DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Ref no: 14/3/1

Weather warning: Severe Thunderstorms in some parts of Limpopo.

Impact-based warning issued by LDARD and SAWS, 17 November 2026



Hazard	Alert level	Valid from	Valid to
Severe Thunderstorms	Warning Level 2	17/11/2026 Tuesday	17/11/2026 Tuesday

Yellow Level 2 Warning: Severe Thunderstorms resulting in localised flooding and damage of settlements/property, hail, and localised disruptions to power supply and communication systems are expected over the extreme south-western parts of Limpopo.

Severe thunderstorm is occurring or is imminent in about 30 minutes to an hour. Many strong thunderstorms produce hail. Large hail, or flying glass it may have broken, can injure people and animals. Hail can be smaller than a pea, or as large as a softball, and can be very destructive to automobiles, glass surfaces, skylights and windows), roofs, plants, and crops.

In a hailstorm, take cover immediately. Livestock is particularly vulnerable to hail, so bring animals into shelter before storms begin.

Severe thunderstorm specific planning should include the following:

- Learn about your area's severe thunderstorm risk.
- Pick "safe places" in your farm for your livestock and another for where family members can gather during a thunderstorm.
- consider making your severe thunderstorm "safe place" on the lowest floor of the building,
- Learn how to squat low to the ground.
- Discuss how you would be warned of an approaching thunderstorm.
- Discuss severe thunderstorms with your family.

How to protect your property:

- Insure crops against financial loss from storm damage.
- Make a list of items to bring inside in the event of a storm.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed.
- Remove any debris or loose items in your yard.
- Consider installing permanent shutters to cover windows.

What to do before a thunderstorm:

- Use a Local Radio station to keep you informed of weather watches and warnings issued in your area.
- If planning a trip or extended period of time outdoors, listen to the latest forecasts and take necessary action if threatening weather is possible.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent. Ploughing, irrigation, planting, milking, livestock dipping, pruning, budding or fertilizer application.
- Keep an eye on the sky. Pay attention to weather clues around you that may warn of imminent danger.
- Stay aware of your surroundings. Look for places you might go should severe weather threatens.
- Listen for the sound of thunder. Go to safe shelter immediately.

What to do during a severe thunderstorm:

- Listen to a local radio or television stations for updated information.
- Avoid natural lightning rods such as tractors, fishing poles and camping equipment.
- Be prepared to seek shelter if a severe thunderstorm approaches.

If you perceive a severe thunderstorm approaching:

- Secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture that could blow away or cause damage or injury. Take light objects inside.
- Shutter windows securely and brace outside doors. This will help protect your house from damaging winds or flying debris.
- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Lightning could follow the wire. Television sets are particularly dangerous at this time.
- Avoid bathtubs, water faucets, and sinks because metal pipes can transmit electricity.

Media and community education ideas

- Publish a special section in your local newspaper with emergency information about thunderstorms and lightning.
- Periodically inform your community of local public warning systems.
- Have your meteorologist speak to farmers about the dangers of thunderstorms, lightning, and hail.

What to do when flooding is forecasted:

Avoid-

Cutting grass in the rainy season (nutrient depletion).

- Appling fungicides and pesticide (plants and animals).
- Applying N fertilizer (burning of plants) (Nitrogen loss is higher during heavy rain), immediately follows a surface application of fertilizer, especially on sloped areas.
- Dumping fertilizer in one spot can cause the roots below the fertilizer to be burned and die). Irrigation (waterlogging can occur, nutrient depletion).
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Following are several recommendations:

- Cover Urea licks to prevent them from becoming toxic.
- Provide shelter for animals (young ones die easily).
- Relocate/ move animals to a safe place.
- Be extra cautious for pest and diseases after rain has fallen, as high moisture content and the high temperatures may trigger these.
- Assume that flood water contains sewage and might be harmful for human and livestock consumption.
- Before leading livestock across a river, check whether the water level is rising. This is especially necessary if it is already raining, but remembers that there could be a storm further upstream and floodwaters could be on the way

A comprehensive list of strategies can be found and accessed from the Departmental websites: www.ldard.gov.za.

The Disaster Management Act (Act No. 57 of 2002) urges Provinces, individuals, and farmers, to assess and prevent or reduce the risk of disasters using early warning

Farmers are advised to report all disaster incidents to agricultural advisors at their nearest LDARD offices.

For more information contact Provincial Disaster Risk Management:

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