

State Emergency Service

Media Release



Government
of South Australia



Monday, 21 December, 2015

Outback rains today prompt warning from SES

Heavy rains in South Australia's North East Pastoral district have prompted a warning from the State Emergency Service to never drive, ride or walk through floodwaters.

The heavy rains may also cause some roads and tracks in the area to be closed due to flash flooding.

The Bureau of Meteorology issued a flood watch this morning for the North East Pastoral district. The bureau has forecast rainfall of between 30mm and 80mm for the district with isolated falls of up to 100mm.

A rain band currently over the North East Pastoral district is producing heavy rains. The rain band is forecast to contract east and weaken during the day.

Locations which may be affected include William Creek, Leigh Creek, Marree and Arkaroola.

SES Acting Chief Officer Dermot Barry said driving through floodwater is the main cause of adult death during flooding events.

"Floodwater can wash out roads and tracks, causing unseen sinkholes and hollows to form. Even relatively shallow water has the potential to wash a vehicle off a road or track, rendering the driver and their passengers helpless and in danger of drowning," Mr Barry said.

"The rains may also cause mud and other debris to get washed over the road or track so our advice to motorists is to slow down and drive to the conditions," he added.

Mr Barry also warned parents and carers about the dangers of allowing children to play in floodwater.

"Floodwater can contain all manner of pollutants, including raw sewage, chemicals and dead animals, as well as debris such as broken glass and fencing material," Mr Barry said.

Mr Barry advises motorists to monitor the latest weather forecasts on the Bureau of Meteorology's website www.bom.gov.au.

Information on whether outback roads have been closed can be found on www.dpti.sa.gov.au/OutbackRoads.

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

