Maud Creek and Bullock Creek (Morris Road) crossings will be closed. Some flooding will occur near Emungalan Road and Kalano Community. Flooding will occur at Flora Road creek crossings. The Stuart Highway south of Katherine will also be affected, especially in the area of Tindal Creek where flood run off may close the highway. Flooding may occur along the western side of the Katherine River and the ‘Rocks’ area, as well as affecting property in the Bicentennial Road area.

Falling River Height Advice

This stage is declared by the controller, when the river levels are falling and are predicted to continue falling.

Standard Emergency Warning Signals (SEWS)

The Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES) coordinate regular communication updates during emergencies.

The media may be asked to play the SEWS to alert people of significant warning messages that are about to be announced. If you hear the SEWS on the radio or television, stop what you are doing and listen to the message. The Katherine town sirens are no longer used.