

## Media Release

Blue Mountains Unit

2300hrs 24 November 2014

### Summer Storm Makes an Impact

On Monday afternoon, a large storm cell made an impact across the Central Western Tablelands and extended into Western Sydney causing a trail of destruction. The Blue Mountains State Emergency Service (SES) responded to 31 calls for assistance, all mainly in the Lower Mountains area.

“This is a typical summer storm scenario” stated John Hughes, Local Controller for the SES.

“By 3pm temperatures peaked at 32 degrees in Springwood and then we had a sudden thunderstorm with a down fall of rain and a temperature drop of 10 degrees”.

The SES stated that the majority of calls were for trees that were uprooted from the strong winds and lightning strikes that caused damage across the region from Faulconbridge into the western suburbs.

“One large tree that was struck by lightning in Springwood completely exploded leaving a large mess of debris” Mr Hughes continued.

“At other jobs we found trees up to 30 metres tall just pushed out of the ground which shows the wind was very intense with wind speeds over 80kph recorded in some places”.

SES teams worked late into Monday night removing trees and placing tarps on houses with significant damage in the Winmalee area.

The SES wish to remind residents as we head into summer, there will be an increase of storms similar to this. Householders should plan to have garden tools and furniture kept secured and check that tree branches close to the house are removed and gutters are kept clean.

If any members of the public require assistance during storms, the SES can be contacted on 132500 at any time.

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**Released by John Hughes – Local Controller 2300hrs 24 November 2014**