

One dead as storms hit Australia's southeast

September 2 2024



A policeman walks past the collapsed facade of a building in Melbourne as wild storms batter Australia.

One woman has died, schools have been shuttered and tens of thousands of people were without power Monday, as wild storms lashed Australia.

Police said a 63-year-old woman died after a tree fell on a cabin in the

country's southeast.

"Destructive" winds of more than 110 kilometers (68 miles) per hour are lashing the region, leaving about 150,000 people without power.

Victorian state premier Jacinta Allan warned power outages could take up to three days to fix.

"There are some areas where the conditions remain too dangerous to make repairs," she said.

Meanwhile, [coastal areas](#) have been hit by [high tides](#)—in some cases swallowing up sand dunes.

People have been warned to avoid unnecessary travel, while some schools have closed.

Authorities in New South Wales were concerned the damaging winds would increase fire danger on Monday, with many areas on high alert.

New South Wales Rural Fire Service inspector Ben Shepherd warned Sydney and surrounding areas that they would see the worst of the fire danger on Monday, but conditions would ease in the afternoon.

Parts of Tasmania have been inundated by flooding and destructive winds—with gusts peaking at 150 kilometers (93.2 miles) per hour over the weekend.



A man photographs the waves in Port Phillip Bay in Melbourne as tens of thousands of people were left without power due to wild storms battering Australia.

Bureau of Meteorology senior forecaster Christie Johnson said a series of [cold fronts](#) sweeping across Australia's southeast had caused "damaging to destructive winds".

But conditions were set to ease Tuesday, she said.

Johnson warned further cold fronts would impact the country later in the week, but she did not anticipate conditions to be as extreme.

Australia's exposure

Australia is highly exposed to [extreme weather events](#), given its remoteness in the Pacific Ocean.

The country recorded its warmest winter last month, with the mercury hitting 41.6 degrees Celsius (106.7 degrees Fahrenheit) in part of its rugged and remote northwest coast.

Official data shows [average temperatures](#) for Australia steadily rising, with [climate change](#) fueling more intense bushfires, floods, drought and heat waves.



A man walks along a pier leading into Port Phillip Bay in Melbourne as winds of

more than 110 kilometres (68 miles) per hour lash the region.

Shepard told AFP there was a high risk that the coming summer would see increased fire danger due to the rapid drying of vegetation.

With a few days of hot and windy weather, this vegetation would be primed for fire.

Climate scientists have already predicted that 2024 will be the planet's hottest year on record.

Temperature records have tumbled worldwide in recent decades as human-caused carbon emissions have risen.

Record temperatures have been recorded in the Mediterranean Sea and Norway's Arctic Svalbard archipelago in the past few weeks alone.

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Citation: One dead as storms hit Australia's southeast (2024, September 2) retrieved 4 September 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2024-09-dead-storms-australia-southeast.html>

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