

## Winter Safety Tips for Residents and Travelers In the Blue Mountains



### *Snow occurs all around the world so why is the Blue Mountains any different?*

- Snow in the Blue Mountains occurs on an irregular basis from year to year and often with little warning. As snowfalls are uncommon, residents and tourists maybe unprepared for the changing weather conditions.
- Over the last 100 years, snowfalls have closed roads and disrupted power and water supplies for up to a week at a time across the Blue Mountains.



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### Tips for Residents

- Maintain a portable radio with fresh batteries. Tune to ABC 702 for updates on weather conditions.
- Plan and Prepare well before Winter:
  - Chimneys require regular cleaning and inspection by professional tradespersons.
  - Gas appliances and heating systems should be regularly serviced by licenced specialists.
  - Consider a standby source for cooking such as a camp stove, and only use in a well ventilated area.
- Avoid using unvented heaters within a closed room or where people are sleeping. The safest way to keep warm when sleeping is by using blankets and layers of clothing. Avoid leaving any heating appliance on whilst asleep.
- Keep an emergency supply of long-life food and bottled water for your family that can last for several days.

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### Tips for Motorist

- Driving in snow or icy conditions requires a high level of concentration, skill and a lot of patience. Only drive through snow or ice if it is essential.
- If you must drive in snow or icy conditions here are some tips to follow:
- Maintain low speed and drive in a low gear. Vehicles may lose traction and control when travelling too fast and in a higher gear.
- Avoid gear change: Engage first or second gear on level ground (including automatics) before ascending or descending hills in snow or icy conditions.
- To avoid wheel spin accelerate slowly with gradual pressure on the accelerator.
- Brake gently as the wheels can lock up easily with loss of steering and control.
- Avoid braking into corners. Slow down before the corner whilst the wheels are straight.
- If you are delayed in snowy conditions, maintain a fresh air supply into the cabin of your car to stay alert.
- If you become stranded, keep your engine running and put your hazard lights on. Contact the SES on 132500 for assistance or 000 for life threatening emergencies.

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### Tips for Bush Walkers

Bushwalking should be avoided when storms or snowy conditions are forecast for the Blue Mountains.

Here are some tips to follow when walking in the cooler months:

- Taking extra care when walking as tracks and footpaths may be extremely slippery. Ice can form on paths which maybe hard to see.
- Dress warmly by wearing thermal underwear and then layers of loose fitting lightweight clothing with an outer layer that will keep you dry.
- Cover your head with a beanie or a hat to maintain body warmth and mittens on your hands are often warmer than standard gloves.
- When planning a walk at any time of the year, especially overnight, register your trip and borrow a free PLB (Personal Locator Beacon) from the National Parks Office at Blackheath, Katoomba or Springwood Police Stations.
- For further advice for walking in the Blue Mountains, visit TREK site at: [www.police.nsw.gov.au/community\\_issues/crime\\_prevention/trek.com](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/community_issues/crime_prevention/trek.com)

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## *Important Telephone Numbers*

**For all Life Threatening Emergencies  
Dial 000**

**Report all Snow and Storm Damage  
NSW SES: 132 500**

**Road Conditions  
131 700**

Check traffic conditions in NSW on [www.livetraffic.com](http://www.livetraffic.com)

**Rail and Bus Information  
131 500**

**Katoomba Police Station  
02 4782 8199**

**National Parks – Blue Mountains  
02 4787 8877**

For any further information how to be prepared for snow and storm conditions,  
contact the NSW SES on 132 500 or visit [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au)