



Cyclone Testing Station

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TC Debbie - Possible hidden damage within roof structure

The Cyclone Testing Station conducted damage surveys of houses and buildings immediately following TC Debbie. The investigation indicated that there are a number of houses and businesses that will require roof repairs. The CTS has a series of mini-videos for both homeowners and builders to provide some information on repairing damaged roofs from cyclones. These videos can be found at:

https://www.jcu.edu.au/cyclone-testing-station/videos-And-resources Or

https://www.youtube.com/user/cyclonesandbuildings

The CTS teams noted there was partial separation of roof members even though no major structural roof damage was initially obvious from the outside. After seeing similar damage, such as battens partially separated from rafters, in investigations following TC Larry (2006) and TC Yasi (2011), the Station recommended inspections of the inside of the roof structure, of typically older houses, be performed on buildings in areas where structural damage to other buildings had occurred. For TC Debbie, the CTS recommends roof structure inspections in the Bowen, Proserpine and Airlie Beach regions by qualified builders, building surveyors or structural engineers.

The Queensland Building and Construction Commission has important links on rebuilding after cyclones (such as the 'Repair Checklist' and 'Tie-down designs' PDFs): http://www.qbcc.qld.gov.au/home-maintenance/rebuilding-after-natural-disaster

