



MEDIA RELEASE

SES crews combine forces to tackle Melbourne's largest ever hail storm

Date: Wednesday 10 March 2010

Time: 1000 hrs

In response to the largest hailstorm event in Melbourne's recorded history, SES crews from NSW, SA, WA and Tasmania have been brought in to assist Victorian SES crews in cleaning up damage.

After over 7400 requests for assistance over the long weekend, SES volunteers expect to be working through until the weekend to clear outstanding jobs.

There are currently just over 800 jobs outstanding in the central region, and around 50 outstanding jobs in the Shepparton area, figures that have halved since yesterday.

At 930am this morning, 40 members from WA SES crews will meet VICSES CEO Mary Barry and VICSES Director of Operations Trevor White at the Knox Unit, after arriving in Melbourne last night.

Thirty-one members from Tasmania SES crews arrived in St Kilda via boat this morning, and will make their way in a convoy to the Knox Unit, who alone received over 2500 requests for assistance over the weekend.

Twenty SA and NSW SES crews commenced operation on Monday to assist their Victorian counterparts throughout this week. There are 65 SES crews operating on field around Melbourne today.

VICSES is asking people to please be patient if you require assistance, as SES volunteers, with support of fire agencies, are working hard to get through the backlog of jobs.

Additional crews from VICSES' North West, Mid West and South West Regions have also been mobilised to support Central Region Units within the worst affected areas.

Call back centres have been set up and VICSES will continue contacting affected property owners during the day to confirm the status and nature of their damage.

Property owners are encouraged to contact their insurer to seek additional assistance. If you no longer require the assistance of the SES, please contact 132 500.

For further information contact:

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