



# Natimuk

# Local Flood Guide

Flash flood information for Natimuk and Little Natimuk Creek at Natimuk



January 2011



For flood emergency help call  
VICSES on **132 500**





## Natimuk

Natimuk is on the join of the Natimuk and Little Natimuk Creeks. Parts of the town and the main street have been built on the floodplain of these creeks. Natimuk Creek flows into Natimuk Lake, five kilometres north of town.

Natimuk has a history of flash flooding which can occur very quickly, especially if the ground is already wet from prior rain.

The map below shows what properties in Natimuk could be affected from a flood which is similar in size to that of January 2011 (similar to a 1% AEP).



### Disclaimer

This map publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information has not been independently verified by Victoria State Emergency Service. No liability is accepted for any damage, loss or injury caused by errors or omissions in this information or for any action taken by any person in reliance upon it. Flood risk information is provided by Wimmera Catchment Management Authority.



### Are you at risk of flood?

After heavy rainfall, parts of Natimuk can flood within as little as seven hours from the Natimuk and Little Natimuk Creeks. The soil moisture levels prior to rain and the duration and intensity of the rain can both increase or decrease flooding in Natimuk.

Areas of Natimuk that are prone to flooding are:

- Station, Sudholz, Elmes and Jory Streets
- Lake Avenue
- Wimmera Highway
- Depot Lane



Natimuk, December 2010

### Did you know?

Natimuk has a history of flooding, most recently in December 2010 and January 2011. The January 2011 flood is the largest in living memory;

- 115.2mm of rainfall in just 24 hours across the Wimmera.
- Flooding of 21 Natimuk properties in Station, Elmes, Sudholz and Jory Streets, Lake Avenue, Wimmera Highway and Depot Lane.
- Flooding and evacuation of 12 Natimuk homes.
- More Natimuk properties had shed or garden flooding.

A 2013 flood study recommends a number of options for reducing flood impacts in Natimuk. This study can be found on the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority website [www.wcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.wcma.vic.gov.au).

### Staying Informed and Further Information

- |                                   |  |                |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|
| ■ Current warnings (VicEmergency) | <a href="http://emergency.vic.gov.au">emergency.vic.gov.au</a>   | 1800 226 226   |
| ■ Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)     | <a href="http://bom.gov.au/vic/warnings">bom.gov.au/vic/warnings</a>   | 1300 659 217   |
| ■ VicRoads Traffic                | <a href="http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au">traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au</a>   |                |
| ■ Emergency Broadcasters          | ABC 594 AM<br>3WM 1089 AM<br>Mixx 101.3 FM<br>SKY NEWS Television  |                |
| ■ VICSES Social Media             | <a href="https://facebook.com/vicses">facebook.com/vicses</a><br><a href="https://twitter.com/vicsesnews">twitter.com/vicsesnews</a> |                |
| ■ Preparing for Flood Emergencies | <a href="http://ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready">ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready</a>   |                |
| ■ Creating an Emergency Plan      | <a href="http://redcross.org.au/prepare">redcross.org.au/prepare</a>   |                |
| ■ Catchment Management Authority  | <a href="http://www.wcma.vic.gov.au/">http://www.wcma.vic.gov.au/</a>  | (03) 5382 1544 |
| ■ Horsham Rural City Council      | <a href="http://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au">www.hrcc.vic.gov.au</a>   | (03) 5382 9777 |

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Emergency  
000**



## Expected flooding in Natimuk using rainfall

Natimuk can flood from a number of situations based on the amount and duration of rainfall. The table below shows possible impacts on Natimuk properties using rainfall and how fast it falls.

The Bureau of Meteorology does not issue river height predictions for Natimuk. Heavy or prolonged rainfall may be your only clue for future flooding. If flooding is likely, tune into your emergency broadcasters paying attention to the Wimmera River, Wimmera Catchment or the Wimmera weather district.

Natimuk rainfall and weather information can be found on the Bureau of Meteorology website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au).

The nearest weather stations to Natimuk are Horsham, Longerenong and Kanagulk.

Flood and rainfall gauges have been installed in the upper parts of Natimuk Creek at McNeils Bridge to monitor water levels and provide early clues of possible flooding. A rainfall gauge has also been put in the Little Natimuk Creek catchment (Fire Dam 59).

### What does an Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) Flood mean?

The map on page 2 and the table below shows flood levels based on the Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) of a flood. This percentage is a way to describe the size of the flood and how likely it is to happen in any year. A 20% AEP is more likely but low impact, 1% AEP is less likely but high impact.

	Natimuk rainfall within					
	2hrs	3hrs	6hrs	12hrs	24hrs	72hrs
<b>1% AEP Flood.</b> Wimmera Highway under 300mm of floodwater. 14 buildings have water above floor level.	57mm	62mm	75mm	92mm	110mm	
<b>January 2011 Flood.</b> 21 buildings reported water above floor level. 12 homes evacuated from Lake Avenue, Elmes and Jory Streets, Depot Lane and Wimmera Highway.						115.2mm
<b>2% AEP Flood.</b> Little Natimuk Creek overflowing the Wimmera Highway and 8 buildings are flooded over floor.	49mm	54mm	66mm	78mm	92mm	
<b>December 2010 Flood.</b> Many homes had water below floor level, one home evacuated. Water did not go over Main Street but several smaller roads were flooded. Water levels were 20-60cm lower than January 2011 Flood.						98.6mm
<b>5% AEP Flood.</b> Natimuk Creek overflows the Wimmera Highway and properties in the area will flood.	40mm	44mm	54mm	65mm	78mm	
<b>10% AEP Flood.</b> Properties begin to flood, no over floor flooding.	33mm	38mm	47mm	55mm	68mm	
<b>20% AEP Flood.</b> Station Street, Jory Street and corner of Sudholz Street and Elmes Street begin to be impacted by floodwater.	27mm	31mm	39mm	48mm	58mm	






# Flood warnings and emergency checklist

## Bureau of Meteorology Warnings

**Warnings** are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to tell people about possible flooding.

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.

 <b>A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:</b>	 <b>A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:</b>	 <b>A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:</b>
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. You can also access this information through our 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 of community impact.

### WARNING LEVELS

	<p><b>EMERGENCY WARNING</b></p> <p>You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p><b>WARNING (WATCH AND ACT)</b></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><b>ADVICE</b></p> <p>An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions. Can also be used as a notification that activity in the area has subsided and is no longer a danger to you. A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.</p>

### ADDITIONAL MESSAGES

	<p><b>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW</b></p> <p>An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>
	<p><b>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Updates for communities affected by an emergency. Can also be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community.</p>
	<p><b>EMERGENCY ALERT</b></p> <p>During some emergencies, communities may be alerted by the sounding of 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, with little warning. People who plan and prepare for emergencies reduce the impact and recover faster.

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

Visit [redcross.org.au/prepare](http://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 a supply of 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)
- | Photos
- | Family keepsakes
- | Valuables
- | Other

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## 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 [redcross.org.au/prepare](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 [bom.vic.gov.au](https://www.bom.vic.gov.au) and warnings through [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://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.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.

### 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.
- 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. Stay safe by never entering flood water. 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](https://www.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. 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.

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