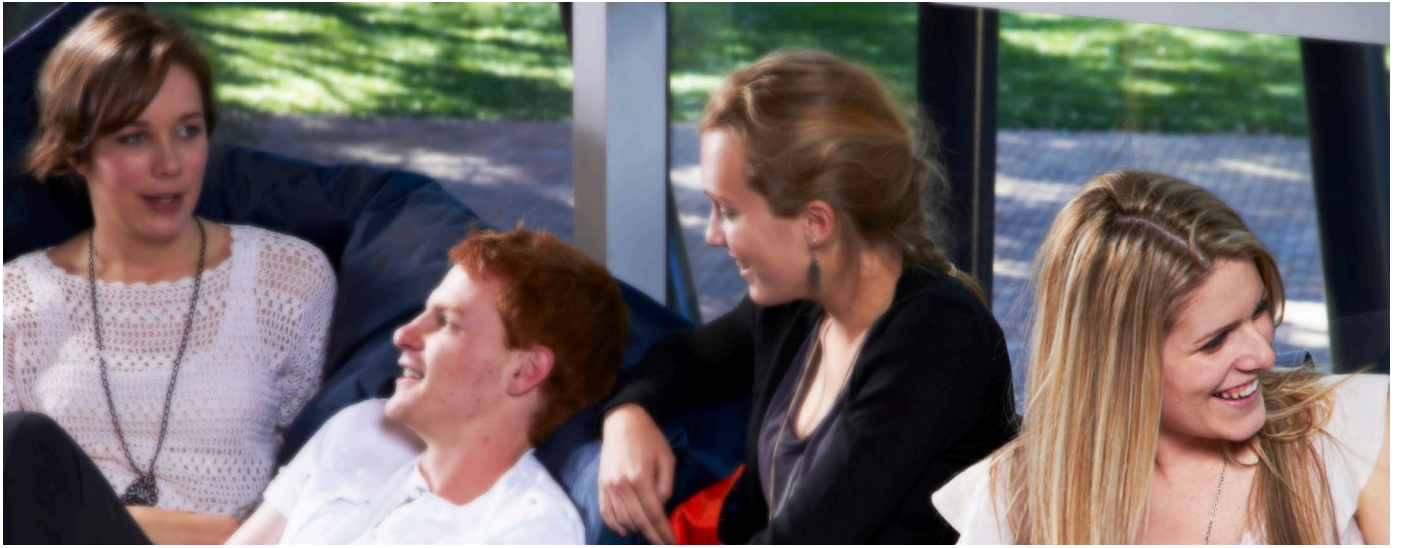




Holiday security and safety for at home



SECURITY TIPS FOR AT HOME

If you are planning on being away during the Christmas break period, take the time to think about how your household normally functions. If you are going away, take time to look at the things that might provide strong indicators that you are away.

If there is no one at home while you are away, consider some of the following points:

- Check doors and windows and make sure locks are functional and can be effectively locked.
- Set up a couple of timers to run the television or a radio and lights during the day and night.
- Turn down the telephone ring on your home phone.
- You could use an answering machine or home messaging but do not create a message that directly indicates you are away. Alternatively, you could divert your calls to your mobile telephone.
- Make arrangements to cancel any regular services or deliveries for the time you are away, e.g. mail, milk, paper deliveries, wine deliveries, etc.
- If you have a reliable neighbour or friend, ask them to collect your mail and/or clear junk mail from your mailbox and put out and/or bring in your garbage bins after service.
- If you are away for extended periods consider having the garden and lawns maintained.
- If you are away for a longer period, talk to your local Police for advice and awareness of your intended absence.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Severe weather

The NSW Bureau of Meteorology provides an important service to the community in keeping us all informed about severe weather conditions. Go the Bureau's website (www.bom.gov.au/index.php) to keep up-to-date with changes in weather conditions, storm activity and fire weather warnings and danger ratings.

The NSW State Emergency Services provides advice on how to plan and prepare for storms and flood events. Visit the SES website (<https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au>) or contact 13500 in the event that you need assistance (in the event of a flood or storm). If you need information in your language visit <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/about-us/languages/individual-languages/>.

- Download the Hazards Near Me app (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/hazards-near-me-app>). Hazards Near Me shows current information about local emergencies, including flood, bushfire and tsunamis, and advice on what to do to stay safe. The app can send you push notifications when there are new incidents or when information changes.

Bushfire

Visit the Rural Fire Services (RFS) website (<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>) and familiarise yourself with the information provided by the Service on preparing and planning on how to protect your family from a bushfire. This is especially important if you live in a bushland setting, or in an urban area surrounded by bushland. Bushfires may also impact you if you are taking holidays in rural or coastal bushland areas, e.g. you may be camping in a National Park or similar bushland setting.

- If you see a fire, call triple zero '000' straight away but keep well away, move to a safe place.
- Become familiar with the fire danger ratings and index
- Think through a safety plan (refer to the RFS Bushfire Survival Plan website <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan>) in the event you might be confronted by warnings for day/s of extreme or catastrophic fire conditions.
- Listen for weather and fire reports on radio and television.
- View the online information about fires nearby at (<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me>).
- Download the Hazards Near Me app (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/hazards-near-me-app>). Hazards Near Me shows current information about local emergencies, including flood, bushfire and tsunamis, and advice on what to do to stay safe. The app can send you push notifications when there are new incidents or when information changes.
- Be familiar with the Bushfire Alert levels that are used to indicate the level of threat from a fire and <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/alert-levels>.

For more information about being prepared, find information about bushfire survival plans and total fire bans go to the Rural Fire Services (RFS) website (<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>) or call 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679737). If you need information in your language visit <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/factsheets/translated-fact-sheets>.

OTHER USEFUL SAFETY INFORMATION

Another community service for monitoring emergencies such as fires and severe storms is the ABC Emergency where you can get up-to-date information either via the internet, ABC Radio and TV.

Emergency+ app helps connect you with triple zero 000 for any emergency service, to the SES 132 500 in times of storm and floods or to the Police Assistance Line 131 444 and a range of other national important numbers. (Crimestoppers, HealthDirect and National Relay Service). It also helps you tell the operator your location (GPS coordinates) so that emergency services can get help to the right location. We encourage everyone to download this very useful app.

Get Prepared app (created by the Australian Red Cross and NRMA insurance) helps you to create an emergency plan.



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The University of Wollongong attempts to ensure the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of production (November 2023); however, sections may be amended without notice by the University in response to changing circumstances or for any other reason. Check with the University for any updated information.

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