

Get Ready for Disasters

The Macleay Valley has experienced 19 natural disasters in the past decade.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE PREPARED WHEN DISASTER STRIKES.

Flood, bushfire, severe weather, landslides and other natural disasters, the better prepared you are, the safer you will be when disaster strikes.

Being prepared also makes it easier to cope in stressful situations and will help you recover more quickly.

GET READY
Kempsey



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New National Warning System

On 30 September 2022, emergency response agencies like the NSW State Emergency Service (SES) moved to the Australian Warning System.

This is a new national approach to information and warnings during emergencies like bushfires, floods, storms, extreme heat and severe weather.

Under this system, there are now three warning levels:

Advice:

An incident has started. Stay up-to-date in case the situation changes.



Watch and Act:

Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.



Emergency Warning:

This is the highest warning level. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately.



For a detailed explanation of each level, visit: ses.nsw.gov.au/warnings

Stay informed, stay safe with these apps

FIVE APPS TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR DISASTERS



Emergency+

Connect to the right number at the right time, anywhere in Australia.



BOM Weather

Accurate weather information including current conditions, forecasts, warnings and radar.



Live Traffic NSW

Incidents and conditions on NSW roads 24/7 from the Transport Management Centre.



Fires Near Me NSW

Official NSW Rural Fire Service bushfire information, providing warnings and incident information.



Floods Near Me NSW

The latest flood related information in NSW and provides the user with tailored warnings.



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getready
apps**



Five simple steps to prepare for disasters



1. Know your risk

Common hazards in & near your area

Identify common changes to look out for that indicate a hazard may eventuate in or near your area, this information will help you to be prepared when a disaster strikes.



2. Plan now for what you will do

Disaster can strike at any time - you need to be prepared

Sit down and talk with your family and plan for what you will do if a disaster affects your area.



4. Be aware Stay informed

Kempsey Shire Council provides relevant up-to-date information when weather events are likely to impact roads and bridges, and when disaster strikes.

Frequent updates are made to the website and Facebook page to keep residents informed of hazards and emergency arrangements.



3. Get yourself and your home ready

Pack an essential emergency kit for home

Being prepared and having an emergency kit ready is important in case you need to remain at home for a few days without access to shops. Your essential emergency kit should be stored in a sturdy waterproof container somewhere safe yet easily accessible. Make sure everyone in your family knows where it is stored.



5. Look out for each other

Family, friends & neighbours

Getting ready for emergencies is important for everyone.

Talk about your emergency plan with your family, at work or with friends. It's a great way to raise awareness of the need to be prepared, while helping to cement your plan in your mind.

Share information, direct others to the Kempsey Shire Council website for updates and tell people important to you where you are headed if you need to evacuate in an emergency.

Prepare your home

Staying on top of general house maintenance is an important part of being prepared.

Maintaining lawns, clearing gutters, and ensuring a fire break is clear around your property are all simple measures to help keep you safe. Various Get Ready home maintenance tips are available online from emergency service providers.



Message from the General Manager

Take 5 to get disaster ready



Craig Milburn

At this time of year we often wish people the best and also to stay safe. It's an important message, now more than ever.

Staying safe is in our own hands and there's a lot of information and help available to make it easy.

Recent years have demonstrated to us that natural disasters are coming differently, more frequently and at untraditional times.

They have also shown us that we respond differently to disasters – social media, emails and our phones all play a crucial role now.

That's why Council is promoting 5 apps to keep you safe this holiday season.

Downloading an app is a simple thing to do when you're safe, so that you'll be ready if or when you need it.

And if you need help getting or learning how

to use the apps, what a great conversation to have with your family and loved ones.

There's also a huge amount of information on council's website that can help you get ready for a disaster. It's not something we like to think about, but it's even worse to be caught unprepared.

I recommend when you're on the website you read the '5 steps to get ready for any disaster', they could possibly help you make life-saving plans for you and your household.

Council will continue to work with our emergency service partners and support agencies to help our community prepare for natural disasters and build on our community strengths.

Exciting news! Willawarrin Showground precinct upgrades are underway

The upgrades to Willawarrin Showground precinct are coming along well with a new canteen and administration building pulling up in late-November 2022.

The new building will serve community organisations using the showground and sports fields, providing a much-needed facility to run the canteen and carry out admin duties.

Council crews have since worked on painting the building and installing decking, ramps and handrails.

Works on internal and external fit-outs as well as utility connections are next on the list for this project.

Also included in the project are improved amenities,



a playground and upgrades to the showground surface and roads. This is funded through a combination of funding from Council, the NSW Government's Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund and the Australian Government's National Bushfire Recovery Fund.

Get Ready for any disaster

Plan ahead and know what you would take if you had to evacuate. Items will vary from person to person, but should include basics that you can carry, things like important documents,



Evacuation kit

medications, drinking water, cash, a torch, toiletries, snacks, clothing and bedding. A favourite teddy bear, or sentimental photos might be important too.

Evacuation centres are only activated in severe situations

The location of your nearest evacuation centre will be published on the Kempsey Shire Council website if activated.

A number of suitable evacuation centres are

identified in various townships across the shire. To avoid confusion, these locations are only announced once they are activated.

Fire Danger Ratings

Fire danger ratings give you an indication of the consequences of a fire, if one was to start. The higher the fire danger, the more dangerous the conditions.

On some days a total fire ban may be declared due to the conditions. These help keep your community safe, so it's important you follow the rules.

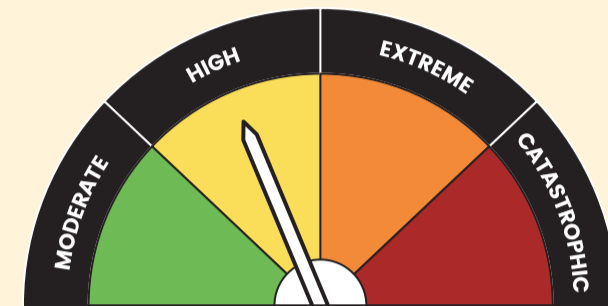
The fire danger rating levels are:

Moderate: Plan and prepare

High: Prepare to act

Extreme: Take action now to protect your life and property.

Catastrophic: For your survival, leave bush fire risk area



Permits / Safe Burning

1. A Fire Permit is required for burning activities during the Bush Fire Danger Period in Rural Fire districts and at all times in Fire and Rescue districts around the state. Fire Permits help ensure fire is used safely and minimise the danger to you, your property and the community.
2. You need a fire permit if it's the Bush Fire Danger Period.
3. Just because it's the Bush Fire Danger Period doesn't mean you can't use fire – but there are restrictions to ensure fire is used safely.
4. Getting a permit is free and easy. Contact your local Fire Control Centre or for FRNSW fire permits go to the FRNSW website.
5. There are heavy penalties if you don't follow restrictions or rules.
6. If you're planning to burn on your property, you need to let us know before you light up.

7. Notifying us of your planned burn can help reduce unnecessary emergency calls.

8. You also need to let your neighbours know at least one day ahead.



Love sport? Art? What's on? Developments? Or community decisions?

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