

## LIFE NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION

# NiE

### Words at work

#### Weather the storm

Meaning: to experience serious problems or difficulties and survive it without being harmed or damaged too much.

e.g. Newspapers have weathered the storm by providing news online.

**PART 2**

### BE PREPARED

IT IS important to prepare yourself before disaster strikes as storms can cause major disruptions to essential services.

In the event of a storm

- Never swim, drive, walk or ride during stormy weather.

- Stay Informed – be aware of the situation. Tune into your emergency broadcasters. Think about who can help in an emergency.

- Be ready to act quickly as conditions can change rapidly.

- Evacuate if advised by authorities. Consider where to go during a storm and how to get there.

- Plan what you should have in your emergency survival kits. Collect together medicines, clothing, important documents, mementos, photos and pets and take them with you if you have to evacuate.

### TRY THIS

#### Disaster resilience education for schools

THIS toolkit of disaster resilience education resources for teachers and students focuses on both individual and community resilience and provides information and vital components to help develop a shared understanding of the critical role everyone plays in dealing with disasters in Australia.

#### Check it out

Check out Dingo Creek – The Disaster- and Dingo Creek- The Recovery- two engaging, easy to use multimedia games where players travel back in time to save and rebuild the fictional small community of Dingo Creek from a disaster that has struck the town. [www.emschools.org.au/dingo-creek](http://www.emschools.org.au/dingo-creek)

# Stormy weather

In Australia, we experience several types of severe storms such as thunderstorms, hailstorms, dust storms, windstorms, cyclones, tornadoes and even snowstorms. Severe storms can occur in any region, can develop quickly and threaten both life and property.

#### Types of storms

##### Hailstorm

When thunderstorm updraughts are strong enough to carry water droplets well above the freezing level, the droplets form into hailstones which can grow as additional water freezes onto it.

Eventually, the hailstones become too heavy for the updraughts to support it and it falls to the ground as hail rather than raindrops.

Hail can range from five millimetres in diameter to the size of a cricket ball.

##### Dust storm

Strong winds blowing over loose soil or sand cause dust storms also known as sandstorms. The wind picks

up material, reducing visibility and covering everything with dust. The widespread abundance of loose sand in deserts make them the most common locations for this type of storm.

##### Snowstorm

Characterised by a significant volume of snow with accompanying high wind, snowstorms occur when the air temperature is below freezing both up in the clouds where snowflakes form, and down at ground level.

A blizzard is a long-lasting snowstorm with very strong winds and intense snowfall.

##### Tornado

A tornado is a violent rotating,

funnel-shaped column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling, spinning winds that can reach up to 510kmh.

Scientists use the F-scale, or Fujita scale, to measure how strong tornadoes are.

##### Windstorm

A windstorm is just a storm with very high winds or violent gusts but little or no rain.

Wind or air in motion is produced by the uneven heating of the earth's surface by the sun.

The Beaufort scale is a measure for the intensity of the weather based mainly on wind power. For example, number 6 on the scale indicates strong winds of 40 to 50kmh.

#### Did you know?

- Most thunderstorms last about 30 minutes and are typically about 24km in diameter.

- In September 2009 Sydney was covered in a blanket of red dust as a result of strong winds blowing dust in from inland NSW and South Australia.

- A willy-willy is a column of swirling dust being sucked high into the sky.

- Australia gets about 16 tornadoes every year.

- Another type of tornado is a waterspout – a tornado over water.

**TOMORROW: Stormy weather Part 3**