

APPENDIX B: Group documents - Firewatch

Welcome to the Blue Mountains Firewatch and Recovery group

There are a range of resources in the Files section, especially:

Important Links: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/blue-mountains-firewatch/important-links/551113931631729>

Emotional Support: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/blue-mountains-firewatch/emotional-support/555568781186244>

When posting or commenting in this group, the admins ask that you:

DO

Be kind and respectful to your fellow group members.

Identify the source of any information you post.

Include the town being discussed.

Restrict posts to Blue Mountains bushfire or recovery information, storm information and urgent information from emergency services' Facebook or web pages.

DON'T

Attack anyone personally.

Defame, or make disparaging comments about group members or anyone else.

Be sexist, homophobic, racist or otherwise discriminatory.

Spread rumours or unconfirmed reports of fire.

Share your political views.

Excessively promote your own interests.

Please post relevant links, pictures and information that will be useful to your fellow group members. One of the functions of this group is to offer support and reassurance in times of fire crisis; content that does this is most welcome.

The admin team are all volunteers, so please be respectful of that. It's vital that you follow the official information sources, such as the NSW RFS and ABC radio when there's an active fire in the area. Admins are not responsible for the accuracy of the content in this group.

Emotional support is a key part of this group, so be kind to each other when feelings are expressed.

When there's a fire emergency, we'll ask that you restrict some of your posts, and may delete more than we usually do. The Firewatch and Recovery group is strongest when everyone works together to make sure our community has the information we need about fires in the Mountains.

When there isn't a fire emergency, the admins will allow a wider range of posts, however we will remove posts and comments that don't follow the above DOs and DON'Ts.

The admin team thanks the fire and other bushfire experts that are part of this group, and take the time to answer questions and provide support.

Important links

NSW Fire Official:

NSW RFS: <https://www.facebook.com/nswrfs>

Fire & Rescue NSW: <https://www.facebook.com/frnsw>

RFS Commissioner: <https://www.facebook.com/rfscommissioner>

NPWS park closures and hazard reduction burns:
<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/Alert/State-Alerts>

Blue Mountains Official:

RFS: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/RFS-Blue-Mountains-District/183593338352848>

Police: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsLAC>

Police Rescue: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueMtnsPoliceRescue>

Blue Mountains City Council: <https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainscitycouncil>

Blue Mountains Bushfire Recovery: <https://www.facebook.com/BlueMountainsBushfireRecovery>

Local Brigades:

Glenbrook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Glenbrook-Fire-Station/270131849421>

Glenbrook/Lapstone: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100003094251419&fref=ts>

Blaxland: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Blaxland-Rural-Fire-Brigade/266859906720773>

Warrimoo: <https://www.facebook.com/WarrimooBushfireBrigade>

Mt Riverview: <https://www.facebook.com/MtRivBrigade>

Winmalee: <https://www.facebook.com/WinmaleeRuralFireBrigade>

Falconbridge: <https://www.facebook.com/FalconbridgeRuralFireBrigade>

Linden: <https://www.facebook.com/LindenRuralFireBrigade>

Woodford: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Woodford-Rural-Fire-Brigade/160443510662246>

Hazelbrook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hazelbrook-RFS/115616555170591>

Lawson: <https://www.facebook.com/Station359Lawson?fref=ts>

Lawson: <https://www.facebook.com/Lawsonrfs?fref=ts>

Wentworth Falls RFS: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wentworth-Falls-Volunteer-Rural-Fire-Brigade/181435398569129>

Wentworth Falls Fire & Rescue: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/FRNSW-495-Station-Wentworth-Falls/291100107507>

Leura Fire & Rescue: <https://www.facebook.com/LeuraFireStation>

Katoomba/Leura: <a><https://www.facebook.com/KatoombaLeuraRuralFireBrigade>

South Katoomba: <https://www.facebook.com/RFSSouthKatoomba>

Blackheath/Mt Victoria: <a><https://www.facebook.com/pages/BlackheathMt-Victoria-Rural-Fire-Brigade/137329676364289>

Shipleigh: <a><https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shipleigh-RFS/504880046252997>

Kanimbla: <https://www.facebook.com/KanimblaRFS>

Hartley: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hartley-Rural-Fire-Brigade/619095948141234>

Chifley/Lithgow: <https://www.facebook.com/ChifleyLithgowRFS>

Bell: <https://www.facebook.com/BellVolunteerBushFireBrigade>

NSW Emergency Journalism:

NSW Bushfire Info: <a><https://www.facebook.com/NSWBushfireInformation>

NSW Incidents: <a><https://www.facebook.com/nswincidents>

NSW Incidents Weather: <a><http://www.facebook.com/nswincidents.weather>

Blue Mountains Journalism:

Blue Mountains Gazette: <a><https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainsgazette>

Blue Mountains Bushfires (journalism): <https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainsbushfires>

Radio scanner: <a><http://www.facebook.com/critensradioscanner>

Blue Mountains Fire Recovery:

Jericho Road (Presbyterian Social Services):<a><https://www.facebook.com/presbyterianjerichoroad>

Catholic Care Blue Mountains: <a><https://www.facebook.com/CatholicCareBM>

Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre: <a><https://www.facebook.com/pages/Winmalee-Neighbourhood-Centre-Inc/546597248759505>

As The Smoke Clears book: <a><https://www.facebook.com/pages/As-the-Smoke-Clears/664092350300715>

Blue Mountains Social:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bmsocialgroup/>

WEB PAGES & APPS

RFS: <a><http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

Current Incidents: <a><http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me>

Google Mirror of Current Incidents: <http://google.org/crisismap/2013-nsw-bushfires>

Total Fire Ban & Current Fire Danger Map: <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans>

Join the RFS: <http://www.jointherfs.com.au/>

PDFs, photos and linescans: <http://ow.ly/user/NSWRFS>

Bushfire Household Assessment Tool: <http://bfhat.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

Fires Nears Me - Mobile Devices

Android App: <http://market.android.com/details?id=au.gov.rfs.fnm.nsw>

iPhone App: <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/fires-near-me-nsw/id370891827?mt=8>

Mobile Website: <http://www.firesnearme.com/>

My Fire Plan

Android App: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.gov.nsw.rfs.myfireplan>

iPhone/iPad App: <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/myfireplan/id726634175?mt=8>

Website: <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan>

RFS Twitter (BM): <https://twitter.com/ruralfirebm>

RFS Twitter (NSW): <https://twitter.com/nswrfs>

RFS YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/nswrfs>

NSW Traffic: <https://www.livetraffic.com/>

iPhone/iPad App: <http://itunes.apple.com/au/app/live-traffic-nsw/id447303817?mt=8&uo=4>

Android App: <http://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.livetrafficnsw>

Mobile Website: <http://m.livetraffic.rta.nsw.gov.au/>

Blue Mountains Official:

Blue Mountains City Council: <http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/>

Blue Mountains Bushfire Recovery: <http://www.bluemountainsbushfirerecovery.com/>

Red Cross REDiPlan

www.redcross.org.au/files/REDiPlan_booklet.pdf

<http://www.redcross.org.au/prepare.aspx>

Twitter List

<https://twitter.com/BMFirewatch/lists/bmfirewatch>

Building, Rebuilding, Renovating

Fact sheet:

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/publications/building-in-a-bush-fire-area>

Planning for bushfire protection:

http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/4400/Complete-Planning-for-Bush-Fire-Protection-2006.pdf

Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) Assessment Kit:

http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/4349/BAL-Risk-Assessment-Application-Kit.pdf

Building in bushfire prone areas: <https://law.resource.org/pub/au/ibr/as.3959.2009.pdf>

Satellite and Topographic Maps, Other Fire Maps

Sentinel Hotspot Mapping: <http://sentinel.ga.gov.au/acres/sentinel/index.shtml>

NSW maps and satellite photos: <http://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/>

<http://www.openstreetmap.org/>

Current hot spots and past two years fires: <http://srss.landgate.wa.gov.au/fire>

ESRI Layered Map (2013 only)

<http://webmap.em.esriaustraliaonline.com.au.s3.amazonaws.com/NSWBushfires/default-fullscreen.htm>

Radio Scanners

Blue Mountains RFS Radio scanner: <http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/17631>

Blue Mountains RFS GRN radio scanner app: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalhitsoftware.policescanner50free&hl=en>

Aviation scanner: <http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/15287>

National Parks

NPWS closures: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/FireClosure.aspx>

Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine Community

<http://www.mtwilson.com.au/>

Weather

Observations: <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/observations/nswall.shtml>

Forecasts: <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/forecasts/centraltablelands.shtml>

<http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/forecasts/sydney.shtml>

Fire Danger Index map: <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/forecasts/fire-map.shtml>

Forecast and Observations (e.g. Katoomba): <http://www.weatherzone.com.au/nsw/central-tablelands/katoomba>

<http://www.accuweather.com/en/au/katoomba/13062/weather-forecast/13062>

Radar: <http://www.bom.gov.au/products/IDR713.loop.shtml>

Lightning: <http://www.dme-tech.com.au/storm/StormVueNG.swf>

Warnings: <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/warnings/>

BMCC Automatic Weather Stations:

<http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/weather/Katoomba/>

<http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/weather/Springwood/>

Bushfire Research and Land Management

NSW Office of Environment & Heritage: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/fire/index.htm>

Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre: <http://www.bushfirecrc.com/>

CSIRO: <http://www.csiro.au/Outcomes/Environment/Bushfires/Index.aspx>

Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council: <http://www.afac.com.au/>

Blue Mountains Fire Ecology:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/protectedareas/DECCW20100941.pdf>

Other States Fire Services

Victoria Country Fire Authority: http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/Vic_CFA

Landscaping for Bushfire: <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/landscaping-for-bushfire/>

Australian Capital Territory: <https://esa.act.gov.au/community-information/bushfires/>

South Australia Country Fire Service: http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/prepare_act_survive_2012.jsp

Queensland Rural Fire Service:

https://ruralfire.qld.gov.au/Fire_Safety_and_You/Prepare.Act.Survive/Index.html

Tasmania: <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/Show?pageId=colbushfirePrepareActSurvive>

Northern Territory: <http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/Fire-and-Rescue/Community-fire-safety/Bushfire-safety-management.aspx>

Western Australia: <http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/fire/bushfire/Pages/default.aspx>

[Updated 7 January 2015]

Helping the RFS during the fires

[Sunday, 20 October 2013 at 12:04](#)

[Updated Sunday 20/10/13 - 1pm]

Information on supporting the RFS crews in the Blue Mountains has been collated from the Blue Mountains Firewatch group.

What do the crews need?

RFS people have requested portable, non-refridgerated food, such as individual packets of biscuits, cheese dips and fruit. Drinks, such as water, poppers and sports drinks, are also needed. These are used by firefighters when they are out working.

Other food, such as pies, sandwiches, cakes and full meals are welcome, but check with your local brigade first.

Crews have also asked for the following non-food items:

- Zip-lock bags
- Plastic plates
- Markers and tape
- Cloth nappies

Where's my local brigade?

Blue Mountains Command Centre is in Katoomba, cnr Bathurst Road and Valley Road.
Phone: 02 4784 7444

There are links in the About section of this group to many of the individual brigade Facebook pages.

- **Bell**
- **Blackheath / Mount Victoria**
- **Blaxland**
- **Bullaburra**
- **Faulconbridge**
- **Glenbrook - Lapstone**
- **Hazelbrook**
- **Katoomba - Leura**
- **Lawson**
- **Linden**

- **Medlow Bath**
- **Megalong Valley**
- **Mount Riverview**
- **Mount Tomah**
- **Mount Wilson - Mount Irvine**
- **South Katoomba**
- **Valley Heights**
- **Warrimoo**
- **Wentworth Falls**
- **Winmalee**
- **Woodford**
- **Valley Heights**

Emotional Support

[Wednesday, 30 October 2013 at 18:04](#)

Lifeline - 13 11 14 or <http://www.lifeline.org.au/Get-Help/Facts---Information/Community-recovery>

or online counselling 8pm to midnight 7 days - <https://www.lifeline.org.au/Get-Help/Online-Services/crisis-chat>

NSW Mental Health Telephone Access Line – 1800 011 511

Western Sydney Mental Health ACCESS Team - 1800 650 749

Community Health intake service - 1800 222 608

MensLine Australia – 1300 789 978

Kids Helpline – 1800 551 800

Parent Line - 1300 1300 52

Suicide Callback Service (for people contemplating suicide and people concerned about someone contemplating suicide) - 1300 659 467

Disaster Welfare Assistance Line – 1800 018 444

FACS Emergency Accommodation and Funds - 1300 468 746

Gateway Family Services in Blaxland - 4739 5963

Salvation Army at Springwood Baptist Church - just go to the church at 313 Macquarie Rd Springwood

Macquarie Cottage 7 Homedale St, Springwood. By appointment - 4751 4154.

Counselling and childcare available at the Community Recovery Centre - Presbyterian Hall, 158 Macquarie Rd, Springwood, 8am – 6pm

Beyondblue - 1300 22 4636, information and referral line

See your GP for a double appointment, get a mental health care plan and Medicare referral to a psychologist.

Dealing with tragedy and trauma: helping kids -

http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/when_there_is_a_tragedy_-_cyh.html

Psychosocial Support in Disasters - <http://www.psid.org.au/>

NSW Health: Mental Health impacts -

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/emergency_preparedness/mental/Pages/default.aspx

| | 6-Jan-2014 | 7-Jan-2014 | 8-Jan-2014 | 9-Jan-2014 | 10-Jan-2014 | 11-Jan-2014 | 12-Jan-2014 | |
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| Hour starting | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Hour starting |
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| | 10-Mar-2014 | 11-Mar-2014 | 12-Mar-2014 | 13-Mar-2014 | 14-Mar-2014 | 15-Mar-2014 | 16-Mar-2014 | |
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| Hour starting | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | Hour starting |
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| 21:00 | | | | | | | | 21:00 |

| Period | 7-Apr-2014 | 8-Apr-2014 | 9-Apr-2014 | 10-Apr-2014 | 11-Apr-2014 | 12-Apr-2014 | 13-Apr-2014 | Period |
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| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday | |
| 9-11 | | | | | | | | 9-11 |
| 14-17 | | | | | | | | 14-17 |
| 20-22 | | | | | | | | 20-22 |

| 26-May-2014 | 27-May-2014 | 28-May-2014 | 29-May-2014 | 30-May-2014 | 31-May-2014 | 1-Jun-2014 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
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| 15-Sep-2014 | 16-Sep-2014 | 17-Sep-2014 | 18-Sep-2014 | 19-Sep-2014 | 20-Sep-2014 | 21-Sep-2014 |
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| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
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| Period | 13-Oct-2014 | 14-Oct-2014 | 15-Oct-2014 | 16-Oct-2014 | 17-Oct-2014 | 18-Oct-2014 | 19-Oct-2014 |
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| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| 8-14 | | | | | | | |
| 14-20 | | | | | | | |