# Extreme Weather Events

Bushfires, floods, heatwaves and storms can develop quickly across Australia and New Zealand. Outdoor work, sites and travel can expose us to serious risks.

**Be prepared and stay informed. Stop work or seek shelter when conditions become unsafe.**

## Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot



- **Smoke: poor air quality, visibility and access**
- **Heat: stress, dehydration and fatigue**



- **Storms: wind, lightning, hail and falling debris**
- **Falling branches, damaged structures and flying objects**
- **Power outages: disrupted services, communications and equipment**



- **Floods: rapid water rises**
- **Driving: rain, flooding, poor visibility, road closures**

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# Where might this happen in our work environment?

SAFE OVER SUMMER



**Outdoor work:** heatwaves, smoke and rapidly changing conditions can affect workers on site.



**Travel and commuting:** heavy rain, flooding, poor visibility and road closures can make driving hazardous.



**Workplaces and operations:** storms, wind, falling branches and power outages can affect buildings, services and equipment.

**Where else?**

**What weather risks affect your work area or commute?**

## What can we check to protect?

1. **Are we ready for weather changes?**
   Check forecasts and alerts before and during work. Keep emergency contacts, communication devices and first aid ready. Report changing hazards immediately.

2. **Is it safe to keep working?**
   Stop unsafe work. Follow site emergency and evacuation procedures. Seek shelter in lightning or high winds.

3. **Are heat and flood risks covered?**
   Stay hydrated and manage heat exposure. Never drive through floodwater or enter flooded areas.

**What will you do today to protect yourself from extreme weather?**

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# Your safety comes first

## The SI&CS Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team is here to help.

You don’t have to work through a safety concern alone.

### Ask for support when:

**You’re unsure**

We can help you understand a hazard and discuss a safer way to work.

**Something happens**

We can help with hazard, incident and near-miss reporting and next steps.

**You need support**

We can work with you and your supervisor or manager to address health, safety and wellbeing concerns.

### Do you know who is your HSW Business Partner?

## Stop if the work is unsafe

Pause the task and move to a safe place. Speak up if something feels unsafe or you are unsure.

## Notify your supervisor or manager

Report hazards, incidents and near misses promptly, even if no one is hurt. Explain what happened, where it is and who may be at risk.

## Do not continue unsafe work

Keep the task stopped until the risk is addressed and your supervisor or manager confirms a safe way forward. Ask for help if you are unsure.