Safe Local Flood Guide
Moonee Valley

Flood information for the Maribyrnong River in the Moonee Valley area
The Moonee Valley area

The Moonee Valley area was formed in 1994 through a merger of Essendon and Keilor councils. Moonee Valley falls within the Maribyrnong River Catchment. The main waterways that run through or beside the Moonee Valley area include the Maribyrnong River, Steele Creek, Five Mile Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek.

The Maribyrnong River is one of Victoria’s largest rivers, flowing from the Macedon Ranges (as Deep and Jackson Creeks), before joining with the Yarra River at Footscray then running through to Port Phillip Bay.

Moonee Valley is subject to riverine and flash flooding, and a flood study looking at the Maribyrnong River indicated that river floods impacting this river often coincided with high tidal events. An early name given to the river by settlers was ‘Saltwater River’ because lower parts of the river (the Yarra) featured an estuary resulting in tidal flows.

The map below shows the expected effects of a major flood on the Maribyrnong River in the area:

Your local emergency broadcasters are:
- ABC Melbourne 774 AM
- 3AW 693 AM
- SKY NEWS Television

Council contacts
Moonee Valley Council:
Phone: 03 9243 8888
Email: council@mvcc.vic.gov.au
Web: www.mvcc.vic.gov.au
Are you at risk of flood?

The Moonee Valley area has a history of flooding due to its location on the Maribyrnong River and close proximity to other creeks. The municipality can be affected by rising levels of the rivers and creeks (riverine flooding) or flash flooding caused by heavy rain over a short period of time.

Prior to 1914 there were no regulations covering building on flood-prone areas, meaning that in older areas of Moonee Valley some building took place in areas likely to flood.

Along the Maribyrnong floodplain there are many homes, properties and businesses at risk from floods. Historic records show large floods happen every 10-20 years, so the next big flood may be just around the corner.

Historically, like many other rivers throughout Victoria, the Maribyrnong River overflows its banks in some areas relatively frequently. Since 1871 there have been 27 recorded floods.

Did you know?

The Maribyrnong River has flooded on a number of occasions, impacting the Moonee Valley municipality with the 1906 flood being the largest on record. This flood was caused by rainfall ranging from 70 millimetres to 125 millimetres over a 12 hour period. During this flood:

- Local residents were isolated by floodwater.
- Thousands of livestock were lost including hundreds of sheep grazing at Flemington Racecourse.
- Extensive damage was done to businesses located along-side the river.
- People were laid off while the damage was being rectified.

Other major floods have included:

- 1916 - Severe damage to residential and commercial property.
- 1974 - 110 millimetres of rain fell on the Maribyrnong River catchment over a 48 hour period with 70 millimetres falling in 17 hours. 127 houses and 50 commercial and industrial properties were flooded. Following this flood a flood warning system was installed in July 1975 for the Maribyrnong River catchment.

While no two floods are the same, floods like this or worse could happen again.

Maribyrnong River flood levels

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues flood warnings for the Maribyrnong River they include a prediction of the flood height in metres. While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you a guide to what might happen at certain heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected.

The most common cause of flooding in Moonee Valley is flash flooding. The table below provides an indication of what might happen during flooding from the Maribyrnong River however with the nature of flash flooding, warnings may not be issued so it is vital that you know what to do to stay safe when flooding starts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flood Height (m)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.52 m</td>
<td>A one in 100 year flood occurs when the river water levels rise to 4.52 metres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.20 m</td>
<td>May 1974 flood level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.00 m</td>
<td>At this point Woods and Newsom Streets, Angler Parade and Bettina Court may become covered by shallow water isolating a number of homes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30 m</td>
<td>July 1891 flood level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.90 m</td>
<td>MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.64 m</td>
<td>July 1987 flood level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30 m</td>
<td>MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.70 m</td>
<td>MINOR FLOOD LEVEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.68 m</td>
<td>The river breaks its banks. Minor flooding occurs and the Anglers Tavern becomes inundated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30 m</td>
<td>Imminent flooding of the lounge room of Anglers Hotel (Mel Ref 28D8) Flemington Racecourse potentially flooded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 m</td>
<td>FLOOD WATCH ISSUED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flash flooding, Ascot Vale
About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

Flood Watches and Flood 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.

Flood Warnings mean flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major flood warnings.

A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Reach the top of the river banks
- Come up through drains in nearby streets
- Cover low-lying areas including riverside camping areas
- Affect some low-lying caravan parks
- Cover minor roads, tracks and low level bridges
- Spread across land or go into buildings on some properties and farms.

A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Spill over river banks and spread across low-lying areas
- Start to threaten buildings, roads, rail, power and other developments
- Require evacuation in some areas
- Cover main roads.

A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Cause widespread flooding
- Threaten more houses and businesses
- Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water
- Disrupt major roads and transport routes
- Require many evacuations.

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) will give information about how the floodwater might affect people and properties. This includes safety messages to remind you what to do.

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe, due to their potential to cause significant localised damage through: wind gusts, large hail, tornadoes or flash flooding. Severe thunderstorm warnings are issued to the community by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Severe Weather Warnings

These warnings are issued to the community by the Bureau of Meteorology 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 happens quickly. There may be little or no warning. The arrival time or depth of a flash flood can usually not be predicted.

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 Alert

SES may provide alerts to the Moonee Valley community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All Emergency Services can use Emergency Alert to warn communities about dangerous situations by voice message to landline telephones or text message to mobile phones.

If you receive a warning, make sure that all family members, people at work and your neighbours are aware of the situation.

If you receive an Emergency Alert you should pay attention and act. It could mean life or death.

If you need help to understand a warning, ask a friend, neighbour or family member.

Warnings for Moonee Valley

For the Maribyrnong River Flood Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. Flood Warnings provide predictions of flood size (minor, moderate or major), time and possible peaks of the Maribyrnong River.

It is important to know how the predicted flood levels are likely to impact you as you may be affected before the peak. See maps page 2 and 3 and Maribyrnong River Flood Levels

Use this table to figure out when you need to start following your flood emergency plan.

Leaving during flash flooding

When flash flooding is likely, if you decide to leave, do so well before flooding occurs. Leaving early before flooding occurs is always the safest option. You may decide to shelter with neighbours, family or friends in a safer area.

Evacuating through floodwater is very dangerous and you may be swept away. NEVER drive, ride or walk through floodwater.

If you do not leave early enough and become trapped by rising floodwater inside your home or business, stay inside your building and seek the highest part e.g. a second story.

Stay there and call 000 (Triple Zero) if your emergency is life-threatening.
NOW - before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Moonee Valley Council.
- Develop an Emergency Plan.
- Check if you could be cut off by floodwater.
- Know the safest way to go if you decide to leave your property and plan an alternative route.
- Check your insurance policies to ensure your equipment, property and business are covered for flood damage.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an Emergency Kit.

When a flood is likely

- Take action. Follow your Emergency Plan.
- Listen to your radio for information and advice.
- Check your neighbours are safe and know about the flood.
- Stack possessions on benches and tables with electrical goods in the highest places.
- Anchor objects that are likely to float and cause damage.
- Move rubbish bins, chemicals and poisons to the highest place.
- Put important papers, valuables, photos and other special personal items into your Emergency Kit.
- Business owners should raise stock, business records and equipment onto benches and tables.
- Rural property owners should move livestock, pumps and machinery to higher ground.
- If you are likely to be isolated, have enough food, drinking water, medicine, fuel and other needs to last at least three days.
- Do not forget pet food and stock feed.

Your Emergency Plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who have planned and prepared for emergencies have reduced the impact and recovered 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.

Your Emergency Plan should identify:

- The types of emergencies that might affect you.
- How those emergencies might affect you.
- What you will do before, during and after an emergency.
- Where to get more information.
- Where you will go if you evacuate and the best way to go in different circumstances.
- A list of phone numbers you will need, including emergency services, your insurance company, friends and family.


Evacuation

Victoria Police is responsible for coordinating an evacuation in an emergency. During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency services may advise you to evacuate to keep you safe. It is important that you follow this advice.

There are two types of evacuation notices that may be issued via your emergency broadcaster during a flood:

- **Prepare to evacuate** - means you should act quickly and take immediate action to protect your life and property. Be ready to leave your property.
- **Evacuate immediately** - you must leave immediately as there is a risk to lives. In a flash flood, you may have only minutes.

Remember you can leave at any time if you feel unsafe. You do not need to wait to be told to evacuate.
Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:

- Copy of your Emergency Plan
- Radio
- Torch
- Spare batteries
- Copy of documents & records
- Long life food
- Safe drinking water
- First aid kit
- Mobile phone and charger
- Prescriptions & medicines
- Pet needs
- Strong shoes
- Clothes for your family
- I need to add: Write your list here. Tick items as you pack them into your kit.
  - Special needs
  - Photos
  - Family Keepsakes
  - Valuables
  - Documents
  - Other

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

- 3 days supply

Check your kit often. Make sure things work. Replace out of date items.
During and After a Flood

During a flood
When flooding has begun:

- **Never** drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater.
- Floodwater can be deep and damage roads and bridges.
- **Do not let your children play or swim in floodwater.** It is dirty, dangerous and deadly.
- Tune in to your emergency broadcasters: ABC Local Radio, Commercial Radio, designated Community Radio Stations and SKY NEWS Television.
- In life-threatening emergencies, call 000 (triple zero).
- For emergency help from the SES in floods and storms call 132 500.
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen power lines – electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals, snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood - they can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to leave early.

When you leave early or evacuate:

- Leaving early is always the safest option, leave well before roads are closed by floodwater.
- Take your emergency kit and three days supply of clothing with you.
- Turn off the electricity, gas and water as you leave.
- Take your pets with you. Do not leave them behind. Dogs should be muzzled and cats in cages.
- Go to a relief centre or to stay with friends or family in higher areas.

If activated, Relief Centres can help you with:

- Temporary accommodation
- Financial help
- Personal support
- Drinks and meals
- Basic clothing and personal needs
- Help to contact family and friends.

If you choose to shelter with a friend or relative, tell authorities where you are staying.

After a flood
Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to fall.
To make sure you stay safe:

- Keep listening to local emergency broadcasters.
- Do not return home until advised that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- Drink bottled water or boil all drinking water until advised that the water supply is safe.
- Throw away any food or medicines that may have been in contact with floodwater or affected by power outages.
- When entering the building, use a torch to light your way - never use matches, cigarette lighters or any other flame as there may be gas inside.
- Keep the electricity and gas off until checked and tested by a professional.
- Take photographs of all damage for insurance.
- Clean your home straight away to stay healthy.

How SES helps the community
The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service. Although our SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible. Therefore it is advisable for you to be prepared for emergencies so that you can share responsibility for your own wellbeing during those times. In a flood, SES assistance may include:

- Giving flood advice
- Protecting essential services
- Helping to protect infrastructure
- Rescuing people from floodwater
- Advising of an evacuation.

To assist your preparation, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of a SES Home Emergency Plan by visiting www.ses.vic.gov.au.
NOW: Flood preparation
☐ Check if your insurance policies cover flooding.
☐ Keep this list of emergency numbers near the telephone.

When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning
☐ Listen to severe weather warnings for flash flood.
☐ Listen to radio and check the SES website for more 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.

When flooding may happen soon (a Flood Warning)
☐ Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
☐ Be ready to evacuate. Act early, conditions change rapidly, roads and escape routes can be covered or blocked. Don’t forget to take pets and your medicine with you.
☐ Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
☐ Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
☐ Secure objects likely to float and cause damage. Raise chemicals and oils well above the predicted flood height.
☐ Move pumps, machinery, hay and livestock to higher ground.

During the flood
☐ For emergency assistance, call 132 500 for SES.
☐ DO NOT drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods.
☐ NEVER allow children to play in floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods for children and young people.
☐ Stay away from drains, culverts and waterways, water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
☐ Stay well clear of fallen trees, power lines and damaged buildings.

After the flood: recovery
☐ If your property has been flooded, check with Moonee Valley Council for information and advice.
☐ Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:
☐ www.ses.vic.gov.au
☐ www.facebook.com/vicses
☐ www.twitter.com/viceswarnings

Life threatening Emergency
Police  fire  ambulance
000 Triple Zero
TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)
For flood / storm emergency calls
132 500

SES Information Line
Operates during major floods or storms
1300 842 737
1300 VIC SES
www.ses.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
Weather Information, forecasts, warnings
1300 659 217
www.bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS)
www.relayservice.com.au

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or 000 using NRS:
☐ Speak and Listen (SSR) users phone 1300 555 727 132 500
☐ TTY / Voice users phone 13 36 77 132 500

Internet Relay users log into www.iprelay.com.au/call/then enter: 132 500 or 000

VicRoads
Road closures and hazard reporting service
13 11 70
www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Moonee Valley Council
Phone: 03 9243 8888
council@mvcc.vic.gov.au
www.mvcc.vic.gov.au

Weather District: Central
Catchment: Melbourne Water

Emergency Broadcasters
Emergency broadcasters include ABC Local Radio, designated commercial radio stations across Victoria and SKY NEWS Television.
☐ ABC Melbourne 774 AM
☐ 3AW 693 AM
☐ SKY NEWS Television

Complete the following and keep this information handy close to the phone:

Your electricity supplier:

Your gas supplier:

Doctor:

Vet:

Insurance
Policy Number:

Phone Number: