



Picture: Rebecca Patrick

What to do!

Although the possibility of storm surge is relatively small, people living in areas at risk should:

- Recognise and accept that you may be subject to the flooding and wave action caused by storm surge;
- Be prepared to evacuate and move to shelter in a higher area at short notice;
- Heed warnings, advice and instructions broadcast by the counter disaster authorities via radio and television if a storm surge is expected to occur; and
- Plan well ahead for the action you will be required to take in such an event.

Checklist for residents evacuating areas at risk

1. Find out whether your property could be affected by a storm surge.
2. Have ready your emergency evacuation kit containing portable radio and spare batteries, torch, candles and matches. Water containers, tinned food, tin opener, self-contained cooking gear and essential medicines, plastic bags, PLUS clothes, sleeping gear, children's needs and important papers.
3. Decide beforehand where you will shelter, either with friends, relatives or in an emergency shelter. Remember that pets are not allowed in emergency shelters, however the car parks listed below have been identified as places where residents can shelter in their cars with their pets. These car parks are built to code but are not designed as emergency shelters. They do not have supporting staff and are not fully enclosed.

4. When planning your evacuation route, your chosen shelter should be on higher ground. Don't leave it to the last moment.
5. If you have your own transport, remember to have it fuelled and ready to assist you in your immediate evacuation.
6. Above all, heed advice broadcast by the counter disaster authorities.

In addition, all normal cyclone preparations should be made.

STANDARD EMERGENCY SHELTER LOCATIONS:

Casuarina Senior College – 61 Trower Road, Moil
Dripstone Middle School – 326 Trower Road, Tiwi
Supreme Court Building – The Esplanade, Darwin
Nightcliff Middle School – 90 Aralia Street, Nightcliff
Palmerston Senior College – 10 Tilston Avenue, Driver
Rosebery Primary and Middle School – Cnr Forrest Parade and Belyuen Roads, Rosebery
Girraween Primary School – 25 Carruth Road, Girraween
Taminmin College – Challoner Circuit, Humpty Doo
Berry Springs Primary School – 1150 Cox Peninsula Road, Berry Springs

CARPARKS:

The Holiday Inn Esplanade – 116 The Esplanade, Darwin
Casuarina Shopping Centre – 247 Trower Road, Casuarina
Palmerston Shopping Centre and The Hub Palmerston – Temple Terrace, Palmerston

For additional advice concerning storm surge areas, contact:

Northern Territory Emergency Service
Peter McAulay Centre
 PO Box 39764
 Winnellie NT 0821
 t : (08) 8922 3630
 e : ntes@nt.gov.au

Or go to:

www.emergency.nt.gov.au
www.securent.nt.gov.au

NTES RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS NOW!!

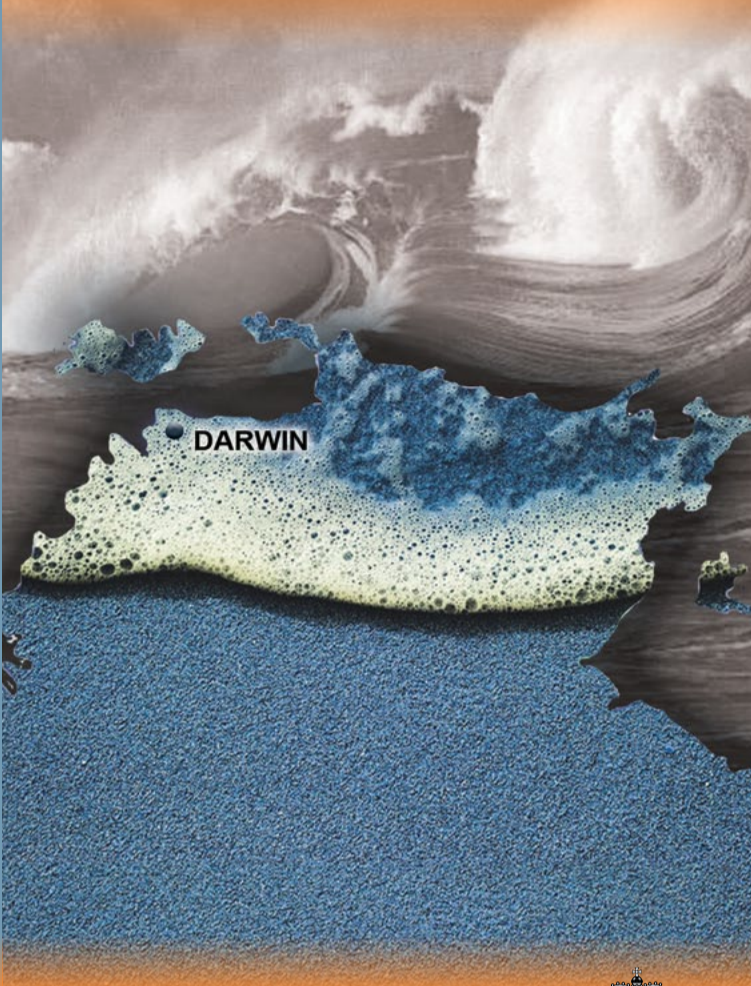
phone (08) 8922 3630



Northern Territory Government

Surge photos courtesy of Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology

DARWIN STORM SURGE GET READY GET THRU



NT Emergency Service
www.emergency.nt.gov.au

What is storm surge?

When a tropical cyclone moves across or near the coast, it can cause sea levels to rise higher than the normal tide levels. This is called a storm surge and is the result of the strong onshore winds and/or reduced atmospheric pressure. Storm surge may also be formed by intense low-pressure systems.



Picture: Port Hedland Historical Society

Cyclones in the Southern Hemisphere are clockwise rotating systems and, where they cross the coast, storm surge levels would be at the maximum to the left (looking in the direction of motion) of their track. For example, the centre of Cyclone Tracy crossed the coast at Ludmilla. The tide gauge at Stokes Hill Wharf (the right of the cyclone track) recorded a maximum storm surge of 1.6 m (above normal tide levels) whereas the storm surge at Casuarina Beach (to the left) was estimated to be three or four meters.

Who could storm surge affect in Darwin?

The map printed inside this pamphlet has been produced for emergency management uses and shows the area likely to be affected by the estimated maximum possible storm surge. It is intended to alert residents in the identified areas to take careful note of advice and other instructions issued in relation to storm surge. This map should not be confused with other official maps produced for land use planning which show primary and secondary storm surge zones.

It is very difficult to predict the time and location of landfall of a threatening cyclone. As the cyclone approaches the coast, wind strength and the

risk of debris and fallen trees blocking evacuation routes will increase.

Heavy rain associated with the cyclone could result in possible escape routes being cut by flood waters.

To minimise the chance of people being trapped, any instructions to evacuate will be issued well before the arrival of a cyclone. However, at that early stage, the time and



Picture: Lee Everleigh

location of landfall of a cyclone and the extent of areas likely to be affected by a particular storm surge event would be difficult to predict. In order to minimise risk of loss of life or injury, more extensive areas than those potentially affected by the storm surge are likely to be the subject of instructions to evacuate.

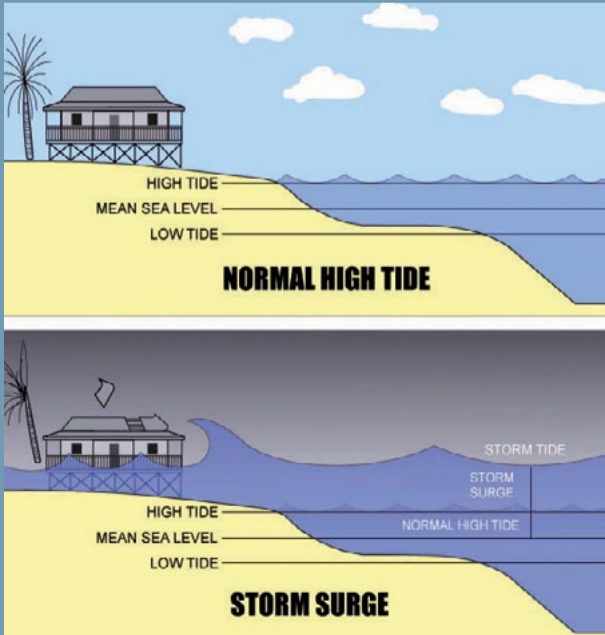
At all times, the warning and instructions issued by the counter disaster authorities should be heeded.

Breaking waves on top of the surge act like a giant bulldozer, sweeping everything in its path. However the worst impacts occur when the storm surge arrives on top of a high tide.

Worldwide, storm surges have been responsible for a major proportion of loss of life associated with cyclones.

How does it occur?

The main elements affecting the height, extent and impact of a storm surge are the intensity of the cyclone; the direction of travel; speed and size of the tide at the peak of these effects; the depth of water offshore and the shape of the coastline.



Normal tides a safety barrier!

The large tidal range in Darwin (eight meters) provides a natural safety barrier. The chance of a storm surge coinciding with the highest possible tide is quite low.



Picture: Peter Otto



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