

PREPARE YOU AND YOUR PROPERTY NOW!

From April to December each year you should do the following:

- Trim tree branches and Limbs that touch or overhang the house. In the Blue Mountains , you will need permission to remove large branches (or trees) over 4m tall. Contact the Council on 4780 5720 or visit “Tree Management and Removal” under “Council Services” at Council for more information.
We strongly advise that any large branches are removed by a suitably qualified person.
- Clean small debris from the yard – Use the Green Waste service regularly.
- Clear gutters, downpipes and roofing regularly. Significant damage can be caused from gutters overflowing into roof cavities.
- Check windows and doors for effective seals and ensure glass is still secure. On old houses, putty can become brittle, admitting water and loosening the glass.
- Download the emergency phone list and leave near phone.
- Have your “emergency kit” ready (see BMCC website)
- Have raincoats for all the family.
- Do you live in the Upper Mountains ? Then consider what will happen if it snows.

REMEMBER:

ONGOING MAINTENANCE IS THE KEY TO SURVIVING MAJOR STORMS

Who Are the State Emergency Service (SES) ?

The State Emergency Service or SES are a Voluntary Emergency Service who are the primary response agency to Storm and Flood Emergencies in NSW. In the Blue Mountains all SES personnel are volunteers who provide emergency help in storms and floods, support to bush fires, search and rescue and community activities.

The Blue Mountains SES can be contacted on 132 500 in emergencies or 4782 3200 for general enquiries or membership.

WHAT TO DO WHEN A STORM APPROACHES

- Listen to the radio for news of the storm's progress. Program into or write the following radio stations on your electricity and battery powered radio:
 - BLU-FM 89.1 FM (Upper Mountains)
 - Air FM 87.6 FM (Lower Mountains)
 - Hawkesbury Radio 89.9 FM
 - ABC 2BL 702 AM
 - Nova 96.9FM
 - WSFM 101.7

- Organise and pack your relocation kit. (a list of suggested inclusions can be found on the BMCC Website.)

- Bring children inside and ensure pets are sheltered and secured.

- Shelter or cover Vehicles. A Blanket with a tarpaulin over a car can prevent damage from small to medium hail.

- Turn Off and disconnect electrical appliances, not forgetting Pool and other outdoor equipment. Also remove antenna connections at the wall, not at the TV/Video end. This will reduce the likely hood of electrical damage from a lightning strike.

- If you have large glass windows, provide additional support by placing masking tape in a cross (X) fashion.

WHEN THE STORM ARRIVES

- Stay inside and shelter well clear of windows.

- If the storm is particularly strong take cover in the strongest part of the house, often the bathroom. If the house starts being damaged, cover yourself with mattresses, blankets or dooners to avoid injury. Use a solid area like the bath surround to provide support from falling objects.

- Keep the radio on and listen for updates and information. Make sure you are using a battery radio to avoid electrical damage.

- Avoid using the phone during the storm.

AFTER THE STORM PASSES

- Check family, pets and neighbours for Injury.
- Check the house, car and yard for damage.
- Stay away from fallen power lines.
- Check on your neighbours, especially the elderly or families with small children.
- If you need emergency help contact the **State Emergency Service** on **132500**.
The SES can provide emergency assistance to secure your property and minimise further damage. Because many storms are widespread, assistance may not arrive for some time. You should be prepared to carry out as much work as possible to minimise damage to your and your neighbours homes.
- If you have damage, contact your insurance company to assess your home immediately. The responsibility for organizing long term repairs rests with the homeowner.

In the event of a major storm, the SES will prioritise tasks in order of:

- Life threatening;
- Serious threat to property;
- Serious damage (i.e. roof damage),
- Access and egress assistance.

The SES will not usually clean or tidy yards where trees have fallen. If the tree poses no threat to life or property, the SES will refer the clean-up to the property owner.

The SES will not usually have time or staff to clean up fallen branches/tiles following a storm. It is the responsibility of the home owner to organise cleaning up and removal of waste.