After the storm has passed, emergency services such as the Police and SES will work together to secure any damage from the storm. They will tape off dangerous areas, such as trees with branches that may soon fall, or roads that are damaged, so that you do not accidentally enter these areas and hurt yourself. Wait until the emergency services have issued the All Clear before you return home.

If you attempt to return home beforehand, you may put yourself and other people at risk of harm.

When you get back on the road, be vigilant for any hazards due to storm damage such as fallen trees, powerlines and damage to roads. Homes and properties may be severely damaged.

Stay away from damaged areas that are not your home. Curious onlookers can make it harder for emergency services to do their job and may put others at risk.

If you are unsure whether you can return home or not, check the SES website for further information.

Be prepared for your home to be damaged. Be careful when you return home.

Dress appropriately in long-sleeved clothing, strong gloves and sturdy boots.

Inspect the outside of your property for any damage before you enter your home.

Use a torch when you go inside, and watch for any slip, trip or fall hazards.

Check your windows and walls for any structural damage.

If you are concerned about any damage, call the SES on 132 500.

The SES will assist you with making your property safe again.

Keep an eye out for any dangerous hazards such as chemicals, electricity or asbestos.

Interior walls damaged by the storm may increase the risks from asbestos, such as breathing in asbestos fibres. Asbestos can cause short or long-term health issues. If you suspect asbestos is present, request a professional to inspect and remove any materials.

Before you start cleaning up any storm damage, take photos outside and inside your home.

You will need photo evidence for insurance purposes.

Cleaning up after a storm can take a long time. Your council and local community will rally together to clean up and make repairs.

Emergency Relief Centres may be established after a severe storm, where you will be able to access support such as temporary accommodation, and financial assistance if needed. This support will be provided by the Government, and your referrals at the Emergency Relief Centre will be facilitated by the Red Cross or other volunteers. They will refer you to specific services depending on your needs.

Please request an Auslan interpreter, deaf interpreter or deafblind interpreter if you need.

It is important you receive clear communication about what you need to do after a severe storm.