

IF YOU NEED HELP

For life-threatening emergencies call **000**

If your home has been badly damaged and you need help, call the SES on **132 500**.

SES volunteers will attend as soon as possible. Assistance is prioritised, please be patient.

CLEANING UP

- Start cleaning up around your home – stack loose material such as branches and debris away from water meters, valves and telephone lines
- Call your local government to get advice about the removal of green waste and other materials such as asbestos fencing

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

DFES State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers help the community of Western Australia during storms and other natural hazards and emergencies.

SES volunteers assist the community by:

- Making temporary repairs to homes and businesses. It is your responsibility to organise permanent repairs. Contact your insurance company
- Clearing fallen trees
- Rescuing trapped or injured people
- Sandbagging areas in danger of flooding
- Assisting in relocating people

Such assistance is usually minimal in areas well prepared for storm season, which is why SES volunteers actively educate the community on ways to reduce the impact of storms on life and homes. This group of dedicated people are not paid and give up their time, often braving cold, wet, windy and dangerous conditions to come to the aid of hundreds in need of emergency assistance.

During a severe storm there may be many calls for emergency assistance so calls are prioritised. SES volunteers will attend as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Police, Fire, Ambulance (for life threatening emergencies)	000
State Emergency Service (SES) assistance	132 500
Western Power	131 351
Horizon Power	132 351
Water Corporation	131 375
Alinta Gas emergencies and faults	131 352

FINDING MORE INFORMATION

DFES website	www.dfes.wa.gov.au
BoM Storm Warning Advice Line	1300 659 213
Weather and storm forecasts	www.bom.gov.au
Road conditions (Main Roads WA)	138 138

Advice and further information are available on the DFES website in Chin, Dinka, Farsi, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Arabic, Indonesian, Somali, Swahili, French, Cantonese, Amharic, Nuer, Karen, Dari, Kirundi, Sudanese Arabic.

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PREPARING FOR STORMS



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



STORM SEASON

Storms may bring heavy rain, damaging winds, lightning, hail, floods and tornados to the southern half of Western Australia between May and October each year. However storms can occur during the warmer months so it is important to stay prepared all year round.

WHAT IS A STORM?

Storms develop when warm, humid air near the ground is pushed rapidly upward into an unstable atmosphere.

WHY PREPARE FOR STORMS?

Damaging winds, flash floods, lightning, hail and tornados can cause damage to homes, cars and the environment. They can even cause injury or loss of life.

Most storm damage to homes occurs from:

- loose and broken roof materials
- fallen trees and branches
- flooding from blocked gutters and downpipes

People can stay safe and reduce damage to their homes by being prepared.

HOW TO PREPARE

Preparing your family and home for a storm is your responsibility. If you live in a storm prone area, you should make it a priority between March and May to get your home ready inside and out. There are a few simple steps that could help you minimise damage:

- Check your roof and gutters for damage or loose material
- Clear gutters and downpipes of leaves and blockages
- Trim branches near your home and hire a contractor to clear trees from powerlines
- Clear rubbish from your yard, balcony or patio and put away any loose objects
- Prepare an emergency kit with portable radio, torch, spare batteries, first aid kit and family emergency plan
- Ensure your family understand storms and the risks
- Prepare an emergency plan including a relocation plan in case your home becomes flooded. Consider what you will do with your pets and know how to turn off the gas,

electricity and water supplies (refer to the DFES website for more information)

- Display a list of emergency phone numbers
- Check you have adequate home and contents insurance

WEATHER WARNINGS

You can keep up to date with latest storm warnings and advice:

- through news bulletins on radio, TV or online
- on the DFES website www.dfes.wa.gov.au
- on the Bureau of Meteorology's website www.bom.gov.au or by calling their Land Weather Warnings and Flood Warnings Advice Line on **1300 659 213**

WHEN A STORM IS FORECAST

- Secure or remove loose material and rubbish from around your home or work because strong winds during storms can turn loose items into potentially deadly missiles
- Weigh down loose objects using plastic bags filled with sand, rather than bricks that can be blown around in strong wind
- Ensure your emergency kit is up to date
- Ensure your pets and animals are in a safe area
- Move your vehicles under cover
- If you are away from your home you should contact family or friends to ensure your home is secure
- Construction site workers should put away any loose building material and secure their sheds
- Boat owners should make sure their boats are securely moored
- Campers should find alternative shelter

EMERGENCY KIT

Important documents in sealed bags

Torch

Sturdy gloves

First Aid Kit

Portable radio

Baby formula

Spare batteries

Non-perishable food

Waterproof bags



Image courtesy of Emergency Management Queensland

DURING A STORM

- Close your curtains and blinds and stay inside away from windows
- If caught outside find safe shelter away from trees, powerlines, metal objects, storm water drains, rivers and streams
- If boating, swimming or surfing leave the water
- If there is lightning, unplug electrical appliances and do not use landline telephones
- If there is flooding you can create your own sandbags by using plastic bags or pillow cases filled with sand
- If driving in heavy rain take extra care on the roads:
 - slow down, turn your lights on and keep a safe distance from other drivers
 - If you cannot see, pull over and park with your hazard lights on until the rain clears
 - Do not drive into water of unknown depth and current

AFTER A STORM

- Assess your home and property for damage
- Check on friends and neighbours to see if they need help
- Keep children away from flooded drains, rivers, streams and waterways
- Keep away from fallen powerlines as they are dangerous and should always be treated as live
- Be careful of fallen trees and damaged buildings
- If driving slow down, keep a safe distance from other drivers and take care in areas that have been flooded
- If roads are flooded do not drive into water of unknown depth and current
- Avoid gravel roads as surfaces will be slippery and muddy, and vehicles could become bogged

