

Emergency and School Security Quick Reference Guide

Severe Thunderstorm

What is a severe thunderstorm?

A severe thunderstorm is one that produces any of the following:

- Large hail (2cm in diameter or larger)
- Damaging wind gusts (generally wind gusts exceeding 90km/h)
- Heavy rainfall which may cause flash flooding
- Tornadoes

Most thunderstorms do not reach the level of intensity needed to produce these dangerous phenomena so the Bureau of Meteorology does not warn for all thunderstorms.

Pre-season planning

- Ensure you have completed and reviewed your Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
- Be aware of severe thunderstorm patterns in your area (contact your local council for advice)
- Arrange for trim trees, remove overhanging branches and clear gutters and downpipes, clear grounds of loose materials and rubbish

Preparedness prior to the event

- Tune in to your local radio and TV station
- Log on to the Bureau of Meteorology website
- Monitor Emergency Alert messages sent to your phone
- **Act!** Warnings are urgent. Act immediately on the advice provided

Immediate action

- Activate your Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
- Listen to a local radio station for severe thunderstorm advice and warnings
- Shelter and secure agricultural unit animals (if applicable)
- Park department vehicles under solid shelter
- Secure all external doors and windows
- Disconnect all electrical items
- Consider the **CE Directive No.01/2015** for school closures

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Follow up actions

- Do not use matches or lighters, in case of leaking natural gas pipes or fuel tanks nearby. Remain calm and alert, and listen for information and instructions from emergency services or local officials
- Contact your Regional Director
- Refer media to the Regional Director
- Consider school closure **CE Directive No.01/2015**.
- Use communications strategy
- Check with local councils for boiled water alerts
- Confirm power is connected
- Check that sewage services are operational
- If damage to facilities or debris on site contact BAS immediately to respond to the clean-up and rectification works
- For support on any of the above, please contact your Regional Office Infrastructure Advisor
- Notify Education Queensland International if any international student is involved

Recovery

Seek support from School Guidance Officers and Employee Advisors as appropriate:

- <http://education.qld.gov.au/health/contacts/contacts-ea.html>

NB: School closures are posted on DoE website <http://closures.det.qld.gov.au/> Facebook and Twitter.

Additional Information

For further information contact the Emergency and School Security on (07) 303 46011

DoE Website <https://qed.qld.gov.au/>

Twitter www.twitter.com/QLDEducation

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