Friday, 29 July 2016

Sandbags available from Strathalbyn and Bridgewater

With more rain expected to impact the saturated catchments in the Mount Lofty Ranges in the early hours of Monday morning, the State Emergency Service (SES) is distributing sandbags from two locations this **Sunday**, **31 July from 12 noon to 5pm**.

The two locations are:

- Strathalbyn SES 51 Murray Street, Strathalbyn
- Bridgewater CFS 2 Shannon Road, Bridgewater

Volunteers will be on site to help fill the bags for residents. Alternatively, residents can pick up empty sandbags and fill them themselves. A leaflet explaining how to fill and lay the sandbags will also be available.

While sand is the best option to fill sandbags, garden soil can also be used if sand is not available.

SES Chief of Staff Darryl Wright said people should take the opportunity to clean up around their house and undertake some routine maintenance tomorrow and Sunday before the expected rain.

"Ensure your gutters and downpipes are clear of leaf litter and other material and put away any loose items in your background," Mr Wright said.

"Homes may have been damaged during earlier severe weather events so tomorrow and Sunday are the days to get out and make those repairs before the wet weather arrives," Mr Wright added.

During severe weather, the SES also advises the following precautions:

- never walk, ride or drive through floodwaters
- stay away from fallen powerlines. Always assume fallen powerlines are live they should be reported to SA Power Networks on 13 13 66
- park vehicles undercover and well away from trees
- stay indoors and away from windows and skylights when weather conditions are severe
- shelter and secure pets and other animals, and
- check weather forecasts regularly and listen to local radio for updates.