

PROCEDURE 5

Cyclone, severe storm, lightning and hail

**Purpose:** Decide early between relocation and shelter-in-place, then protect from wind, debris, lightning, heat and service failure.



**SITE CUSTOMISATION REQUIRED.** This national baseline must be adapted through a site risk assessment, worker consultation and advice from the relevant state or territory regulator, emergency services, council, insurer and veterinarian. Human life takes priority.

Business and site details

|                     |                      |                                |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Business legal name | <input type="text"/> | Trading name                   | <input type="text"/> |
| Site / branch       | <input type="text"/> | ABN                            | <input type="text"/> |
| Physical address    | <input type="text"/> | Emergency entry / cross street | <input type="text"/> |
| Site manager        | <input type="text"/> | Incident Controller            | <input type="text"/> |
| Maximum dogs        | <input type="text"/> | Maximum people                 | <input type="text"/> |
| Operating hours     | <input type="text"/> | Main phone                     | <input type="text"/> |

Document control

|             |                      |                  |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Issue date  | <input type="text"/> | Next review date | <input type="text"/> |
| Approved by | <input type="text"/> | Position         | <input type="text"/> |

Activate this procedure when

- Cyclone watch/warning, severe thunderstorm or weather warning, damaging wind, large hail, tornado indication, frequent lightning, roof/fence damage.

|                            |                                |                                     |                                     |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>P</b><br>Protect people | <b>A</b><br>Alert and activate | <b>W</b><br>Welfare and secure dogs | <b>S</b><br>Sign off accountability |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

## Step-by-step emergency response

- 1 Monitor official warnings.** Use Bureau of Meteorology and state/territory emergency information. Apply the site's closing and relocation triggers.
- 2 Relocate early if required.** Move before winds, flooding or road closures begin. Confirm that the destination accepts animals; some public shelters do not.
- 3 Secure the site.** Bring dogs indoors, close external runs, secure bins and equipment, charge devices, stage torches and water, and protect records.
- 4 Shelter safely.** Move people and securely contained dogs to the nominated internal room away from windows, skylights, large-span roofs and flood-prone areas.
- 5 During lightning.** Suspend outdoor walks, bathing and metal-fence handling. Keep away from windows, electrical equipment and plumbing where practicable.
- 6 After impact.** Assume fallen powerlines are live. Check structural and fence integrity before moving dogs outdoors.

## Do not

|             |                                                                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>STOP</b> | Transport dogs after official advice says it is unsafe to travel.              |
| <b>STOP</b> | Use a damaged yard or fence before a hands-on inspection.                      |
| <b>STOP</b> | Run generators indoors, near air intakes or where exhaust can enter dog areas. |

## After the immediate danger

- Check every dog for stress, injury, heat load and medication interruption.
- Maintain a controlled toilet area on lead until the perimeter is confirmed secure.
- Document damage and activate continuity arrangements for extended outages.

## Assigned emergency roles

| <b>Incident Controller</b>       | Selects the safe action, liaises with emergency services and authorises recovery. | <input type="text"/> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>People / Area Warden</b>      | Protects people, sweeps assigned areas if safe and reports status.                | <input type="text"/> |
| <b>Dog Movement / Canine FA</b>  | Secures, identifies, separates, triages and moves dogs within training.           | <input type="text"/> |
| <b>Communications / Recorder</b> | Calls services and owners, maintains the time log and preserves records.          | <input type="text"/> |

Procedure readiness checklist

- ☐ Nominate a strong internal shelter room away from windows, skylights and large-span roofs.
- ☐ Set early relocation and shutdown triggers using official cyclone and severe-storm warnings.
- ☐ Secure outdoor furniture, loose equipment, chemicals, shade structures and kennel hardware.
- ☐ Stage torches, radios, water, first-aid kits, leads and secure crates in the shelter area.
- ☐ Maintain safe backup power and ventilation without operating generators indoors or near air intakes.
- ☐ Plan a post-impact inspection of roofs, glass, fencing, powerlines, trees and escape points.

Site-specific arrangements

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Internal shelter room         |  |
| Relocation / shutdown trigger |  |
| Backup power / ventilation    |  |
| Post-storm secure toilet area |  |

Emergency contacts and notifications

|                                    |  |                               |  |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Triple Zero for life threat        |  | SES / local emergency service |  |
| Owners, veterinarian and utilities |  | Primary / emergency vet       |  |

Recommended drill: Move people and secured dogs to the shelter room, account for all occupants and simulate a fence breach.

Drill, review and authorisation record

|                                      |  |                    |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Last drill date                      |  | Participants       |  |
| Corrective action owner              |  | Action due date    |  |
| Procedure authorised by              |  | Authorisation date |  |
| Gaps identified / corrective actions |  |                    |  |

Sources and further guidance

[6] [Australian Warning System](#)  
[8] [Bureau of Meteorology - Warnings and alerts](#)  
[10] [Queensland Government - Prepare pets for disasters](#)  
[18] [Secure NT - Animals in emergencies](#)

Review date: source links and national emergency numbers were checked for the master manual on 31 August 2026. Confirm local numbers, warnings, laws, codes, licences and veterinary arrangements before issue and at every review.

