

## Storms

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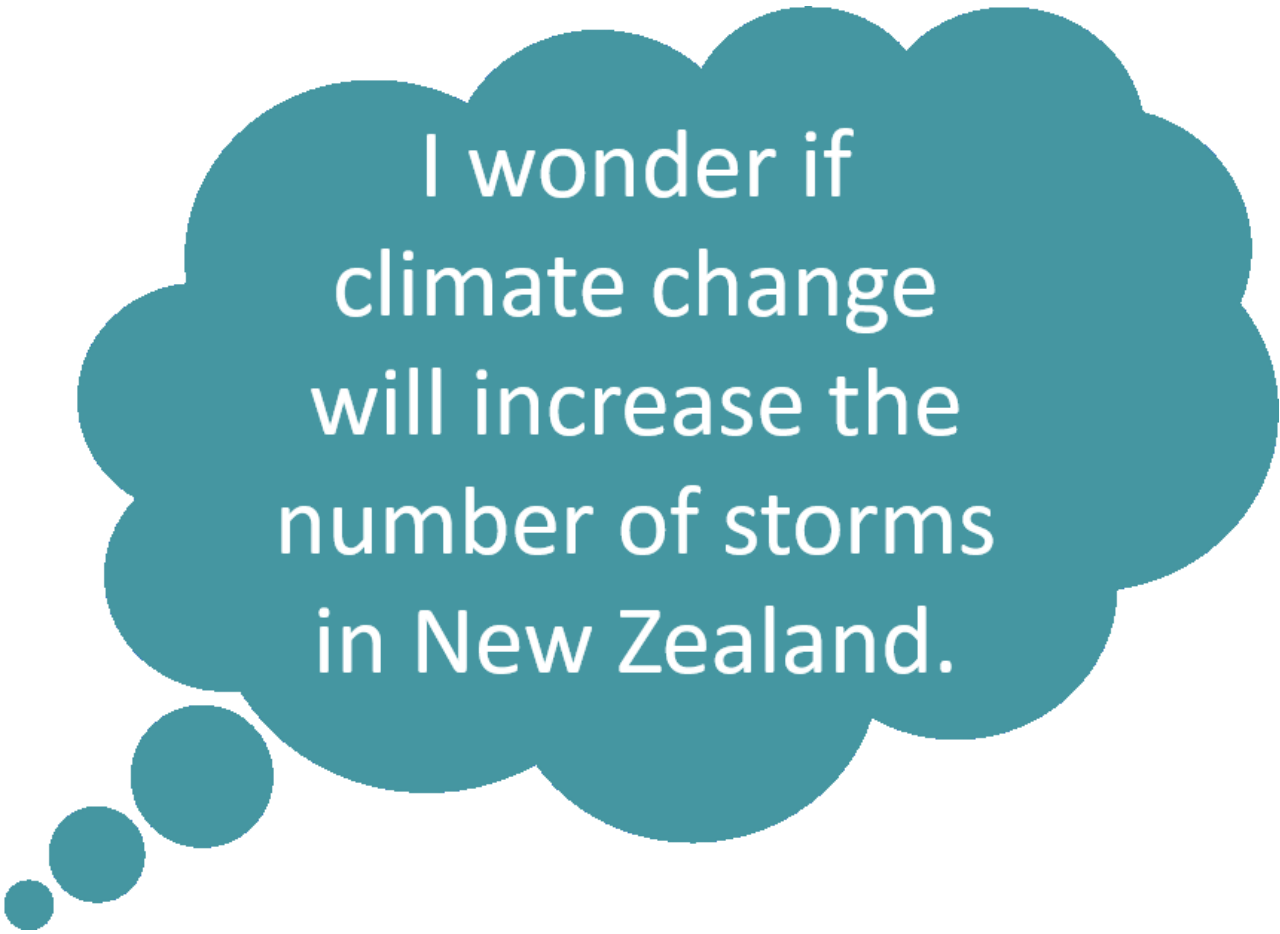
New Zealand is particularly prone to storms as it lies in the 'Roaring Forties', where mild-temperature air from the north meets cooler air from the south.

New Zealand is prone to storms as it lies in an area where mild-temperature air from the north meets cooler air from the south.

### What is a storm?

A storm is a disturbance of the atmosphere that can cause strong winds, rain, thunder, lightning, heavy snow and rough seas. A strong wind warning is issued by the MetService when winds of more than 87kph are expected over land.

Hazards from storms include falling trees and poles, torn-off roofs, fast-flowing currents in streams and rivers, flying objects, and slips and flooding. Coastal areas can suffer from storm surges, which are extra-high tides caused by the high winds pushing the sea forward.



I wonder if  
climate change  
will increase the  
number of storms  
in New Zealand.

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### **Snowstorms**

In a snowstorm, the primary concerns are the potential loss of heat, power and telephone service, and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day. It is important for people living in areas at risk from snowstorms to consider the need for alternative forms of heating and power generation.

### **Tornadoes**






Tornadoes sometimes occur during thunderstorms in some parts of New Zealand. A tornado is a narrow, violently rotating column of air extending downwards to the ground from the base of a thunderstorm. Warning signs include a long, continuous roar or rumble or a fast approaching cloud of debris which can sometimes be funnel shaped.

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## BEFORE:



-  Listen to your radio for information.
-  Bring pets inside.
-  Clear away anything outside that may become a flying missile in the wind.
-  Put tape across large windows to prevent them from shattering.
-  Close all windows.



## DURING:

-  Stay inside.
-  Close all curtains.
-  Stay away from doors and windows.
-  Open a window on the side of the building away from the wind – this will relieve pressure on the roof.

## AFTER:

-  Stay indoors and listen to the radio.
-  If evacuated, avoid dangling and broken power lines.

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[Ready for a quiz?](#) [3]

Welcome to this interactive activity for the LEARNZ *What's the plan, Stan?* virtual field trip.

Before starting this quiz, you may want to view the page [Storms](#).

Good luck and have fun!



[3]

### What happens in a storm?

A storm can cause strong winds, rain, thunder, lightning, heavy snow and rough seas. Coastal areas can suffer from extra-high tides caused by the high winds pushing the sea forward.

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Hazards from storms include:

- falling trees and poles

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- torn-off roofs
- fast-flowing currents in streams and rivers
- flying objects
- landslips
- flooding.

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[3]

Māori keywords:


Audio Māori keywords:

- [marangai - storm](#) [4]
- [hau - wind](#) [5]
- [āwhā - heavy rain](#) [6]
- [hukarere - snow](#) [7]
- [moana - sea](#) [8]

Find out how storms have affected your community in the past.

Find out how storms have affected your community in the past.



[9]

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A property in Coromandel after a storm in 2002. Image: Civil Defence.



[10]

Heavy seas at Haumoana in 2006. Image: Civil Defence.



[11]

Pleasant Point after the June 2006 snowstorm. Image: Civil Defence.

**Source URL:** <http://www.learnz.org.nz/node/1582>

## Links

[1] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/std-storms.mp3?uuid=5c8fa9ce0a01d>

[2] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/easy-storms.mp3?uuid=5c8fa9ce098f4>

[3] <http://activities.learnz.org.nz/wp164/wp164-a05-storms/quiz.html>

[4] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/marangai.mp3?uuid=5c8fa9ce0a16d>

[5]



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[http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/hau\\_0.mp3?uuid=5c8fa9ce0a26f](http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/hau_0.mp3?uuid=5c8fa9ce0a26f)  
[6]

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[7] [http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/hukarere\\_4.mp3?uuid=5c8fa9ce0a480](http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/hukarere_4.mp3?uuid=5c8fa9ce0a480)

[8] [http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/moana\\_5.mp3?uuid=5c8fa9ce0a5b8](http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/moana_5.mp3?uuid=5c8fa9ce0a5b8)

[9] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/bg-storms-01.jpg>

[10] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/bg-storms-02.jpg>

[11] <http://www.learnz.org.nz/sites/learnz.org.nz/files/bg-storms-03.jpg>