

# Media Release



## Blue Mountains

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## Cold Snap Blows through Mountains

The volunteers of the State Emergency Service (SES) were called to 59 calls for assistance over the weekend as strong winds caused extensive damage across the entire region.

Winds on Friday night reached 102 km/h at Mt Boyce as temperatures dropped to below freezing on Saturday morning making it hard work for the responding emergency service teams.

“One of our first calls was to a report of a roof that had landed in Katoomba Street” stated John Hughes, Duty Controller for the Blue Mountains SES.

“When we arrived, we found that an entire section of roof had lifted off the Katoomba Arcade building, flown across towards the Catholic Church cutting off the top of a pine tree and landed in the carpark” Mr Hughes continued.

“It was very fortunate that it was early morning and that the carpark was empty.”

SES volunteers spent most of the day securing the roof top from any risk of damage from rain which houses businesses such as the Chemist below.

Damage from the windstorm was reported from Blackheath to Glenbrook and the SES responded to the calls with six teams of volunteers over the weekend.

“As the damage was widespread, we were able to coordinate the SES teams with assistance from the Rural Fire Service and NSW Fire Brigade to quickly respond to the calls for assistance,” Mr Hughes stated.

The Upper Blue Mountains experience constant snow showers and high winds all Saturday making the conditions for emergency teams very hard to work in.

The SES is the combat agency for storms in NSW, so if residents wish to seek further advice, they can contact the SES at anytime on 132500 or download advice on making your property safe at their website: [www.bluemts.com.au/ses](http://www.bluemts.com.au/ses).

**End:**

**For further information contact:**

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