



HUFF STUFF Newsletter

Issue 37

May-June 2019

Greetings everyone,

We are now well into winter and finally getting some rain. Unfortunately it's not enough to break the drought for the rest of the state. It was lovely to see a good fall of snow and fortunately, no lengthy disruptions to the highway.

If we do get some damaging storms the lead agency is the SES – the NSW State Emergency Service. The number to call is 132 500. Call this number if:

- A tree is blocking access to your home ie. Your front door, driveway or road
- The roof is damaged or leaking
- A tree is threatening to fall on your property
- There is damage to your property that you cannot fix yourself.

Please note that when you call you will be given a reference number. Keep this handy and stay away from any fallen trees or power lines. The SES (or RFS if they are called to assist) will only carry out temporary measures to make your property safe. You will need to contact your insurance company or a private contractor to remove any debris and complete permanent repairs.

REMINDER

Have you updated your 'Fires Near Me App'?

When to call the NSW SES **132 500**
For emergency help in flood, storm and tsunami

IN LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCIES CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000)

Our flood or storm is anyone trapped or injured? **YES** Call Triple Zero (000).

NO Has a fallen tree blocked access? (i.e. front door/driveway/road) OR Is a tree threatening to fall on your property or driveway? OR Is your property flooded or in danger of flooding? OR Is your roof damaged or leaking? OR Is there damage to your property that you cannot fix yourself?

NO Contact your insurance company or a private contractor to assess and complete the job, or repair it yourself if you can fix it.

YES Call the NSW SES on 132 500. Your request for assistance will be logged by our operations centre who will give you a reference number. Your request will then be forwarded onto the nearest SES unit for action.

NSW SES Volunteers undertake temporary emergency measures to make your home and the situation safe. It is important that you contact either your insurance company or a private contractor to make permanent repairs to damage resulting from a flood or storm or to remove any remaining debris.

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The NSW SES experiences many calls during floods and storms. Assisting people in our communities who are overwhelmed by damage and impacts of natural disasters as quickly as possible is important to all NSW SES volunteers.

What to do after logging a call with us:

- Make sure you keep your phone close by so we can easily contact you about your request for assistance.
- Stay away from any fallen trees and/or power lines that may have been brought down in the storm.
- Follow any safety recommendations you are given by the NSW SES.
- NSW SES attends to request for assistance in a priority based order. A life threatening emergency will always be given immediate priority.
- If you no longer require emergency assistance, call us on 132 500. Quoting your reference number to cancel the request. This helps free up our emergency crews if you no longer need us.

For great tips on how you can Get Ready this Storm Season, or to find out more information about the NSW SES, head to our website at www.ses.nsw.gov.au

CYBER_Shed APP_FIX_IT

Simon is offering **free** help with your smartphones and tablets each Wednesday at BANC from 9.30 -12.30. Just drop in, no need to book. Please pass the word around.

Hazard Reductions (HR's)

Hazard reductions were carried out well into June, an indication of how dry and warm it was this year. The following photos illustrate the process involved in carrying out a hazard reduction, also known as a prescribed burn. The purpose of a HR is to remove built-up ground fuel with minimum damage to the canopy. Safety and property protection are always of paramount importance.



Weeks before the HR takes place, a path is cleared around the perimeter of the proposed burn area. This is a long and arduous job depending on the terrain.



We also clear around logs. Not only does this log have a potential home for a wild creature but burning logs require lots of water to extinguish.



Hoses are laid out to cover the entire perimeter and charged ready. The rake hoe is used to clear around large trees to prevent them from burning as seen below.



Then it's sit and wait until the message comes through to light up. Before we get to go home the fire has to be 'blacked out' 30m into the fire ground, the dirtiest part of the exercise!



Regards, Mina