

RAIL SAFETY REGULATION SAFETY ALERT

NOTICE TO ACCREDITED RAIL TRANSPORT OPERATORS

THIS ADVICE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

06/10 – CYCLONE AND STORM SEASON - QUESTIONS AND ACTIONS FOR RAIL TRANSPORT OPERATORS

The Bureau of Metrology has reported that Queensland may experience above average tropical cyclone activity this coming season, with up to six cyclones developing in the Coral Sea. It is also likely to be wetter than normal in most parts.

All railways in Queensland need to be prepared for the sudden impact of destructive winds, heavy rainfall with flooding and damaging storm surges.

Action:

- **All accredited rail transport operators in Queensland are requested to ensure the risks associated with cyclones and storms (including recovery) are fully assessed and that relevant controls are in place.**
- Additionally, the following questions and actions could be useful when reviewing risks and making preparations for the cyclone and storm season:
 - Decide when normal operations should be ceased if a cyclone or storm is imminent.
 - What actions are required to evacuate or protect passengers and employees?
 - What actions are required to secure critical railway infrastructure and rollingstock?
 - Prepare a detailed lock-down procedure for your business - rolling stock and buildings. Consider what needs to remain in operation. How can these areas be protected?
 - Include instructions on how and where to turn off power, gas and water supplies.
 - Assign disaster responsibilities to employees.
 - Discuss with employees at what stage of an emergency they will send them home?
 - Prepare a map showing possible evacuation routes for employees.
 - What measures are in place to protect your vital control and coordination systems.
 - For exposed stations or administrative areas what is in place to store your records and electronic equipment?
 - Prepare a list of emergency telephone numbers (e.g. Police, Fire, Ambulance (000); local council; industry organisations; utility companies; the SES (132 500)).
 - Develop a plan to establish backup communication should normal communication channels fail.
 - Consider disaster kits for operators, drivers and other front line staff.

Other useful information:

Bureau of Meteorology

The Bureau of Meteorology provides warnings of dangerous weather to the Australian community, with the aim of minimising injury and damage. This information is transmitted to authorities such as Police, Emergency Management Queensland, State Emergency Service (SES) and to radio and television stations.

Visit the Bureau of Meteorology web site at www.bom.gov.au

In addition to the web services the Bureau issues phone and fax information services.

Automated Telephone Messages: Cyclone Advices (Watch/Warning): QLD: 1300 659 212

Weather-by-Fax: Directory pages (poll fax): QLD: 1902 935 277

State Emergency Service (SES) flood and storm assistance

Telephone: 132 500 (flood and storm emergency assistance)

Visit the State Emergency Service web site at www.ses.qld.gov.au

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