

Are you at risk?

Storms can happen anywhere, at any time of the year. It is important to prepare your family and property now and stay prepared all year round. Storms are the most costly natural disaster to affect Australia, causing an estimated average of \$284 million dollars annually (Source: Bureau of Transport Economics, 2008).

During storms, it is important to protect your family and property from the major impacts such as high winds, hail, and rising water levels (flash flooding).

- **Damaging winds** can bring down trees, branches, powerlines, remove roofs and blow around outdoor items
- **Hail** can injure people and damage property
- **Heavy rainfall** can cause water to:
 - » damage exposed homes and belongings
 - » rise rapidly, flooding homes, property and roads
 - » drain rapidly making floodwater, drains and other water courses a safety hazard
- **Damaging surf** can be unsafe and flood homes and properties in coastal areas

You may also be indirectly affected by storms; access roads may be blocked or you may have no power or telephone connection.



NEVER ENTER FLOODWATER



Never enter or travel through floodwater, including flash floodwater. This includes walking, driving, riding and playing. Entering floodwater is the leading cause of death during floods.

How the SES can help you

The State Emergency Service (SES) is responsible for responding to storms in ACT. This includes planning for storms and educating people about how to protect themselves and their property.

The SES can give safety advice, place tarpaulins on damaged roofs, remove fallen trees and branches from buildings, roads or property and rescue people trapped or injured by storm activity.

SES volunteers can clear access and carry out temporary repairs to damaged property; however, you will need to engage professional tradespeople to carry out permanent repairs.



ACT
Government



FOR HELP IN
FLOODS OR STORMS CALL

132 500

For more information visit:
www.esa.act.gov.au/actses



StormSafe



8 TIPS

YOU CAN DO NOW TO PREPARE FOR STORMS



There are a few simple things that you can do now to help reduce the potential damage caused by severe storms:

- 1 Maintain your yard and balcony by securing or putting away items that could blow around in strong winds
- 2 Clean your gutters, downpipes and drains regularly to prevent blockages
- 3 Trim trees and branches that could potentially fall on your home or property
- 4 Fix any damage to your roof including broken or missing tiles
- 5 Check your insurance policy is current and adequate
- 6 Make a plan for your family that outlines what you would do in an emergency
- 7 Put together an emergency kit
- 8 Listen to your local radio station and other media for weather warnings

When a STORM WARNING is broadcast

Severe Weather Warnings and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology to alert communities to the threat of severe weather.

When a warning is issued for your area (but before the storm arrives), there are a few things you can do to help protect your family and property:

- ✓ Move indoors, bringing children and pets with you
- ✓ Park your car under secure cover and away from trees, powerlines and drains

- ✓ Secure or put away any items from around the house, yard or balcony that could blow around in strong winds
- ✓ Check to see if your neighbours are aware of the warning
- ✓ When flash flooding is likely, leaving low-lying homes and businesses well before flash flooding begins (evacuation) is the best action to take, but only if it is safe to do so. If you are trapped by rising floodwater, seek refuge in the highest part of a sturdy building. Stay there and call '000' (triple zero) if you need rescue
- ✓ Listen to your local radio station and other media for information, updates and advice
- ✓ Unplug and avoid using electrical equipment connected to mains power, landline phones or modems
- ✓ Have your emergency kit handy in case you lose power or need to leave



YOUR EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST



Your emergency kit provides items you might need if you lose power or need to leave your home in a hurry. Your emergency kit contents:

- A portable radio with spare batteries
- A torch with spare batteries
- A first aid kit
- Candles and waterproof matches
- Important papers including emergency contact numbers
- Copies of any emergency plans
- A waterproof bag for valuables

When leaving or evacuating your property, place into your emergency kit:

- Medications
- Supplies for your baby
- Supplies for any other people in your care
- Appropriate clothing and footwear
- Food and drinking water

DURING a storm



During a storm, there are simple things you can do to help protect your family:

- ⚠ Never enter or travel through floodwater
- ✓ Stay indoors, clear of windows
- ⚠ Stay clear of creeks, drains, causeways, gutters, streams, fallen trees or powerlines and damaged buildings
- ✓ If driving, put your hazard lights on and pull over to the side of the road keeping clear of drains, causeways, streams, creeks, trees and powerlines
- ✓ If outdoors, seek secure cover away from drains, causeways, gutters, streams, creeks, trees and powerlines
- ✓ Listen to your local radio station and other media for information, updates and advice
- ✓ For emergency help in floods and storms, call the SES on 132 500

AFTER the storm

- ✓ Keep listening to your local radio station for information, updates and advice
- ✓ Check your house or property for damage
- ⚠ Stay clear of creeks, drains, causeways, gutters, streams, fallen trees or powerlines and any damaged buildings
- ✓ Check to see if your neighbours need help
- ⚠ Do not go sightseeing as this may hinder recovery efforts or put yourself and others at risk