Thursday, 31 July 2014

BoM issues severe weather warning ahead of front

The State Emergency Service (SES) advises that the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has issued a severe weather warning today for damaging winds for a number of districts, include the Adelaide Metropolitan and Mount Lofty Ranges.

The warning, issued at 9.12am, advises that people living in the Adelaide Metropolitan, Mount Lofty Ranges, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Eastern Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Flinders, Mid North, Riverland, Murraylands, Upper South East, Lower South East and parts of the West Coast and North East Pastoral districts may be affected.

A strong front will move across the state today. At 9am, the front was located just south of Port Lincoln to western Kangaroo Island to the Lower South East coast, with a line of heavy showers evident on radar associated with the front. The front is forecast to reach the Adelaide area around midday, then move through the Mid North and Riverland this afternoon.

Damaging northwest winds around 50-70km/h with gusts to 110km/h are affecting parts of the Mount Lofty Ranges and southern districts and are forecast to extend throughout the warning area during today ahead of the front. The stronger winds are most likely to affect the higher parts and eastern slopes of the Mount Lofty Ranges. Localised damaging westerly winds with gusts in excess of 90km/h are also likely near and following the passage of the front, mostly with squally showers or thunderstorms.

Locations which may be affected today include Adelaide, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor, Kingscote, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Port Lincoln, Maitland, Clare and Keith.

A second front with further squally showers, small hail and thunder will move across the south and east of the state early Friday. Conditions will ease considerably later on Friday.

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).