

Fire recovery¹

Topic	Information
Securing your property	<p>Protect the site from further damage by weather, theft or vandalism</p> <p>Secure external openings and restrict unapproved access</p> <p>Use plywood sheeting, tarps and temporary fencing as needed</p> <p>Contact a general building contractor, fire damage restoration company or insurance company for help with site security if needed</p>
Fire safety	<p>Do not enter a fire-damaged building unless necessary and safe to do so</p> <p>Be aware that fires can restart from hidden, smouldering remains</p>
Utilities	<p>Water, electricity and gas supply may have been shut off or disconnected</p> <p>Consult a licensed tradesperson for advice if unsure on safety</p> <p>Wiring and appliances must be inspected by a licensed tradesperson before reconnecting utilities</p>
Building safety	<p>Buildings affected by fire can become unsafe</p> <p>Consult a building inspector to ensure structural safety before re-entering</p> <p>Be aware of hazardous waste such as asbestos and handle it appropriately. Visit asbestos.qld.gov.au for more information on handling and disposal</p>

If available, explore and utilise your Local Council's Disaster Dashboard as a starting point during emergencies, which offers comprehensive information, warnings, alerts and valuable resources.

Storm, cyclone and flood recovery

See the latest information from Workplace Health and Safety Queensland to keep everyone safe. The WorkSafe website covers key safety considerations, such as:

- Electrical safety during storms
- Steps for planning to do work safely
- Managing volunteers during flood clean up and recovery
 - Risk management
 - Inductions
 - Designating team leaders
 - Personal protective equipment
 - First aid
- Working at heights
- Demolition
- Asbestos – removal of, and work on asbestos containing material
- Chemical hazards
- Slips trips and falls
- Biological hazards
- Fatigue management
- Psychological stress
- Manual tasks
- Displaced fauna

Monitor your volunteer helpers. Keep in mind they may be dealing with effects of the disaster in their private and business lives as well.

Flooded fields may have been contaminated and will need testing.

Check utilities. Do you need structural advice before re-entering your clubhouse? Do you know what to do with water-logged plaster board walls? Is the access/approach safe?

Plan ahead. Check that appropriate first aid, clean drinking water and hand hygiene measures are available and there is access to medical treatment in the event of an injury occurring

- Quad bike use
- Animal carcass disposal
- Operating wheeled or tracked machinery in the wet
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Work health and safety laws during clean up

Employers and workers involved in the storm and flood recovery efforts must still remember their obligations under Queensland's health and safety laws.

¹ Queensland Government. (2022). "After a Fire." Accessed March 24, 2023. <https://www.qfes.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-06/AfterAFire.pdf>

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