Monday, 1 August 2016

Motorists urged to drive to the conditions

With reports of water flowing across roads in a number of locations including the Mount Lofty Ranges, Barossa Valley and Mid North, the State Emergency Service (SES) is urging motorists to slow down and drive to the conditions.

SES Chief of Staff Darryl Wright said the heavy rain these areas had experienced in the past few months had saturated the ground, causing water to flood across roads.

Mr Wright said fog and low cloud, particularly in the Mount Lofty Ranges, had reduced visibility, making driving conditions more hazardous.

"We are urging motorists to be vigilant and particularly careful as they head out this morning," Mr Wright said.

"Slowing down during wet weather driving can be critical to reducing a car's chance of hydroplaning. Motorists should also avoid sudden movements and be gentle and progressive when steering, accelerating and braking on wet roads.

"It's also important to increase your stopping distance and make sure you have plenty of space should the vehicle in front of you brake suddenly," Mr Wright said.

The SES responded to 10 requests for assistance (RFA) yesterday and so far today (as at 7am) has responded to a further two RFA.

The SES is monitoring the situation from its State Control Centre (SCC) and SES crews remain on standby should the weather conditions change during today.

During severe weather, the SES advises the following precautions:

- Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater
- 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
- 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