

STORM

Although they usually occur from May through to September, severe storms can hit throughout the year in the southern half of Western Australia. Each year, storms generally cause more damage in our communities than cyclones, floods, bushfires and earthquakes.

We have the emergency management responsibility for prevention (mitigation), preparedness and response for storms and support local governments in recovery management. FESA's Operational Services are responsible for development of the [State Severe Storm Emergency Management Plan](#). State Emergency Service (SES), and in some areas Volunteer Emergency Service (VES), units respond to storm damage call outs. Severe storms may also require assistance from other services and local governments.

PREPAREDNESS

STORMSAFE 2007

Our annual [StormSafe](#) campaign aims to increase the resilience of the Western Australia community to severe storms. In 2006-07 we focused on increasing the number of residents preparing their homes and properties prior to winter and raising awareness of appropriate behaviour during and after storms.

The *StormSafe* campaign is supported by SGIO. Metropolitan SES volunteers distributed literature and educational resources at the Eagles home game on 2 June 2007. For this initiative, SGIO had ponchos printed with the *StormSafe* and SGIO logos, and volunteers gave these away at Subiaco Oval on the day.

STORM SAFETY FOR SCHOOLS

29 metropolitan and regional schools participated in this year's SES *One Stormy Day* program. The program was also made available through the Kidsafe *Safety in Schools Week* package, which was distributed to all primary schools in Western Australia.

The program encourages students and their parents to be prepared for storms. SES volunteers visited schools and volunteers and teachers distributed storm safe resources including brochures, posters and magnets.

PLANS AND PROCEDURES

The Metropolitan SES Storm Plan was reviewed in preparation for the 2007 storm season and a number of significant issues addressed. The Belmont SES Metropolitan Regional Coordination Centre was upgraded, public assistance call management processes were reviewed, the coordination centre manual was updated, and SES operational management structures and processes for managing large-scale incidents in the metropolitan area were also reviewed.

RESPONSE

The 2006-07 storm season for was comparatively quiet with few significant weather events. The Bureau of Meteorology reported 38 storms for the year, including summer thunderstorms and winter fronts. Severe weather warnings were issued for 20 events. SES volunteers across the State spent a total of 4,680 hours in storm-related activities.

NOTABLE INCIDENTS

AUSTRALIND TORNADO/STORM – 7 AUGUST 2006

As a result of a strong low pressure, damaging widespread winds with locally destructive gusts impacted the Australind area during the early hours of 7 August 2006. The community suffered power outages and varying levels of damage from fallen trees and debris. More than 50 properties were affected with seven totally destroyed.

MID WEST – 31 OCTOBER 2006

The Shire of Wiluna in the Mid West region experienced a severe thunderstorm in October. Most significant damage was to the hotel and school, with the community refuge centre and early education centre both unserviceable. Further storms occurred but damage was not magnified due to response and preparatory activities of SES personnel and locals. Damage was estimated at \$125,000.

RECOVERY

AUSTRALIND TORNADO/STORM – 7 AUGUST 2006

This storm event was declared a natural emergency under WANDRA. \$203,000 was provided to assist with clean up costs and the restoration of essential public assets.