

STORMS



This fact sheet contains information on suggested actions to perform before, during and after a storm. It also contains information about warnings, emergency contacts and general information to consider when writing your emergency management plan.

Storm warnings

Severe thunderstorm warnings are issued as an alert to the public from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM). Warnings generally cover a large area and have a validity time up to three hours. You can check up to date warnings on:

- The Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au.
- For pre-recorded warnings call 1900 926 113. Charges apply.
- The State Emergency Service (SES) website at www.ses.vic.gov.au/warnings.

Emergency contacts

Contact	Number
Life-threatening emergency (police, fire, ambulance)	000 (Triple Zero)
State Emergency Service (SES)	132 500
SES Emergency assistance during storms	1300 842 737 (1300 VIC SES)

Important information about storms

Storm warnings will often describe the type of events that could accompany a storm such as lightning, large hail, strong winds, tornadoes or flash flooding. Make sure you also have your flooding and bushfire action plans ready as these events can often follow on from heavy rain and lightning events.

To learn how you and your residents can stay safe in a storm visit the SES StormSafe pages at www.ses.vic.gov.au for advice.

Action plan for storms

Please note: these actions are general suggestions only, you will need to think of details and triggers that are specific to your park.

Storms and severe weather can impact your caravan park in a number of different ways which may need to be managed differently.



Suggested actions before a storm

A number of actions can be undertaken that can help you in the event of a storm, which are also useful for other hazards. You do not need to repeat these if you already have these in the 'before actions' section of your plan.

- Prepare an emergency kit which includes a battery powered radio, spare batteries, a torch, first aid kit and a copy of your emergency management plan.
- Check currency and relevance of insurance.
- Ensure permanent outdoor furniture is secured or can be easily secured in the event of a storm.
- Monitor trees for dangerous branches and remove when necessary.
- Regularly clean gutters, downpipes and drains for blockages.

Suggested actions once a storm warning is issued

- Notify all park occupants of the warning.
- Check that loose items such as outdoor settings, umbrellas and trampolines are safely secured.
- Ensure caravans are tied down correctly, especially if strong winds are predicted.
- Ensure sites are not located directly under trees or power lines.
- Move cars undercover where possible to avoid hail damage.
- Ensure your emergency kit is ready as storms can often lead to power outages.

Suggested actions to take during the storm

- Ensure all park occupants are inside with their pets and children.
- Ensure everyone stays away from drains, gutters, creeks and waterways.
- If heavy rainfall and flash flooding is predicted prepare your action plan flooding. Remember that flash flooding often arrives without warning.

Suggested actions after a storm

- Check the park for damage.
- Check for hazards such as floodwater, debris and damaged roads or bridges (keep clear of damaged buildings, power lines and trees).
- Call VicRoads (13 11 70) to check road closures.
- Ensure that nobody drives walks or plays in floodwater.
- Close off areas in the park that are damaged by the storm and may pose a risk to occupants.