

Title: Get ready now for bad weather

This Media Release has
been prepared by
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**Timaru District
Council
Emergency Management**

Timaru District Council is advising residents in the district to be ready for heavy rain, floods, snow, strong winds and very cold weather, which could hit at any time.

"Winter has arrived early and last week's heavy rain and flooding in parts of the region remind us that bad weather can disrupt our lives, threaten our safety and put our lives and property at risk," says Lamorna Cooper, the Emergency Management Officer.

"Often the weather causes road closures and power cuts, and can also affect the phone services. This can leave vulnerable members of our communities isolated and at greater risk. People should be prepared to fend for themselves for 3 or more days, look out for their neighbours and family and check their emergency kits are sorted. This includes having stocks of food, water, fuel, alternative lighting and other emergency supplies on hand," says Ms Cooper.

People considering driving south or inland over mountain passes should have chains, warm coats and even sleeping bags in their vehicles in case of snow, and are advised to check road conditions before leaving.

For more information on how to prepare, go to www.getthru.govt.nz or see the inside front cover of your Yellow Pages and also the centre page for more information.

ENDS

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