

MEDIA RELEASE

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Batten down the hatches

Queenslanders have been advised to prepare their homes for the upcoming cyclone season, which is forecast to be the worst in years.

The Bureau of Meteorology's Queensland Regional Director, Jim Davidson¹, said, "Under these conditions, we have a good chance of a cyclone crossing the coast before the year is out."

"Preparation is the key to safety," Mr Davidson continued, "...and we encourage communities to factor the possibility of a destructive cyclone...into their pre-season planning."

Ensuring windows meet Australian Standards for safety glass is one measure that should be considered when protecting a home against cyclone damage.

Strengthening windows, skylights and glass doors with safety window film provides a safeguard against shattered glass. If flying debris or gale force winds break a window or door, safety film will hold the shards together.

New variants combining the characteristics of different films are now available. Solar control safety film, for example, provides safety benefits while blocking heat and UV rays from entering through the window.

Rob Hamilton, President of the Window Film Association of Australia and New Zealand (WFAANZ), comments, "Queenslanders in particular should be aware of the dual applications of solar control safety film. The effects of the harsh Queensland climate and the risk of tropical cyclones damaging windows can be nullified by this one product."

Optically clear and highly transparent, safety film allows light to pass through, while reinforcing the glass so it is not brittle. It is retrofit to existing windows easily and inexpensively, to the interior surface of the glass.

Rob continues, "Safety film brings old 'float' glass windows up to current Australian Standards for safety. It has been used on government buildings to mitigate against bomb blast damage, in shops to stop theft, and in high-traffic and play areas in the home to prevent injury. The recent cyclone warnings amplify the importance of protecting windows against breakage."

WFAANZ recommends a trained professional be consulted to ensure the most appropriate product is selected and then applied correctly. A list of window film installers who abide by a strict code of practice can be found at www.wfaanz.org.au.

About window film

Window film, or window tint, has come a long way since its introduction in 1961. Advanced technologies mean window films now offer greater variety of shades, colours and performance levels. The best products are guaranteed to survive the harsh Australian climate with scratch resistant coatings for protection and metallic layers for colour stability.

About WFAANZ

A non-profit organisation, WFAANZ is dedicated to improving the standard of product and installation of window film while setting performance guidelines for its members.

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For further information, images or an interview please contact:

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¹ Seasonal Outlook 2010-11 for Queensland and the Coral Sea Region, Bureau of Meteorology, <http://reg.bom.gov.au/qld/cyclone/seasonal>