

Public Information Unit - Key Messages

Updates/ Where to get information	Preparation and Warnings	Targeted Groups	Safety and Health
<p>What is happening</p> <p>Current Warnings... Impacted areas....</p> <p>Rainfall to date... Rainfall predictions....</p> <p>River Height..... River predictions.....</p> <p>RFAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total• Complete• Outstanding <p>Types of jobs....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flood Rescue• Road Crash Rescue• Storm and flood• Priority/unusual jobs <p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local crews• OAAA crews• IMT• Supporting agencies <p>NSW SES</p> <p>Facebook https://www.facebook.com/NSW.SES</p> <p>Website: www.ses.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>ABC Radio http://www.abc.net.au/riverina/programs/frequencies.htm?ref=nav</p> <p>Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au/nsw/</p> <p>Road Closures www.livetraffic.com.au 131 701 or contact your local council.</p> <p>Farmers and rural landholders Local Land Services</p>	<p>Weather and Warnings</p> <p>NSW SES is keeping a close eye on the current weather. Are you? You can stay up to date for following us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NSW.SES or visit our website: www.ses.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>For the latest weather warnings listen to your local ABC Radio http://www.abc.net.au/riverina/programs/frequencies.htm?ref=nav or visit the Bureau of Meteorology for warnings, river heights and rainfall www.bom.gov.au/nsw/</p> <p>Know your local risk</p> <p>Do you know the flood risk for your area? NSW SES provides community advice for local areas. Simply visit our site and enter your postcode or suburb to view information for your location. You can also stay up to date with current warnings and notifications of impacts. www.ses.nsw.gov.au/your-local-risk/</p> <p>When to Call</p> <p>NSW SES can help with a range of assistance during flood events Call 132 500 if you are experiencing any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fallen trees blocking access• Trees threatening to fall• If your property is flooded or in danger of flooding• Your roof is damaged or leaking <p>Your request for assistance will be taken by through our Operations Centre and forwarded onto the nearest NSW SES Unit for action.</p> <p>For life threatening emergencies call 000.</p> <p>Sandbagging</p> <p>Correctly placed around your home or business sandbags can reduce the impacts of flooding. You can collect NSW SES sandbags at the following locations: Xxxx Xxxx Or follow these instructions to make your own: https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/floodsafe/prepare-your-home/during-a-flood/using-sandbags-to-protect-your-home/</p> <p>Plan for isolation</p> <p>It is possible properties will become isolated in areas of xxxx due to floodwaters or impassable roads. People are advised to leave early to avoid dangerous floodwaters or prepare for isolation. Stock up now on food, fuel, medicines and other essential items. Don't forget to cater for your pets and livestock.</p> <p>Evacuation Warning</p> <p>When flooding is likely to cut off evacuation routes or inundate property, NSW SES may issue an Evacuation Warning as a 'heads up' to prepare for possible future evacuation. You can find out more about how to prepare to evacuate through the following link:</p>	<p>Farmers and rural landholders</p> <p>Farmers and rural landholders should prepare now for flooding to reduce the possible impacts and make sure you can get back to business as soon as possible. Move pumps, machinery, waste, chemicals and poisons to higher ground or above the predicted flood level. Move your livestock, horses and other animals to higher ground or relocate them outside the area. Make sure they have access to plenty of food, fodder and water. Once flooding commences it will be too late to move livestock, horses and other stock animals. https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/emergency/community/before-an-emergency</p> <p>Assistance with Livestock and animals</p> <p>Do you need assistance with livestock and animals? Call Local Land Services on 1300 795 299, or visit https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/ for further information.</p> <p>Report your damage</p> <p>Primary Producers - has your property or agricultural business been affected by the recent floods? Remember to report your damage assessment as soon as you can. Contact Local Land Services for further information or assistance on 1300 795 299, or visit https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/</p> <p>Stay connected</p> <p>Getting everything back to normal following floods can take a lot of time and energy. Stay connected with your family, friends and community. Look out for yourself and others and make sure take time to relax, rewind and have some fun. You can get more information about taking care of yourself and others from the NSW DPI Rural Resilience Program www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rural-support/RRP</p> <p>Businesses</p> <p>At present, the total economic cost of natural disasters in Australia are estimated to average around \$6.3 billion per year (Source: Insurance Council of Australia, 2013). You can prepare for floods by developing a Business Continuity Plan. Visit http://www.sesemergencyplan.com.au/ and watch this video from VIC SES https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75XMzq7lbmM</p> <p>Businesses should act now to prepare for flooding in the..... area. Raise stock, machinery and equipment. Back up computers and remove IT and electronic equipment from premises or raise above predicted flood height. Send your employees home if safe to do so.</p> <p>Caravans and Camping Grounds</p> <p>If you are camping or staying in a Caravan Park close to a river, beach or in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding. You can prepare now by making sure relocatable vans are in a towable condition, tyres are inflated and jacks wound up. Non-moveable vans and campers should make sure everything is tied down and secured including gas tanks, and personal and electrical items are raised high. https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/media/1465/pets-2016_tile.jpg</p>	<p>Flood waters</p> <p>The major cause of death during floods is from people entering floodwater either driving, riding or walking through floodwater and also children playing in floodwater. Never walk, drive or allow children to play in flood waters.</p> <p>Driving in Floodwaters</p> <p>Motorists are urged to take extreme care as some causeways and local roads may become flooded due to heavy rain. Floodwater may be deep, fast flowing and could contain hidden snags and debris. Check out road closures in your area through the following ways: www.livetraffic.com.au 131 701, or contact your local council.</p> <p>Road Closures</p> <p>The rain may have cleared but many roads remain closed due to lingering floodwaters or dangerous road conditions. Before heading off today check with Live Traffic or your local Council to find out which roads are closed. Don't ignore Road Closed signs and never drive through flood waters. www.livetraffic.com.au</p> <p>Returning home</p> <p>The flood waters have passed and it's time to return home – are you aware of the dangers floodwaters may have left behind? Your home may have become a refuge for vermin, snakes and spiders. Gas bottles, chemicals, poisons and other pollutants may have been moved. Outdoor furniture and metal items may be broken and have sharp edges. Electrical wiring may be exposed. Protect yourself by identifying your risks first, using protective clothing and keep children and pets away from dangerous areas. www.health.nsw.gov.au/emergency_preparedness/weather/Pages/household-cleanup.aspx</p> <p>Clean up</p> <p>Floodwater can be polluted and contain unseen hazards such as snakes, vermin, broken household items and sharp objects. Safety is your highest priority. It is important to understand how to reduce your risk of injury, sickness or infection whilst cleaning up your property following a flood. Go to NSW Health for further information. www.health.nsw.gov.au/emergency_preparedness/weather/Pages/household-cleanup.aspx</p> <p>Taking care of your health following the flood</p> <p>A lot of us are cleaning up after some wild weather. Below are some tips to keep you safe and well. Wear gloves and suitable foot wear when removing mud or debris from homes or yards. Yards can be raked to remove debris and if necessary, hosed down. Don't try to check electrical appliances and other equipment yourself, seek professional help. Discard any tinned food that has no labels, as well as perishable food that has been out of refrigeration for more than 4 hours. If freezer</p>

<p>1300 795 299 https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/</p> <p>NSW DPI www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/emergency/community/after-an-emergency/natural-disaster-recovery-assistance</p> <p>NSW DPI Rural Resilience Program www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rural-support/RRP</p> <p>Health www.health.nsw.gov.au/emergency_preparedness/weather/Pages/storms-and-floods.aspx</p> <p>Disaster Welfare Services 1800 018 444</p>	<p>https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/media/1200/evacuationwarning_factsheet-1.pdf</p> <p>Evacuation Order When flooding is about to happen and it is too dangerous for people to remain in an area the NSW SES will issue an Evacuation Order advising people of what to do and where to go. An Evacuation Order will provide information on what to do and where to go if you cannot stay with family or friends.</p> <p>It is important you evacuate immediately you are notified as Emergency Services cannot always rescue or assist people if conditions become too dangerous. Find out more about what to do if an Evacuation Order is issued. https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/media/1201/evacuationorder_factsheet-1.pdf</p> <p>Where to go Are you at risk of being evacuated? Do you know where to go? Try to stay with family or friends outside of the evacuation area. If you cannot do this an Evacuation Centre is being established at..... Check your neighbours are aware of what is happening. Stay up to date with information through through our facebook, website, your local ABC Radio or the Bureau of Meteorology. https://www.facebook.com/NSW.SES Website: www.ses.nsw.gov.au ABC Radio http://www.abc.net.au/riverina/programs/frequencies.htm?ref=nav Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au/nsw/</p> <p>Evacuating with pets If you are being evacuated you need to take your pets with you. You will need to take their leash or carrier box, vaccination information, food, medication and something they are familiar with to help reduce stress and anxiety. https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/media/1465/pets-2016_tile.jpg</p> <p>All Clear Once it is safe for residents to return to their homes and businesses the NSW SES will issue an ‘All Clear’ for areas that have been evacuated. This includes a number of assessments made by agencies such as local Council, NSW Department of Public Works and electricity and gas suppliers. Properties and buildings that have been inundated with floodwater can be contaminated or have hazards you cannot see. An ‘All Clear’ will be issued once the health and safety of communities can be assured. Find out more at: https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/media/1202/steps-between-evacuation-order-all-clear-1.pdf</p> <p>Pets and companion animals Have you considered your furry friends when preparing for flood? Your pets are reliant on you and can be scared by lightning, thunder and heavy rain. Consider taking your pets indoors to prevent them becoming anxious or running away. You can find out how to care for your pets during floods by visiting the NSW DPI Website: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/574324/Pet-safety-in-disasters.pdf</p>	<p>Rivers and water fun Like to enjoy time swimming, playing and skiing? Our rivers and creeks are a great place for water sports and cooling down. The December floods may have left behind things you cannot see under the water such as logs, tree branches, rubbish and other debris. Check waters before entering to make sure they are safe.</p> <p>A day in the countryside Enjoy getting out into the great outdoors? Do you like to go hiking? During this holiday season keep an eye out for additional hazards such as fallen branches, snags and changes to the ground as a result of the December floods. Check areas are safe for your planned activities before venturing out.</p> <p>Community Liaison – Preparing for floods NSW SES Community Liaison Officers will be out and about in the xxxx area today. Our Community Liaison Officers can provide you with up to date information on what to expect and how you can prepare. Look out for our teams in Orange and take advantage of the information they can provide</p> <p>Community Liaison – After the flood NSW SES Community Liaison Officers will be out and about in the xxxx area today. Our Community Liaison Officers can provide you with up to date information on what is happening and where you can go for information and assistance. Look out for our teams in Orange and take advantage of the information they can provide</p> <p>Spontaneous Volunteers Did you know NSW SES is accepting spontaneous volunteers? You can help during this event in a range of roles that don’t require previous NSW SES experience. You can use your existing skills, gain experience and learn new skills while helping your community. Visit the NSW SES website for more information: https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/volunteer/spontaneous-volunteering/</p> <p>Thank you to our volunteers and partner agencies</p> <p>Where we have been what we have done</p> <p>Good news stories from the flood</p>	<p>door is kept shut, frozen food will not spoil for at least 24 hours. Have septic tanks or pipes professionally inspected or serviced if you suspect damage.</p> <p>Avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, use roll-on insect repellent on exposed skin and apply every few hours.</p> <p>Avoid creating mosquito breeding sites in your yard by emptying out pot plant bases and removing all water-holding rubbish.</p> <p>When cleaning up, consider your personal health, drink plenty of clear fluids, do not wait until you are thirsty. Take breaks when you can, watch out for heat stress.</p> <p>Information about staying safe can be found at about staying safe at www.health.nsw.gov.au/emergency_preparedness/weather/Pages/storms-and-floods.aspx</p> <p>Flood water and your health Don't risk it. There's water lying around but it's not for playing in. There can be all sorts of pollutants. Check out some of the hazards and a very unpleasant list of diseases! https://www.cdc.gov/.../extreme-wea.../floods-standingwater.html https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/disease/infectious.html</p> <p>Mosquitos Mosquitoes breed in flood zones. Mosquito bites are not just a nuisance – they also have the potential to pass on disease to humans. In areas where mosquito numbers are high, people should try to avoid mosquito bites by using appropriate personal protection measures.</p> <p>Avoid going outside when mosquitoes are most prevalent, including around dawn and dusk. Use an effective repellent on exposed skin areas. Limit the amount of places where mosquitos can breed by getting rid of items that hold water or emptying water containers www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Factsheets/mosquito-control-floods-and-public-events.pdf</p> <p>How to protect yourself from mosquito bites - video www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-5Gd-RvtQU</p> <p>Wellbeing It is normal to feel a mix of emotions in emergency situations and usually these emotions should pass with time. People who have the support of family, friends or other organisations are generally found to recover well from stressful situations. However, there are times when extra support may be needed. If you experience a prolonged period of distress, please contact your GP. www.health.nsw.gov.au/emergency_preparedness/mental/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Disaster Welfare Services 1800 018 444</p>
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