

State Emergency Service

# Media Release



Government  
of South Australia



Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014

## Important to prepare now for wet weather

With significant rain predicted over the next few days, the State Emergency Service (SES) is reminding South Australians that it is important to maintain their properties in the lead up to winter.

SES State Duty Officer Sara Pulford said that many of the steps taken before summer to protect a property from a bushfire will also make a property StormSafe and FloodSafe over winter.

"Each winter our volunteers attend many incidents that could have been avoided if some simple maintenance had taken place," Dr Pulford said.

"A few checks and fixes before the winter weather strikes can save a property owner in repair costs and stress later on," she added.

The SES advises the following:

1. Keep gutters and drains clear of leaf litter and other material. Blocked gutters can cause rainwater to overflow and enter the roof cavity. Keeping drains clear helps surface water move away from your property, reducing the chances of water pooling and entering your home.
2. Check your roof. A roof in good condition is your best protection against wet, stormy weather. If you can it is worth getting into your roof space and check for any damage to the tiles or corrugated iron. Working on a roof can be dangerous so use a qualified tradesperson if you are in doubt.
3. Trim tree branches around your house. This will prevent them causing damage to your home's roof, car, carport, sheds or fencing should they fall during windy weather. You may need to get a qualified arborist to do this for you. You should also check with your local council to ensure there are no restrictions in place in respect to trimming tree branches.
4. Check that your insurance policy is current and adequate. It's worth reading the policy to check that you are covered for the types of weather events that could impact where you live.
5. Make a plan of what you and your family will do in an emergency. Consider where you will go and how you will keep in contact. Are there any special circumstances that need to be considered? What about the family pets? Is everyone in your family aware of what is in the plan?
6. Prepare an emergency kit. Think about what you would need if an emergency should occur and you need to leave your home in a hurry. Your kit should include such things as important legal documents, any required medications and prescriptions, food, water, a battery-powered radio (with spare batteries) as well as a mobile phone with a charger.
7. Listen to your local radio and other media for weather warnings. Your local radio station will broadcast information specific to your area including any flash flooding that may be occurring, road closures and power outages. The Bureau of Meteorology's (BoM) website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) is also a good source of information about the weather and any warnings.

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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)