

## Appendix 1: Useful information and resources

While Victoria experiences many thunderstorms each year, some more intense storms are classified as severe thunderstorms due to their potential to cause significant localised damage.

Severe thunderstorms are more common than any other natural hazards and across Australia. They cause more damage as measured by insurance costs than floods, bushfires, earthquakes or cyclones. Most severe thunderstorms strike between September and March, although other extreme weather events such as land gales, squalls, flash flooding, dangerous surf or tides can occur throughout the year.

Residential aged care providers need to consider the preparatory and response actions associated with a storm event. A well-maintained facility with regular checks of roofing and skylights, guttering and downpipes could reduce the need for costly repairs from a storm.

**The Bureau of Meteorology and State Emergency Service work together to alert communities of the threat of dangerous thunderstorms and severe weather. The small scale and short duration of these weather events, however, make them difficult to predict, so warnings may be limited in accuracy or may not provide much advance notice.**

**Severe Thunderstorm Warnings:** While we experience many thunderstorms each year, some more intense thunderstorms are classified as severe thunderstorms, due to their potential to cause significant localised damage. Severe thunderstorms can cause damage through damaging wind gusts, large hail, tornadoes, lightning or flash flooding.

**Severe Weather Warnings:** These warnings are issued when severe weather is expected that is not directly related to severe thunderstorms, tropical cyclones or bushfires. Examples of severe weather include land gales, squalls, flash-flooding, dangerous surf or tides.

When warnings are issued for severe thunderstorms and severe weather they will be relayed by radio and television stations, and other public broadcasting systems including recorded telephone services, weather by fax and the internet, or by calling the VICSES Flood and Storm Information Line on **1300 842 737**. You may also receive an emergency warning from a number of sources including telephone, Emergency Alert (fixed line and SMS).

SES crews are trained to respond and work together with other emergency services including police, ambulance and fire brigade during a storm emergency. If residents and staff are on site it is important to follow any instructions given by emergency authorities and be prepared to act on changing circumstances.

Storms can also disrupt a range of utilities such as power and telephone networks so providers should have well-practised contingency plans to minimise the impact on residents.

**In order to protect the health and safety of residents and staff, residential aged care providers are responsible for having plans in place for:**

- preparing for storms
- responding to a warning for severe thunderstorms or severe weather
- during a storm emergency
- after a storm.

For useful information on being ready for a storm refer to:

[Bureau of Meteorology](#)

<[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)>

[Emergency Alert](#)

<[www.emergencyalert.gov.au](http://www.emergencyalert.gov.au)>

[State Emergency Service – Stormsafe](#)

<[www.ses.vic.gov.au/prepare/stormsafe](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/prepare/stormsafe)>

[Victoria Online](#)

<[www.vic.gov.au/emergencies-safety](http://www.vic.gov.au/emergencies-safety)>