Tuesday, 11 August, 2015

BOM issues weather warning for damaging winds

The State Emergency Service (SES) advises that the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has issued a severe weather warning for damaging winds for a number of South Australian districts, including parts of the Mount Lofty Ranges.

People living in the West Coast, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Eastern Eyre Peninsula, Flinders and parts of the Mount Lofty Ranges, Yorke Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and North West Pastoral districts may be affected.

The warning, issued at 3.11 pm today, advises that a strong front is currently near Whyalla to Adelaide and moving east. In its wake, a developing low pressure system will move northeastwards to be near Kangaroo Island or the South East coast overnight and early Wednesday.

Strong westerly winds may reach 50-65 km/h at times near and following the front over parts of the warning area, mainly north of about Cleve during this afternoon. Squalls with localised wind gusts in excess of 90 km/h are also possible throughout the warning area, mainly with showers and thunderstorms.

These winds may cause damage to property in parts of the warning area and make road conditions hazardous.

Locations which may be affected today include Ceduna, Wudinna, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Mount Barker and Cape Borda.

Severe wind gusts recorded this afternoon include 96 km/h at Hindmarsh Island and 95 km/h at Port Lincoln.

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.