

# The Northern Territory Emergency Service has adopted the Australian Warning System for cyclone, flood, and storm emergencies.

**AWS  
FACTSHEET**



## **ADVICE**

Stay up to date in case the situation changes.



## **WATCH AND ACT**

Conditions are changing, you need to start taking action.



## **EMERGENCY WARNING**

You may be in danger and need to take action immediately.

## Why is the Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES) implementing the Australian Warning System (AWS) for cyclone, flood, and storm emergencies?

The AWS is being introduced as a national standard for all types of emergencies including bushfire, heatwave, floods, storms and cyclones.

As the Northern Territory hazard management authority for cyclone, flooding, and storm (severe weather), Northern Territory Emergency Service (NTES) is implementing the AWS. The warnings provide a set of call to action statements to advise the public what to do during these emergencies.

### **How many warning levels are there and what do they tell me?**

There are three warning levels: Advice (Yellow), Watch and Act (Orange) and Emergency Warning (Red). Read more about the levels over the page.

When a warning is issued, it will include information on the location of the emergency, expected or estimated impact, summary of relevant Bureau warnings, community information, and a set of action statements.

These will assist people to make informed decisions regarding their safety during these emergencies.

### **Is the Australian Warning System replacing the Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) warnings?**

No. Bureau warnings will still be issued. Bureau information is used to inform an AWS alert level.

NTES considers a wide range of factors before issuing a cyclone, flood or storm warning, which includes Bureau data such as cyclone tracking, direction of travel, flood severity, expected impact and other required information. This assists NTES to issue the appropriate AWS warning level.

### **How do I know if a warning has been issued?**

NTES will issue warnings to the media that are also posted on the SecureNT website [www.securent.nt.gov.au](http://www.securent.nt.gov.au).

You can also see the warnings on the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) and SecureNT social media channels and hear them on the ABC radio and local media channels.

### **So, what should I do now?**

Visit SecureNT and learn about the warnings, so that when the next emergency event comes you can make an informed decision about your safety.

Make sure you follow SecureNT and NTPFES on social media to receive all the relevant warnings as they are issued.

## Warning levels and action statements

There are three levels within the AWS - Advice, Watch and Act and Emergency Warning. For each level, there are a series of clear action statements to guide positive action by the community. These may include 'stay informed', 'prepare to evacuate', 'move to higher ground' and 'Take Shelter Now' as shown below.



### ADVICE

An incident has started. Stay up to date as the situation changes.



#### ACTION STATEMENTS

Stay informed | Monitor conditions | Reduced threat: return with caution



### WATCH AND ACT

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



#### ACTION STATEMENTS

Do not enter floodwater | Prepare to evacuate | Prepare to isolate



### EMERGENCY WARNING

You may be in danger and need to take action immediately.



#### ACTION STATEMENTS

Evacuate now / Evacuate before (time) | Shelter now  
Move to higher ground

Each warning has three components:

**The warning level:** The severity of the natural hazard event based on the consequence to the community.

**Location + Hazard:** The location and the type of hazard impacting the community (e.g., Kalkarindji flooding).

**Action statement:** For each warning level there are a range of action statements to guide protective action by the community. These statements evolve as the warning levels increase in severity. Statements range from 'stay informed' at the Advice level, to 'prepare to evacuate' at the Watch and Act level, to 'evacuate now' in the Emergency Warning level. As the situation changes and the threat is reduced, the level of warning will decrease accordingly.