

If isolation is likely

If your property is likely to be isolated by floodwater, evacuating well before access is cut is your safest option. During floods, isolated properties can lose power, water, phone lines, sewerage services and become a refuge for spiders, snakes and other animals.





If evacuation is not possible, stock at least seven days supply of non-perishable foods, medications, drinking water and feed for your animals and pets. Some properties may be isolated for longer periods and therefore require additional supplies.

Talk with your local council who can provide you with information on floods specific to your property and plan now so that you can act early when flooding occurs.

During a flood

A Flood Warning is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology when flooding is about to happen and may be updated during floods. A Flood Warning provides a predicted flood level on a river gauge and a time at which the river will reach that level.

During a flood, there are some simple things you can do to help protect your family and property:

-  Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater
-  Keep listening to your local radio station for further information, updates and advice
-  Keep in contact with your neighbours
-  Be prepared to evacuate if advised

How you may be advised of an evacuation






If you need to prepare for evacuation or evacuate your property, the NSW SES and other emergency services personnel may door knock to advise properties of what to do and where to go.

There may be other ways that you will be notified of the need to evacuate such as an Emergency Alert to mobile and land line phones as well as through media, social media or the NSW SES website www.ses.nsw.gov.au





When preparing to evacuate

The NSW SES evacuates people whose lives are at risk from floods. It is important to follow all advice given to you by emergency services personnel.

Being prepared now will allow you to respond quickly when you need to evacuate:

-  Locate important papers, valuables and mementos and put them in your emergency kit
-  Turn off the electricity and gas at the mains before you leave and turn off and secure any gas bottles
-  Stack possessions, records, stock or equipment on benches and tables, placing electrical items on top
-  Secure objects that are likely to float and cause damage
-  Relocate waste containers, chemicals and poisons well above floor level

When you evacuate

-  Stay with friends or relatives away from the flood risk area
-  Take your emergency kit with you
-  Take your pets with you
-  Act early before roads to high ground are closed

Welfare services may establish evacuation centres in your area where help may be available including:

- Temporary accommodation
- Financial help
- Personal support
- Refreshments and meals
- Clothing and personal needs
- Help in contacting family and friends

Assistance for animals

NSW Trade and Investment coordinate animal welfare and relief services for livestock, wildlife and companion animals.

This may include assistance from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for animal care services and emergency fodder supply and distribution in areas affected by a flood emergency. www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

After a flood

Do not return to a flood affected area until emergency services advise that it safe to do so. These areas can be dangerous for the health and safety of you and your family. Ensure you follow safety advice when cleaning up after floods, including discarding all food that has come into contact with floodwater and cleaning and sanitising your belongings.

Update your Home Emergency Plan with what you have learnt from the previous flood event.

If you have been affected by floods and need assistance, contact the State Disaster Recovery Centre on 1800 018 444.



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FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOOD,
STORM AND TSUNAMI CALL

132 500

In life-threatening emergencies call 000 (triple zero)

For more information call the NSW SES
on **1800 201 000**
or visit:
www.floodsafe.com.au



Goodooga Community FloodSafe



Cover photographs: Top: Road to Lightning Ridge; Bottom: Goodooga SES sandbagging the water treatment plant



Are you at risk from floods?

Goodooga has a long history of flooding.

Major flooding in the district has occurred in 1956, 1974, 1983, 1992 and more recently in 2011 and 2012.

The main impact of flooding is property isolation and the dividing of the main township from Goodooga Reserve. Resupply and transport within Goodooga and the surrounding areas is severely affected.

Goodooga is prone to long term (4 to 6 weeks) isolation especially if access to Lightning Ridge, the major resupply point, is closed at the One Mile and Four Mile Causeways and further along at the Weetalibah Crossing. This not only isolates Goodooga but affects twenty six rural properties in the area.

In the town itself, only the western streets and the local health service are prone to inundation at 4.1 metres.

The Goodooga Reserve has been evacuated several times. Residents of reserve are advised to leave during major flooding, especially when predictions are expected to exceed 3.4 metres.

Deciding to remain at home when it is surrounded by floodwater can be dangerous. Flooding may last for a long period of time. Your home may become a refuge for vermin, snakes and spiders.

Floodwater may contain sewage, dead animals and pesticides and can contaminate drinking water.

The formation of the Goodooga NSW SES Unit has strengthened the resilience of the community, providing the skills and resources to respond to future flood events with the support of the NSW SES Far West Region Headquarters.



How the NSW SES can help you

The NSW SES is responsible for the emergency management of floods in NSW. This includes planning for floods and educating people about how to protect themselves and their property.

During floods the NSW SES will provide flood information and safety advice and can arrange for the delivery of essential supplies to communities isolated by floodwater. Where possible, the NSW SES will conduct evacuations and undertake flood rescues.

What happens in Goodooga floods?

- 4.29 Largest flood on record - January 2011.
- 4.28 The construction of a temporary levee may be required to minimise floodwater from entering the grounds of the local health service and along the western streets of the Goodooga community.
- 4.20 Major flood level.
- 3.70 Water over the one and four mile causeways, Goodooga to Lightning Ridge Road is closed, isolating Goodooga from Lightning Ridge, its major resupply route. Resupply operations from Lightning Ridge are coordinated by the NSW SES Far West Region. The community can be isolated for up to 6 weeks.
- 3.60 Water over the Goodooga to Brenda Road 7km west of Goodooga
- 3.40 Moderate flood level. Water over the Goodooga Reserve Road may isolate Goodooga Village for 4 to 6 weeks. 8 properties and 20 to 30 residents may be affected. Road closure signs are installed. Power to the Goodooga Reserve may be turned off and the sewerage system is monitored.
- 3.30 The majority of roads in the Goodooga area will close at this height. (Hebel Road to the North, Goodooga to Brewarrina River Road, Goodooga to Leander Road). A number of other roads will close in multiple locations. This may isolate up to 25 rural properties relying on Goodooga for resupply, mail and schooling of children.
- 3.00 Evacuation trigger height for Goodooga Reserve if flood levels are predicted to reach or exceed moderate flooding (3.4 metres).
- 2.70 Minor flood level

Key heights in metres at the Goodooga (Bokhara) Gauge



8 TIPS

YOU CAN DO NOW TO PREPARE FOR FLOODS

1 KNOW YOUR RISK



2 KNOW WHERE TO GO



3 KNOW WHO TO CALL



4 KNOW YOUR PLAN



5 GET YOUR KIT TOGETHER



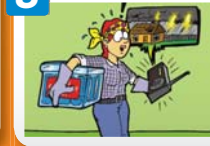
6 PREPARE NOW TO ACT EARLY



7 CHECK YOUR INSURANCE



8 LISTEN TO LOCAL RADIO



For more information visit www.floodsafe.com.au

How you may be advised of floods

Flood information including flood forecasts, road closures and advice on evacuations and property protection will be broadcast over local radio stations:

ABC	FM 99.3 and 100.9
2WEB	AM 585
2CUZ	FM 97.7

Bureau of Meteorology weather forecasts and flood predictions including river height information are available at www.bom.gov.au Far West NSW SES Region will distribute information through the Goodooga Community Working Party.

When Flooding is likely

A Flood Watch is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology when flooding is likely. Be prepared to act should flooding occur.

Residents:

- ✓ Listen to your local radio station for information, updates and advice
- ✓ Locate and check your emergency kit and follow your emergency plan
- ✓ Check on your neighbours and make sure they are aware of possible flooding
- ✓ Remember pets and move animals to high ground, including animals you own and keep on a different property

Business Owners and Managers:

- ✓ Follow your Business FloodSafe Plan, developed by working through the online Business FloodSafe Toolkit www.floodsafe.com.au
- ✓ Check neighbouring businesses are aware of possible flooding
- ✓ Where possible, back up records and store off-site
- ✓ Make preparations to raise or relocate stock, records and equipment
- ✓ Check the evacuation routes for your business and make sure your employees know when they are likely to close. This will ensure they can leave safely before roads close

Rural Property Owners:

- ✓ Relocate livestock and farm equipment, including pumps, to high ground
- ✓ Check sheds and outbuildings. Equipment, feed and chemicals should be raised or moved to high ground