

Question on Notice
No. 1385
Asked on 7 October 2008

MR FINN asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR ROBERTS) -

QUESTION:

Will he outline the advice his department provides as to how Queenslanders can best prepare for the upcoming summer storm season?

ANSWER:

The Government encourages all Queenslanders to take the time to prepare their families and homes for the upcoming summer storm season and recommends residents take the following precautions:

- Prepare an emergency kit with food, water, essential medical supplies, a battery operated radio and torch with spare batteries. Other useful items to add include a first aid kit and copies of important documents such as insurance policies, wills and birth certificates in a sealed plastic bag.
- Prepare their home and property to minimise damage by cleaning gutters and downpipes, securing loose items around the garden and trimming overhanging branches. Residents are advised to ensure they have adequate household and contents insurance.
- Prepare a family emergency plan by identifying the safest room in the home to shelter in, compile a list of emergency phone numbers, and discuss how to look after pets which may be frightened by lightning and thunder.

If a storm warning is issued, vehicles should be garaged wherever possible or driven under shelter. Where vehicles are in the open and hail is likely, a heavy blanket tied over the vehicle can help reduce the damage. In addition, always ensure that vehicles, caravans and boat trailers are parked away from trees, powerlines and waterways.

The Queensland Government has an Agreement & Protocol with the ABC to broadcast emergency messages and the public is advised to listen to their local ABC radio station for information, updates and advice during severe storms.

It is also advised that people don't go sightseeing after a severe storm as there is a danger of encountering fallen powerlines, trees, debris and flooded waterways. The public is advised to stay away from flood waters (including rivers and storm water drains) and to supervise children to ensure they do not seek them out.

Detailed information is also provided on how to prepare for floods and other natural disaster events which is available in a variety of formats, including the Department of Emergency Services website www.emergency.qld.gov.au.

If Queensland residents or visitors require assistance for storm or flood events, they should contact the State Emergency Service hotline on telephone number 132500.

The Queensland Government is committed to helping Queensland communities prepare for and reduce the impact of storms and floods. I encourage all Queenslanders and visitors to be familiar with this information.