



Natasha Griggs

Administrator of Christmas Island
Administrator of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands



Community Bulletin

Cyclone Season - Cocos (Keeling) Islands

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In the Indian Ocean Territories we are all familiar with the cyclone season; that being November to April. As we all know cyclones are unpredictable and infrequent but it is still essential to be prepared. This is also the wettest time of year which in itself can bring its own issues.

As we move into the season I thought it very important to remind everyone of the significance of preparation. The island emergency management committees have discussed pre-season preparations and relevant stakeholders have supplied reports on what they are doing to prepare for the season.

For the community it is also important to prepare for yourself and your neighbours. Clean up your properties and if any alerts come out secure all buildings and put away outside items.

Sometimes we also receive heavy rains which can lead to challenges through localised flash flooding and slippery roads. Storm surge may also be a problem in the islands. Response agencies are well versed in Emergency Management procedures for providing support during these events so please note all broadcasted advice and listen to the on-ground responders during an event. They are there to support us all and to try to keep us safe. We also have our warning lights located as follows;

- West Island Public Shelter
- Home Island Public Shelter
- Airport runway adjacent to the Bureau of Meteorology Building

If the lights are activated please follow the instructions which will be widely advertised at the time. If you are in trouble at any time and need emergency assistance, call the authorities. Police are always on call 24/7 on 000, 9162 6600 or VHF Channel 20.

I would like to finish by saying stay safe this season and look after yourself, your neighbours and your community.


Natasha Griggs

Administrator - Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

PO Box 868, Christmas Island INDIAN OCEAN 6798
Telephone: +61 8 9164 7960 • Facsimile: +61 8 9164 7961
www.infrastructure.gov.au