

Appendix 21 – Brisbane

Extreme Weather Event Contingency Plan 2023 - 2024

Department of Transport and Main Roads Maritime Safety Queensland September 2023

Brisbane

This port-specific plan must be read in conjunction with the full Extreme Weather Event Contingency Plan document, available on the MSQ webpage <https://www.msq.qld.gov.au/safety/preparing-for-severe-weather>.

Extreme Weather Event

The hazards covered under this plan include FLOOD, STORM and CYCLONE. One or more hazards may occur simultaneously.

Yellow – Advice

Destructive Winds, Swell, Rain or Riverine Flooding Forecast Within 24-48 Hours

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

Masters and Owners should **Monitor Conditions** and **Stay Informed**, monitoring the Bureau of Meteorology, SEQWater, Local Government and VHF channel 12 where possible.

General Information

An extreme weather event **advice** warning will be issued when an extreme weather event or developing event is likely to affect the area within 48 hours, but not expected to impact the area within 24 hours. This phase is a critical time for masters and owners to plan and prepare for the impact of the event.

The extreme weather event advice will be communicated through an appropriate combination of VHF radio warning messages (ch12, 16), notices to mariners, email and media releases. Stay informed by monitoring weather updates from BoM and monitor conditions.

During this period, masters and owners (or their representatives) should review their safety plans and address any matters outstanding (for example fuel, food, water and contact details).

Certain high risk commercial vessels and facilities may receive specific advice and instructions through direct messaging from the Regional Harbour Master.

BE AWARE of flood waters. River conditions can change rapidly and with little notification.

Vessels To Remain In Situ

Commence securing your vessel for the forecasted weather event including reducing wind loadings, securing your tender, double-up mooring lines and ensure vessels are secured to buoy moorings.

Vessels To Relocate In The Local Area

Reduce wind loadings and anchor or moor in protected and sheltered location, clear of other vessels and infrastructure.

Vessels Proceeding To Sea

VTS will inform large ships' masters and agents of situation and potential reduction of notice to sail.

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 requires you to relocate within the local area or depart for sea.

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 12/16 where appropriate.

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

General Information

An extreme weather event **watch and act** warning will be issued when an extreme weather event or developing event is likely to affect the area within 12-24 hours. This phase is critical for masters and owners to complete all preparations in an orderly manner prior to the event occurring.

The extreme weather event watch & act will be communicated through an appropriate combination of VHF radio warning messages, notices to mariners, email and media releases.

Masters, owners and marine facility operators are expected to implement their safety plans in a timely and orderly manner.

Certain high risk commercial vessels and facilities will receive specific advice and instructions through direct messaging from the Regional Harbour Master. Some activities will be suspended and restrictions may be placed on the movements of other vessels. This may include directed evacuations, instructions to remain and shelter in place or instructions not to enter flood waters.

Vessels To Remain In Situ

Continue to conduct your own extreme weather event plan, securing your vessel where it is safe to access.

Vessels To Relocate In The Local Area

If safe to access, relocate your vessel now to a more suitable location in the local area.

Vessels Proceeding To Sea

Coordinate with Brisbane VTS. Note departure sequence, if required, will occur in accordance with the established evacuation plan issued for the event by the Regional Harbour Master.

The evacuation plan will be developed based on vessel type, characteristics and terminal.

Red - Emergency Warning

Destructive Winds, Swell or Riverine Flooding Forecast Within 6 Hours

Leave/Evacuate Immediately – If your extreme weather event plans requires 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.

General Information

The extreme weather event **emergency** warning will be communicated through an appropriate combination of VHF radio warning messages, Notices to Mariners, email, SMS alert and media releases. Stay informed by monitoring weather updates from BoM and local government authority.

By this phase, all vessels are expected to have enacted their vessel safety plans noting that the port may be closed and/or vessel movements restricted depending on the threat to safety of vessel movements or the environment. Mariners should note that it is likely to be too late to consider the safety of your vessel and that extreme weather conditions may limit the ability of emergency services to assist you should you run into difficulties. Your vessel should be secured in place. Your actions should be directed towards your own personal safety

Vessels To Remain In Situ

Access to vessels at anchor, secured to buoy mooring or in a marina may not be safe. Only continue to secure if safe to do so.

It may now be too late to consider the safety of your vessel and weather conditions may limit the ability of emergency services to assist you should you run into difficulties.

Vessels To Relocate In The Local Area

If safe to access, relocate your vessel now to a more suitable location in the local area. If NOT safe to access, leave your vessel in situ.

It may now be too late to consider the safety of your vessel and weather conditions may limit the ability of emergency services to assist you should you run into difficulties.

Vessels proceeding to sea

Coordinate with Brisbane VTS. Note departure sequence, if required, will occur in accordance with the established evacuation plan issued for the event by the Regional Harbour Master.

The evacuation plan will be developed based on vessel type, characteristics and terminal.

Port Closure

The Regional Harbour Master may effectively close the port, wholly or in part, by giving general or particular direction to restrict the following:

- entering or leaving of vessels in or out of a pilotage area: and/or
- movement of vessels within a pilotage area.

Such direction will be appropriate to the threat to the safety of shipping or the environment and may occur at any time prior to the event.

The closure of the port or restriction on vessel movements will, as far as practical, be implemented in consultation with key authorities and in a timely manner in order to minimise risks.

Yellow – Advice

After The Event Has Passed, Recovery Underway

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 12/16 where appropriate.

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

General Information

The Regional Harbour Master will assess residual risks and determine the actions needed to be addressed. Do not assume that as the extreme weather event has passed, it is now safe to move your vessel.

Vessels should stay in their place of shelter until they are advised that it is safe for vessel movements to resume. The lifting of restrictions and resumption of vessel movements will be communicated through an appropriate combination of VHF radio warning messages, notices to mariners, email and media releases. Stay informed by monitoring weather updates from BoM and monitor conditions.

Owners and masters of vessels should be aware that aids to navigation may be affected by the extreme weather event and that other dangers may be present in waterways. This may include additional messaging about unusual currents, floating debris, subsurface obstruction or unknown shoaling depths. Owners and masters should reference Notices to Mariners for the latest updates. Furthermore, maritime infrastructure will need to be inspected to ensure that facilities are operational and fit for purpose.

Mariners should maintain a listening watch on VHF frequencies 16 and 12 and follow advice/directions given by Brisbane VTS.

Movements will be at the RHM's discretion and can be in stages including limited Internal Port movements until the Channel or areas within the Port are deemed safe.

Mariners are to consult the latest Notices to Mariners for updated information on Port depths and conditions.

Port Opening

A pilotage area may be re-opened by the Regional Harbour Master following direction to allow the entering or leaving of ships in and out of a pilotage area, or movement of vessels within a pilotage area. Such direction will be provided:

- when satisfied that all danger has passed, and the pilotage area is safe for vessels to re-enter or leave; and
- following inspections and surveys to critical maritime infrastructure (for example navigational aids and wharves) as well as clearance of navigational hazards.

The Vessel Traffic Services centre will coordinate the safe movement of vessels following the opening of the pilotage area in accordance with normal practice. Berths will be re-opened and operations resumed when wind and sea conditions are within operational limits and facilities are operational and fit for purpose.

White – All clear

Port Open To All Traffic, Business As Usual

Owners and masters should inspect their vessel for any repairs or maintenance required and review their emergency preparedness plans.

Port operations to be conducted in accordance with the Brisbane Port Procedures and Information for Shipping Manual

Communication

The successful implementation of this plan relies on high quality communication of information and directions.

The MSQ Brisbane Region, Vessel Traffic Service, at the Regional Harbour Master Office, Pinkenba Marine Operations Base, will be the Maritime Control Centre.

The Vessel Traffic Services Centre will implement the extreme weather event contingency plan on behalf of the Regional Harbour Master by acting as the central communications point and will be designated as the Maritime Control Centre for the duration and aftermath of the extreme weather event.

VHF channels 12 and 16 will be continuously monitored before and during the extreme weather event unless the centre is evacuated.

Maritime Safety Queensland may contact stakeholders via SMS and/or email regarding information to potential extreme weather events or extreme weather events.

Updates on whether broadcasts and conditions in your local vicinity may be broadcast by the local coastguard or marine rescue stations, initiated on VHF channel 12.

Key Contacts

Name	Contact Number
Regional Harbour Master	07 3632 7500
Brisbane VTS	07 3623 3900,
Emergency Services	000

Key Websites

Name	URL
Detailed weather updates: BOM	www.bom.gov.au
MSQ Website	www.msq.qld.gov.au
MSQ Dashboard – detailed information on Port closures, Notice to Mariners, Tide Charts and more.	https://www.qldmaritime.msq.qld.gov.au
Notice to Mariners	https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/boating/notices/south-east-qld

District Disaster Management	https://www.police.qld.gov.au/qps-corporate-documents/disaster-management-plans
SEQWater	https://www.seqwater.com.au
TMR Social Media	https://www.facebook.com/TMRQld