



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

Victorian Headquarters • 168 Sturt Street, Southbank Victoria 3006

Don't let bad weather blow your Grand Final weekend away

From: Victorian Headquarters

Date: 27 September 2013

Time: 3.30pm

With the state bulging at the seams with excited footy fans and school holiday revellers, Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) has warned visitors and locals alike to prepare themselves for stormy conditions.

A storm front will cross Victoria this afternoon and in to this evening, bringing with it the potential for damaging winds and rain.

Storms swept across the State yesterday, with SES responding to more than 1,700 requests for assistance over the 24 hours. Greater Metropolitan Melbourne and Gippsland bore the brunt with more than 1,000 trees blown down – many on to roads or homes.

Flood Watches are current for Greater Melbourne and West and South Gippsland and a Flood Warning is out for Western Port. Windy conditions are also forecast to return on Monday.

SES State Commander Gary Whehell asked everyone to prepare themselves for the threat of wild weather and be safe.

“With the Grand Final on and school holidays underway, we have a lot of visitors across Victoria who may not be familiar with their surroundings. It’s important that everyone be aware of their surrounding and the conditions and act safely,” he said.

“There are a lot of trees out there that have already been blown around and are sitting in damp earth, and they’ll be particularly vulnerable to coming down in a storm.

“Make sure to never park or shelter under trees during a storm and to drive safely on the roads – you don’t know what could be lurking around the corner.

“And if you’re out camping this weekend, make sure you know your exit routes should a river rise or storm develop.

“If you’re at home, make sure to tie down any loose outdoor items and, if possible, ensure gutters are clean. A home emergency kit and plan will also ensure you and your family are prepared.

“With a few simple precautions, you’ll be in prime position to enjoy what is tipped to be a great weekend in Victoria.”

Emergency information is available at www.ses.vic.gov.au/warnings, facebook.com/vicses and twitter.com/vicseswarnings.

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