

TIPS FOR WINTER SAFETY

A major winter storm can last for several days and include high winds with freezing rain or sleet, snow and cold temperatures. People can become marooned at home without services or power. Snow can trap motorists in vehicles and make walking dangerous.

Residents.

- Keep a portable radio ready with fresh batteries. Know where to tune for information on local conditions and road closures. (WS FM 101.7 or ABC 702 in the Mountains).
- Have a standby source for cooking and heating. A camp stove is a good idea.
- Keep gutters clear, and remove overhanging branches from near houses.
- Keep an emergency supply of tinned or dry food for your family sufficient for several days.
- If power is lost be careful using old fireplaces. Make sure they are clear and sparks don't cause a bigger house fire.
- Never operate unvented heaters in a closed room or where people are sleeping.



Blackheath

Motorists.

- Avoid driving in fog, sleet, snow or icy conditions. These are serious conditions making driving and walking dangerous.
- Take care if you have to drive. Ice is a common problem during winter. Drive slowly in low gear.
- Keep your hazard lights on.
- If delayed in snowy conditions maintain a supply of fresh air into the cabin to stay alert.
- If roads are closed late in the afternoon, be prepared for an overnight delay.

Tourists.

- Be careful in icy conditions. Footpaths may be slippery, especially in shady areas. Black ice is difficult to see.
- Always dress warmly in several loose fitting lightweight layers. Cover your head to maintain body warmth. Mittens are warmer than gloves.

Schools.

- Talk to your school about their plans if bad weather closes the school. Children may have difficulty getting home.

Important telephone numbers

Police, Ambulance or Fire Service 000

Road conditions (closures etc) 131 700

Railway services and time tables 131 500

Blue Mountains City Council and Tourist Association 4780 5000

Blue Mountains Tourism 1300 653 408

State Emergency Service 132 500

(Storm damage, fallen or threatening trees).