

State Emergency Service **Media Release**



Friday, 15 December, 2017

High weekend temperatures prompts SES warning

Ahead of this weekend's forecast hot weather, the SA State Emergency Service (SES) has issued a warning for motorists and tourists in northern parts of the state where temperatures at some locations are expected to reach more than 45 degrees Celsius.

"Motorists, along with interstate and overseas visitors, travelling in these areas need to be aware of the conditions," according to SES Chief of Staff Trevor Arnold.

"They should ensure they are carrying plenty of food and drinking water and let family and friends know their travel plans so they can alert authorities if they suspect something has gone wrong. It's also important that motorists understand that they are travelling in a remote area and mobile phones may not work," Mr Arnold said.

Mr Arnold said the SES was also concerned that some parents were continuing to ignore warnings about leaving children in parked cars.

"Each week across Australia, paramedics, the SES and other first responders attend situations where children have been left in parked cars while their parents have gone shopping or visited a takeaway food outlet," Mr Arnold said.

Our concern, particularly this week, is that many children are now on school holidays," Mr Arnold said.

"Everyone is busy rushing around in the lead up to Christmas so there is a greater chance that parents get distracted and do the wrong thing," Mr Arnold said.

"Leaving children in a parked car, even on a relatively mild day with the windows open and the air conditioning on, should never be an option.

"Children have a much lower body mass than adults so their core body temperature rises much faster, placing them at greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other health risks when left in a parked car," Mr Arnold said.

Other precautions recommended by SES during periods of extreme heat include the following:

- make regular contact with elderly relatives, friends and neighbours, especially if they live alone, to ensure they are keeping cool and drinking plenty of fluids.
- keep homes cool by closing blinds and curtains during the day and making good use of fans or air conditioners (which are on the cool setting). Open up homes at night if it cools down
- make use of air conditioned public facilities such as shopping centres, cinemas and libraries
- consider the safety of your pets and animals. Wet them down and ensure they have adequate shade and water, and
- keep in mind that, as the temperature rises, large trees may drop their branches without warning.

For media enquires telephone the SES Media Line on (08) 8211 6176

For SES response in floods or storms telephone 132 500. If the matter is life threatening telephone 000
www.ses.sa.gov.au