



Met Office Information

Before the storm

- Secure loose objects such as ladders, garden furniture or anything else that could be blown into windows and other glazing and break them
- Close and securely fasten doors and windows, particularly those on the windward side of the house, and especially large doors such as those on garages
- Park vehicles in a garage, if available; otherwise keep them clear of buildings, trees, walls and fences
- Close and secure loft trapdoors with bolts, particularly if roof pitch is less than 30°
- If the house is fitted with storm shutters over the windows then ensure that these are closed and fastened
- If chimney stacks are tall and in poor condition, move beds away from areas directly below them

During the storm

- Stay indoors as much as possible
- If you do go out, try not to walk or shelter close to buildings and trees
- Keep away from the sheltered side of boundary walls and fences - if these structures fail, they will collapse on this side
- Do not go outside to repair damage while the storm is in progress
- If possible, enter and leave your house through doors in the sheltered side, closing them behind you
- Open internal doors only as needed, and close them behind you
- Take care when driving on exposed routes such as bridges, or high open roads, delay your journey or find alternative routes if possible
- Slow down and be aware of side winds, particular care should be taken if you are towing or are a high sided vehicle

- Do not drive unless your journey is really necessary

After the storm

- Be careful not to touch any electrical/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



Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is reminding local people about the hazards of severe weather as Storm Dudley and Storm Eunice bring heavy rain and very strong winds to the region.

With severe weather warnings set to be in place over the weekend, the Service is asking drivers to be extra vigilant and understand the dangers posed by surface water on the roads.

Group Manager Stuart Gillion said: "Very often, surface water doesn't appear very deep but there can be unseen dips in the road which then catch drivers unaware. There is also a risk of drivers in larger vehicles driving through water without dropping their speed, which then creates a 'bow wave' effect – and this can cause significant risks for other vehicles. While this stormy weather continues, please drive to the conditions and be particularly cautious at fords, where water levels can rise a lot in a short space of time."

If you are travelling through areas affected by heavy rain, please follow this advice:

- If you see a sign to say that the road is closed due to flooding, remember the sign is there for a reason. Don't try to drive through or you might get stuck.
- Wherever possible, don't drive through standing water – as well as the water damaging your car, there may be hazards under the water you can't see.
- If you are driving a larger vehicle, do not go through flood water at speed as this creates a 'bow wave' that can then cause flooding to other vehicles or adjacent properties.
- Slow down and take extra care if driving a high sided vehicle in strong winds.
- If heavy rain is making visibility difficult when driving, pull over if possible and safe to do so.
- Remember that roads will be slippery during wet conditions.
- Don't try and walk through floodwater that is above knee level, as the force of the water could easily knock you off your feet. There is also a danger of open manholes, trenches or other hazards that you can't see.

Updates on weather forecasts and road conditions can be found on social media and via local radio and media websites, so check your route before you set off, and allow extra time for any necessary diversions.

Residents are reminded not to call the Fire and Rescue Service about fallen trees unless there is a risk to life or property. Please contact your local council's Highways department instead.

Information on who to call is on the DWFRS

website: www.dwfire.org.uk/who-to-call-for-storm-damage

The Service is also reminding people of the risks along the coast, with rockfalls more likely to happen during prolonged periods of rain. If you intend visiting the coast this weekend, take notice of signs and stay away from the edge and base of cliffs. Other vital advice to follow when near the coast includes:

- Stay away from the edge of the cliff top – admire the view from a safe distance, and keep dogs on leads.
- Stay away from the base of cliffs – rock falls and landslides can happen at any time. If you are trapped under a rock fall, the likelihood is that you will die.
- Pay attention to warning signs – they are there for your safety.
- Check tide times before you set off to avoid being cut off by incoming tides.
- Be aware of mud flows extending across the beaches – don't get stuck.

- Remember that the size and strength of waves is far greater during storm conditions, so stay away from the water's edge and keep dogs on a lead.

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/news/safety-warning-ahead-of-storms/>



Dorset Council

The weather conditions tomorrow are expected to cause significant disruption.

Dorset Council have advised schools to close tomorrow (Friday 18 February 2022) due to the severe weather conditions - please see an extract of their message to schools below:

Following our Incident Management Team and Tactical Co-ordinators Group meetings, all schools have been advised to close tomorrow. The amber weather warning has been escalated to a red warning, where national advice is for all persons to stay at home in affected areas.

School transport for Home to School will not be operating tomorrow. This decision has been made in the interests of protecting the safety of children and staff.

Dorset Council Services which have been suspended include, and are not limited to, –

- Council transport, including school and social care
- Closure of day centres
- Closure of all household recycling centres (HRCs, or “the tip”)
- Suspension of bin collections. Do not put your bins out for collection on Friday 18 February. We will attempt to collect rubbish on Saturday 19 February. Food waste will be emptied on your next collection day (Friday 25 February). We hope to collect missed recycling on Saturday 26 February. Garden and commercial waste customers will be contacted separately.
- Libraries and council owned buildings will be closed to the public
- Roads could be closed at short notice
- Durlston Country Park is closed and scheduled performances cancelled

- Go Ape at Moors Valley will be closed tomorrow. Staff will be in touch with anyone who has booked to go there tomorrow.

Any further service disruption due to the storm, which is scheduled to hit the Dorset Council area from 3am until 9am, will be posted here

dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/disrupted-services

We are on standby to deal with any issues and may need to close our roads at short notice. If you see a highway issue [report it to us](#).