



# Flash Flooding in Rapid Creek

## What is flash flooding?

Flash floods occur when soil absorption, runoff or drainage cannot adequately disperse intense rainfall. The most frequent cause of flash flooding is slow-moving thunderstorms. These systems can deposit extraordinary amounts of water over a small area in a very short time.

The strong updrafts of air within thunderstorms can suspend huge amounts of rain before releasing a deluge onto the ground. Such rain can reach intensities of more than 100mm per hour, provided the environment is humid enough to feed sufficient moisture to the storm.

## How can I prepare for flash floods?

- Create a household plan listing emergency & contact numbers, what you will do and where your family will shelter
- Make up a household emergency kit
- Store important documents in a portable wallet and place in an accessible spot in your home
- Always consider the potential for flooding when storing items around the house and identify high points for stacking and storing possessions and furniture
- Find out how to make the home more flood resistant
- Check insurance policy
- Keep outside drains free of debris

## What do I do if a flash flood is likely?

- Be prepared to **act quickly**
- Follow your household plan
- Tune into your local radio for updates during slow-moving thunderstorms
- Unplug all electrical devices and locate them to higher ground
- Keep in contact with neighbours who might also be affected. Make sure they know what to do.
- Place important documents, mementoes and valuables into waterproof bags and move to higher levels
- Locate pets and other domestic animals quickly and ensure they are safe
- Block toilets and floor drains from inside the home to prevent sewage backing up
- Stack sandbags outside around windows and doors on lower levels

## What do I do if my home is being affected by flood waters?

- Follow your household plan
- Remain in your shelter area
- Contact family members who are away from home and tell them to return only when safe
- Keep in touch with neighbours

PLEASE TURN OVER

## What should I do after my home has been affected by flood waters?

- Before entering any flood-affected part of the home, ensure it is safe to do so; consider:
  - Structural safety of the building
  - Safety of electrical and gas supplies, including electrical appliances
  - Whether sewerage systems are working correctly
  - Potential slips, trips and falls within mud and water
  - Any spiders, snakes or debris
- Wear non-slip footwear, protective clothing and puncture-resistant gloves whilst cleaning up and use disinfectant
- Never consume food or liquid that has been in contact with floodwater
- Assist your neighbours
- Replace damaged floor coverings, furniture and fittings with water resistant alternatives

## Where can I find sandbags and soil for my home?

The following suppliers may be used as a guide to locate sand or sandbags. The Northern Territory Emergency Service cannot guarantee stock supplies. We recommend you contact your preferred supplier to confirm availability and consider stocking your sand and sandbags well before a cyclone watch is declared.

	<b>Sandbags</b>	<b>Sand/Soil</b>
Atom Supply Darwin 1 Cate Street, Winnellie, 8942 7500	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Avanti Landscaping Supplies Corner Vanderlin Drive and Bowerlee Roads, Berrimah, 8984 4910		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Barnyard Trade Lot 3829 Stuart Highway, Pinelands, 8932 3997	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bob Kerr Transport Deviney Road, Berrimah, 8932 2444		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bunnings Darwin Corner Bagot and Spine Roads, Darwin, 8948 8300	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Landmark 4615 McKenzie Place, Yarrowonga, 8983 0830	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
U-Cart Concrete Dick Ward Drive, Coconut Grove, 8985 2544	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Where can I find further information on flood preparation?

Visit our website on [www.emergency.nt.gov.au](http://www.emergency.nt.gov.au)