



28 September 2016

South Australia is bracing for an extreme weather event featuring heavy rain, gale force winds and also thunderstorm activity.

As these conditions are likely to result in damage to the overhead electricity distribution network, SA Power Networks has been gearing up to respond to this event, which is likely to affect much of the settled areas of the state.

This involves ensuring we have sufficient resources on the ground and on standby to respond to widespread outages caused by a weather system that will persist well into Friday.

It also means planning for the likelihood of significant damage to our poles and wires, mostly because of falling trees and tree limbs and airborne debris.

Additional network staff will assist our crews in assessing damage and repair needs and to stand by downed wires to ensure we keep the community safe. We also will have additional volunteers staffing a back-up telephone centre to assist customers and an experienced team managing and co-ordinating our response.

Given the forecast of gale force winds, safety of our crews will also be a key issue. In some situations it may not be safe to work until wind speeds reduce. On top of potential widespread damage, this and the potential for sodden ground or flooding, may further hamper restoration of power during this event.

As such we advise people to be prepared for the potential for outages of extended duration. We recommend ensuring all devices such as mobile phones and iPads be kept fully charged as a precaution. If you lose power try to minimise phone use so you can communicate in an emergency. A battery powered radio will also assist in keeping up to date with emergency information.

Outages can be reported online at [sapowernetworks.com.au](http://sapowernetworks.com.au), or by calling 13 13 66.

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