

State Emergency Service **Media Release**



Friday, 29 January, 2016

Severe weather warning issued by the bureau

The State Emergency Service (SES) advises that the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has issued a severe weather warning for damaging winds and heavy rainfall for a number of districts, including Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges.

The bureau advises that, apart from Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges, other districts which may be impacted are Lower Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and parts of the Eastern Eyre Peninsula and Mid North districts.

The warning, issued at 10.11 am today, advises that an intense low pressure system centred south of Kangaroo Island is tracking north. Damaging winds, averaging 60-70 kilometres per hour, with peak gusts in excess of 90 kilometres per hour, are forecast in association with the low. Damaging wind gusts will mainly be associated with squally showers and thunderstorms, which also have the potential to produce heavy rainfall that may lead to flash flooding.

Southern parts of the warning area including Kangaroo Island, Fleurieu Peninsula and southern Yorke Peninsula will be affected first from early afternoon. As the low tracks north, remaining parts of the warning area, including Adelaide, will be affected from mid to late afternoon. Locations which may be affected include Adelaide, Port Lincoln, Clare, Maitland, Kingscote and Victor Harbor.

SES State Duty Officer Brenton Clarke said there were a number of precautions that people can take to protect themselves from lightning strikes during a thunderstorm.

“The best thing to do is to seek shelter, preferably in a solid building. A motor vehicle or a caravan can also provide some protection but you need to remember not to touch any metal sections”, Mr Clarke said.

“If you are caught outside make yourself as small a target as possible by squatting or crouching down low. Your feet need to be touching the ground so do not lie down.

“Don’t shelter under trees and stay away from high and low points such as hilltops, ridges, gullies and rock overhangs as well as swimming pools and other large bodies of water”, Mr Clarke added.

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 floodwater
- shelter and secure pets and other animals, and
- check weather forecasts regularly and listen to local radio for updates.

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