Tuesday, 7 October, 2014

SES Volunteers kept busy following Mondays severe weather

The cold front that passed across South Australia on Monday 6 October 2014 resulted in a busy period for South Australia's State Emergency Service (SES) Volunteers.

SES Volunteers attended in excess of 400 calls for assistance on Monday following the cold front, with the majority of their work focused on removing and clearing trees and providing temporary repairs to buildings damaged in the strong winds.

State Emergency Service State Duty Officer, Ian Bonython said "SES volunteers across the state were busy all day Monday and into the evening assisting the community"

"SES volunteers have continued their activities today, with the SES receiving a further 26 calls for assistance as people have returned from the long weekend" added Mr. Bonython

The SES received great support from the community, who at times had to be patient whilst SES volunteers attended the large volume of calls it received.

The Bureau of Meteorology has not forecast any additional severe weather for the next couple of days, however the community is reminded to be vigilant and ensure that their properties are prepared for severe weather events, including strong winds and rain which are common at this time of year.

The SES advises the following in preparing for severe weather:

- 1. Ensure loose items such as outdoor furniture and play equipment are put away or secured.
- 2. Trim tree branches around your house to prevent them causing damage to your home's roof, car, carport, sheds or fencing.
- 3. Check your roof, from inside and out. A roof in good condition is your best protection against stormy weather.
- 4. Check that your insurance policy is current and adequate.
- 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. Don't forget your pets and make sure everyone understands the plan.
- 6. Prepare an emergency kit. Your kit should include things you need to leave your home in a hurry such 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.
- 8. For SES assistance in storms or floods call 132 500. For life-threatening emergencies call 000 (Triple Zero).

Additional information about preparing for severe weather can be found on the SES website www.ses.sa.gov.au. The Bureau of Meteorology's website www.bom.gov.au is also a good source of information about the weather and any warnings.

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