WEATHER YOUR DRIVE

Storm Smart Fact Sheet



Storms can strike quickly, making driving conditions dangerous. Strong winds, heavy rain, hail and lightning can all impact visibility, vehicle control and road conditions. A third of all Australian drivers are scared of driving on wet roads.

Did you know?

Thunderstorms are classified as severe when heavy rainfall could cause flash flooding, wind gusts reach 90kmh or more and hail has a diameter of 2cm or more[2].

Thousands of vehicles are damaged by hail in Australia every year, with many being written-off[3].

Employees identified heavy rain **(82%)**, severe storms **(76%)** and high winds **(34%)** as the key weather events posing the greatest road safety risk when driving for work.

Risks of driving in storm-affected areas

- Flying debris from gusts of wind
- Vehicle damage
- Mud
- Landslides
- Fallen trees and damaged bitumen

Many storm-related driving risks can be reduced through preparation, awareness and prompt actions.

Preparing before a storm

It is important to avoid driving in severe weather conditions where possible. Monitor for changes in the climate using an accurate weather app and have alternative routes or plans in place.

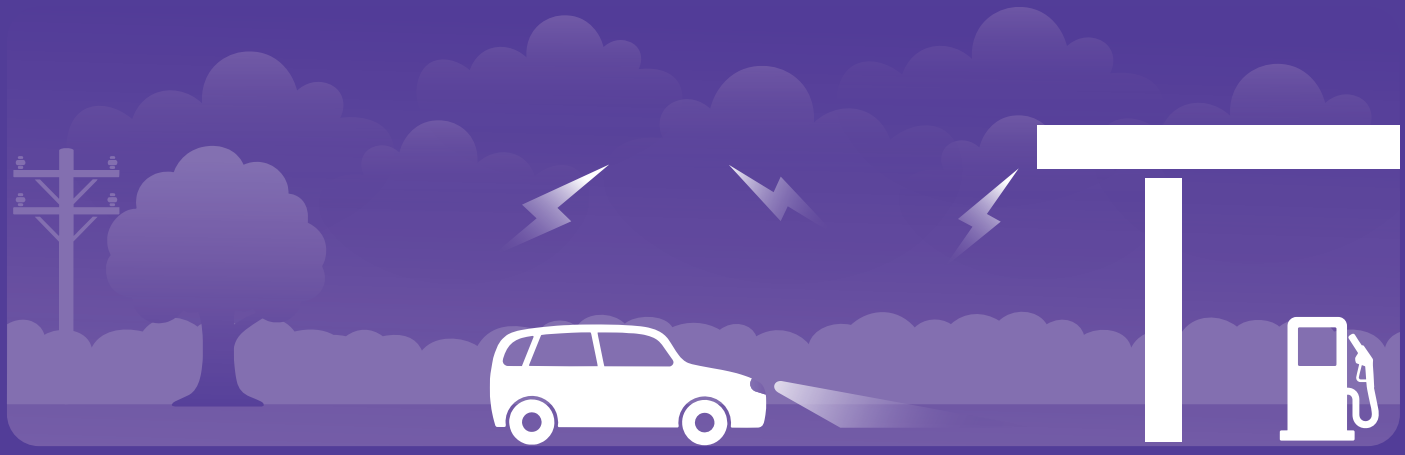
Make sure your car is serviced and safe to drive, including working windscreen wipers and lights, as well as regularly checking your tyre pressure and tread.

During a storm

During a storm, switch on your headlights so you are visible to other drivers and carefully pull over to the side of the road when it is safe to do so. Avoid stopping under trees or powerlines as these can become unstable and cause serious damage. Avoid parking near large bodies of water as heavy rain can cause water levels to rise quickly.

Where possible, seek shelter in solid sheltered areas such as an undercover car park or service station[4].

Driving during a hailstorm can be particularly dangerous for both you and your vehicle, so allow enough time to find safe shelter where possible.



After a storm

Be aware of fallen or damaged tree branches and always assume fallen powerlines are live, so stay clear of them[5]. Park your vehicle in a shelter such as a car garage or cover with a tarp/blanket for protection.

Inspect the vehicle for any damage, like chipped windscreens, scratches or dents from hail or falling debris. If your vehicle is damaged, document it and contact your insurance provider to lodge a claim[6].

Recommendations for drivers

- Check the weather forecast using a reliable app or website such as the Bureau of Meteorology.



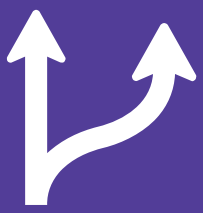
- Slow down to a speed that suits the conditions.



- Look out for blocked or damaged roads.



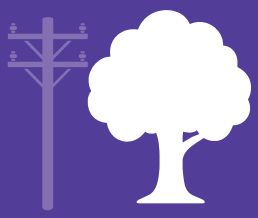
- Seek alternative routes.



- Keep vehicle windows closed.



- Do not stop under trees, powerlines, bridges or other overhead hazards.



Recommendations for managers

- Provide training about communication systems for emergency updates.



- Provide flexible work arrangements and encourage staying at home.



- Limit employees driving in high-risk storm conditions.

