

State Emergency Service

# Media Release



Government  
of South Australia



Friday, 19 May 2017

## SES urges South Australians to prepare for winter

With the start of winter less than two weeks away, the State Emergency Service (SES) is urging South Australians to prepare their home to withstand the impacts of severe storms and localised flooding.

Simple steps, such as ensuring gutters and downpipes are free of leaf litter and other rubbish, will help ensure the threats posed by wintery weather are minimised.

With relatively mild weather forecast for the upcoming weekend, SES State Duty Officer Dr Sara Pulford said there was no better time to spend a few hours outside in the garden preparing your home.

“Apart from checking that gutters and downpipes are not blocked, we also suggest homeowners and renters check the condition of the roof of their home to ensure it is good condition,” Dr Pulford said.

“Regularly trim back branches near your home and put away anything that might become airborne – things like trampolines, market umbrellas, outdoor furniture and garden tools,” she added.

Dr Pulford said it was also timely to ensure that your insurance cover was up to date.

“Check that you have adequate cover for your home and its contents as well as your motor vehicle,” Dr Pulford said.

South Australians are being advised to call 132 500 if they require assistance from the SES due to storm-related damage. If the matter is life threatening the best number to call is 000.

“Our volunteers are on standby to respond at any time of the day or night. However, we urge everyone to take some preparatory steps as we head into what is traditionally the busiest operational time of the year for the SES,” Dr Pulford said.

During severe weather, the SES advises the following precautions:

- ensure loose items such as outdoor furniture, garden tools and children’s play equipment (such as trampolines and cubby houses) are put away or secured
- park vehicles undercover and well away from trees
- stay indoors and away from windows and skylights when weather conditions are severe
- stay away from fallen powerlines. Always assume fallen powerlines are live – they should be reported to SA Power Networks on 13 13 66
- never walk, ride or drive through floodwaters
- shelter and secure pets and other animals, and
- check weather forecasts regularly and listen to local radio for updates.

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**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](http://www.ses.sa.gov.au)