



Easy Read information from Central Coast Council

Plan and Prepare for an Emergency

March, 2024



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How to read this book



We have written this book in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

You can ask someone to help you read it.

In this book, '**we**' means Central Coast Council.



This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word:

- the hard word is in **blue**
- we write what the hard word means.

Plan and prepare



We want to make sure everyone on the Central Coast is safe in an **emergency**.

An **emergency** can be a bushfire, flood, storm or heatwave. We talk about these things on the next pages.

This book will help you get ready before an emergency happens near you.

It is good to think about these questions:

- **What is my risk?**

You might live near the bush, which could catch fire.

You might live near water, which could flood.

- **What if I need to evacuate?**

Evacuate means leaving your home to go to a safe place.



Find out where the nearest safe place is and how to get there.



Plan a place to meet your family if you get split up.



Plan for what you will do with your pets.



- **What should I take with me?**

Pack an emergency kit. We will tell you what you can put in your emergency kit on the next page.



Emergency kit

An **emergency kit** is something that you have ready to take with you when you need to evacuate.

What to pack:



- A radio that uses a battery



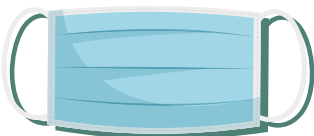
- A torch



- Spare batteries



- First-aid kit with things like medicine and bandages



- Face masks



- Hand sanitiser

You can find lists for what to pack on the NSW Government website at: www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/prepare/emergency-survival-kit



Bushfire

A bushfire is when forest, bush or grass catches fire. It can grow and move very fast.



These things might happen in a bushfire:

- Heat, wind, smoke and loud noise
- **Isolation**



Isolation means being apart from other people.



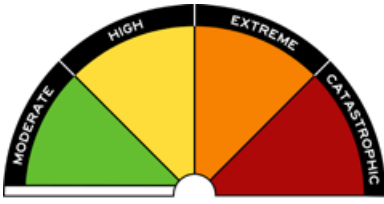
- Phones and internet stop working
- No power
- No water
- Trees or buildings fall down

This is how you can prepare for a bushfire:



- Make a bushfire **survival** plan.

Survival means staying alive and safe.



MODERATE

Plan and prepare

HIGH

Be ready to act

EXTREME

Take action now to protect your life and property

CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave bush fire risk areas



- Find out **fire danger ratings** near you.

Fire danger ratings tell you how bad a fire could be if a fire starts.

- Find a safe place near you. These are called **Neighbourhood Safer Places**. You can find one on this map: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places

- Prepare your home. Clean your gutters, mow your grass and cut back tree branches.

- Make an emergency kit for when you need to evacuate.

- Talk to the people that live near you about their bushfire plan.

- If you have **insurance**, check if it covers bushfires.

Insurance is when you get money to fix or replace things that are broken or lost in an emergency.



Flood

A flood is when lots of rain makes rivers and lakes get bigger. Sometimes water can move very fast.



These things might happen in a flood:



- Isolation
- Phones and internet stop working
- No power
- No water or sewage
- Trees or buildings fall down
- Landslides

This is how you can prepare for a flood:



- Find out if you live in a place that might flood. Central Coast Council can help you with this.
- Make a flood survival plan.
- Some roads might flood. You should find another way if roads are closed, or if they are covered with water.



- Make an emergency kit for when you need to evacuate.



- Your power might go off. Make a kit with a torch, cans of food, a radio and batteries to prepare for no power.



- Move important things to high places in your home so they don't get wet.

- Find out where you can get sandbags. You can put sandbags outside your door and over your drains to stop a lot of water coming inside.



- Talk to the people that live near you about their flood plan.

- If you have insurance, check if it covers floods.

Storm



A storm is when the weather causes heavy rain, hail, thunder, lightning or strong wind. Sometimes storms can cause **flash floods**.

Flash floods can happen very quickly when there is heavy rain.

These things might happen in a storm:



- Damage to buildings and land
- Isolation
- Phones and internet stop working
- No power
- No water
- Trees or buildings fall down
- Roads become unsafe



This is how you can prepare for a storm:



- Make a storm survival plan.



- Some roads might flood. You should find another way if they are closed, or if they are covered with water.



- Make an emergency kit for when you need to evacuate.



- Your power might go off. Make a kit with a torch, cans of food, a radio and batteries to prepare for no power.

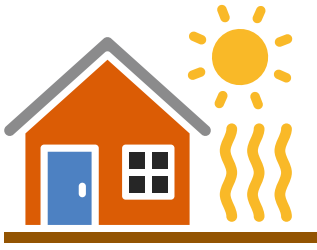
- Prepare your home. Clean your gutters and cut back tree branches.

- Park your car under cover if you can.



- Talk to the people that live near you about their storm plan.

- If you have insurance, check if it covers storms.



Heatwave

A heatwave is when the weather gets very hot, mostly in spring and summer. Sometimes a heatwave can last a long time.

These things might happen in a heatwave:



- Risk of feeling sick or unwell
- No power
- Phones or internet stop working

This is how you can prepare for a heatwave:



- Look at the **Bureau of Meteorology** heatwave map: www.bom.gov.au/australia/heatwave

The **Bureau of Meteorology** tells us the weather in Australia.



- Make sure your home has air conditioning or fans to keep you cool.

- If your home is too hot, find places to stay cool, like swimming pools, libraries or the shops.



- Put awnings and sun blocking blinds on your windows.



- Stay in contact with family, friends and people who live near you.



- Keep your doctor's phone number ready in case you get sick.



- Your power might go off. Make a kit with a torch, cans of food, a radio and batteries to prepare for no power.



- Look after your family and pets, and make sure they have lots of water.



Contact

There are many people and groups that can help in an emergency.



Police, Fire, Ambulance

When your life is in danger and you need help straight away, call 000

Flood and storm emergency

When you need help in a flood or storm, call the SES on 132 500



The SES website is ses.nsw.gov.au

Bushfire emergency

When you need to find out more about a bushfire near you, call the RFS on 1 8 0 0 6 7 9 7 3 7



The RFS website is rfs.nsw.gov.au

Emergency radio

ABC Central Coast will keep you updated in emergencies.

You can listen to them on radio channel 92.5 FM.



You can listen to them on the internet at www.abc.net.au/centralcoast

Central Coast Council

For general information about emergencies, or if you have any questions, you can contact Central Coast Council.



Website: www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
CentralCoastCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/CentralCoastCouncil)

Phone: 02 4306 7900



Websites to help you prepare

There are some Council and NSW Government websites that have more information about how to prepare for emergencies.

Get Ready NSW

Find survival plans and emergency kit lists at nsw.gov.au/emergency/get-ready

Plan and Prepare, Central Coast Council

Five steps to get ready at www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare-emergency