



Media release

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Spike in high wind claims

Research conducted by RACT has shown nearly 40 per cent of Tasmanians do not feel prepared or are unsure of the correct actions to take should there be an extreme storm near their home.

The statistics come as the organisation reports an increase in wind related claims in Tasmania for the months of May and June, with increases of 40 per cent and 50 per cent respectively.

RACT Chief Insurance Officer Paul Sofronoff said the seasonable winds in the months of May and June had seen an increase in the number of claims during this period.

"Over the past five years, we've seen a significant increase in storm-related claims," Mr Sofronoff said.

Survey results collected for RACT indicate that when questioned whether they felt well-prepared for, or knowledgeable about dealing with an extreme storm near their home, about 39 per cent of Tasmanians did not believe they were adequately prepared.

Mr Sofronoff said with the likelihood of more storm activity there are some simple steps people can take to prepare for storms.

"First up, make sure items in your garden are secure or if they are large and hard to move, have a plan for what you would do if there was to be a storm," Mr Sofronoff said.

"High winds often displace objects like trampolines or outdoor furniture. Therefore, determining a secure location to relocate these items during high winds is critical.

"Also, it's essential to keep your gutters and drains clear, ensure trees are trimmed and well maintained, and remove branches which could fall on property. Ensuring your roof is in good condition is also vital."

"Don't forget to make sure your insurance policy adequately covers you and that you have a home emergency plan as well as an emergency kit with essential items, such as radio, torch, spare batteries and phone chargers, and a first aid kit," Mr Sofronoff said.

Mr Sofronoff said these simple steps will mean you know what to do prior to a storm hitting and just as importantly, you are prepared when storms do come.

For further information: Becher Townshend, Font PR 0418 370 661