

Under Embargo
13 December 2024

Holiday mode activated – home unprotected

Suncorp Insurance and Queensland SES warn Queenslanders to prepare homes for storms before heading off on holidays

Silly season is upon us, but Queensland insurer Suncorp Insurance and the Queensland State Emergency Service (Qld SES) are warning homeowners to prepare now for ongoing wild weather this summer – especially if they're going away.

New research released today by Suncorp Insurance shows three quarters (75 per cent) of Queenslanders are failing to plan and properly protect their biggest asset – their home – before heading off on holidays.

When preparing to leave for holidays, the research found one third (33 per cent) of Queenslanders check the weather for the location of where they're heading – so they know what they need to pack, and what activities they'll be able to do – but fail to do this for where they live, leaving their home susceptible to damage from severe weather.

A further 36 per cent admit they don't bother checking the weather at all before they leave because it's 'out of their control' and they are in holiday mode.

Suncorp Insurance's Executive General Manager Home Prevention and Protection Anna Cartwright said it's understandable that Queenslanders are excited about taking a well-earned summer break, but it's vital that as part of holiday planning they prepare their home for potential summer storms.

"It's been a big year and we're all ready for a holiday, but the last thing anyone wants is to come home to a disaster zone thanks to a severe storm," Ms Cartwright said.

"Failing to properly plan and prepare your home leaves it vulnerable to the elements while you're away, which is a huge risk, and one that can be reduced if you plan ahead."

"Our research shows Queenslanders are too focussed on where they are going, and not thinking enough about what they are leaving behind, and what could go wrong when they're not around."

"Before heading off on holidays make sure you trim trees and branches that could potentially fall onto your home or car, clean gutters, downpipes and drains of leaves and debris, and where possible inspect your roof for damaged or loose tiles.

"Most importantly, don't forget to secure and put away loose items around your backyard such as outdoor furniture and trampolines as these can turn into dangerous projectiles," Ms Cartwright said.

Wild Weather Hotspots Revealed

To highlight how important it is that homeowners ensure their home is properly prepared, Suncorp Insurance has partnered with Qld SES to release the state's top hotspots for weather-related callouts in the past financial year.

Qld SES responded to over 13,000 severe weather-related incidences, with home damage or flooding and clearing fallen trees the most common reasons. More than half of the Qld SES' Top 10 severe weather hotspots were on the Gold Coast and hinterland, largely from the Christmas Day storms. The remaining locations were spread across Cairns from Cyclone Jasper, and the Lockyer Valley from summer storms.

Qld SES Severe Weather Hotspots		
Rank	Location	Region
1	Upper Coomera	Gold Coast and Hinterland
2	Helensvale	Gold Coast and Hinterland
3	Oxenford	Gold Coast and Hinterland
4	Holloways Beach	Cairns
5	Tamborine Mountain	Gold Coast and Hinterland
6	Coomabah	Gold Coast and Hinterland
7	Gatton	Lockyer Valley
8	Runaway Bay	Gold Coast and Hinterland
9	Wongawallan	Gold Coast and Hinterland
10	Machans Beach	Cairns

Qld SES Chief Officer Mark Armstrong said Queenslanders need to ensure they heed the warnings and prepare for storm season.

"It only takes one storm or cyclone to have a massive impact on a region. And while it was the Gold Coast and Cairns last year, it could be your region next," Mr Armstrong said.

"We're once again partnering with Suncorp Insurance to remind Queenslanders that there are things they can do to get ready and protect their homes this summer - whether they will be spending the holidays at home or away.

"Afterall, weather doesn't plan, but you can."

[ENDS]

Notes to Editor

The research findings were compiled through a national survey with a representative sample of 1,000 Australians aged 18+ and was conducted by Pure Profile in November 2024 on behalf of AAMI.

Queensland Severe Weather Hotspots: Total tasks accepted by SES from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

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