



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

10 March 2021

Ballarat SES Unit rocked by burglary

A brazen burglary has occurred at VICSES' Ballarat unit, with critical, expensive emergency equipment stolen.

The incident occurred in the early hours of 3 February 2021, with two chainsaws and a MacBook Air taken from an emergency response vehicle. While the burglary has not affected the unit's ability to respond to emergencies and assist the Ballarat community, it has taken a significant emotional toll on Ballarat members.

After a review of security footage, it appears that two alleged thieves worked together, moving methodically throughout the unit. The alleged offenders also wore masks and clothing that obscured their identities.

The items stolen were:

- **Silver MacBook Air 13.3", 8-Core M1 7-Core GPU, 8GB/256GB Laptop**
- **Stihl Magnum 660 Chainsaw, Orange and Grey with 63cm bar and chain**
- **Stihl 362C Chainsaw, Orange and Grey with bar and chain**

Ballarat Police have been made aware of the theft, and are working with the unit's management team to recover the stolen items. If you have any information, please contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Anyone interested in **donating** to the unit can contact ballarat@ses.vic.gov.au

Quotes attributable to Ballarat Unit Controller Gordon Hicks:

"Our volunteers and unit are deeply disappointed to be targeted. The hard work of our devoted volunteers to raise funds for new equipment has been seriously impacted."

"Unfortunately, our insurance doesn't totally cover the cost of replacement equipment let alone the hard work and time the members invested in recovering from such a loss."

For more information, contact:

VICSES State Media Duty Officer
Phone: 1300 783 933
Email: media@ses.vic.gov.au

Deputy Controller of Community
Engagement | Olivia Lorkin
Email: liv.mccarthy@members.ses.vic.gov.au