Extreme Storm and Flood...the first 10 minutes

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The two most costly hazards in SA are floods and storms

Average annual cost in SA (1967-1999):

- Floods
  $18.1 million
- Storms
  $16.2 million
- Bushfires
  $11.9 million
What is an Extreme Storm?

Extreme Storm – two types:

Extreme Storm – Thunderstorm
- heavy rainfall leading to flash flooding $>30\text{ mm/h}$
- wind gusts $90\text{ km/h or greater}$
- damaging hailstones $2\text{ cm diameter or greater}$
- tornadoes

Extreme Storm – Synoptic Storm
(could include some / all of the above but also):
- mean wind speed $63\text{ km/h or greater}$ (land gale)
- storm tide / surge higher than astronomical tide
- causing damage / destruction to foreshore
Before the event:

- Know your risk, are you in a flood risk area?
- Have you managed large trees near your property?
- Is your roof and penetrations in good order? (Skylights, Air Cond etc).
- Is there anything around the property that could become airborne?
- What happens if you loose access and egress to your property?
- Can your facility manage with an extended power outage?

Planning…. Planning….Planning…

All for a different presentation and discussion
What happens during an extreme storm or flood event???

Tasks come into our operations system from several sources 000, 132500

Very rapidly there are more tasks than there are crews available (SES, MFS, CFS)

A 90 kmph wind event will frequently generate 400 to 600 metropolitan tasks within a few hours.

Tasks are triaged and prioritised with responses allocated accordingly.

What this means is that there may not always be an immediate response to non life threat tasks.

What can you do in the time it takes for SES to arrive?
Storm Damage

If there has been damage to the building structure (e.g. roof, walls):

• Turn off the power to the building
• Do not enter an area that may be structurally unsound.
• Manage any minor flooding to a room by closing doors, towels etc.
• Provide accurate details to the call taker regarding damage.
• Implement your Emergency Management / Business Continuity Plan
Flood / Water damage

• Know your pre-existing risk and where water normally enters.
• Prevent water entering by diverting it externally (trenches, levees etc.)
• Have a stock of unfilled sandbags available or consider self-expanding options.
• Utilise sandbags against external vents and doors
• Prevent sewer backflow by blocking toilets and floor drains (shopping bag option)
• If water within premises, turn off the power and leave it off until an electrician signs off.
• Move valuables and electronic items to higher locations, e.g. on chairs on tables.
• Do not walk or drive through fast flowing water.
• Implement your Emergency Management / Business Continuity Plan
Questions?