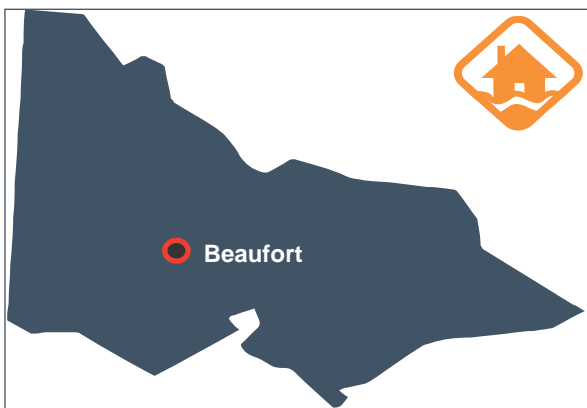




Beaufort

Local Flood Guide

Flood information for the Yam Hole, Ding Dong, Cemetary/Garibaldi and Cumberland Creeks at Beaufort



For flood emergency assistance call
VICSES on 132 500





Beaufort

Beaufort is situated on the Western Highway, midway between Ballarat and Ararat in the Pyrenees Shire. Flooding in Beaufort can occur after heavy storms or during prolonged rainfall events as Beaufort sits on the junction of four creeks.

Yam Holes Creek is the main waterway running through Beaufort, with three smaller creeks feeding into the Yam Holes Creek within the township itself. The smaller creeks can flood independently of each other or at the same time, depending on where rain falls within the catchment. Yam Holes Creek runs into Mount Emu Creek approximately 10 kilometres downstream of Beaufort.

Did you know?

Beaufort has a history of flooding with anecdotal evidence suggesting the area has flooded 15 times since 1900. The January 2011 flood is the largest flood on record in the town. During this flood, record rainfall of 96.8 millimetres of rain fell on the town in less than 12 hours, causing:

- The Western Highway to close in four sections.
- 23 buildings to flood over their floor levels.
- Evacuations in the town.
- Roads to flood including Pratt Street, Willoby Street,

Beggs Street, Alfred Street and Albert Street.

- Many local facilities were flooded including Bicentennial Park, the former Beaufort Primary School oval, the former Ambulance Station and the Shire offices.



No two floods are the same. Floods like this or worse could occur again.

If you live in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding or need to detour around flooded areas.

Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property

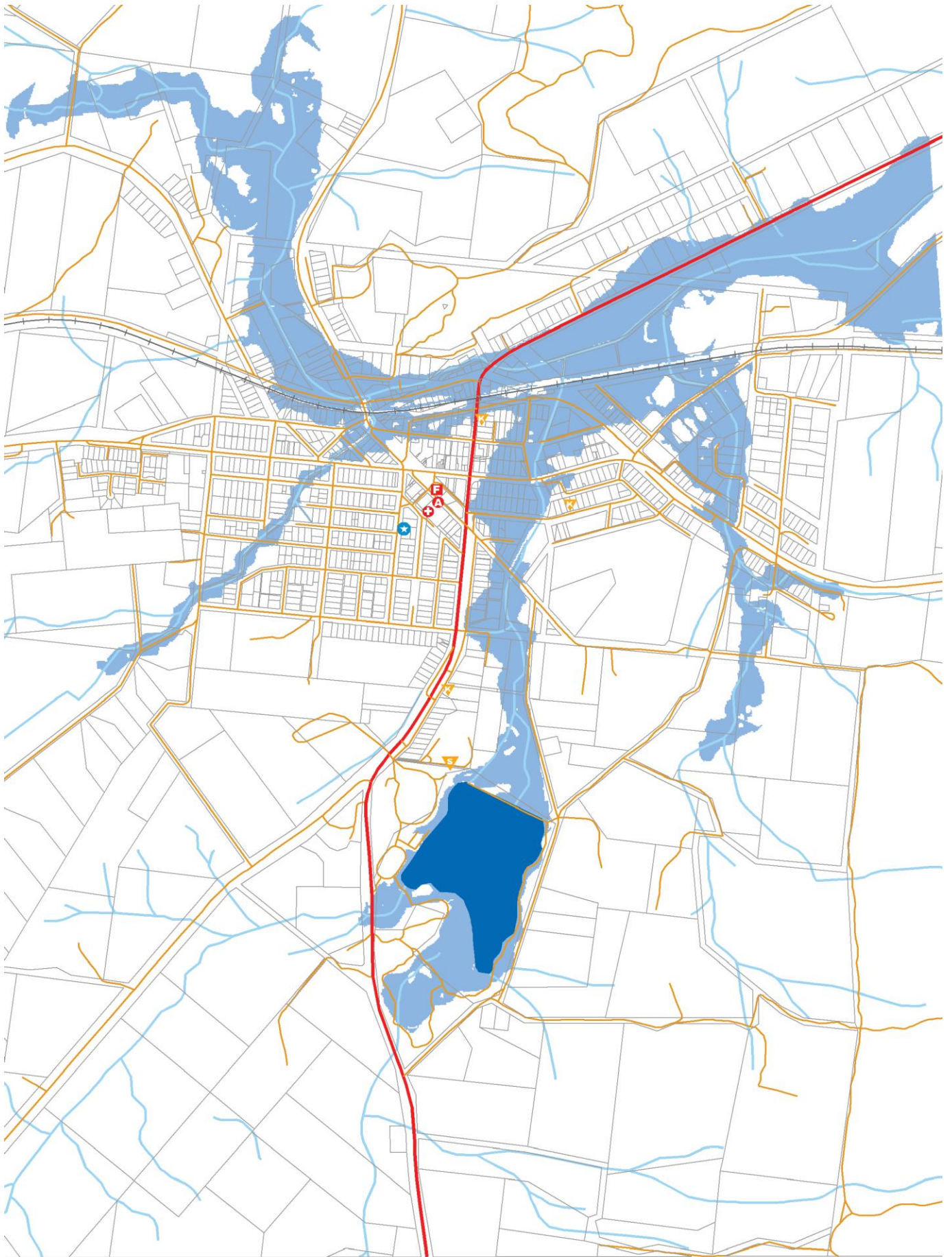
Are you at risk of flood?

Low-lying areas bordering creeks in Beaufort are at risk of flash flooding. Flash flooding occurs in Beaufort when one or more of the four creeks in town overflow following heavy rainfall. The catchments that contribute to flooding in Beaufort are small and lie within a 5 kilometre radius of the town.

The smaller creeks in Beaufort; Ding Dong, Cemetery/Garibaldi and Cumberland, can flood independently of Yam Holes Creek. Large floods occur when more than one of the creeks overflow at the same time. The Cemetery/Garibaldi Creek has a higher risk of flooding when Lake Beaufort is full.

Flash flooding happens quickly and results in fast moving floodwater. Flooding of roads can quickly cut off access within Beaufort.

The following map shows a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood in Beaufort and takes into account town drainage improvements completed following the 2011 floods. The January 2011 flood was approximately a 1% AEP flood in size. A 1% AEP flood means that there is a 1% chance of a flood this size occurring each year





Beaufort Rainfall levels

There are no automated flood warnings systems covering Beaufort, however, the table below shows how much rain over different periods of time may cause flooding in and around Beaufort.

The rainfall levels and duration times below could cause a 1% AEP flood in Beaufort, as shown on the map on page 2. You can use this table as a guide to possible flooding in Beaufort to help you prepare.

Guidance for the likelihood of flooding at Beaufort based on rainfall:

Beaufort rainfall predictions for a 1% AEP flood event	
Duration	Rainfall (millimetres)
1 hour	44.4 mm
3 hours	58.8 mm
6 hours	71.6 mm
12 hours	90.0 mm
24 hours	116.2 mm
48 hours	149.4 mm
72 hours	168.9 mm



Staying Informed and Further Information

- Current warnings (VicEmergency) emergency.vic.gov.au 1800 226 226
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) bom.gov.au/vic/warnings 1300 659 217
- VicRoads Traffic traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au
- Emergency Broadcasters
 - ABC 594AM
 - ABC Local 774AM
 - ABC Local 107.9FM
 - Mixx 101.3FM
 - 3BA 102.3FM
 - Power FM 103.1
 - SKY NEWS Television
- VICSES Social Media
 - facebook.com/vicses
 - twitter.com/vicsesnews
- Preparing for Flood Emergencies ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready
- Creating an Emergency Plan redcross.org.au/prepare
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority www.ghcma.vic.gov.au (03) 5571 2526
- Council name www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au (03) 5349 1100




**Life-threatening
Emergency
000**



Flood warnings and emergency checklist

A **Flood Watch** means there is a developing weather pattern that might cause floods in one or two days. This service covers the whole state.

A **Flood Warning** means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major flood warnings. This service is only available where flood warning systems are in place.

 A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:
Spill over river banks and cover nearby low lying areas.	Spill over river banks and cover larger areas of land.	Cause widespread flooding.
Come up through drains in nearby streets.	Reach above floor levels in some houses and buildings.	Many houses and businesses are inundated above floor level.
Require the removal of stock in some cases.	Require evacuation in some areas.	Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water.
Cover riverside camping areas and affect some low-lying caravan parks.	Affect traffic routes.	Closes major roads and rail routes.
Cover minor roads paths, tracks and low level bridges.	Require the removal of stock in rural areas.	Require many evacuations.
Affect backyards and buildings below floor level.		Affect utility services (power, water, sewage etc).

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe when there is potential to cause significant localised damage through wind gusts, large hail, tornadoes or flash flooding. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued to the community by BoM.

Severe Weather Warnings

These warnings are issued to the community by BoM when severe weather is expected that is not directly related to severe thunderstorms or bushfires. Examples of severe weather include damaging winds and flash flooding.

Flash Flooding

- Flash Flooding can occur quickly due to heavy rainfall. You may not receive an official warning.
- Stay informed- monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the [BoM website](#) and warnings through [VicEmergency](#).



VICSES Warnings

VICSES utilises the VicEmergency app, website and hotline to distribute flood warnings and emergency information in Victoria. Communities can also access this information through VICSES social media channels and emergency broadcasters.

VICSES warnings aim to provide you with information to help you make good decisions to protect yourself and your family. The warning level is based on severity, conditions and the likelihood that the emergency could impact on the community.

WARNING LEVELS	
	<p>EMERGENCY WARNING</p> <p>You are in imminent danger and need to take action now. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p>WATCH AND ACT</p> <p>An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others. A Moderate flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p>ADVICE</p> <p>An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions. A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.</p>

EVACUATION	
If an evacuation is recommended, you will be guided to do so in the action statement in the warning.	
	<p>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY</p> <p>An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>

ADDITIONAL MESSAGES	
	<p>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</p> <p>Can be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community; or to issue a newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.</p>
	<p>EMERGENCY ALERT</p> <p>During some emergencies, we may alert communities by sounding a local siren, or by sending an SMS to mobile phones or a voice message to landlines.</p>

Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time and with little warning. People who plan and prepare for emergencies can reduce the impact and recover faster.

Taking the time to think about emergencies and make your own plan helps you think clearly,, have more control and make better decisions when an emergency occurs.

Visit redcross.org.au/prepare start creating your plan.



- Remember, you may not receive any official warning.
- Emergency assistance may not be immediately available. Be aware of what is happening around you to stay safe.
- Never wait for a warning to act.



Emergency Kit

Visit [Emergency Toolkit](#) for more information



Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit with supplies for 3 days:



Check your kit often. Make sure things work. Replace out of date items.

When a warning is issued, have ready for use or pack into your kit:

I need to add:

Write your list here. Tick items as you pack them into your kit.

Special needs (eg, babies, elderly and people with a disability)	
Photos	
Family keepsakes	
Valuables	
Other	



Emergency Checklist

- Check if your insurance policy covers flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers in your mobile phone.
- Download the Vic Emergency app on your mobile phone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business.
- Emergency plan, see <https://www.redcross.org.au/prepare>



Before Flooding

- Leaving early before flooding occurs is always the safest option. Evacuating through floodwater is very dangerous and you may be swept away.
- Stay informed- monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the <http://www.bom.gov.au> and warnings through www.emergency.vic.gov.au
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage.
- Listen to the radio and check the VICSES website for information and advice.
- Go over your emergency plan. Pack clothing and other extra items into your emergency kit and take this with you if you evacuate.

During Flooding

- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Conditions change rapidly; roads and escape routes can be covered or blocked.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.
- Seek shelter indoors, away from floodwater.
- If floodwater comes inside, move to a higher point such as a kitchen bench or second storey.
- Stay away from trees, drains, low-lying areas, creeks, canals, culverts and floodwater.

Evacuating in Flooding

- Flood water is dangerous. Never enter floodwater. It can take just 15cm of water to float a car.
- Find alternative travel routes if roads or underpasses are flooded.
- Be aware of driving hazards, such as mud, debris, damaged roads and fallen trees. If driving conditions are dangerous, safely pull over away from trees, drains and floodwater.

After Flooding

- For recovery information, contact your local council, go to the VicEmergency Relief and Recovery-emergency.vic.gov.au/Relief page or call the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226).
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.
- Stay away from damaged and flooded buildings, fallen trees and powerlines and damaged roads until authorities advise it is safe to do so.
- Drive slowly, obey all road signs and never drive through floodwater.
- When cleaning, protect your health and safety. Wear strong boots, gloves and protective clothing and wash your hands and clothes regularly.

For VICSES emergency assistance,
call **132 500**, or **Triple Zero (000)**
in life threatening emergencies.