



Local Flood Guide Katandra West



FloodSafe

Flood information for the Guilfus Creek and Congupna Creek at Katandra West



KATANDRA WEST



FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**

For more information visit ses.vic.gov.au

About this guide

In floods, knowing what to do and when to do it can save lives and reduce damage. This guide provides advice to residents and businesses about what to do before, during and after floods, where to find flood warnings and areas that are at risk.

The Katandra West local area

The township of Katandra West is located 20 kilometres north east of Shepparton in a relatively flat section of the Broken River floodplain. The township covers a total land area of approximately one square kilometre and is situated at the intersection of Hickey Road and Union Road. The township is surrounded by farmland on all sides. There are no defined waterways that flow through Katandra West.

Overland flow is a major source of flooding. This type of flooding occurs when water runs across the land after heavy rainfall, either before it enters a creek or stream, or after a creek or stream breaks its banks.

The image below shows the extent of flooding in Katandra West during the 2012 flash flood. To the west of the town, areas are prone to riverine flooding (overflow from a creek or river) from the Guilfus Creek catchment.

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- ABC 97.7 FM
- STAR FM 96.9 FM
- 3SR 95.3 FM
- SKY NEWS Television (pay TV)



Image courtesy of Shepparton News

Disclaimer

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Are you at risk of flood?

The Katandra West district has experienced flooding in previous years including 1919, 1939, 1956, 1974, 1993 and most recently in 2012.

During significant flooding the nearby Congupna and Guilfus Creeks will begin to fill and may overflow, flooding the surrounding area and threatening farming properties to the west of the town.

These same creeks can also flood if local heavy rain falls on the Dookie Hills such as in 2012. This flood caused the town's drainage network to be overwhelmed by the volume of water making its way across town causing Black Street, Coleman Street, Burgman Street, Hickey Road, Donohue Street and King Street to flood for several days.

Flooding in the Labuan Road area lasted longer than in the town.

Generally, rainfall of 75 millimetres or more in a 24 hour period will result in similar or worse flooding.

Floods in the past have not resulted in homes in the town being flooded above floor level.

Did you know?

The 2012 floods in Victoria were caused by a number of large storms from a decaying tropical cyclone in northern Australia over six days from late February into early March.

These storms brought record-breaking heavy rainfall of 300mm (or more in some areas), especially in the area between the Warby Ranges, Yarrawonga, Echuca and Shepparton. In many areas this widespread rain resulted in flash flooding and record-breaking riverine flood levels as the floodwater moved across the land and into the waterways.

These floods had a huge impact on towns and communities in many parts of the North East: many houses and businesses were flooded above floor level; many roads, bridges and railway lines were closed or damaged and some townships were cut off for days with large areas of farmland inundated for weeks.

The 1993 flood is the largest on record and was caused by the Broken River overflowing its banks at Gowangardie Weir resulting in significant overland flows reaching the western area of Katandra West and surrounding districts.

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

Even if your property is not affected by floodwater, you may be affected in different ways: road closures, being isolated, cut off for days and disruption to essential services including: telephone, power, drinking water and septic/sewer systems

Rainfall levels and flooding

The following table gives an indication of what rainfall levels are likely to cause flooding in the area. The impact of rainfall can vary due to a number of factors including how wet the ground is prior to rainfall and how quickly it falls.

Rainfall	Expected Impacts
50 millimetres	Not likely to cause any significant flooding in the area.
75 millimetres	May cause minor flooding impacts such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reaching the top of the creek banks. ■ Coming up through drains in nearby streets. ■ Covering local roads, tracks and low level bridges. ■ Spreading across land or go into out buildings on some properties and farms.
125 millimetres	May cause an increase in flooding impacts such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Creek banks spilling over and spreading across low-lying areas and farmland. ■ Threatening buildings, roads, power and other developments. ■ Requiring evacuation in some areas. ■ Covering main roads.
150 millimetres	May cause widespread flooding across the area, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Threatening more houses and businesses requiring many evacuations. ■ Causing properties and whole areas to be cut off, isolated by floodwater ■ Disrupting major roads, and transport routes.
200 millimetres +	Likely to result in widespread, significant flooding, e.g. 2012 flood.

About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to inform people about the possibility of flooding.

A **Flood Watch** means there is a developing weather pattern that might cause floods in one or two days.

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.

You may receive a General Flood Warning from BoM. This will tell you to expect flooding but there will be no information about specifics including expected times and heights of the flood.

As Katandra West is prone to flash flooding, Severe Weather Warnings and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are your earliest triggers to activate your Home Emergency Plan.

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 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 results in water rising rapidly and flowing powerfully and quickly. Katandra West residents should be alert for warnings with flash flooding and remember that flash flooding:

- Occurs so fast that it is difficult to provide a detailed warning. Often it arrives without any warning.
- Usually results from heavy rainfall falling during short, severe storms.

Check for Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and Severe Weather Warnings for your area. If you receive a warning, check the BoM and SES websites for information and advice. You can monitor creek heights and rainfall conditions on the BoM website at bom.gov.au

Know your local environment

If you live in the Katandra West area, keep an eye on the weather, especially heavy rainfall or sustained rainfall over a number of days.

Knowing your local area and making your own observations are a great way to help you prepare for and stay safe during future floods.

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 Katandra West community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All emergency service providers 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 Katandra West

BoM does not issue flood height predictions for Congupna and Guilfus Creek at Katandra West

Warnings issued by BoM may provide information about when flooding is possible in the town, but not specifics such as the expected height of the creek's peak. Heavy or prolonged rainfall may be your only indication of future flooding. If flooding is likely, tune into your emergency broadcasters and listen for information or warnings relating to Katandra West and or Guilfus Creeks, Broken Catchment or the Northern Country weather district.

The Broken River gauge at Benalla is the nearest gauge to Katandra West that the BoM will use to issue minor, moderate and major flood warnings and usually provides a prediction of a peak flood height and arrival time for this gauge. You can monitor rainfall and river levels on the BoM website.

During flash flooding

Driving through floodwater is the number one cause of adult deaths during floods. Never walk, ride, swim or drive through floodwater.

Playing in floodwater is the number one cause of death during floods for children and teenagers. Floodwater is filled with unseen dangers, harbouring hidden debris such as broken glass, shattered timbers and twisted metals as well as sewage, putrid food waste and toxic chemicals.

Floodwater is toxic. Never allow your children to play or swim in floodwater.

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. Conditions may also bring trees or other obstacles in your path, so caution is required

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 such as a second storey.

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

Now – before a flood

- To check if your home or property is subject to riverine flooding go to the Goulburn Broken CMA website at: gbcma.vic.gov.au/publications/published_documents/floodplain_and_drainage
- 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.
- Stay alert for weather warnings and heavy rainfall.

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 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.

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 service providers, your insurance company, friends and family.



Visit ses.vic.gov.au to obtain a copy of your Home Emergency Plan workbook

Evacuation

During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency service providers 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. You may only have minutes to evacuate in a flash flooding situation.

Do not return to your home until you are sure it is safe to do so. You do not need to wait to be told to evacuate.

Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:



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 _____
- Photos _____
- Family keepsakes _____
- Valuables _____
- Documents _____
- Other _____

During and After a Flood

Never
Drive, Ride or Walk
Through Floodwater

During a flood

When flooding has begun:

- **Never drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater.**
- Remember that floodwater can be deeper than you think and can hide damaged roads and bridges.
- Never 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 Triple Zero (000).
- For SES emergency assistance during floods and storms call 132 500.
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen powerlines as electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals such as snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood. These animals can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to act quickly.

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 you are sure that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- Investigate the structural safety of your building.
- 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 a building, use a torch to light your way. Never use matches or cigarette lighters 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 prevent disease.

How SES helps the community

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service provider. Although SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible, especially during flash flooding which occurs so quickly. 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 the SES Home Emergency Plan by visiting ses.vic.gov.au.



Emergency Checklist

NOW: Flood preparation

- Check if your insurance policy cover flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business emergency plan, see ses.vic.gov.au.

When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning

- Listen to Severe Weather Warnings for flash flood.
- Listen to the 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.
- Leave early if you intend to evacuate.

When flooding may happen soon (heavy rainfall)

- 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. 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.
- If you are staying in a caravan or temporary dwelling, move to higher ground before flooding begins.

During the flood

- For SES emergency assistance, call 132 500.
- 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 as water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, powerlines and damaged buildings.

After the flood: recovery

- If your property has been flooded, check with the Greater Shepparton City Council for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:

-  ses.vic.gov.au
-  [facebook.com/vicses](https://www.facebook.com/vicses)
-  twitter.com/vicseswarnings

Emergency Contacts

Life-threatening emergency
Police Fire Ambulance

000 Triple Zero
TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)
For SES emergency assistance

132 500

SES information line

Operates during major floods or storms

1300 842 737
1300 VIC SES

VicEmergency

Victorian emergency warnings

emergency.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

Weather information, forecasts, warnings

1300 659 217
bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS)

relayservice.gov.au

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or Triple Zero (000) using NRS:

	DIAL	THEN ASK FOR
■ 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

iprelay.com.au/call/
then enter: **132 500 or 000**

VicRoads

Road closures and hazard reporting service

13 11 70
vicroads.vic.gov.au

Greater Shepparton City Council Contact Details

Phone:	(03) 5832 9700
Email:	council@shepparton.vic.gov.au
Web:	greater-shepparton.vic.gov.au facebook.com/GreaterShepparton Twitter:@GreaterShepp

Weather District:

Northern Country

Catchment:

Goulburn Broken Catchment Authority
gbcma.vic.gov.au

Emergency Broadcasters

Emergency broadcasters include ABC Local Radio, designated commercial radio stations across Victoria and SKY NEWS Television.

-  ABC 97.7 FM
-  3SR 95.3 FM
-  STAR FM 96.9 FM
-  SKY NEWS Television (Pay TV)

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: _____