

## Tropical Cyclone Alfred Update – 4 March 2025

Tropical Cyclone Alfred is currently forecast to make landfall on Thursday evening, impacting a heavily populated area, potentially as widespread as Bundaberg to northern New South Wales<sup>[1]</sup>. The cyclone, a Category 2 system, is expected to bring severe wind, high rainfall, coastal erosion, and significant flooding. Residents in the affected areas, including greater Brisbane and the Gold Coast, are advised to prepare for severe weather conditions.

### Ways Churches Can Prepare

While churches in the northern presbyteries may be familiar with preparing for cyclones, congregations and communities in southeast Queensland are not as accustomed. It is crucial to take proactive steps to ensure the safety and well-being of your property, your people, and your communities. Here are some ways to prepare:

1. **Emergency Plans:** Develop and review emergency response plans. Ensure all workers and volunteers are familiar with evacuation routes and safety procedures.
2. **Communication:** Establish a communication plan to stay connected with congregation members. Use social media, email, and phone networks to share updates and safety information. Ensure you have access to charging for devices where practical.
3. **Supplies:** Stock up on essential supplies such as water, non-perishable food, first aid kits, batteries and emergency lighting. Charging banks for mobile devices are also recommended. Ensure the church has enough resources to support the community if needed. Identify where and who community can contact as well for support.
4. **Secure Property:** Inspect the church building and grounds for potential hazards. Bring indoors any outdoor furniture, tools and other items that may become projectiles in high winds.
5. **Check Drains and Gutters:** With heavy rain associated with most cyclones, it is important to ensure your drainage systems are clear to prevent flooding. Cleaning gutters will also assist in letting water escape effectively.
6. **Support Network:** Coordinate with local authorities and other community organizations to provide support and resources to those in need. *If approached to offer your buildings as a shelter, please notify Group Insurance ([insurance@ucaql.com.au](mailto:insurance@ucaql.com.au)) and the Disaster Recovery Officer ([disaster.management@ucaql.com.au](mailto:disaster.management@ucaql.com.au)) immediately.*
7. **Prayer and Counselling:** Provide spiritual and emotional support to the community. Organize prayer meetings – in-person where it is safe or online - and offer counselling services to help people cope with the stress and anxiety caused by the cyclone. There is a dedicated disaster counselling support being operated by Lifeline from 8am to 8pm 7 days a week – **1800 116 671**. Lifeline's 24-7 service is also available – **13 11 14**.

Our Insurance and Disaster Management teams have resources available on The Hub:

- Insurance - <https://hub.ucaql.com.au/resources/insurance/>
- Disaster management - <https://hub.ucaql.com.au/resources/disaster-management/>

These resources will let your congregation play a vital role in ensuring the safety and well-being of your people and your communities during Cyclone Alfred. Stay safe and take care!

## References

[Live updates: Preparations underway as Tropical Cyclone Alfred forecast ...](#)

[Preparing for disasters | Queensland Government](#)

[Emergency kit: essential items, all times | Queensland Government](#)

[Tropical Cyclone Preparedness Guide Queensland Government](#)