

Authorities predicting rough weather ahead

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AUTHORITIES have urged Kimberley residents to be prepared for the looming cyclone season.

Fire and Emergency Service Authority regional director Rob Cox said this cyclone season was likely to start earlier and be busier.

The predictions come after severe tropical cyclone Laurence devastated Eighty Mile Beach, Wallal and Mandora stations and impacted remote communities between Port Hedland

and Kalamburu in mid-December last year.

Mr Cox said now was the time to prepare homes and families.

"The Bureau of Meteorology ... indicated this season has potential to be a lot worse than last year, with more cyclones expected," Mr Cox said.

"The best defence is to prepare your home before the season officially begins at the end of October and have a family cyclone plan."

He said residents should trim branches and trees, check cyclone shutters and

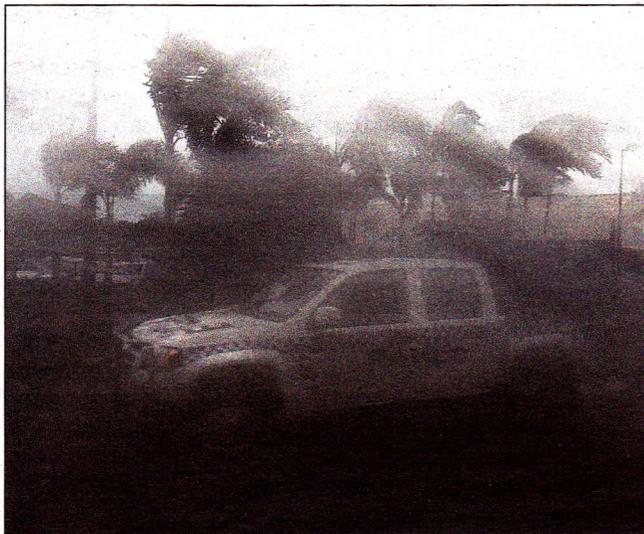
screens, remove or secure loose items and prepare an emergency kit.

Families should also plan transport, finance, secure and refuel vehicles, figure out what to do with pets and decide where they would relocate to if necessary.

Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park owner Colin Lewis, who survived the brunt of cyclone Laurence last year, urged people to keep up to date with news and information and to leave with plenty of time before a cyclone hit.

FESA and the Bureau of Meteorology started their annual Cyclone Awareness Tour of the North West in Broome on Monday. Sessions will be held in Fitzroy Crossing on Wednesday from 6pm at the Volunteer Emergency Services Unit on Fallon Road, in Beagle Bay at the community office on Monday at 9am and at the community office in Bidyadanga on Thursday from 10am.

For more information about the cyclone season, pick up your Cyclone Smart Kit from local State Emergency Service or fire and rescue units, visit www.fesa.wa.gov.au, or call FESA in Broome on 9158 3200.



A police vehicle patrols at Broome airport as cyclone Laurence approaches.