

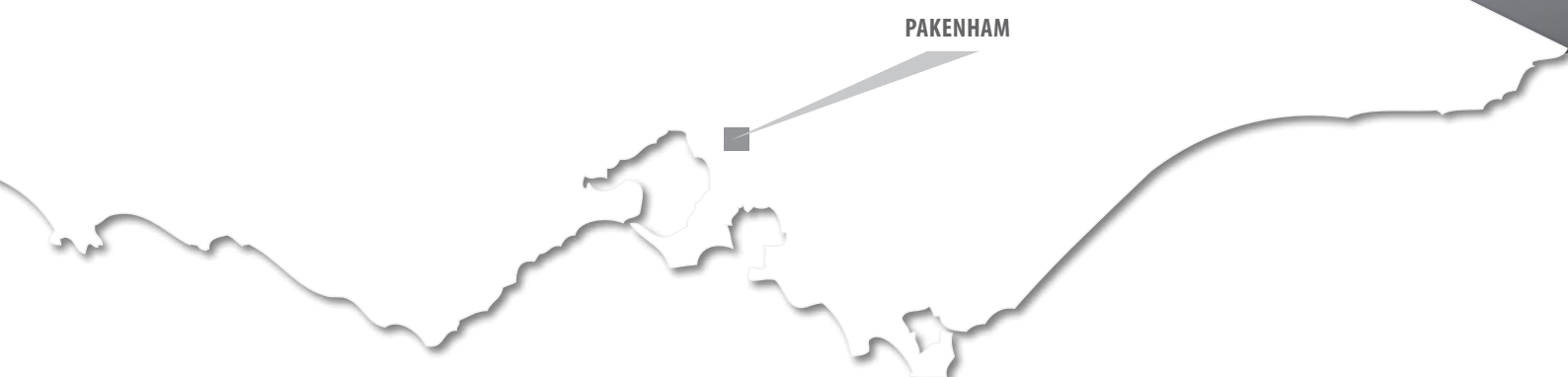


# Local Flood Guide Pakenham



FloodSafe

Flood information for Pakenham



 FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**

 For more information visit [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

## The Pakenham local area

Cardinia Shire has an area of approximately 1,280 square kilometres and extends from the Dandenong Ranges in the north to Westernport Bay in the south. It comprises rapidly growing residential areas, rural farmland including wetlands, densely vegetated mountains, plains and swamps.

The Shire contains the growth areas of Beaconsfield, Officer and Pakenham and the townships of Upper Beaconsfield, Cockatoo, Emerald, Gembrook, Bunyip, Garfield, Koo Wee Rup, Lang Lang, Nar Nar Goon and Tynong.

Pakenham has a population of approximately 40,000 and is located 56 kilometres southeast of Melbourne. It has a mix of residential, business and industrial areas featuring newly established estates. Pakenham is bordered by Toomuc Creek on its western edge and Deep Creek on its eastern edge. Flowing through the centre of town are Pakenham and Kennedy Creeks.

The map below shows a 1% flash and riverine flood event in Pakenham. A 1% flood means there is a 1% chance of a flood this size occurring in any year:



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### Are you at risk of flood?

Cardinia Shire is prone to both inland and coastal flooding. The lowlands of the extensive Koo Wee Rup Swamp were originally formed from a depressed basin between the Tyabb Fault and Heath Hill Fault. While these features extend outside the municipal boundary, the Great Swamp of the lowland is a dominant landscape feature of the region; covering over 400 square kilometres with extensive flat areas surrounding the swamp. Pakenham is prone to two types of flooding:

**Flash flooding** is defined as flooding which peaks within six hours of the rain which caused it. It is often a result of severe thunderstorms. It is sudden, mostly unexpected, and is characterised by its short duration and the swift and dangerous floodwater it generates. Flash flooding can cause severe damage and the ability to provide warnings for flash flooding is limited.

**Riverine flooding** occurs when heavy rainfall causes high water levels in rivers or creeks to overtop their banks. The size of the flood is determined by the amount and duration of rainfall that has fallen, how wet the ground in the area is, the topography and how the land is being used.

Areas at risk of flooding in Pakenham include:

- Brown Road and Toomuc Valley Road may be cut off due to flooding from Toomuc Creek.
- The Pakenham railway line could become flooded around Pakenham railway station from Main Street to Deep Creek.
- The Pakenham Metropolitan Ambulance Service branch could become inaccessible when flooding occurs along Main Street and surrounding roads.
- Toomuc Valley Country Fire Authority station could become inaccessible via Toomuc Valley Road and Brown Road from the east during a flood event.
- Cardinia Waters Retirement Village could be isolated by floodwater along Racecourse Road and Neverland Boulevard.
- Pakenham Racecourse and Showgrounds could be flooded along the eastern edge affecting part of the racetrack and the driveway to the grandstand off Racecourse Road.
- The Princes Highway may be closed at a number of points depending on the flood level including Toomuc Creek, McGregor Road, near Atkins Road (PK's Early Learning Centre) and near Ryan Road and Deep Creek Road.
- The Princes Freeway may also be impacted in a large flood.

### Did you know?

Since records began in 1891, Cardinia Shire recorded 15 flood events. Pakenham itself has also been affected on several occasions with recorded floods in 1916, 1917, 1934, 1935, 1937 and 1950 to name a few. Pakenham was most recently affected in February 2011 when heavy rainfall across the Officer-Pakenham area caused extensive flooding, and over 300 calls for assistance were attended to by the Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) at the time.

As Pakenham is located on mostly flat land, it may experience moderate to slow water movement during flood events, meaning flooding could last for a number of days.

### Flooding in Pakenham

During a flood, Cardinia Shire Council and SES recommend the following actions to Pakenham residents:

- Follow your Home Emergency Plan (see page 5).
- Monitor the SES, Bureau of Meteorology and Melbourne Water websites for information about your area.
- Tune into your emergency broadcaster to listen to warnings and advice (see page 8).

### What does this mean for me?

If you live close to a creek, river or in a low-lying area you are at risk of flooding.

Knowing what to do and what not to do can save your life.

Even if you are not directly affected, you may still need to detour around flooded areas.



King Street, Pakenham

### Be FloodSafe

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: you don't know what you're getting into.

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 storey.

If your emergency is life-threatening, call 000 (Triple Zero).

# About Flood Warnings

## About flood warnings

**Flood Watches** and **Weather Warnings** are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) through weather reports, media and agencies 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. A Flood Watch will be cancelled if it is no longer a threat.

A **General Flood Warning** means flooding is about to happen or is already happening.

The 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 and 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.

Listen to Severe Thunderstorm and Severe Weather warnings for your area. If you hear a warning, check the Bureau of Meteorology and SES for warnings and advice.

Flash flooding occurs because rain falls faster than the ground has the ability to absorb, causing water run-off into low-lying areas and into local drainage systems unable to cope with the volume of water. This results in water rising rapidly and flowing powerfully and quickly.

Flash flooding:

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

## Know your local environment

If you live in Pakenham, keep an eye on the weather, during and after heavy rainfall or rainfall that lasts over several days. Knowing your local area and making your own observations are a great tool to help you prepare for a potential flood. Keep an eye on local river and creek heights.

**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 Pakenham 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.

## Flood warnings for Pakenham

The BoM does not issue minor, moderate or major flood warnings or provide predictions of creek heights for Pakenham.

Severe weather warnings issued by BoM can provide information about when flooding is possible. They may also issue a general flood warning for the area.

If flooding is likely, tune into emergency broadcasters to check for information relating to Toomuc Creek, Deep Creek, Kennedy Creek, Pakenham Creek or the Central weather district.

Information about potential floods will also be available from the SES at [www.ses.vic.gov.au/warnings](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/warnings).

### NOW - before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Cardinia Shire 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.



Visit [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au) to obtain a copy of your Home Emergency Plan workbook

#### The time for me to evacuate is before:

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### Evacuation

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.

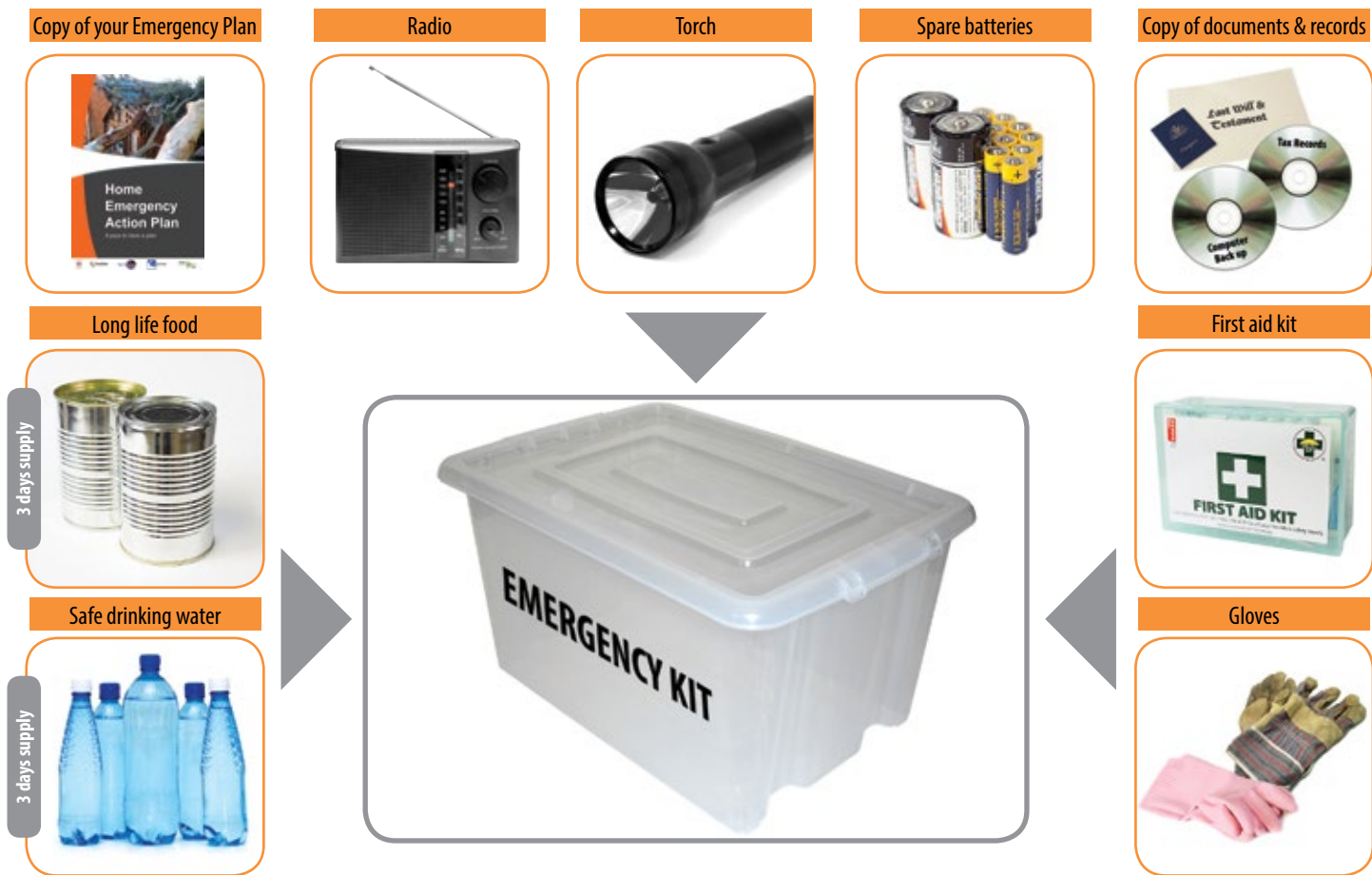
There are two types of evacuation notices that may be issued via your emergency broadcaster during a flood:

- **Prepare to evacuate** - means you should act quickly and take immediate action to protect your life and property. Be ready to leave your property. You may have little time to prepare in a flash flood situation.
- **Evacuate immediately** - you must leave immediately as there is a risk to lives.

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:



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.**
- **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 and act quickly.

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 the SES Home Emergency Plan by visiting [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au).



# Emergency Checklist

## NOW: Flood preparation

- Check if your insurance policies 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 [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au).

## 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 Cardinia Shire Council for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:

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

# Emergency Contacts

**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](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

**Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)**

Weather Information, forecasts, warnings

**1300 659 217**

[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

**National Relay Service (NRS)**

[www.relayservice.com.au](http://www.relayservice.com.au)

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or 000 using NRS:

	DIAL	THEN ASK FOR
■ <b>Speak and Listen (SSR)</b> users phone	<b>1300 555 727</b>	<b>132 500</b>
■ <b>TTY / Voice</b> users phone	<b>13 36 77</b>	<b>132 500</b>

**Internet Relay** users log into

[www.iprelay.com.au/call/](http://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](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

## Cardinia Shire Council contact details

Phone: **1300 787 624**  
Email: [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au)  
Web: [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au](http://www.cardinia.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 774 AM
- Stereo 97.4 FM
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_