

Media Release



Blue Mountains

PO Box 216

Telephone: (02) 4782 3200

WENTWORTH FALLS NSW 2782 Fax: (02) 4782 6644

Email: bluemountains.ses.ops@bigpond.com

7 February 2010

Heavy Rain Continues to Cause Damage

The State Emergency Service (SES) received more than 140 calls for assistance over a three day period due to the heavy rain across the Blue Mountains from the 4th to the 7th February.

With intense rainfall in many suburbs, the SES responded mainly to calls of localized flooding and water entering houses due to overflowing drains and gutters.

“The downfall was extremely intense”, stated Costa Zakis, Local Controller for the SES.

“The Bureau recorded 270mm of rain at Katoomba in a three day period”, Mr Zakis continued.

“But what caused such intense flooding is that we had periods where more than 100mm of rain fell within an hour and that amount of water just cannot dissipate quickly enough”.

On Thursday whilst attending to calls of storm damage, the SES was called to assist with the landslip at Boddington Hill and the train derailment at Linden.

The SES also used the assistance of the NSW Fire Brigade and Rural Fire Service during the rain storm.

“The Fire Brigade has the resources to assist with flooding” Mr Zakis stated.

“They have pumps that can be deployed into flooded houses to clear the water quickly as well as being able to assist us clearing fallen trees” Mr Zakis continued.

SES volunteers are trained in field operations as well as operations management and are able to coordinate all agencies to assist with storm damage in a short response time.

The SES advises residents to always maintain properties for such weather conditions.

Keep your gutters clean, drains clear and remove any branches of trees that may risk of falling onto the property.

For more information about the SES and how to protect your property, ring 132500 and speak to the Duty Officer, or visit the website at www.bluemts.com.au/ses.

End:

Released By:

John Hughes Deputy Controller/Media Officer