

State Emergency Service **Media Release**



Wednesday, 11 January, 2017

SES warns of heat, winds and rain on the way

With hot weather forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) for Thursday, and being followed by high winds and potentially high rainfall, the South Australian State Emergency Service (SES) is advising South Australians to prepare their homes and families for a variety of potential impacts over the next few days.

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting 37 degrees for Thursday and whilst this is not unusual for this time of year it will be followed in the early hours of Friday and up until early afternoon by gusty winds and rainfall of up to 30 mm in Adelaide and possibly up to 50-60 mm in some parts of the state.

SES Deputy Chief Officer Dermot Barry has stated that the combination of heat, high winds and high rainfall may pose significant issues with children on holidays and with homes that are unprepared for this severe weather that we are likely to experience.

"I would urge people to plan ahead to ensure that their gutters are clear and that all loose items around the home are secured. It is also a good idea not to park under large trees as they can become unstable in severe weather". Mr Barry said.

"With the potential again of localised flooding in South Australia, the State Emergency Service will once again be looking to distribute sandbags to assist residents". Mr Barry said.

Mr Barry is also urging South Australians to consider the welfare of those people who are most vulnerable to heat and severe weather such as the elderly, young children and babies and those with certain medical conditions.

"With many thousands of children on holidays, the upcoming severe weather conditions may place many of them at potential risk, parents should be extremely aware of their whereabouts at all times, and if possible keep children inside". Mr Barry said.

"Under no circumstances should young children and pets be left in a parked car, even with the windows open and the air conditioner on," Mr Barry said.

"We strongly advise people against parking their cars under trees in these conditions. Trees can suffer heat stress. Combined with strong winds, they can drop branches without warning," Mr Barry said.

Mr Barry also strongly warned against camping in waterways over the next few days as there is the potential for flash flooding and swollen creeks with the expected rainfall.

For more information on extreme heat visit www.sa.gov.au/extremeheat. Further weather information can be found at www.bom.gov.au.

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