

Students are fired up

With the storm and bushfire season approaching, Noosa's emergency services teams are joining Council in the annual Get Ready Schools program during term 4.

The Get Ready team is excited to present the disaster resilience program to local year 5 and year 7 students, complete with disaster response vehicles for the students to inspect.

"The program adds to the current curriculum to engage young people and educate them on the types of events we experience in Noosa," Disaster Resilience Officer Ian Williams said.

Students will participate in a collaborative presentation provided by Council and emergency services from police, fire and SES.

"The students learn much quicker when they hear from the agencies first-hand about what they're covering in class," Ian said.

"The aim of the program is to understand the risks and how to prepare and respond to these events when the time comes."

Students are encouraged to chat with their families about preparing their disaster management plans this summer.



Council and emergency services officers with students and teachers at the Get Ready presentation for Noosa District State High, Pomona campus.

Taking a personal approach to preparedness

Emergency planning means vulnerable residents and those with disabilities are better looked after in the face of disaster.

Utilising the new person-centred emergency preparedness (P-CEP) approach that puts people with disability and their support needs at the centre of emergency planning, Noosa Council is working to better prepare vulnerable residents.

Many workshops have been held and for more information, contact Council through Disaster

Recovery and Resilience Officer, Angela Romanowski to find out more.

"A P-CEP toolkit and workbook are used as conversation guides to tailor emergency preparedness plans to individual support needs. With some facilities all too familiar with the storm and bushfire threat, the P-CEP plans make perfect sense," Angela said.

Heather Anderson from Sunshine Butterflies says they are looking forward to the P-CEP and disaster resilience workshop scheduled on site with Council staff and SES in the coming weeks.

"Our 15-acre community facility was evacuated in the 2019 bushfires, so we know the importance of an emergency evacuation plan," she said.

"At Sunshine Butterflies we're dedicated to supporting people with disability by offering educational, recreational, and life skills programs. Being prepared for emergencies is a crucial skill, and the P-CEP toolkit will serve as an invaluable, personalised resource tailored to everyone's needs during an evacuation, potentially saving lives," Heather said.

Do you have a Get Ready plan?



LDMG members with Noosa's Emergency Action Guide and Get Ready emergency information kits.

Storms and bushfires are on Emergency Management Co-ordinator Peter Harkin's (pictured centre) radar as we head into summer, and so is tackling complacency.

"Noosa's population has changed significantly in recent years and new residents don't always realise some of the risks we face from disasters," Peter said.

Get Ready Week takes place from October 7-13 with activities extend right into December in Noosa. Getting ready for severe weather involves three easy but very important steps.

Know your risk, make a household evacuation plan, and pack an emergency kit for three to five days. Doing this is key to keeping your family safe as we

enter the summer months."

More information about severe weather can be found in the recently launched fourth edition of the Noosa Emergency Action Guide. It's available at many Council venues and from Council's customer service team at Tewantin or available digitally on Council's Disaster Dashboard. It's also part of the emergency kits currently being presented to local schools and aged care facilities.

With an increased chance of warmer-than-usual Spring temperatures and above average rainfall forecast for the coming months, Noosa's Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) is on severe weather watch.

"We're closely watching the forecasts ensuring systems are in place and we're working with our LDMG emergency service agencies to ensure we are ready – particularly across Noosa's 178 bushland reserves," Peter said.

This November marks the fifth anniversary of the Lake Cooroibah and Noosa North Shore bushfires.

To stay informed, go to Noosa Council's disaster dashboard at disaster.noosa.qld.gov.au

In Brief



Simulating fire behaviour

Council's Simtable uses 3D hazard mapping technology to educate residents and emergency services crews on how disasters like bushfire could impact them.

Situated within Council's Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) at Noosville depot, the Simtable allows residents to see how a bushfire might unfold.

To find out more email your interest to disaster@noosa.qld.gov.au.

Passion still driving Noosa SES units

Award-winning volunteers ready for storm season

The highly skilled men and women in orange are the epitome of community spirit.

In times of trouble, Noosa's 100 SES volunteers are ready to roll up their sleeves and help.

Our proud Noosa SES Local Controller, Warren Kuskopf leads a cracker of a unit.

"I'm proud to say we've got some very experienced members in the four groups at Tewantin, Boreen Point, Cooroy and Pomona with several recently being honoured at our annual SES Regional Awards," he said.

"Without these volunteers, we wouldn't have anyone to open the shed door, and our community would be left stranded," Warren added.

A task can be allocated at any time following valuable training, and volunteers are always needed.

"We're all trained in specific roles rather than needing to attain all accreditations. This allows new members the flexibility of being trained in an area that best suits their skills," he added.

It goes without saying that the storm season always has his members on edge.

"As a volunteer service we have our own unique challenges, but our crew is ready to give their time and energy to help our community," Warren said.



SES Area controller, Jason Pascoe with Warren.

Go to dashboard

During severe weather it's vital to keep up to date.

Noosa's Disaster Dashboard is the most accurate way to stay in touch before, during and after a disaster.

The dashboard includes the latest emergency news, road conditions and closures, power outages, emergency news and weather warnings. It also has a handy link to emergency services' social media feeds.

A digital version of the Noosa Emergency Action Guide and Noosa Alert to have notifications sent directly to you are also available.

Don't wait for a disaster, sign up today – disaster.noosa.qld.gov.au