



Stormsafe

Storms can occur at anytime and cause major damage to your home and property.

In the ACT an increased number of storms occur between September and February each year.

The ACT State Emergency Service (ACT SES) responds to calls for help from the community after a storm 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

ACT SES volunteer members undertake basic emergency repairs such as placing a tarp over a leaking roof to prevent further damage until the home owner can arrange for a professional tradesperson/s to permanently fix the problem.

The key message for all ACT residents is to be prepared for storms before they hit.

The ACT SES has joined forces with NRMA Insurance to make Canberra householders aware of the importance of being prepared for a storm.

The ACT SES and NRMA Insurance are both keen to reduce the impact of storms in the Territory.

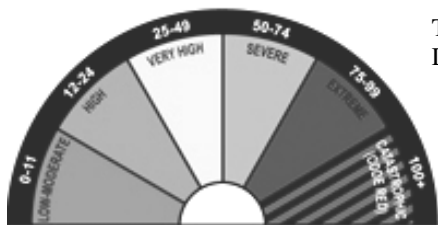
For more information about the 2009 StormSafe campaign including ACT SES visits to your local shopping centre and how to prepare your home and property click on the links at the website listed below.

The links give information on the 2009 StormSafe radio commercial; the 2009 StormSafe brochure; when the ACT SES is visiting your local shopping; how to visit the ACT SES / NRMA Insurance interactive Help House; the Storms and Floods Information Guide; and the latest ACT weather forecast and warnings.

FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOODS & STORMS CALL

132 500
In an Emergency dial 000

Source:
http://www.esa.act.gov.au/ESAWebsite/content_ses/stormsafe_campaign/stormsafe_2009.html



The new Fire Danger Meter

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. this bushfire season

The ACT Emergency Services Agency has adopted the new nationally developed framework for bushfire information in the Territory ahead of the 2009/2010 official bushfire season.

The changes in the ACT include:

- using the new Fire Danger Metre featuring two new levels, **SEVERE** and **CATASTROPHIC (CODE RED)**;
- publishing the Fire Danger Indices with the daily Fire Danger Rating; and
- replacing the *Stay and Defend or Go Early* slogan with **PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**

The table at http://www.rfs.act.gov.au/ESAWebsite/content_rfs/rfs_home_page/rfs_home_page.html outlines the Fire Danger Ratings and provides you with some insight into what the fire behaviour might be and the potential impacts.

These ratings have been created using research from past events; statistics on loss of life and property that tell us the danger is real and where various Regulations and Codes for building in bushfire areas are applicable.

To find out how to **PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE** go to http://www.esa.act.gov.au/ESAWebsite/content_esa/bushfires/16_09_2009_prepare_act_survive_guide

Read more on the ACT adopting a new fire warning system at
<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8559&m=53>

Source:
http://www.rfs.act.gov.au/ESAWebsite/content_rfs/rfs_home_page/rfs_home_page.html

Your noise is not their choice

Consider how noise affects your neighbours.

Often we are unaware of the noise coming from our home and its effect on those around us. Sometimes you can't hear what your neighbours can, due to noise coming from poorly located air conditioning units, excessively loud stereos or unreasonable use of power tools.

A simple conversation with your neighbour could prevent a problem; otherwise it can cost you dearly if the noise exceeds acceptable limits.

Talk to your neighbour if their noise is affecting you. Is your quality of life being affected by unreasonable noise?

Visit our website www.noise.act.gov.au to find out more about information on acceptable noise levels.

Please assist our police by reporting all suspicious activity to: **CRIME STOPPERS** use: **1800 333 000.**

For police attendance use: **131 444.**
But, for all life-threatening emergencies use: **“0 0 0”**



Australian Taxation Office—door-to-door scam warning

The Assistant Treasurer, the Hon. Nick Sherry has issued a warning to Australians of a suspected door-to-door scam by people claiming to be consultants from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

The alleged bogus consultants ask people to sign up to a fictional government program promising financial incentives, including a reduction in taxes.

In return for signing up, scammers will ask you for personal information such as credit card information or banking details.

Remember scammers can use your personal information to steal your money and identity. Don't give out personal information about your credit card, banking details or superannuation fund unless you can verify that you are giving it to a trusted source.

Visit SCAMwatch to learn how to protect yourself against identity theft, superannuation and door-to-door scams.

Anyone approached about accessing or investing in superannuation should contact the ATO on 13 28 61 and report any suspicious activities.

You should also call the ATO if you are concerned about the legitimacy of callers or the identity of an ATO officer.

Anyone who has given personal information to an illegitimate source should immediately report it to their credit card provider, bank or superannuation fund.

Protect yourself

- If someone comes to your door, ask to see their identification.
- Never agree to anything without reading all the terms and conditions very carefully.
- Don't agree to any offer involving a significant amount of money, time or commitment—seek independent advice first.
- If you are interested in what the door-to-door person has to offer, take the time to find out more about their business and their offer.

Report

You can report this scam to the ACCC Infocentre on 1300 302 502 or visit the Report a scam page in SCAMwatch. Warn your friends, family, colleagues and neighbours about the scam.

Source:

<http://www.scamwatch.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/767366>

Volunteers needed to support Woden Community Service

Help us to help people in Woden who need community support.

Woden Community Service is a not-for-profit organisation which provides a wide range of services to meet the needs of people who live or work in the Woden area.

Volunteers make a significant and valuable contribution to this work and new volunteers are always welcome.

Two hours of your time each fortnight could make a big difference to someone who needs a little bit of community support.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering opportunities at Woden Community Service and would like to be involved in helping out in our community, please contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator (Ph: 6234 6862 or Email: geoff.hayes@wcs.org.au)

Time spent chatting with your neighbours in spring is a valuable thing

With spring comes a burst of energy- people are outdoors more often, and all kinds of plants blossom and thrive. It is a time to meet and chat with your neighbours about the weather and the kids, and perhaps how the weeds are getting out of hand. If more of us took the time to meet in a friendly setting, then if a thorny issue arose with the neighbour- his dog, her cat, or the knocked-over bin, things could be sorted out face to face in most cases. Sadly, people are in a hurry these days, and neglect the chat time. Then they may find themselves spending more time than they had bargained for- arguing over a fence, a barking dog or a teenage noise issue. Just as the weeds can take over your garden if not attended to, so can a small mishap grow into a full-blown dispute if not nipped in the bud.

It takes time to create a sense of belonging and connection. The people who have lived in a precinct longer are in a good position to introduce themselves to new arrivals. Never under-estimate the power of a friendly greeting from an insider to an outsider coming in. Establishing a friendly and supportive neighbourhood is not difficult, but it takes good will and a decision to make the effort.

Appreciate your neighbour as a friend in times of need

Remember to value your neighbour, as there may very well be a time when you need one another. Not to mention positive feelings are better for your health than negative ones!

For information about how the law in the ACT affects residential amenity, boundaries, animals, noise or the environment, you can contact Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 or go to the web-site: www.canberraconnect.act.gov.au