

5. Emergency procedures

5.1 Threat identification

The following are identified as threats:

- Extreme weather event;
- Cyclone;
- Tidal (storm) surge;
- Flood;
- Fire (marina or ship underway); and
- Oil pollution.

5.1.1 Extreme weather event

Extreme weather event can produce destructive winds, heavy rainfall causing flooding and damaging storm surges that can cause inundation of low lying areas and higher tidal water levels than predicted.

For Southport Pilotage this includes, but not limited to, severe thunderstorms, river flooding, east coast lows the effects of a cyclone offshore or other natural weather hazards. These can occur at any time but occur more frequently between October and May each year.

5.1.2 Cyclone warnings

MSQ operate under the Australian Warning Systems levels.



Yellow Advice – Masters and Owners are to Prepare Now for potential destructive winds, swell, rain or riverine flooding forecast within 24- 48 hours.

Orange - Watch and Act, Destructive Winds, Swell, Rain or Riverine Flooding Forecast Within 12-24 Hours

Leave/Evacuate Now – If your extreme weather event plans require you to relocate within the local area or depart for sea.

Red – Emergency Warning - Destructive Winds, Swell or Riverine Flooding Forecast Within 6 Hours

Leave/Evacuate Immediately – If your extreme weather event plans require you to relocate within the local area or depart for sea and it is safe to do so.

Seek/take shelter now – If unable to depart for sea. If it is no longer safe to leave your vessel let someone know where you are.

In all cases Monitor Conditions as they are changing – Regularly checking the Bureau of Meteorology, SEQWater, Local Government websites as well as maintaining a listening watch on VHF channel 16/73 where appropriate.

Do not enter flood waters – This includes by vessel such as passive craft, tender or small craft.

5.1.3 Severe thunderstorms

The most severe storms in the Gold Coast area occur between the months of September and March. Severe storms are localised events, usually affecting smaller areas than tropical cyclones and floods. When such storms hit the Gold Coast region, they are usually accompanied by strong to gale force winds with heavy rain and sometimes hail.

Flash flooding sometimes results from these storms and debris is often washed downstream of the coast's river systems.

Severe thunderstorm advice are issued by the weather bureau and can be received on marine radio, commercial radio and television.

5.1.4 Tidal (storm) surge

Potentially the most destructive phenomenon associated with cyclones that make landfall is the storm surge. Storm surge is a raised dome of water about 60 to 80 kilometres across and typically about two to five metres higher than the normal tide level.

The worst possible scenario arises when a severe cyclone crosses a coastline with a gently sloping seabed at or close to a high tide. Wave action on top of the storm tide can raise the water level even further producing a battering effect on vulnerable structures.

5.1.5 Flood

In addition to storm surge events the Gold Coast is prone to severe weather associated with summer storms or east coast low pressure systems. These systems have the potential to cause flash-flooding that would affect low lying areas causing river systems to rise above normal levels with rapid flowing water.

Flood advices are issued for local river systems by the weather bureau and can be received on marine radio, commercial radio and television or by conducting a search on the bureau's website.

5.1.6 Fire

Vessel fires can occur either at sea or whilst the vessel is moored at a marina. The Gold Coast has witnessed several vessel fires at marinas over the past ten years, with each incident causing severe damage to multiple vessels.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) are the combatant agency and incident coordinator for marina fires and vessel fires alongside.

In the first instance, when witness to a marine related fire, contact the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service by phoning Australia's emergency number — 000. Also contact the office of the Gold Coast Water Police on +61 7 5509 5700 or 000.

If using a marine radio to contact fire authorities, call the Gold Coast Seaway Tower or Water Police on VHF channels 16 or 73.

5.1.7 Oil pollution

The [*Transport Operations \(Marine Pollution\) Act 1995*](#) is designed to protect Queensland's marine and coastal environment by minimising deliberate and negligent discharges of ship-sourced pollution. Discharges of oil, noxious liquid substances, packaged harmful

substances, sewage and garbage (MARPOL annexes I, II, III, IV and V) from ships are prohibited in Queensland coastal waters and pilotage areas.

Maritime Safety Queensland has the authority to detain any vessel suspected of causing marine pollution and to intervene where there is imminent danger to the coastline.

5.1.7.1 Reporting

Section 67 of the [Transport Operations \(Marine Pollution\) Act 1995](#) requires the master of a ship to report a discharge, or probable discharge, without delay.

All pollution incidents occurring in the Southport pilotage area or waters immediately adjacent are to be reported to the Brisbane VTS of Maritime Safety Queensland by phone on +61 7 3623 3900.

Vessels without telephone communications can contact the Brisbane VTS on VHF channels 16.

The following details should be provided in a report of marine pollution:

- date/time of incident
- location (latitude, longitude and/or physical site)
- report source and contact number
- nature, extent and estimated quantity of spill
- type of oil or description
- spill source and point of discharge from source
- identity and position of nearby ships or name of alleged polluter
- nature and extent of spill and movement and speed of spill
- local weather, tide and sea conditions
- whether a sample of the substance spilled has been collected
- any additional information that relates to the spill.

The discharge of pollutants into Queensland waters is an offence — whether your boat is large or small, it is an offence to deliberately discharge oil or chemicals into Queensland's coastal waters. Under the [Transport Operations \(Marine Pollution\) Act 1995](#) severe penalties apply.

5.2 Marine incidents

Under the [Transport Operations \(Marine Safety\) Act 1994](#) a marine incident is classified as an event causing or involving:

- the loss of a person from a ship
- the death of, or grievous bodily harm to, a person caused by a ship's operations
- the loss or presumed loss or abandonment of a ship
- a collision with a ship
- the stranding of a ship
- material damage to a ship
- material damage caused by a ship's operations

- danger to a person caused by a ship's operations
- danger of serious damage to a ship
- danger of serious damage to a structure caused by a ship's operations.

5.2.1 Marine incident reporting

A marine incident must be reported to a shipping inspector within 48 hours of the incident unless there is a reasonable excuse. Shipping inspectors include marine officers (located at Maritime Safety Queensland marine operations bases), officers of Queensland Water Police and Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol. If you are unable to access one of these offices, contact a shipping inspector by phone, they will advise you what to do next.

The report must be made on the approved [Form 3071 - Marine Incident Report](#) for all Queensland Registered vessels. For all domestic commercial vessels and foreign trading vessels, the form [Incident alert \(form 18\)](#) and [Incident report \(form 19\)](#), available at AMSA website must be used.

Form 3071 is also available from Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centres, Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices, Queensland Boating and Fisheries patrol and Water Police offices.

5.3 Emergency contact list

Agency or service	Location	Contact number — business hours	Contact number — after hours or emergency
Gold Coast Water Police	Main Beach	+61 7 5509 5700	000
Police		000	000
Queensland Fire and Rescue	Southport	000	000
Queensland Ambulance Service	Southport	000	000
Maritime Safety Queensland	Main Beach	+61 7 5585 1810	+61 7 3305 1700
Gold Coast Seaway Tower	The Spit	+61 7 5591 2948	
Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	Brisbane and Gold Coast	+61 7 3835 3412	+61 7 3835 3135
Bio Security	Brisbane	1800 803 006	
Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AusSAR)	Canberra	1800 641 792	
City of Gold Coast	Bundall	+61 7 5581 6000	
Volunteer Marine Rescue	The Spit	+61 7 5532 3417	+61 7 5591 1300
Australian Volunteer Coast Guard	Southport	+61 7 5531 1421	
Gold Coast Waterways Authority	Main Beach	+617 5539 7350	+61 4 0775 2884
MSQ Gold Coast After Hours	Pinkenba	+61 7 3623 3900	+61 7 3623 3900
Regional Harbour Master	Pinkenba	+61 7 3632 7500	+61 7 3632 7500
Poseidon Sea Pilots	Brisbane	+61 7 3633 4197	+61 7 3633 4197

Table 3 – Emergency contact list