



Hazard Factsheet: Severe Storms



Auckland
Emergency
Management

Storms are a combination of many different hazards occurring at the same time, including high winds, heavy rain and coastal inundation.

Tāmaki Makaurau can experience storms all year around, including tropical cyclones that track down from the tropical latitudes in summer, and strong polar blasts that come up from the 'Roaring 40s' and southern latitudes in the winter.

Low atmospheric pressure associated with storms, combined with high tides or strong winds, can cause coastal inundation. Widespread storms can cause additional hazards, for example heavy rain can trigger flooding and landslides.

How we are impacted by severe storms will change as we experience the impacts of climate change.

Rainfall and wind speeds associated with severe storms may become more intense in the future as global temperatures rise.

During a storm

- Listen to advice provided by Auckland Emergency Management and emergency services.
- Put your emergency plans into action.
- Close your windows. Pull curtains and blinds over windows to prevent injury from flying glass if the window breaks.
- Take extreme care with items that may conduct electricity if your whare/home is struck by lightning.
- Using electric lights is safe during a severe storm but unplug your appliances.
- Turn off air conditioners and heat pumps which can be overloaded by electricity surges from lightning.
- If you live in an old house with metal plumbing, avoid using bathtubs, water taps and sinks as these may conduct electricity.

Stay informed on Weather Watches and Warnings via MetService's email or app:
metservice.com/warnings/home

