

Storm safety checklist

DURING STORM SEASON, STAY AWARE AND STAY SAFE

Before a storm

PREPARE YOUR HOME AND BUSINESS

- ✓ Secure any loose items that could become airborne in strong winds
- ✓ Ensure gutters, downpipes and drains are clear of debris
- ✓ Inspect roofs and fixtures for water damage
- ✓ If trees and branches are growing too close to our powerlines, contact Essential Energy on **13 23 91** or visit essentialenergy.com.au/trees

PREPARE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Write down:

- ✓ What you will do in an emergency
- ✓ Where you will go if you are required to evacuate
- ✓ Who you are responsible for (children, pets, other family, neighbours, etc)
- ✓ Relevant phone numbers and radio station frequencies so you can stay up to date

Note: Visit the SES website sesemergencyplan.com.au for more information and tools for creating your emergency plan.

PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT

Include:

- ✓ A torch with a supply of batteries
- ✓ Candles and waterproof matches
- ✓ A portable radio with spare batteries
- ✓ Non-perishable food, a can opener and fresh drinking water
- ✓ Spare warm, dry clothing
- ✓ A first aid kit and essential medications
- ✓ A list of emergency contact numbers, including Essential Energy's 24-hour **13 20 80** number

During a storm

WHERE SAFE TO DO SO

- ✓ Take cover and stay indoors
- ✓ Unplug sensitive electronic equipment like televisions and computers
- ✓ Park vehicles under secure cover and away from trees, powerlines and drains
- ✓ Check animals are in secure enclosures and keep pets inside
- ✓ Do not seek cover under trees or open structures such as pergolas – find an enclosed building or vehicle and wait until the storm has passed
- ✓ Stay up to date – check social media via mobile phones for updates and follow Essential Energy on Facebook and Twitter for updates on major outages
- ✓ Report fallen powerlines, network damage, fires or trees contacting powerlines to Essential Energy on **13 20 80** as soon as possible or call **Triple-0 (000)** if the situation is life-threatening.

Keep an eye on the weather

Visit Essential Energy's StormTracker at our website: essentialenergy.com.au/stormtracker

After a storm

CHECK FOR DAMAGE

- ✓ Stay at least **eight metres away** from fallen powerlines or any objects in contact with them, always assume they are live and report faults to Essential Energy immediately on **13 20 80**
- ✓ Remember flood waters can damage the electricity network and fallen powerlines can be hidden by vegetation and debris
- ✓ Stay clear of creeks, drains, causeways, gutters, streams, fallen trees, and any damaged buildings
- ✓ Always have licensed professionals check electrical installations following flood or storm damage.

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DAMAGED OR FALLEN POWERLINES CAN BE HARD TO SPOT

Indicators of potential damage may include flickering or no power supply, burnt areas in paddocks or road-sides, injured stock, smoke or fallen trees.

Contact Essential Energy on **13 20 80** if:

- ▶ You see fallen or damaged powerlines and stay at least **eight metres away**
- ▶ Your vehicle contacts powerlines. Remember to stay inside the vehicle (if it is safe to do so).

EMERGENCY ESCAPE PROCEDURE

If your vehicle contacts overhead or underground powerlines:

- ▶ Stay in your vehicle and call **Triple-0 (000)** immediately
- ▶ If escape is necessary due to fire, jump well clear to avoid contact with the vehicle and ground at the same time
- ▶ When you jump land with your feet together and do not touch the vehicle, fall or allow your feet to step apart
- ▶ You must shuffle or jump, with your feet together until you are at least **eight metres** clear of the vehicle, powerlines or anything else in contact with them
- ▶ Once clear, do not return to the vehicle for any reason
- ▶ Call Essential Energy on **13 20 80**.

If you see a vehicle that has contacted overhead or underground powerlines:

- ▶ Never approach the vehicle to assist in an evacuation as electricity can arc or 'jump' across open spaces if you get too close
- ▶ Always treat powerlines as if they are 'live' and contact Essential Energy on **13 20 80**
- ▶ Call **Triple-0 (000)** if the situation is life-threatening

STORMTRACKER

StormTracker can help you keep an eye on the weather, with lightning strike and rainfall information all on the one screen, updated every 15 minutes.

You can stay prepared for storms by visiting StormTracker every day at

essentialenergy.com.au/storm-tracker

