Road Safety Alert: Yellow Weather Warning Issued for Strong Winds

25th January 2017: The Road Safety Authority (RSA), is asking road users to exercise caution while using the roads over the next 36 hours as Met Éireann have issued a YELLOW wind warning with Dublin, Louth, Wexford, Wicklow, Meath, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Sligo, Clare, Cork, Kerry and Waterford expected to be worst affected. Winds with speeds up to 65 to 80 km/h are forecast with gusts of 90 to 110 km/h expected at times. Met Éireann have also issued a YELLOW weather warning for heavy rain with 30-50mm expected for Cork and Kerry over the course of Thursday and Friday morning.

The RSA is asking road users to check local weather and traffic conditions and be aware of the conditions before setting out on a trip.

The RSA has the following advice for road users:

- Beware of objects being blown out onto the road. Expect the unexpected.
- Watch out for falling/fallen debris on the road and vehicles veering across the road
- Control of a vehicle may be affected by strong cross winds. High sided vehicles and motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable to strong winds
- Allow extra space between you and vulnerable road users such as cyclists and motorcyclists
- Drive with dipped headlights at all times
- Check tyres and consider replacing them if the thread depth is below 3mm.
- It takes longer to stop in wet conditions so slow down and leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front
- Take special care when driving behind goods vehicles as they generate a considerable amount of spray which reduces your visibility
- Be aware of the danger of aquaplaning especially on roads with speed limits of 100 km/h and 120 km/h.

Advice to Pedestrians, Cyclists and motorcyclists:

- Be seen. Wear bright clothing with reflective armbands or a reflective belt.
- Take extra care when crossing the road or cycling in extremely windy conditions as a sudden gust of wind could blow you into the path of an oncoming vehicle.
- Walk on a footpath, not in the street. Walk on the right hand side of the road, facing traffic if there are no footpaths.