



SEVERE THUNDERSTORM / WEATHER WARNINGS

What is it?

Severe Thunderstorm and Severe Weather warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. In active months, especially November to May, many of these warnings are issued for parts of the Mackay region, often multiple times each day. Although these events can be dangerous and it is important that the community is warned and aware of the risks and take the necessary precautions, they rarely result in a large-scale disaster event that requires a significant coordinated response and recovery effort.

What are the local risks?

Severe Thunderstorms

Although the region experiences many thunderstorms, more intense thunderstorms are referred to as severe thunderstorms. Severe thunderstorms can cause significant localised damage due to damaging wind gusts, possible large hail, heavy rainfall and flash flooding. The Bureau of Meteorology issues Severe Thunderstorm Warnings to alert communities of the threat of these more dangerous thunderstorms.

Severe Weather

Severe Weather Warnings are provided for potentially hazardous or dangerous weather that is not solely related to severe thunderstorms, tropical cyclones or bushfires. The Bureau of Meteorology issues Severe Weather Warnings whenever severe weather is occurring in an area, or is expected to develop or move into an area. The warnings describe the area under threat and the expected hazards. Warnings are issued with varying lead times, depending on the weather situation, and range from just an hour or two up to about 24 hours.

What should I do?

If weather conditions indicate the possibility of storms, make sure you've completed the following precautions:

- Ensure your Emergency Kit is fully stocked.
- Check that your insurance is up-to-date and covers damage to home and contents in case of severe storm.
- Trim overhanging branches, clean out gutters and ensure roof is in good condition
- Ensure your yard and outdoor areas are free from

loose items, such as patio furniture, garden tools and rubbish.

- Move vehicles under shelter.

When you hear a severe storm or severe weather warning:

- Stay tuned to warnings.
- Contact family to make sure everyone is aware of the warning.
- Shelter and secure animals.
- Disconnect all electrical items, aerials and computer modems.

During a severe storm or severe weather warning:

- Stay tuned to warnings.
- Stay inside and shelter well clear of windows, doors and skylights.
- If driving, stop clear of trees, power lines and streams.
- Move vehicles under shelter.

Preparing your boat for severe weather

Severe weather season in Queensland is from November to May. In Queensland, severe weather includes tropical cyclones, severe storms and flooding.

Boat operators need to make all possible preparations for severe weather. Boat owners are responsible for maintaining their boat and property to survive severe weather.

USEFUL LINKS:

Bureau of Meteorology
bom.gov.au/qld

Maritime Safety Queensland
msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Preparing-for-severe-weather

