

Media Release

Blue Mountains Unit

0700hrs 2 October 2013

Strong Winds Continue to Affect Mountains

In the past week, the Blue Mountains State Emergency Service has responded to more than 120 calls for assistance as winds continue to lash across the Central Tablelands.

Last week, the majority of calls reported to the SES were in the Lower Blue Mountains with damage from Woodford down to Blaxland and out to Hawkesbury Heights. On Tuesday 1st October, winds peaked at 110km/h in the Upper Mountains and the SES had a number calls from Mt Victoria, out as far as Mt Wilson and down to Mt Riverview.

“Our teams attended a house where just about the entire roof had peeled off in Wentworth Falls” stated John Hughes, Local Controller for the NSW SES.

“Even after 32 years as a volunteer it still amazes me the amount of damage winds in the Mountains can cause on their community”.

The SES state that most calls reported was for roof damage or trees that have actually just snapped from the force of the wind.

“Whilst it is so dry, the lack of rain has actually been a blessing” Mr Hughes continued.

“When it is wet, the ground becomes soft and the trees fall so much easier than the dry”

The SES stated that the Police and Rural Fire Service assisted and attended to a number of calls for trees down on power lines and roads.

On Tuesday 1 October, the SES responded to 60 calls for assistance plus a Blue Mountains team was also dispatched to Lithgow where the winds caused significant damage.

The SES wish to remind residents to maintain their properties to be prepared for emergencies;

- Secure any loose items from your yard and decks at all times and don't wait for the storm to come.
- Clear any branches or trees that are close to the house that may cause damage or be a fire risk
- Keep your gutters clear of debris.

The NSW SES wish to remind residents if they need assistance during storms to contact 132500 anytime.

<END>

Media enquiries: John Hughes, Local Controller Blue Mountains 0409 983 332