

Media Release

Blue Mountains Unit

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Strong Winds Cause Damage

The Blue Mountain's State Emergency Service (SES) responded teams to a number of calls for assistance as strong winds lashed the region last Wednesday. Winds peaked at 80km/h as damage was caused from Blackheath down to Warimoo.

"One house had some significant damage in Warimoo" stated John Hughes, Local Controller for the State Emergency Service.

"It took our volunteers some hours to clean up the tree that was tangled in vines and power lines to make the premises safe for the residents:

The SES have been prepared for the summer storm season and asks residents to be ready as this time of year causes quick but damaging winds.

"This windstorm was a bit unique for summer" Mr Hughes stated.

"Our typical summer storm often has heavy rain with lightning and is over fairly quick whilst this storm was dry and lasted almost 24 hours which shows we need to be ready for all types of weather all year long"

Volunteers from the SES like to remind residents that whilst they will assist you in during emergencies, they are not a maintenance service.

"One type of call we receive often is leaking roofs" Mr Hughes continued,

"These are almost impossible for our crews to fix as water can come from anywhere and placing a tarp on the roof will often not solve the problem."

The SES urges residents to ensure they are storm safe by maintaining your yard and balcony by securing or putting away items that could blow around in strong winds, check your gutters and downpipes are clear and trim any tree branches that may threaten your home.

For further information on preparing for storms, you can visit the SES website at www.ses.nsw.gov.au and download the Stormsafe guide, or contact the SES at anytime on 132500 for assistance.

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For more information or interviews please contact: John Hughes