

## 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 is expected to reach that level.

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

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

## After a flood

Do not return to a flood affected area until emergency services advise it is safe to do so. These areas can be dangerous for the health and safety of you and your family.

Follow safety advice when cleaning up after floods. Discard all food items that have come into contact with floodwater. Clean, sanitise and properly dry belongings.

Update your Home Emergency Plan or Business FloodSafe Plan with what you have learnt from the flood.

A local recovery centre, staffed by representatives from a range of agencies and services, may be established after a flood. This centre may be able to provide financial, insurance, housing, counselling and welfare assistance and advice.

## How NSW SES can help

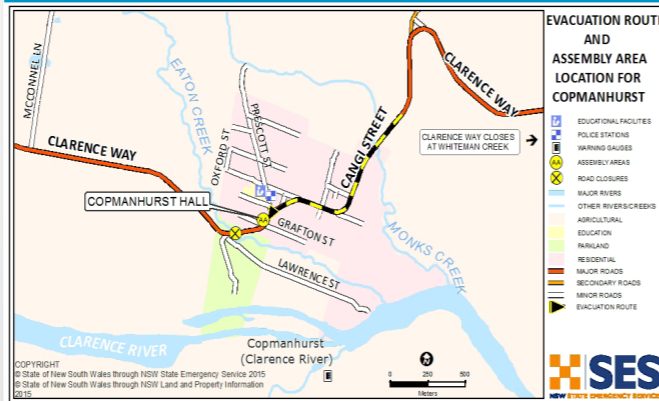
NSW SES is responsible for the emergency management of floods in NSW. This includes planning for floods and engaging with communities to prepare themselves and their property.

During floods, NSW SES will provide flood information and safety advice and may arrange for the delivery of essential supplies to communities isolated by floodwater. NSW SES also warns communities of the need to evacuate and provides emergency help where required.

## Your Assembly Area

If evacuation is necessary, act early and make your way to the Assembly Area. Once you have registered with staff, you can stay with friends or family, or accommodation may be arranged for you.

### Copmanhurst Community Hall (Assembly Area)



## If evacuation is necessary

NSW SES evacuates people whose lives are at risk from floods. It is important to follow all advice given to you by emergency services. Being prepared now will allow you to respond quickly.

### How you may be advised of an evacuation:

Evacuation Warnings and Evacuation Orders are issued to residents and businesses that are likely to become inundated if floodwater reaches levels predicted by the Bureau of Meteorology. You may receive these warnings via the media, door knocking and/or telephone.

### Preparing to evacuate:

- Locate important papers, valuables and mementos and put them in your emergency kit
- Turn off the electricity and gas at the mains 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:

- Register at the Assembly Area then stay with friends or relatives
- Take your emergency kit with you
- Take your pets with you
- Act early before roads and evacuation routes close

## Local FloodSafe contacts

### Emergency phone numbers

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| NSW SES                      | 132 500           |
| Life-threatening emergencies | 000 (triple zero) |

### Phone numbers

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| NSW SES Information Line                   | 1800 201 000 |
| Police Assistance Line                     | 131 444      |
| Roads and Maritime Services (Live Traffic) | 132 701      |
| Clarence Valley Council                    | 02 6643 0200 |
| Disaster Welfare Assistance Line           | 1800 018 444 |
| Department of Primary Industries           | 1800 814 647 |
| Essential Energy                           | 132 391      |
| Telstra                                    | 132 203      |
| Local Land Services                        | 1300 795 299 |

### Local broadcast radio stations

|                   |          |         |
|-------------------|----------|---------|
| ABC North Coast   | 94.5 FM  | 738 AM  |
| 2GF Grafton       | 103.9 FM | 1206 AM |
| Clarence Coast FM | 104.7 FM |         |
| TLC               | 100.3 FM |         |

### Websites

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| NSW SES                    | <a href="http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au">www.ses.nsw.gov.au</a>           |
| Bureau of Meteorology      | <a href="http://www.bom.gov.au">www.bom.gov.au</a>                   |
| Clarence Valley Council    | <a href="http://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au">www.clarence.nsw.gov.au</a> |
| Major roads - Live Traffic | <a href="http://www.livetraffic.com">www.livetraffic.com</a>         |
| Local Roads                | <a href="http://www.myroadinfo.com.au">www.myroadinfo.com.au</a>     |

### Facebook pages

NSW SES and NSW SES Clarence Nambucca Region

### Free smartphone apps

NSW SES apps are available at your app store. Search for FloodSafe and StormSafe



FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOOD,  
STORM AND TSUNAMI CALL

**132 500**

In life-threatening emergencies call 000 (triple zero)

For more information visit: [www.floodsafe.com.au](http://www.floodsafe.com.au)



Community Floodsafe



## Copmanhurst and Junction Hill





## Are you at risk from floods?

The Clarence River is the largest coastal river in New South Wales in terms of both catchment area and discharge. It has a long history of regular flooding.

In January 2013 the Clarence Valley experienced extensive flooding. This was a flood of record at numerous locations. Significant flooding has also occurred around Copmanhurst and Junction Hill in 1890, 1950, 1954, 1963, 1967, 1976, 2001, 2009 and more recently in 2011.

The village of Copmanhurst marks the upper limit of tidal influence and of extensive floodplain development. Below the village, the valley gradually broadens into a wide, swampy plain. Many impacts in and around Copmanhurst are due to local flooding of inflowing streams and backup flooding rather than directly from the Clarence River.

Villages and rural properties near Baryulgil, Malabugilmah, Fine Flower, Coaldale, Eatonsville, Gordonbrook, Koolkhan, Moleville Creek, Upper Copmanhurst and Copmanhurst are prone to isolation, usually early in a flood on the Clarence River. In a major flood some properties may experience over-floor level flooding and some residents may need to evacuate.

The rugged country in the western part of the Clarence Valley contains several camping areas in which people can be stranded during floods for several days.

During times of flood the local road network may experience disruption and access routes may be closed. These closures may include the Pacific Highway, Gwydir Highway, Orara Way, Summerland Way and other local roads. Access between Grafton and Copmanhurst will close at varying heights and locations during a flood.



## How you may be advised of floods

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

Bureau of Meteorology weather forecasts and flood predictions including river height information are available at [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

Emergency services personnel may door knock your area or you may receive a voice or text message to your phones.

## What happens in Copmanhurst and Junction Hill floods?

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 22.76 | <b>Highest flood on record</b> - 29 January 2013.  |
| 22.68 | 11 March 1890: Peak height.  |
| 20.60 | 12 February 1976: Peak height.   |
| 20.55 | 10 March 2001: Peak height.  |
| 20.40 | 12 January 2011: Peak height.  |
| 20.00 | Copmanhurst properties may begin to experience floor-level flooding.   |
| 18.00 | <b>Major Flood Level</b> indicating extensive flooding and/or isolation of properties.   |
| 15.10 | Clarence Way may close at Double Swamp, north of Junction Hill. The villages of Copmanhurst and Coaldale may become isolated.  |
| 14.40 | Clarence Way may close at Chaselings Gully, east of Copmanhurst Village affecting local traffic.   |
| 13.30 | Clarence Way may close due to floodwater backing up Eaton Creek at Eaton Bridge, on the western edge of Copmanhurst Village preventing access between Grafton and Upper Copmanhurst and Fine Flower. |
| 8.00  | <b>Moderate Flood Level</b> causes flooding of low-lying areas and main roads and may require the evacuation of some areas.<br>Clarence Way may close at Whitemans Creek Causeway.                   |
| 6.00  | Rogan Bridge may close, other routes may still be available.   |
| 5.00  | <b>Minor Flood Level</b> causes inconvenience, closes minor roads and low-level bridges  |
| 2.90  | Jackadgery-Lilydale Road may close, other routes may still be available.   |

*Key heights in metres at the Copmanhurst Gauge.*

Copmanhurst Gauge is not used for flood predictions by the Bureau of Meteorology, but is manually read by NSW SES when conditions allow.



## 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](http://www.floodsafe.com.au)

## If isolation is likely

If your property is likely to be isolated by floodwater, evacuating well before access roads are closed is your safest option. Deciding to remain at home when it is surrounded by floodwater can be dangerous.

During floods, isolated properties can lose access to emergency and medical assistance, lose power, water, phone lines and sewerage services as well as become a refuge for spiders, snakes and other animals.

If evacuation is not possible, keep a stock of at least seven days' supply of non-perishable foods, medications, drinking water, fuel 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 before flooding occurs.

## When flooding is likely

A Flood Watch is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology for possible flooding. A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is likely.

### RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES:

- Listen to your local radio station for information, updates and advice
- Locate and check your emergency kit and follow your Home Emergency Plan or Business FloodSafe Plan
- Check on your neighbours and make sure they are aware of possible flooding
- Prepare to move pets, including agisted animals to high ground
- Make preparations to raise or relocate possessions, stores, records, furniture and equipment
- Plan to leave well before evacuation routes may become closed

### RURAL PROPERTY OWNERS:

- Relocate livestock and farm equipment, including pumps, to high ground
- Check sheds and outbuildings. Raise equipment, feed and chemicals above predicted flood levels or to higher ground