About the Todd River
The Todd River is a normally dry, sandy river bed in Alice Springs. The Todd River has a catchment area located mainly to the North of Alice Springs. When heavy rainfall occurs in and around this catchment area the Todd River will usually flow. If heavy rainfall occurs in Alice Springs, and not in the catchment area, the Todd River will usually only reach a trickle flow.

Alice Springs experiences its heaviest rainfall during the summer months from November through March, generally as a result of equatorial thunderstorms moving inland across Central Australia. Heavy rainfall, together with the rocky terrain and steep river slopes of the catchment area, can sometimes cause flash flooding in the Todd River.

When will we receive flood warnings?
Flood warnings will only be issued if flooding is predicted. Several Northern Territory Government agencies combine to provide information on flow levels, weather conditions and flood forecasts to the Counter Disaster Planning Committee. This information does not cover flood or flooding of creeks and stormwater drains, which are unpredictable.

When flooding is predicted in the Alice Springs Region, the Counter Disaster Planning Committee is activated. It operates under direction from the Northern Territory Counter Disaster Council to ensure that information bulletins and flood warning messages are issued for Alice Springs and outlying areas. Counter disaster response measures may include the evacuation of people in cases of major flooding (refer to map for areas prone to flooding).

How can we be prepared for a major flood?

Checklist for leaving or evacuation

When a flood is imminent, listen to your radio or television for information from authorities and follow their directions.

- to avoid congestion, stay off the phone unless it's important
- if you are leaving, it's best to go early
- take warm clothes, sleeping bags, sweats, tent and good footwear
- turn off mains power and gas and secure gas cookers (they float)
- empty the fridge (it won't smell so bad later)
- take medicine
- personal papers and valuables in a watertight bag or container
- medication and first aid kits
- glasses and hearing aids
- baby, toilet and sanitary needs and toiletries
- any tools you might need
- raise items left behind as high as you can
- drive carefully, especially if roads are under water
- take some games to keep yourself and your children occupied
- sandbag the toilet and other internal drains to stop it overflowing
- advise relatives outside of Alice Springs of your movements

How can I find my relatives?

- all dogs in Alice Springs must be registered (it makes it easier to reunite you with your pets if they are found)
- ensure you lock up with plenty of pet food
- mend holes in fences in case animals panic and attempt to escape
- don't use gas or electrical appliances which have been flood-damaged
- don't use food that has been in contact with flood water
- don't use your pet or宠物 behind, keep in mind that in may be several days before you return home, and always consider the following:
- don't feed your pet or pet until they are dry
- leave your pet with adequate food and water and let them look after themselves (dry food is best as wet food will go off)
- ensure they have collars or name tags on to help identify them
- leave a note for emergency services describing your pet
- have your pet taken inside, leave them with access to fresh water
- leave food and water above predicted flood height

Flood shopping list

When leaving home
- don't leave until advised it is safe to do so
- watch for electric wires on the ground or in the water
- watch for potholes and washouts in the road
- watch for snakes which may have sought refuge under debris
- don't drink flood-contaminated water
- don't eat food which has been in contact with flood water
- don't use gas or electrical appliances which have been flood-damaged
- don't use food that has been in contact with flood water
- don't use your pet's water bowl and ensure they have access to clean water
- don't use your pet's food
- don't cause your pet to be frightened or frightened pets can be dangerous
- if you leave in a flood prone area, leave in plenty of time
- know the safest, direct route to your nearest emergency shelter or evacuation area
- be prepared for tackles which may be required
- take great care when leaving your pet behind
- take with you:
  - personal papers and valuables in a watertight bag or container
  - medication and first aid kit
  - glasses and hearing aids
  - baby, toilet and sanitary needs and toiletries
  - any tools you might need
- raise items left behind as high as you can
- drive carefully, especially if roads are under water
- take some games to keep yourself and your children occupied
- sandbag the toilet and other internal drains to stop it overflowing
- advise relatives outside of Alice Springs of your movements

Checklist for coming home
- don't return to a building until advised it is safe to do so
- watch for electric wires on the ground or in the water
- watch for potholes and washouts in the road
- watch for snakes which may have sought refuge under debris
- don't use gas or electrical appliances which have been flood-damaged
- don't use food that has been in contact with flood water
- don't use your pet's water bowl and ensure they have clean water
- don't use your pet's food
- don't cause your pet to be frightened or frightened pets can be dangerous
- if you leave in a flood prone area, leave in plenty of time
- know the safest, direct route to your nearest emergency shelter or evacuation area
- be prepared for tackles which may be required
- take with you:
  - personal papers and valuables in a watertight bag or container
  - medication and first aid kit
  - glasses and hearing aids
  - baby, toilet and sanitary needs and toiletries
  - any tools you might need
- raise items left behind as high as you can
- drive carefully, especially if roads are under water
- take some games to keep yourself and your children occupied
- sandbag the toilet and other internal drains to stop it overflowing
- advise relatives outside of Alice Springs of your movements

Make sure you DON'T:
- go sightseeing – that is best saved for good weather and safe conditions

Pets and major floods
Pets are one of the greatest causes of anxiety in a flood and should be taken to lead of life when people refuse to be evacuated or risk flood waters to search for lost animals. Remember that the authorities' number one concern is rescuing people. There may not be time for pets in flood boats—and frightened pets can be dangerous.

- advise relatives outside of Alice Springs of your movements

Emergency contact numbers

Alice Springs Police
St John Ambulance
Alice Springs Police
Northern Territory Fire & Rescue Service
Alice Springs Hospital
Northern Territory Emergency Service
Alice Springs Town Council

The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services will coordinate regular media and communication updates during emergencies.

What media should I listen to for updates?
The Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services will coordinate regular media and communication updates during emergencies. Newspapers lack the immediacy of electronic media, but when published will carry important information. Local radio stations will generally have the most comprehensive and up-to-date local information.

During an emergency in Alice Springs we recommend you listen to:

AM Band
FM Band
Television stations may carry information along the bottom of the screen, or interrupt telecasts with important messages. The evening news will usually be informative.

Contact numbers

Please listen to or watch television for regular updates during an emergency, and call the following numbers only if you need help or additional information.

Northern Territory Emergency Service
8951 8111
Alice Springs Town Council
8950 0560

The financial support of Emergency Management Australia in the production of this brochure is acknowledged with thanks.
The Alice Springs Flood Map pictured on the right highlights the different flow and flood categories that affect the community of Alice Springs.

The main map is of the Town Area, highlighting in the different flow and flood levels in different shades of blue. The inset map is of the Rural Area, located on the Southern side of Heavitree Gap.

People are encouraged to establish where their homes are located on the maps provided, and plan for how each flow and flood level may affect your home and family.

Through effective preparation, you can ensure your family can have adequate supplies, or move to safe ground, in case of major flooding.

Emergency Shelters

The decision to open Emergency Shelters, and when, is made by the Regional Counter Disaster Controller.

Shelters will be crowded and should only be used if accommodation cannot be found elsewhere – if you can find shelter with family or friends, this would be the better option.

There are five designated emergency shelter locations, which are highlighted on the Alice Springs Flooding Map. The media will broadcast which emergency shelters are open in plenty of time to allow people to proceed to safety.

Emergency shelters in Alice Springs are located at:

**Town Area**
1. Alice Springs High School
2. Centralian College
3. Grevillea Drive, Sadadeen
4. Bradling Primary School
5. Head Street, Bradling
6. Larapinta Primary School
7. Albrecht Drive, Larapinta

**Rural Area**
8. Yirara College
9. Stuart Highway

Other evacuation centres may be established, depending on need.

Alternative arrangements should be made for pets as they are not permitted at emergency shelters (except for guide dogs). See overleaf for more information.

The possession of alcohol and illegal drugs is not permitted in emergency shelters.

About the Alice Springs Flood Map

The Alice Springs Flood Map shows the different categories, as follows:

**MODERATE**

Levels C & D

Flow / Flood Level C will cause minor flooding. Some of the levels do not impact greatly on the community.

**MAJOR**

Levels A & B

Level A and Level B mean water will be contained mainly within the banks of the Todd River.

These levels occur most frequently in Alice Springs, and although they can disrupt some river crossings, these levels do not impact greatly on the community.

**MAJOR**

Level E

Flood Level E is a major flood. In addition to all elements faced in Level D flooding, the river level may overtop the Wills Terrace footbridge (pictured on the front cover) and may cause the closure of the Stott Terrace Bridge.

There will also be widespread local flooding, some of which will be increased from stormwater runoff and drains. In the case of a Stott Bridge closure, access to and from Eastside will cease.

All residents in Alice Springs should be prepared for Level E flooding. If Level E flooding does occur it may be days to weeks before regular access to supplies is reinstated.

The Flood Level E outlined in this map is what experts refer to as a “one in one hundred”, or “1:100”, flood. This is a statistical prediction of the frequency with which this flood will occur. Statistically a 1:100 flood could occur once every 20 years, however this is not to be used as a guarantee that this flood won’t occur more times during this period.

**PROBABLE MAXIMUM FLOOD**

The Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) is the largest possible flood that can occur. It is said to have a flood risk of 1:10,000 to 1:10 million.

**Flooding Map**

The media will broadcast which locations, which are highlighted on the Alice Springs Flood Map pictured on the right, causeways and water may overtop the Casino causeway.

Flow Level B will always close river bed level causeways and water may overtop the Casino causeway.

Flow Level A may sometimes close river bed level causeways.

Flow / Flood Level C will always close the Taffy Pick Crossing (Casino Causeway), and minor flooding may occur along South Terrace and other nearby roads.

Flooding Level D has the potential to cause disruptions, and will cause flooding in the lower reaches of town, and may include areas such as:

- residences along South Terrace, Leichhardt Terrace and Barnett Drive
- the Stuart Highway at Heavitree Gap

When water exceeds Flood Level D it referred to as a “one in twenty”, or “1:20”, flood. This is a statistical prediction of the frequency with which this flood will occur. Statistically a 1:20 flood could occur once every 20 years, however this is not to be used as a guarantee that this flood won’t occur more times during this period.

Flow / Flood Level C will always close the Taffy Pick Crossing (Casino Causeway), and minor flooding may occur along South Terrace and other nearby roads.

When water exceeds Flood Level D it referred to as a “one in twenty”, or “1:20”, flood. This is a statistical prediction of the frequency with which this flood will occur. Statistically a 1:20 flood could occur once every 20 years, however this is not to be used as a guarantee that this flood won’t occur more times during this period.

Flow / Flood Level B will always close river bed level causeways and water may overtop the Casino causeway.

Flow Level A may sometimes close river bed level causeways.

Flow / Flood Level C will always close the Taffy Pick Crossing (Casino Causeway), and minor flooding may occur along South Terrace and other nearby roads.

Flooding Level D has the potential to cause disruptions, and will cause flooding in the lower reaches of town, and may include areas such as:

- residences along South Terrace, Leichhardt Terrace and Barnett Drive
- the Stuart Highway at Heavitree Gap

When water exceeds Flood Level D it referred to as a “one in twenty”, or “1:20”, flood. This is a statistical prediction of the frequency with which this flood will occur. Statistically a 1:20 flood could occur once every 20 years, however this is not to be used as a guarantee that this flood won’t occur more times during this period.

Flow / Flood Level C will always close the Taffy Pick Crossing (Casino Causeway), and minor flooding may occur along South Terrace and other nearby roads.

Flooding Level D has the potential to cause disruptions, and will cause flooding in the lower reaches of town, and may include areas such as:

- residences along South Terrace, Leichhardt Terrace and Barnett Drive
- the Stuart Highway at Heavitree Gap

When water exceeds Flood Level D it referred to as a “one in twenty”, or “1:20”, flood. This is a statistical prediction of the frequency with which this flood will occur. Statistically a 1:20 flood could occur once every 20 years, however this is not to be used as a guarantee that this flood won’t occur more times during this period.

Flow / Flood Level C will always close the Taffy Pick Crossing (Casino Causeway), and minor flooding may occur along South Terrace and other nearby roads.

Flooding Level D has the potential to cause disruptions, and will cause flooding in the lower reaches of town, and may include areas such as:

- residences along South Terrace, Leichhardt Terrace and Barnett Drive
- the Stuart Highway at Heavitree Gap

When water exceeds Flood Level D it referred to as a “one in twenty”, or “1:20”, flood. This is a statistical prediction of the frequency with which this flood will occur. Statistically a 1:20 flood could occur once every 20 years, however this is not to be used as a guarantee that this flood won’t occur more times during this period.