

# Storms and gales

Strong winds are relatively common in the UK, but the most severe storms can bring damaging gale force winds. When storms occur, they can lead to flooding, damage to buildings, trees, power cables, homes, and can cause bridge and road closures.

## How could it impact you?

Storms and gales can result in flying debris, uprooted or damaged trees, disrupted power supplies, and disrupted transport services.

Schools, businesses and other services may be forced to close or pause.



### **Remember**

Keep yourself safe, especially when trying to help other people. Don't try to repair damage while the storm is in progress.



# What can you do before, during and after?

## Before

- ✓ Check the weather forecast by watching and listening to the news.
- ✓ Know who your power, water, and phone providers are and how to contact them if there is an outage.
- ✓ Contact your power suppliers to see if you're eligible to be put on Priority Service Registers (see page 9).
- ✓ Check you have food, fuel, batteries, and medication.
- ✓ Check you have the right level of insurance cover for your property and possessions and keep a list of essential contacts accessible.
- ✓ Secure doors, windows, and loose outside objects such as garden furniture, bins, plant pots, and trampolines.
- ✓ Park vehicles in a garage if possible, or move away from trees, walls, and fences.



## During

- ✓ If you must travel, allow extra time, check with travel operators first, and adhere to 'Do Not Travel' notices.
- ✓ Check on those who might need extra help such as elderly relatives and neighbours.
- ✓ Don't go outside unless absolutely necessary – if you do go outside try not to walk too close to buildings, fences, trees, or along sea fronts, beaches, or cliffs.
- ✓ If you get in trouble at the coast, contact the emergency services by dialling 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

## After

- ✓ Be careful not to touch any electrical or telephone cables that have been blown down or are still hanging.
- ✓ Do not walk too close to walls, buildings, and trees as they could have been weakened.
- ✓ Make sure that any vulnerable neighbours or relatives are safe and help them make arrangements for any repairs.
- ✓ Take photos and report any damage or problems from storms to your landlord or gas, electricity and water providers. Have qualified professionals handle any repairs or inspections.
- ✓ Restock any emergency supplies.