



8 June 2007

Take Care in Wild Weather

The wet and windy weather affecting New South Wales has kept Ambulance Officers and Air Ambulance Emergency Helicopters busy today with a variety of weather related accidents.

Ambulance Officers have attended a large number of motor vehicle accidents so far this morning, including:

- a car being washed off a bridge and into an overflowed river at Clarence Town in the upper Hunter. The car and occupants are still missing
- a single car accident at Little Hartley (near Lithgow) in which two elderly people have been injured – one with minor chest injuries, and the other with serious head injuries.
- a car was washed off a flooded causeway at Wattle Ponds in the upper Hunter after attempting to cross. Two people were forced to cling to a tree and were thankfully rescued before any serious injuries occurred.

Ambulance Officers are appealing for motorists to take care on the roads, by following some simple tips:

- SLOW DOWN ON WET ROADS – remember, the speed limit is the maximum allowable speed in good conditions
- NEVER attempt to cross a flooded causeway
- driving in wet conditions takes your full concentration – avoid distractions such as mobile phones, drinking/eating/smoking while driving and changing radio stations, etc.
- ensure that you have your head lights on at all times when driving
- avoid non-essential driving in extreme conditions.



Ambulance Service of New South Wales

media release

Ambulance is also warning pedestrians to watch their step, after receiving many calls to people slipped and tripped on tiled floors and slippery surfaces.

Where possible, you should wear flat shoes with good grip, and be very careful when stepping inside a tiled building after being outside in the wet. Businesses should ensure that there is sufficient floor mats to dry shoes, and that floors are kept dry.

~ ENDS ~

For further information or local media opportunities please contact Ambulance Media on (02) 9320 7796.