

State Emergency Service

# Media Release



Tuesday, 9 March 2016

## Expected weather prompts warning from SES

With thunderstorms and possible heavy rain forecast for large parts of South Australia over the next few days, the State Emergency Service (SES) is urging homeowners to ensure they have prepared their property to help reduce the possibility of potential damage.

SES State Duty Officer Sara Pulford said ensuring gutters and downpipes on their home were free of leaf litter and other blockages was one of the best ways residents could prepare.

“Blocked gutters and downpipes causes the rain to flow back into the roof cavity, causing damage to ceilings, insulation and the home’s electrical system,” Dr Pulford said.

She said homeowners could also prepare for the heavy rainfall and potential thunderstorms by:

- maintaining their back yard. Secure or put away loose items such as garden furniture and market umbrellas
- trimming overhanging branches around their home. These could fall on to your property
- moving motor vehicles under cover
- ensuring pets and other animals are in a safe area, and
- listening to local radio and other media for weather warnings.

Dr Pulford said there was also the potential for the expected heavy rain to produce flash flooding.

“Our advice is to never drive, ride or walk through floodwater. It can only take a few centimetres of fast flowing water to sweep a car away, even if it’s a large four wheel drive vehicle,” Dr Pulford said.

“Never assume a flooded road is safe to cross, even if you have driven the same road hundreds of times previously.

“You simply don’t know what’s in the water, how strong or deep the current is, or what has happened to the road surface underneath,” she added.

Residents needing assistance from the SES during floods and storms should call 132 500.

If the matter is life-threatening they should call 000 (Triple Zero).

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**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](http://www.ses.sa.gov.au)