

10 October 2018

## Queenslanders urged to consider hail safety

As large hailstones this week pelted parts of the State, shocking new data has revealed most Queenslanders did not know what to do to protect themselves and their properties when faced with a hail storm.

RACQ spokesperson Kirsty Clinton said, of those surveyed, only one quarter said they would take action to protect their property if hail was predicted, with most others admitting they would not know what to do.

“Unfortunately only 26 percent of Queenslanders said they’d move their car and outdoor items undercover if a hail storm’s coming. That’s pretty shocking considering this is exactly what everyone should be doing in the lead up to a severe storm,” Ms Clinton said.

“If you can, move your car into a garage or undercover, but never park under a tree. Bring breakable outdoor items like glass tables undercover as well as any loose items which could be blown around in the storm.

“But remember your safety’s most important, so only do this preparation if you have enough time before the hail begins – don’t go out into a storm to move your property, it’s just not worth getting injured.”

Ms Clinton said RACQ was also concerned by the number of people who did not know what to do if a hail storm hit when they were behind the wheel.

“Some people admitted they’d continue driving as normal until they got to their destination,” she said.

“If you do find yourself driving in a hail storm, slow down, turn your lights on and pull over as soon as it’s safe to do so. If you’re stopped on the road side, turn your hazard lights on so people can see you.

“Don’t exit the vehicle if you’re stopped on a busy road or in heavy hail as you risk injuring yourself – and if you’re worried about windows breaking, shelter behind the driver’s seat.”

In the year to October 2018, RACQ received more than 1,500 hail damage claims worth more than \$8.5 million dollars.

**Media inquiries: RACQ spokesperson Kirsty Clinton 0438 987 158.**

RACQ is Queensland’s largest club and peak independent motoring organisation. We were formed in 1905 to represent the interests of the State’s first motorists and today campaign for safer drivers, vehicles and roads on behalf of the 1.7 million members who own the Club. We offer those members a vast range of motoring, insurance, banking, entertainment and travel services and benefits, and each year respond to more than a million calls for roadside assistance.