

State Emergency Service

Media Release



Thursday, 17 August 2017

Quiet night for the SA State Emergency Service

SA State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers have had a relatively quiet night with only 12 requests for assistance since midnight.

SES State Duty Officer Ian Bonython said volunteers had responded to the first callout shortly after 5am this morning.

“Since then, our volunteers have responded to a number of fallen trees and minor flooding incidents, mainly in the Mount Lofty Ranges,” Mr Bonython said.

“Unfortunately, emergency services have also responded to a number of incidents in the last few days where motorists have been caught in floodwater.

“Only this morning, a motorist was swept downstream in the flooded Bremer River near Callington. Fortunately, he was able to get out of his car himself before we arrived but it could have ended in tragedy.

“These incidents highlight the dangers of driving through floodwater. It appears that people are continuing to ignore our warnings,” Mr Bonython said.

The SES responded to 31 callouts yesterday and 81 on Tuesday.

In preparation for the forecast weather, the SES activated its State Control Centre yesterday and emergency services across the state have been at a heightened level of preparedness.

“While it’s been a steady week, fortunately we have not seen the level of operational tempo that we had prepared for,” Mr Bonython said.

The SES distributed sandbags from three locations yesterday at Mount Barker, Strathalbyn and Bridgewater.

A Flood Advice Warning for the Upper Onkaparinga River, upstream of Verdun, remains in place.

During severe weather, the SES advises the following:

- Do not drive, ride or walk through floodwater.
- Be vigilant on the roads. There will still be a lot of water across roads and there may be trees that have fallen across major roads.
- If you have the opportunity, secure loose items such as outdoor furniture in your back garden.
- Do not park your car under trees.
- Stay away from fallen powerlines. Always assume fallen powerlines are live – they should be reported to SA Power Networks on 13 13 66, and
- Listen to local radio and monitor the Alert SA website for emergency warnings.

Residents needing assistance from the SES during storms and floods should call 132 500.

If the matter is life-threatening they should call 000 (Triple Zero).

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