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MEDIA RELEASE

Floodwater doesn't discriminate – be FloodSafe

Following the recent severe weather resulting in more than 300 flood rescues across the state, Blue Mountains residents are being urged to be more informed about flood safety.

The NSW SES Blue Mountains Unit has carried out 50 flood and storm tasks alone recently. NSW SES Local Controller John Hughes said much of the damage and rescues were preventable.

“We are asking people to re-think their actions and not to enter floodwater because by doing this they are not only placing their lives at risk but the lives of our volunteers who have to go out and rescue them,” Mr Hughes said.

“Floods are extremely dangerous because they can harbour diseases, contaminants, rubbish and fast-flowing undercurrents that can wash people and vehicles away.

“Entering floodwater is the number one cause of death and injury in a flood so everyone should stay out and stay alive,” he said.

“Being FloodSafe is quite easy and if you follow a few simple steps you can help protect yourself, your friends and your family from the dangers of floods.

“Start by knowing the flood risk in your area, keep up to date with the latest weather information and warnings, follow the instructions of emergency services and never enter floodwater,” he added.

During the month of June, the NSW SES is highlighting the importance of being prepared for floods with its FloodSafe program. Floods cause considerable damage to properties across NSW each year however, increasing community preparedness can help reduce the amount of damage and potentially save lives.

For more FloodSafe information go to: www.floodsafe.com.au

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