LONE RESCUER PROTOCOL

Every time you head out on a rescue, before you leave home,

1. Let your emergency contact person know where you are going (write down or text them the member of public's (MoP) address), when you expect return and how the can contact you (ie provide your mobile number _plus_ the MoP's number).

Your emergency contact person is an adult friend, colleague or family member. (If you don't have an available contact person, the rescue office or after-hours call taker can provide this role.)

Ask your contact person set an alert on their mobile phone to remind them of your return time.

2. On completion of your rescue (or at the agreed return time), **contact your emergency contact person** to advise of your safe return or to update them on your status.

3. If you fail to return or make contact by the agreed time your emergency contact is to attempt to ring you three times within 30 minutes (ie calls 15 minutes apart). If they cannot reach you, your emergency contact is to call the MoP to ascertain if you are still at their property.

If your contact person still cannot reach with you, they are to call the rescue line (94134300) to report you uncontactable. A decision at that time will be made by your contact person and the rescue line call taker on whether to wait for another 30 minutes (calling regularly), for your emergency contact person to go the MoP's address to find you, or to contact the NSW Police Force.

**Why is it important to follow this protocol?** Because you are! Our members often go out on rescues alone, encounter potentially hazardous animals or unfamiliar environments, and enter the homes and properties of unknown persons.

Remember your first priority is your safety, followed by the safety of others, then the rescue of the animal concerned.

These safety tips also apply when you are collecting foliage or releasing wildlife in bushland areas on your own.