

State Emergency Service

Media Release



Wednesday, 13 July, 2016

Volunteers lauded for mammoth effort overnight

SES and CFS volunteers have worked tirelessly through the night attending to damaged homes and fallen trees as areas across Adelaide continued to be battered by extreme weather.

Yesterday emergency service crews attended over 1080 jobs in challenging conditions.

Volunteers from the SES, CFS and staff from the MFS have been utilised in Strike Teams to break the back of the huge volume of calls for assistance.

Chief of Staff Trevor Arnold said it was one of the busiest days in the history of the SES.

"You cannot praise the effort of the volunteers enough. While most of us were comfortable inside, volunteers were in the elements ensuring people could access their home and get warm," Mr. Arnold said.

"They are highly trained professionals and yesterday and throughout this severe weather event they have been able to utilise many of the skills they train for on a weekly basis."

"For the countless hours spent in the wet and windy weather this week sacrificing their comfort for the good of our communities – thank you."

Mr. Arnold said volunteers will continue the work of finalising the remainder of jobs this morning.

"We prioritise jobs according to need and today we will attend to the reminder of the lower priority and more recent jobs."

"Certainly as the cold conditions persist we ask people to take the time to check in with neighbours who may be without heating or not accustomed to these sort of weather events," he said.

"The temperatures in the Adelaide Hills are close or below freezing so it may come as quite a shock for those not prepared. And these conditions will continue for some time."

What the SES wants people to do:

- In a power outage, ensure electrical appliances such as heaters and cooking appliances are switched off to prevent a potential house fire when the power is restored.
- Be a good neighbour! Check on the elderly, frail or vulnerable relatives or neighbours, particularly if the power is out in their area. Many of these people may panic if unable to access lighting, heating or cooking facilities.
- Ensure the elderly, frail or vulnerable have food and water available. Many residents may not be able to get out of their houses in protracted storm events to stock up.
- Closely monitor the weather situation, particularly in respect to high winds and rain which can be the cause of fallen trees and other debris across roads.
- Be particularly careful driving on major roads such as the South Eastern Freeway. The very cold weather may result in icy, dangerous conditions for motorists.
- Do not park cars under trees. Do not camp under trees or in creek beds.
- Be aware of fallen power lines. Always assume that they are live.
- **Call 132 500 for SES assistance. Call 000 (Triple Zero) if matter is life threatening.**

For media enquires telephone the SES Media Line on (08) 8211 6176

For SES response in floods or storms telephone 132 500. If the matter is life threatening telephone 000
www.ses.sa.gov.au