Be Prepared

- Check that your insurance policy is current and adequate.
- Make a home emergency plan and have an emergency kit prepared.
- Secure or put away items around your home and balcony that could blow around in strong winds and cause damage. Items such as potted plants, garbage bins, animal food bowls, gardening tools and trampolines can become dangerous missiles in strong winds.
- Check items such as air conditioning units, satellite dishes, antennas and fencing are properly secured.
- Clear your gutters, downpipes and drains regularly to prevent blockages.
- Trim trees and branches that could potentially fall on your home or property.
- Fix any damage to your roof, including broken or missing tiles.
- Park your car under secure cover and away from trees, powerlines and drains.
- Disconnect computers, televisions and other electrical appliances before a storm.

Remember

- When flash flooding is likely, leaving low-lying home and businesses well before flooding begins is the best action to take.
- During a storm, stay clear of drains, creeks and causeways, fallen trees or powerlines, and damaged buildings.
- Keep clear of windows, and avoid contact with metal fixtures such as roofs, guttering, downpipes and taps, in case of lighting strike.

In 2014, More than 100,000 homes lost power supply and 642 power-lines were brought down during a severe storm.

Each year, severe storms are responsible for more damage than tropical cyclones, earthquakes, floods, or bushfires.

On average, a severe thunderstorm can produce approximately 6000 lightning strikes every minute.

In 2014, South East Queensland was hit by hail stones measuring up to 8 cm in diameter.

Wind gusts of up to 140 km/hour battered South East Queensland during severe storms in 2014.

In 2014, More than 8 cm diameter hail stones fell in South East Queensland during a severe storm.

Severe storms impact all areas of Queensland, and can hit at any time of the year. They are often unpredictable and can cause serious injury and major damage to property. It is important to prepare your family and property now and stay prepared all year round.

During storms, it is important to protect your family and home from the major impacts such as high winds, lightning, hail and potential flash flooding. Damaging winds can bring down trees, branches and powerlines, remove roofs, and blow around outdoor items. Hail and lightning can injure people and damage property. Storm surges can cause the surf to become unsafe, and can flood properties in coastal areas.

You may also be indirectly affected by storms; access roads may be blocked, or you may have no power or telephone connection.

It is important to be prepared now, so you will know what to do when there is a storm. When households and families better respond to storms by being prepared, their recovery can be quicker and their resilience to future storms will be greater.

Storm Wise
Preparing for Storms

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Know Your Risk

Make sure you are prepared by finding out about your local weather history. Contact your local council for specific information on whether your area is prone to severe storms and supercells, and how they may affect your property.

Check your local forecast and Queensland’s weather warnings through the Bureau of Meteorology at bom.gov.au/qld/warnings.

For more information on how to keep your home storm ready, visit ses.qld.gov.au.