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SES District Manager South East Metropolitan Region Chris Kin-Maung said the week, which ran from 5 to 12 May, provided an avenue for reminding people about the need to ready themselves and their properties for the storm season.

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“We were able to educate the community about how to reduce risks by highlighting the dangers of storms and actions people should take.”

Media coverage included a television news story on Channel 7, radio interviews on Mix 94.5, 96FM, 6PR and ABC, along with an article in The West Australian newspaper and several in community newspapers.

Each year from May to October, severe storms including tornadoes, thunder, lightning, hail, flash flooding and gale force winds, cause major destruction to the southern half of WA.

In 2011, SES volunteers attended 99 separate storm incidents and volunteered more than 6,872 hours.

“Every storm season SES volunteers leave the warmth of their homes, their jobs and their loved ones without hesitation, to brave the wild weather outside to help others,” Chris said.

“It’s vital for the community to not only know what to do to help themselves during a storm, but also ways that the SES can assist them with emergency repairs.”

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Leadens skies fitting backdrop to Storm Awareness Week

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