Friday, 24 August, 2012

State Duty Officer praises efforts of SES volunteers

The State Emergency Service's State Duty Officer Darryl Wright has praised the outstanding work of the organisation's volunteer members who responded to more than 300 calls for help from the South Australian community over the past 36 hours.

Mr Wright said SES volunteer members had done a fantastic job in very cold, wet and windy conditions, ensuring people's calls for assistance were attended as promptly as possible.

"We have been very busy, particularly since first front hit Adelaide around 2pm yesterday afternoon," Mr Wright said.

"Our crews went about their work tirelessly and in a very professional and efficient manner right throughout the night.

"They were assisted by our colleagues from the MFS and CFS who also responded to a number of calls for assistance in both Adelaide and regional areas of the state," he said.

Mr Wright said most of the jobs were in the Adelaide metropolitan area, particularly in the inner northern and western suburbs, and the Mount Lofty Ranges and involved fallen trees.

"We are also had a number of jobs where the strong winds caused roof damage.

"The wintery conditions also contributed to a number of road crashes, particularly in the Adelaide Hills where ice was reported on several roads," Mr Wright said.

He urged drivers to continue to exercise extreme caution when in the Adelaide Hills and drive to the conditions.

During severe weather, the SES advises the following precautions:

- ensure loose items such as outdoor furniture, garden tools and children's play equipment (such as trampolines and cubby houses) are put away or secured
- park vehicles undercover and away from trees
- stay indoors and away from windows and skylights when weather conditions are severe
- stay away from fallen powerlines (always assume fallen powerlines are live they should be reported to ETSA Utilities on 131 366)
- never play, walk, ride or drive through floodwaters
- shelter and secure pets and other animals
- check weather forecasts regularly (<u>www.bom.gov.au</u>) and listen to local radio for updates.