The Pacific region is at risk of many types of hazards like:

**CYCLONES**
Cyclones refer to any low pressure area with a system of rotating clouds, winds and thunderstorms spiraling inwards. This is especially common in the Pacific because of our warm sea waters generating moist air that act as fuel to cyclones. Cyclones are naturally occurring and can cause widespread destruction. They vary in strength based on the size and severity and at times have the strength to completely destroy crops, buildings and generate large waves.

**Cyclone season:** Pay attention to weather forecasts during cyclone season as keeping informed will help protect your family and your business.

### CATEGORIES OF CYCLONES

1. **Gale winds of 63 - 125 km/h**
   - Damage to some crops and trees.

2. **Destructive winds of 125 - 164 km/h**
   - Damage to signs and trees. Heavy damage to crops.
   - Risk of power failure.

3. **Very destructive winds of 164 - 224 km/h**
   - Roof and structural damage. Power failure likely.

4. **Very destructive winds of 225 - 279 km/h.**
   - Significant roof and structural damage. Dangerous airborne debris. Widespread power failures.

5. **Extremely destructive winds of more than 280 km/h.**
   - Extremely dangerous with widespread destruction.

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**DO YOU KNOW...**

1 in 4 businesses do not survive after a large disaster strikes.¹

There is one way that will ensure you stay in business in the face of any disaster or adversity:

Create a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and put it into action.

If you do not have a BCP yet or not sure what it is, download our BCP template and create one yourself using our quick 12-step guide which you can complete in 12 minutes! Visit pipso.org.fj/stayopen

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**FOR MORE INFO**

BECOME A DISASTER-READY BUSINESS.

[PIPSO.ORG.FJ/STAYOPEN](PIPSO.ORG.FJ/STAYOPEN)
Tsunami are a series of enormous sea waves created by a sudden event like an earthquake, volcanic eruption, landslide or meteorite, that can cause extreme damage and loss of life. The warning you will get for a tsunami due to its speed is the shaking of the ground caused by the earthquake and if you are close to the shore you may see the water suck back away from the shore. If this occurs, go to higher ground immediately away from the sea and follow evacuation orders by local authorities.

Volcanic eruptions happen when pressure from gases within the molten rock below the earth’s surface becomes too great. Volcanic eruptions can be accompanied by other natural hazards such as earthquakes, flash floods, landslides, acid rain, fire, volcanic ash and even tsunami that can lead to loss of life, destroy properties, damage equipment, contaminate water systems, and disrupt air and land travel many miles away. Follow evacuation orders issued by authorities to avoid flying debris, hot gases, lateral blasts, mud flow and lava flow.

Droughts are periods of abnormally dry weather that persist long enough to cause water supply shortage, poor water quality, crop damage, increase risk of fires, reduce breeding stock and have negative long-term effects on agricultural and related industries. To minimise impacts of drought, use water wisely and follow water restrictions issued by authorities.

Endnotes: