



# Swimming Northern Territory

## Extreme Weather Policy

Version	Reviewed by	Board Approval Date	Next Review Date
2	SNT Board	23 May 2024	May 2026
1	SNT Board	25 May 2020	May 2022

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## 1. Introduction

The Top End of the Northern Territory is naturally prone to Tropical Cyclones and whole of the NT exposed to other Extreme Weather events. It is important for all clubs and their members to be aware of their local Policies and Procedures relating to any event which can be classified as extreme weather that is relevant to them.

## 2. Cyclones

The official cyclone season in the NT commences on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November each year and ceases on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. During this time Swimming Northern Territory (SNT) and its Affiliates should evaluate, plan and prepare their club facilities and grounds and take appropriate action to reduce the risk to person and property with respect to potential cyclones. All clubs are recommended to have an up-to-date Extreme Weather Policy that included what to do during a cyclone event.

Please review the following **Cyclone Procedures** and ensure that this is communicated to all staff and volunteers, and they are aware of their obligations. If you have any queries in relation to the items to be included in your cyclone plan, please use the references below or contact NT Emergency Services (General Enquiries in the Northern Region) on (08) 8922 3630 or SNT Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on 0419 114 981.

In addition, it is the Club Committee's responsibility to secure all loose items to safeguard both Club and Council property, and this should be attended to prior to the cyclone season commencing with ongoing consideration until the end of the season.

### 2.1 Cyclone Procedures

All Clubs that reside within the Northern Territory cyclone area should follow instruction from their Local Emergency Committee (LEC) in the event of a cyclone. However, please ensure that as a matter of course, the following procedures are enforced:

#### 2.1.1 Daily Procedures

- a) Ensure that all outdoor items are stored correctly and are secure.
- b) Turn off gas bottles after each use.
- c) Disconnect non-essential electrical items after each use.
- d) Ensure buildings and facilities are secure.
- e) Ensure that there is no buildup of flammable materials around the club house.

#### 2.1.2 Building Closure (By Council or Local Emergency Committee)

During the official cyclone season, the red 'Cyclone Information re: Building Closure Procedure sign MUST be displayed on your facility main entrance door for all property owned or managed. Copies of this sign can be obtained from the local Council. The sign states when the facility will be declared 'officially closed'. This is when all public buildings are declared closed by the Local Emergency Committee (LEC). This will normally occur during Cyclone Warning when a cyclone is expected to affect Darwin within 12 to 24 hours. This is also when Council will declare all of its public buildings closed, including aquatic facilities.



### 2.1.3 Post Cyclone

Council staff will inspect its facilities depending on the severity of the cyclone and the community need for facilities. Council will advise management when it is safe to re-enter the building as soon as practical after the cyclone. Staff must not re-enter the building until advised that Council has inspected the facility, and it has been declared safe to enter.

### 3. **Fire / Fire Danger Ratings**

In the unlikely event of fire at your facility or some other fire incident, clubs should work directly with the relevant facility manager to ensure the safety of everyone. If necessary, call 000 and follow the instructions of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES).

Clubs should ensure that all members are aware of any club policies relating to fire or extreme weather such as days of extreme or catastrophic fire danger ratings from the NTPFES and ensure that any appropriate Policies for their facility and club are instigated. Clubs should ensure to follow the daily procedures as mentioned in 2.1.1 above to help protect themselves from fire. In some instances, the weather may be considered too extreme, and the facility may close to the public due to the health risk to the public.

### 4. **Flood/Tsunami – Coastal Areas**

Occasionally earthquakes are reported in areas of the Timor Sea, north of Darwin such as Indonesia and surrounding islands. In the unlikely event of an incident causing flooding at your facility, clubs should work directly with the facility manager where their home pool resides to ensure the safety of everyone. If necessary, call 000 and follow the instructions of the NTPFES. In the instance of a Tsunami please follow the instructions of the Local Emergency Committee.

All Clubs should ensure to follow the daily procedures as mentioned in 2.1.1 above to help protect themselves and people from serious harm as a consequence of flooding.

### 5. **Lightning**

Please refer to the Swimming Northern Territory Lightning Policy.

### 6. **Other Important Information**

Some helpful information including websites and phone numbers:

- a) Tune In: ABC Darwin 105.7 FM (Official emergency broadcaster), or find your local ABC frequency <https://reception.abc.net.au>
- b) BOM Weather Service – 1300 659 210
- c) Australian Tsunami Threat Information – 1300 878 6264
- d) NTPFES Emergency help in fire, floods, storms and Cyclones – 132 500
- e) Power and Water Corporation emergencies/faults – 1800 245 090
- f) Weather and warnings – [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)
- g) Information on emergency situations in the NT [www.secure.nt.gov.au](http://www.secure.nt.gov.au)
- h) Northern Territory Emergency Services – [www.emergency.nt.gov.au](http://www.emergency.nt.gov.au)
- i) Power Water Corporation – [www.powerwater.com.au](http://www.powerwater.com.au) or [www.facebook.com/PowerWaterCorp](https://www.facebook.com/PowerWaterCorp)
- j) Receive free severe weather alerts from [www.tiofi.com.au/alerts](http://www.tiofi.com.au/alerts)



## 7. Policy Promotion

This policy will be made available to all members via the SNT website. This policy will be communicated to all staff members, board members, committee members and regional committees when necessary.

## 8. Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Swimming Northern Territory every 2 years from the date of approval by the SNT Board.

## 9. Additions Or Amendments

In addition to the scheduled review of this policy recommended changes to the policy may be submitted to the Board of Swimming Northern Territory for consideration, at any time. In the event that the changes are accepted, the policy will be updated, dated and circulated to all relevant stakeholders.

## 10. Related Links

[NT Work Safe](#)

[Secure NT](#)

[NT Emergency Service Territory Emergency Plan](#)

[NT Emergency Management Act 2013](#)

[Darwin Local Emergency Plan](#)

[Territory Emergency Plan](#)

[Territory Emergency Management Council Strategic Plan 2022-2023](#)

[SNT Lightning Policy](#)

[SunSmart and Heat Protection Policy](#)