

Get ready for storms

How to keep your family and home safe

Easy Read version



Australian Government

**National Emergency
Management Agency**

How to use this document



We are Get Ready Australia.

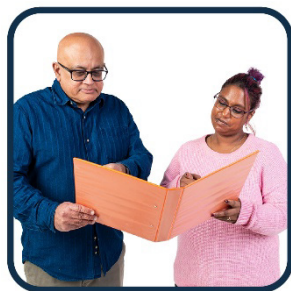
We wrote this document.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page 26.



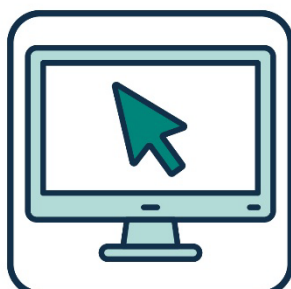
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this document
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of another document.

It only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

getready.gov.au

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What is a storm?



A **storm** is very bad weather that might include:

- strong winds
- heavy rain
- lightning
- hail.



Storms can be an **emergency**.

An emergency is a dangerous situation when people need help straight away to stay safe.



Storms can happen at any time of the year.



They can often happen without much warning.

Storms can:



- damage homes and vehicles



- stop electricity and phones from working



- affect the way transport and **emergency services** work.



Emergency services help protect people and make them safe in dangerous situations.

For example, the police and firefighters.



Storms can cause **floods**.

A flood happens when a lot of water covers land that is normally dry.



Lightning from storms can cause **bushfires**.

A bushfire is a very bad fire that burns through grass and forests.



Very bad storms can cause more damage to homes than other emergencies in Australia.

What should you do in a storm?



You should leave your home if you don't feel safe.



You don't need to wait for someone to tell you to go.



You should:

- stay safe inside
- try not to travel while a storm is happening.



This is because there might be:

- flood water blocking your way
- fallen trees on the roads
- no power in some areas.



If you have to travel in a storm, you should check if the roads are blocked before you leave.



There might be flood water blocking the roads you want to take.

This can make it unsafe for you to travel.

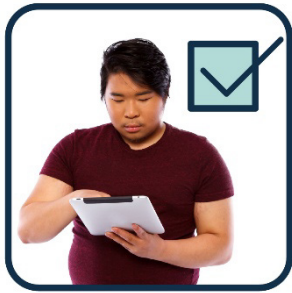


You should never go into flood water.



This includes:

- driving
- walking
- swimming.



You should also make sure you keep up to date on news about the storm.



You can find these updates on your state and local government:

- websites
- social media.

Who is at risk in a storm?



Storms can happen anywhere in Australia.

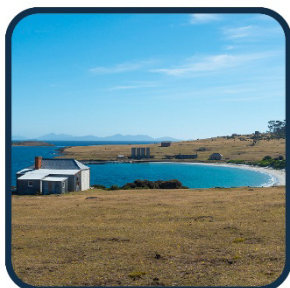
You might be more at risk if you live:



- near a creek or river



- near a stormwater drain



- in an area close to the beach but very far away from cities and towns.

You also might be more at risk if:



- your home has an older roof



- your home is surrounded by big trees.

How to find out if you are at risk in a storm



We use the Australian Warning System for storms across Australia.



This is how emergency services show:

- how dangerous a storm is
- what you should do to stay safe.



The Australian Warning System has 3 warning levels.

1. Advice:



- an emergency has started
- you are not in danger yet
- you should stay up to date with what is happening.

2. Watch and Act:



- an emergency is getting worse
- you might be at risk
- you need to start taking action.

3. Emergency Warning:



- you are in danger right now
- you must take action
- waiting puts your life at risk.

How do you get ready for a storm?



To get ready for a storm you should talk to your friends and neighbours.

They might know important information that can help you.

You should also:



- get your home ready



- make an emergency plan



- pack an emergency kit.

Get your home ready

To get ready for a storm you should:



- cut back tree branches



- clean your gutters and drains

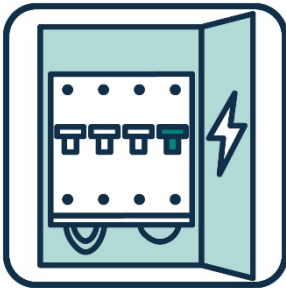


- tie down or store items you keep outside, like furniture or trampolines.

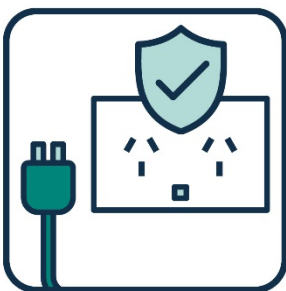
You should also:



- check and fix your roof and windows



- use **surge protectors**.



Surge protectors are devices that stop too much electricity from damaging things in your home.

For example, your fridge or computer.

Make an emergency plan



An **emergency plan** explains what you will do to stay safe if a storm happens.



You should:

- make your plan with people you live with
- write your plan down.



Your plan should include important phone numbers you might need in an emergency.

For example, emergency services.

Your plan should also include:



- when you will leave



- how you will stay safe when you leave



- where you will go.



Your plan should also include different ways to get somewhere safe.



This is because the storm might block some roads.

Pack an emergency kit



You should have an **emergency kit** ready.



An emergency kit includes important items that can help you:

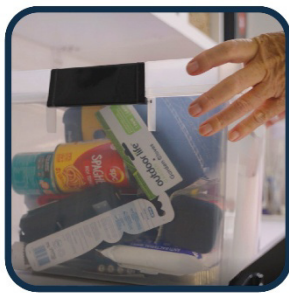
- stay safe
- leave quickly
- protect yourself and your home.



You should have enough things in your emergency kit to last you for at least 3 days.



This is just in case you must stay home without power or water.



You should keep your emergency kit in a place that is:

- dry
- easy to get to.



Everyone in your home should know where your emergency kit is.

What to pack in your emergency kit

Your emergency kit should include:



- clothes



- wool blankets



- toiletries – like a toothbrush and hairbrush



- toilet paper.

Your emergency kit should include:



- sunscreen



- hand sanitiser



- medicine and a first aid kit



- water – at least 3 litres per day
for each person.

Your emergency kit should also include:



- food that won't go bad quickly – like canned food



- a way to open your food – like a can opener



- a radio that uses batteries



- a torch and extra batteries.

If you need to leave your home, make sure you take your:



- mobile phone and charger



- important documents



- money and bank cards



- things that are important and mean a lot to you.

Where can you find more information?



You can visit our website to find more information.

getready.gov.au

We can help you:



- learn more about what to do in a storm



- learn how to contact emergency services in your state and territory



- get emergency warnings for your area.



You can stay up to date when a storm is happening by listening to:

- ABC radio
- SBS radio.



If you speak a language other than English, you can call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National).

131 450

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Bushfire

A bushfire is a very bad fire that burns through grass and forests.



Emergency

An emergency is a dangerous situation when people need help straight away to stay safe.

Emergency kit



An emergency kit includes important items that can help you:

- stay safe
- leave quickly
- protect yourself and your home.



Emergency plan

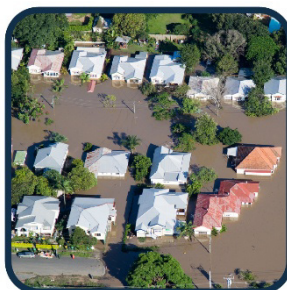
An emergency plan explains what you will do to stay safe if a storm happens.



Emergency services

Emergency services help protect people and make them safe in dangerous situations.

For example, the police and firefighters.



Flood

A flood happens when a lot of water covers land that is normally dry.

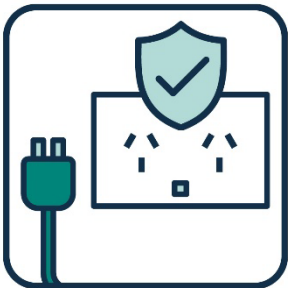
Storm



A storm is very bad weather that might include:

- strong winds
- heavy rain
- lightning
- hail.

Surge protectors



Surge protectors are devices that stop too much electricity from damaging things in your home.

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