



Robyn Preston MP

Member for Hawkesbury

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE HAWKESBURY URGED TO ‘GET READY’ FOR SUMMER

Prepare your bushfire survival plan, don't drive through floodwater, swim between the flags, and make sure your home is fire safe this summer – these are some of the safety tips NSW emergency service agencies have shared ahead of the 2020 summer season.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services David Elliott joined emergency services leaders on Sydney Harbour to issue the timely reminder, as people begin decorating their homes for Christmas, planning holidays in regional NSW and enjoying warm days by the water.

“Aussie summers are iconic, but they can also be tragic. Last year, we had a horror bushfire season. This year, we're expecting a wet and wild summer. But bushfires and storms are not the only threats we face,” Mr Elliott said.

“I urge you to use the start of summer as a start of a conversation with your friends and families about being prepared for seasonal hazards. Especially this year, as experts warn of a La Niña summer.”

Member for Hawkesbury Robyn Preston MP said summer is a particularly busy time of year for all emergency services and everyone is urged to put safety first.

“Our community is well protected by our emergency services, but we can assist them by taking the time to get prepared,” Ms Preston said.

“Being aware and prepared is everyone's responsibility, whether you're at home, at work or away on holidays.”

Find out more about the steps you can take to Get Ready for summer at

<https://resilience.nsw.gov.au/prepare.html>

Natural Hazard	Key Messages	Hashtags
Bush and grass fire	We cannot be complacent this year despite the recent wet spell. Simple steps like removing flammable materials from the yards, clearing leaves from gutters, checking hoses can reach all around the house, can make a difference. The single most important thing every family can do is have that five-minute conversation about important decisions like when to leave and what to take if a fire threatens your home.	#nswrfs #prepare #act #survive

House Fire Safety	<p>Make sure you have a sufficient number of working smoke alarms throughout your home that are tested regularly and are supported by a written home escape plan in case of fire. Ensure barbecues are in safe working order and always in the care of a responsible adult when in use. Only use decorative lights that have an Australian Standards label, follow manufacturer's instructions on setting up and operating and don't overload power boards.</p>	<p>#frnsw #preparedforanything #protecttheirreplacable</p>
Storms and flood	<p>Never drive, walk or ride through flood water – it's incredibly dangerous for both you and the volunteers rescuing you. It's vital to know your flood risk and have an emergency plan in place for what you will do in the event of a flood. Securing loose outdoor items, cleaning gutters and downpipes and trimming overhanging trees also make a big difference when severe weather strikes.</p>	<p>#nswses #ifitsfloodedforgetit</p>
Beach Safety	<p>Only swim at patrolled beaches, stay between the red and yellow flags, always check conditions before heading out, wear a life jacket when boating or rock fishing, and be sure to keep an eye on your mates.</p>	<p>#slsnsw #swimbetweenflags</p>
Boating Safety	<p>Boaters should always Log On with Marine Rescue when heading out and Log Off when they return on VHF Channel 16 or the free Marine Rescue App. It's quick and simple and gives you the reassurance that our volunteers are watching out for your safe return. It's also vital to ensure that everyone on board is wearing a lifejacket and to check the water before and throughout your journey.</p>	<p>#mrnsw</p>

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