

Be prepared

About the Todd River

The Todd River is usually seen as a dry sandy riverbed in Alice Springs, with the river catchment area located mainly to the north of the town. Heavy rainfall, together with the rocky terrain and steep river slope of the catchment area, can sometimes cause flash flooding in the Todd River.

Alice Springs experiences the majority of its rainfall during the summer months from November through to March, however can occur at any time throughout the year. When heavy rainfall occurs in Alice Springs and not the catchment area, water runoff drains into the Todd River and may close some of the causeways.

Start preparing now! Set up your flood action plan.

Are you at risk from flood?

Please review the likely water path on the Alice Springs Flood Extent map on the other side of this brochure. Additionally, you can view or download flooding maps from www.emergency.nt.gov.au

If you live or work in a flood-prone area, plan where you will evacuate to - with family and friends or in an emergency shelter? Familiarise yourself with safe road routes to reach your shelter destination.

Remember, even if your property is not inundated by flood water, you and your family may become isolated during a flood.

Check your insurance cover

Check that your property and contents are covered by insurance for flood damage. Once an alert is issued, many companies will not renew, update or provide new insurance policies.



Every household needs a basic emergency kit

A basic emergency kit stored in a water-proof container should be ready all year round. This could double up as your camping kit.

Check supplies and restock your kit at the beginning of every summer. Plan what you will need for each person for at least three days.

Your basic emergency kit should include:

- ☒ Your flood action plan
- ☒ Your emergency contact numbers, mobile phone charger
- ☒ A portable radio and torch with spare batteries
- ☒ A first aid kit and rubber gloves
- ☒ Toilet paper and essential toiletries
- ☒ A waterproof bag for clothing and valuables
- ☒ Non-perishable food and fresh water for at least three days

You may need your kit either at home or if you evacuate and stay with family, friends or at an emergency shelter.

If a Flood Warning is issued, you will need to check supplies and add other items to your emergency kit.

If a warning is issued

The extent of flooding may vary significantly throughout Alice Springs. If a flood warning is issued, these are some considerations to be aware of, however, a more active response may be required in your area.

Activate your flood action plan

- Ensure family and neighbours are aware of the situation
- Check your car and refuel
- Check gas bottles and fill
- Charge mobile phone

Add to your emergency kit items you may need such as:

- ☒ Important documents, cash and small valuables
- ☒ Medications and any special requirements for babies and the elderly
- ☒ A change of clothes for each person, waterproof jacket and strong, protective closed shoes
- ☒ Swag, blankets and bedding



Listen to the radio for updates, information and advice.

ABC Radio Alice Springs - 783 AM

Be prepared to evacuate if advised by authorities


- Listen to the radio for information and follow directions
- Empty freezers and refrigerators, leaving doors open
- Turn off the power, gas and water at the mains
- Whether you stay or leave, place a sandbag in the toilet bowl to prevent sewage backflow into your home

Protect your property

- A more active response may be required in your area
- Stack furniture and possessions above likely flood level, on beds and in the roof (electrical items on top)
- Move garbage, chemicals and poisons to higher ground
- Secure objects that could float and cause damage
- Protect or relocate valuables and lock your home when you leave



Take precautions



After a flood, make sure the electricity and gas is turned off BEFORE going inside your home.

- Keep your emergency kit safe and dry
- Do not eat food which has been in contact with flood water
- Boil tap water until water supplies are declared safe
- Do not use gas or electrical appliances that have been flood affected, until they have been safety checked
- Beware of snakes and spiders which may move to drier areas inside
- Follow official warnings and advice on radio, television and online

Entering floodwaters can be deadly and should be avoided wherever possible. Road damage is not easily visible and conditions can change rapidly even when water starts to recede. Do not take unnecessary risks.

If you must venture out:

- Check for safe routes before driving anywhere
- Find an alternate route if flooded



Pets

Do not take pets to emergency shelters.

If you feel it is safe to leave your pet at home, do not tie it up or cage it, let it look after itself. Leave out food and water above the forecast flood height.

If moving to the home friends or family, you may be able to take your pet with you. Under no circumstances can pets be taken to emergency shelters.

Stay informed

For emergency help in a cyclone, flood or severe storm call: **132 500**

Emergency Contacts		Local Radio Stations	
Police Assistance	131 444	ABC Radio	783 AM
Alice Springs Town Council	8950 0500	8HA Radio	900 AM
Alice Springs Hospital	8951 7777	SunFM Radio	96.9 FM
		CAAMA Radio	100.5 FM
Power and Water Corporation	1800 245 092 powerwater.com.au		
Road Report (Recorded Information)	1800 246 199 roadreport.nt.gov.au		
Emergency Management Australia (Australian Government)	ema.gov.au		
SecureNT	securent.nt.gov.au		

Northern Territory Flood Maps, Fact Sheets and Advice
Northern Territory Emergency Service
www.emergency.nt.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology Weather Warnings 1300 659 214
Life threatening emergencies 000

SecureNT - your gateway to information on preparing for and getting through emergency situations in the Northern Territory

www.secureNT.nt.gov.au

 facebook.com/secureNT  twitter.com/secureterritory

Flood Safe Alice Springs
A guide to help you protect your family and property from floods



Alice Springs - Flood Extent

Todd River Flow & Flood Categories

The Todd River flow and flood categories are defined in five different categories – Level A, B, C, D and E. It is important to understand these levels, as flow and flood warnings will use these to indicate what the community may experience.

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

MINOR - Levels A & B

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

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.

Flow Level A may sometimes close river bed level causeways.

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

MODERATE - Levels C & D

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.

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

- properties along South Terrace, Leichhardt Terrace and Barrett Drive
- the Stuart Highway at Heavitree Gap

When water exceeds Flood Level D this referred to as a “one in twenty”, or “1:20”, flood event. This is a statistical prediction of the frequency with which this flood may 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 often during this period.

MAJOR - Level E

Flood Level E is a major flood. In addition to all elements faced in Level D flooding, the river level may flow over 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 storm water 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 event.

This is a statistical prediction of the frequency that this flood may occur. Statistically a 1:100 could occur at least once every 100 years, however this is not to be used as a guarantee that this flood won't occur more often during this period.

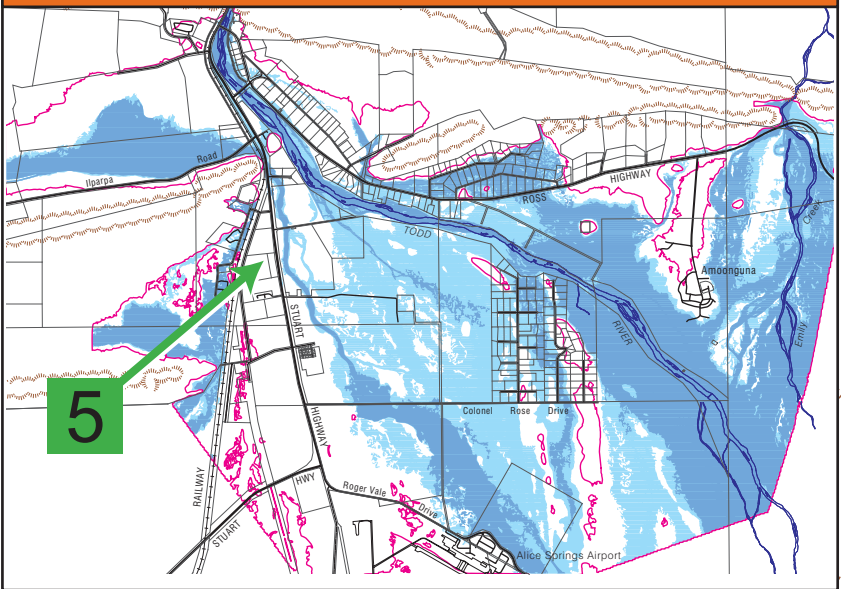
Probable Maximum Flood

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

Alice Springs Town Area

The maps provided do not show water depth levels when flows and flooding occur. To view more detailed maps visit www.nt.gov.au/floods

Alice Springs Rural Area



Standard Emergency Warning Signals (SEWS)

The Northern Territory Emergency Service coordinates regular communication updates during emergencies. The media may be asked to play the Standard Emergency Warning Signals (SEWS) to alert people of significant warning messages that are about to be announced. If you hear the SEWS on the radio or television, stop what you are doing and listen to the message.

For more information about flooding in the Northern Territory and to view regional flooding maps refer to:

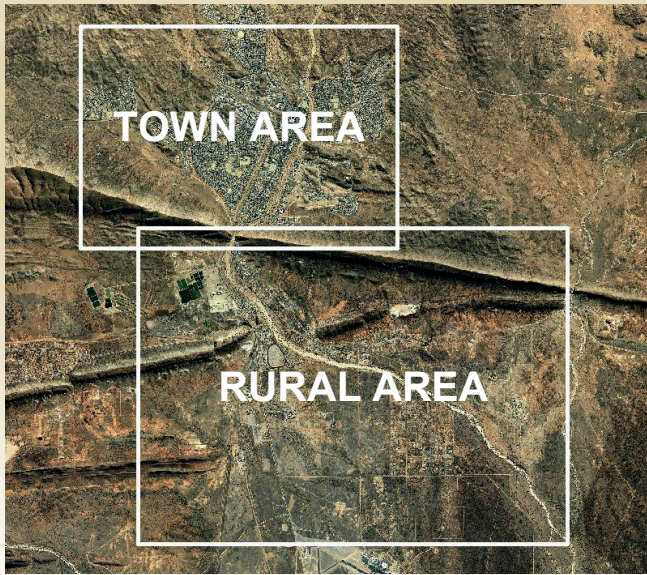
www.emergency.nt.gov.au

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Maps
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Emergency Shelters

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

The decision to open emergency shelters is made by the Regional Emergency Controller.

You should seek refuge with family or friends in the first instance. Emergency shelters should only be used when alternative accommodation cannot be found. Shelters may be crowded, noisy and uncomfortable.

Register on arrival at the emergency shelter. For major incidents, the Red Cross may activate its “Register. Find. Reunite” service. This is used to reunite families and close friends of persons affected by an emergency.

The possession of alcohol and illicit drugs is NOT permitted at emergency shelters.

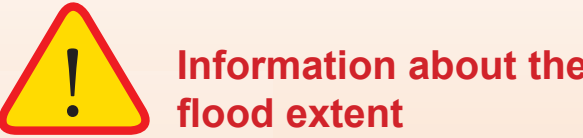
Alternative arrangements should be made for pets as they are not permitted at emergency shelters. See overleaf for more information.

There are five designated emergency shelters located in Alice Springs. These are displayed as a **green location point** on the Alice Springs - Flood Extent maps.

Alice Springs Emergency Shelters

- 1 Centralian Middle School
Milner Road, Gillen
- 2 Centralian Senior College
Charles Darwin University (CDU)
Grevillea Drive, Sadadeen
- 3 Braitley Primary School
Head Street, Braitley
- 4 Larapinta Primary School
Albrecht Drive, Larapinta
- 5 Yirara College
South Stuart Highway

Additional emergency shelters may be established according to the severity and location of flooding.



Information about the flood extent

- The flood extent boundaries displayed are only approximate.
- This information should only be used as a guide.
- No two flood events are the same.
- The actual extent during a flood may vary significantly at some locations.
- The maps in this brochure do not show water depth levels when flows and flooding occur.