



# Media Release

## Victoria State Emergency Service

Victorian Headquarters • 168 Sturt Street, Southbank Victoria 3006

# Don't let a trampoline become a deadly weapon – be StormSafe

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**From:** Victorian Headquarters

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When a storm hits, wind can turn outdoor furniture, trampolines and tree branches into deadly weapons, but there are simple ways to prepare yourself and your property, according to Victoria State Emergency Service (SES).

Next week (September 9-15) is StormSafe Week across Victoria – SES' annual awareness campaign to encourage all Victorians to be prepared.

Storms can bring damaging winds, rain and hail and inflict damage quickly. In 2011, the Christmas Day and February storms left Victoria with a bill of \$1.215 billion.

That's why this year's theme is "Be StormSafe *before* a Storm Hits".

Victoria SES Chief Officer Operations Trevor White said some simple preparations before a storm could make a big difference.

"In a storm, a blocked gutter can cause water to back up into your roof, ruining your ceiling. Wouldn't you rather clean your gutter beforehand than have to replace your furniture?" He said.

"Similarly, securing and tying down loose outdoor items as a storm approaches can stop them being lifted up by the wind and turned into weapons."

"When a storm does arrive, don't park your car or seek shelter under trees as the wind may blow them down."

"Our 5,000 SES volunteers will always be ready to respond to any emergency, but it's important for everyone to take responsibility for their own safety."

During StormSafe Week, SES is launching an interactive game on the [ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au) website. Players will investigate and identify potential flood hazards to earn items for their home emergency kit.

For more information on StormSafe Week and how to be prepared, visit [ses.vic.gov.au/stormsafe](http://ses.vic.gov.au/stormsafe)

To get involved, visit SES on Facebook at [facebook.com/vicses](https://facebook.com/vicses) and twitter at [twitter.com/vicsesnews](https://twitter.com/vicsesnews)

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