

Apartment Safety Tips

This is what you need to do to help protect your life, family, possessions and property when severe weather strikes:

- ✓ If your stairwell is flooded stay out of the water
- ✓ Use stairs instead of lifts in severe weather. You may become trapped if the power goes out
- ✓ To avoid electrocution and injury stay out of flooded basements and car parks in apartment buildings
- ✓ After a severe storm, check on your neighbours, particularly on the top and bottom floors of the building, especially if they are elderly, people with a disability, sick or have young children
- ✓ Keep balcony drain pipes clear of debris to prevent flooding of your apartment
- ✓ If your balcony has been struck by a fallen tree/branch or other large debris - stay clear. It may have been structurally weakened, even if there is no obvious damage. Have any damage checked by a qualified tradesperson for safety
- ✓ If the upper floor/s of your apartment building have suffered significant damage you may be ordered to evacuate your apartment. Follow all directions given by emergency services
- ✓ Ensure your home is safe before entering. Check for water damage and potential risk of electrocution



Image courtesy of Queanbeyan SES Unit

If evacuation is necessary

The NSW SES aims to keep people safe and minimise the risk to life and property when severe weather occurs. It is important that you follow all advice given to you by emergency services.

How you may be advised of an evacuation:

Evacuation Warnings and Evacuation Orders may be issued to residents and businesses that need to move from the area due to life threatening risks. You may receive these warnings via the media, and/or recorded messages or texts sent to your phone, or doorknocks.

Being prepared now will allow you to respond quickly should you need to evacuate

- ✓ Locate important papers, valuables and mementos and put them in your emergency kit
- ✓ Take your emergency kit with you
- ✓ Prepare to take your pets with you
- ✓ Turn off gas, electricity and water
- ✓ Never walk through floodwater or drive into already flooded areas
- ✓ Keep out of unsafe premises and follow all directions given by emergency services
- ✓ Act early before roads and evacuation routes close or become too congested
- ✓ Consider staying with relatives or friends until safe to return
- ✓ Keep listening to your local radio station for information, updates and advice
- ✓ Keep in contact with your neighbours

If I need to evacuate I will go to:

Emergency Contact:

How the SES can help you

NSW SES is responsible for the emergency management of floods and storms in NSW. This includes planning for floods and storms and working with communities to prepare property, possessions and pets.

During severe weather, NSW SES will provide information and safety advice for people, including what to do before, during and after floods and storms.

NSW SES volunteers can clear access and carry out temporary repairs to damaged property; however, you will need to engage professional tradespeople to carry out permanent repairs.

Emergency phone numbers

NSW SES 132 500
Life-threatening emergencies 000 (Triple Zero)

Phone numbers

Police Assistance Line 131 444
Roads and Maritime Services (Live Traffic) 132 701
Disaster Welfare Assistance Line 1800 018 444

Websites

NSW SES ses.nsw.gov.au
Bureau of Meteorology bom.gov.au
ABC Radio abc.net.au/emergency
Major Roads - Live Traffic livetraffic.com
For local road closures visit your local Council website

My local ABC radio station is:

AM / FM

Frequency: _____



FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOOD,
STORM AND TSUNAMI CALL

132 500

In life-threatening emergencies call 000 (triple zero)

For more information visit ses.nsw.gov.au



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StormSafe



Units and Apartments



Image courtesy of Willoughby-Lane Cove SES Unit



Get Ready

Know your risk

Find out about storm and flood risks in areas where you live, work and travel to.

Plan for what you will do

Find out if your building has any emergency plans and include these in your own plan. Identify possible exits (including windows). Never use lifts during an emergency as you may become trapped if the power goes out. Practice your plan regularly with the people you live with.

Prepare your home

Make sure building maintenance includes being flood and storm ready. If you have a balcony, clear any clutter and make sure items can be stored safely or secured during storms. Clear any drains you can access. Check your insurance policy is up to date and adequate.

Be aware

Monitor weather situations and check warnings and forecasts from the Bureau of Meteorology. Act if your area may be impacted.

Look out for each other

Get to know your neighbours. Exchange phone numbers and discuss your emergency plans with them.



8 TIPS

YOU CAN DO NOW TO PREPARE FOR STORMS

1 GET YOUR KIT TOGETHER



2 LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER



3 KNOW WHO TO CALL



4 KNOW YOUR PLAN



5 CHECK YOUR INSURANCE



6 LISTEN TO LOCAL RADIO



7 SECURE ITEMS ON BALCONY



8 NEVER ENTER FLOODWATER



For more information visit www.ses.nsw.gov.au

Prepare your Emergency Kit

Your Emergency Kit



Your emergency kit contents:

- ✓ A portable radio with spare batteries
- ✓ A torch with spare batteries
- ✓ A first aid kit
- ✓ Candles and waterproof matches
- ✓ Important documents including emergency contact numbers
- ✓ Copies of any emergency plans
- ✓ A waterproof bag for valuables

If you have to evacuate, add to your emergency kit:

- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Supplies for your pets, baby or any other people in your care
- ✓ Appropriate clothes and footwear
- ✓ Food and drinking water

Keep your emergency kit in a waterproof box in a handy location. Check your emergency kit regularly. Re-stock and check for out of date items.

When a warning is issued

Severe Weather Warnings and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology to alert communities of the threat of severe weather.

When a warning is issued for your area, this is what you need to do to help protect your family and property:

- ✓ Move indoors, bringing children and pets with you
- ✓ If caught outdoors, shelter away from lightning, hail, falling branches and rising floodwater
- ✓ Park your car under cover away from trees, powerlines or drains likely to flood
- ✓ Secure or bring inside any items on your balcony that could blow around
- ✓ Stay away from windows
- ✓ Have your emergency kit handy in case you lose power
- ✓ Keep local emergency numbers handy (near your phone or on your fridge)
- ✓ Keep in contact with your neighbours
- ✓ Keep listening to your local ABC radio station and monitor other media, including social media, for further information, updates and advice. You can follow NSW SES on Facebook and Twitter

Information for Tenants and Landlords

It is important to ensure your property is prepared in advance for severe weather and flooding.

The property owner, strata manager or real estate agent should be contacted if you notice any maintenance issues such as blocked gutters/drains or overhanging tree branches that could cause damage during storms.

You should advise your strata manager, real estate agent or landlord of any damage to your property at the earliest opportunity.

For information and advice for tenants and home owners on who is responsible for repairs visit: www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

Contents insurance which covers your belongings is advised.