Wednesday, 16 July 2014

BOM issues severe weather warning for damaging winds

The State Emergency Service (SES) advises that the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has issued a severe weather warning today for damaging winds.

The warning, issued at 12.35pm, advises that people living in the Adelaide Metropolitan, Mount Lofty Ranges, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Mid North, Murraylands, Upper South East and Lower South East may be affected.

A strong front over western Kangaroo Island is expected to move across the south of the state today, reaching the Adelaide area mid to late afternoon, bringing with it the risk of localised damaging winds. An unstable westerly airstream will follow, with a second front to move over southern districts on Thursday.

Showers and isolated thunderstorms currently affecting parts of southern Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island will extend across the warning area during this afternoon as the front moves east. Further squally showers with possible hail may follow during this evening and overnight. Damaging wind with gusts in excess of 90km/h are likely with showers and thunderstorms, mostly near and following the front. These winds may cause damage to property.

In addition, northwesterly winds may be locally gale force with gusts of 90-100km/h about southern coasts and the Mount Lofty Ranges ahead of the front.

Locations which may be affected include Adelaide, Port Lincoln, Maitland, Kingscote, Murray Bridge, Keith and Mount Gambier.

Up-to-date warnings and further information on the expected weather can be found on the BOM website www.bom.gov.au

During severe weather, the SES advises the following precautions:

- ensure loose items such as outdoor furniture, garden tools and children's play equipment (including 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
- For SES assistance in floods or storms call 132 500. For life-threatening emergencies call 000 (Triple Zero).

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