Media Release

Storm season prompts safety precaution

Essential Energy is encouraging residents across regional New South Wales to be prepared for storm season and aware of electrical safety during wild weather events.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said severe storms could damage homes and the electricity network, causing unplanned power outages for customers.

"Traditionally, the storm season occurs from October through to March but it's never too late to prepare your property for severe weather by removing debris and overgrown vegetation from around the home and clearing gutters," David said.

"Residents are advised to have a battery-powered torch handy, along with candles and waterproof matches, and a list of emergency contact numbers including Essential Energy's 24-hour 13 20 80 number."

"It's also useful to have a portable radio with spare batteries to keep you informed of the situation, non-perishable food, a can opener, some spare clothing and fresh drinking water."

During a storm, residents are advised to stay indoors, unplug sensitive electronic equipment like televisions and computers, and check social media via mobile phones for updates.

"Take care when walking or driving after a storm as fallen powerlines can be hidden by vegetation or other debris," said David.

"Stay at least eight metres away fallen powerlines or any objects in contact with them, always assume they are live and report any network faults to Essential Energy immediately on 13 20 80."

For more information on electrical safety, visit essentialenergy.com.au/safety or contact Essential Energy on **13 23 91**.

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Essential Energy is the operator of one of Australia's largest electricity networks spanning 95 per cent of New South Wales' land mass. Owned by the New South Wales Government, Essential Energy also provides water and sewerage services to customers in far western New South Wales.