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## SP AusNet says prepare for summer storms

SP AusNet is urging residents to prepare for summer storms by ensuring trees and branches are cleared near homes and private electricity assets.

With summer approaching, taking the necessary steps can significantly reduce property damage and the inconvenience of being without power.

SP AusNet's North Regional Manager, Paul Lane, said the company has been working hard during the winter to minimise the impact of trees on the electricity network.

"SP AusNet has comprehensive vegetation management program to ensure a safe and reliable supply of electricity to customers," Mr Lane said.

"As such, this year SP AusNet is on track to prune or cut around 135,000 trees from powerlines throughout our network in northern and eastern Victoria.

"With summer approaching, residents must act now to reduce the potential impact strong winds and heavy rain can have on trees near your home and private electricity assets.

"Importantly, under no circumstances should you climb a power pole or prune branches near powerlines. Contact a registered electrician or a properly certified person in tree clearing to cut or clean vegetation away from power lines," he said.

People should stay well clear of any fallen power lines, trees or branches that have fallen across power lines and report the hazard immediately to SP AusNet's 24 hour fault line on 13 17 99.

To help you manage summer storms and possible power outages SP AusNet suggests you:

- Have emergency contact details easily available
- Have a fully charged torch with fresh batteries and a battery-operated radio
- Make sure your all mobile phones in the home are fully charged
- A hand pump is required as electricity powered water pumps will not work in a power outage
- Consider turning your fridge and freezer to a cooler setting to maintain food freshness
- If flooding occurs unplug electrical appliances and move them to a higher location
- Don't use any water damaged appliances – get them checked by your electrician
- If you have to leave your property due to potential flooding and have time, turn off all your utilities at the meter, as you leave your home
- If you are deaf, or hard of hearing you can also contact SP AusNet on 1300 305 043

For all general enquiries, customers can contact SP AusNet's customer service line on 1300 360 795 during business hours (Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm) or visit the website for further information

[www.sp-ausnet.com.au](http://www.sp-ausnet.com.au).

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