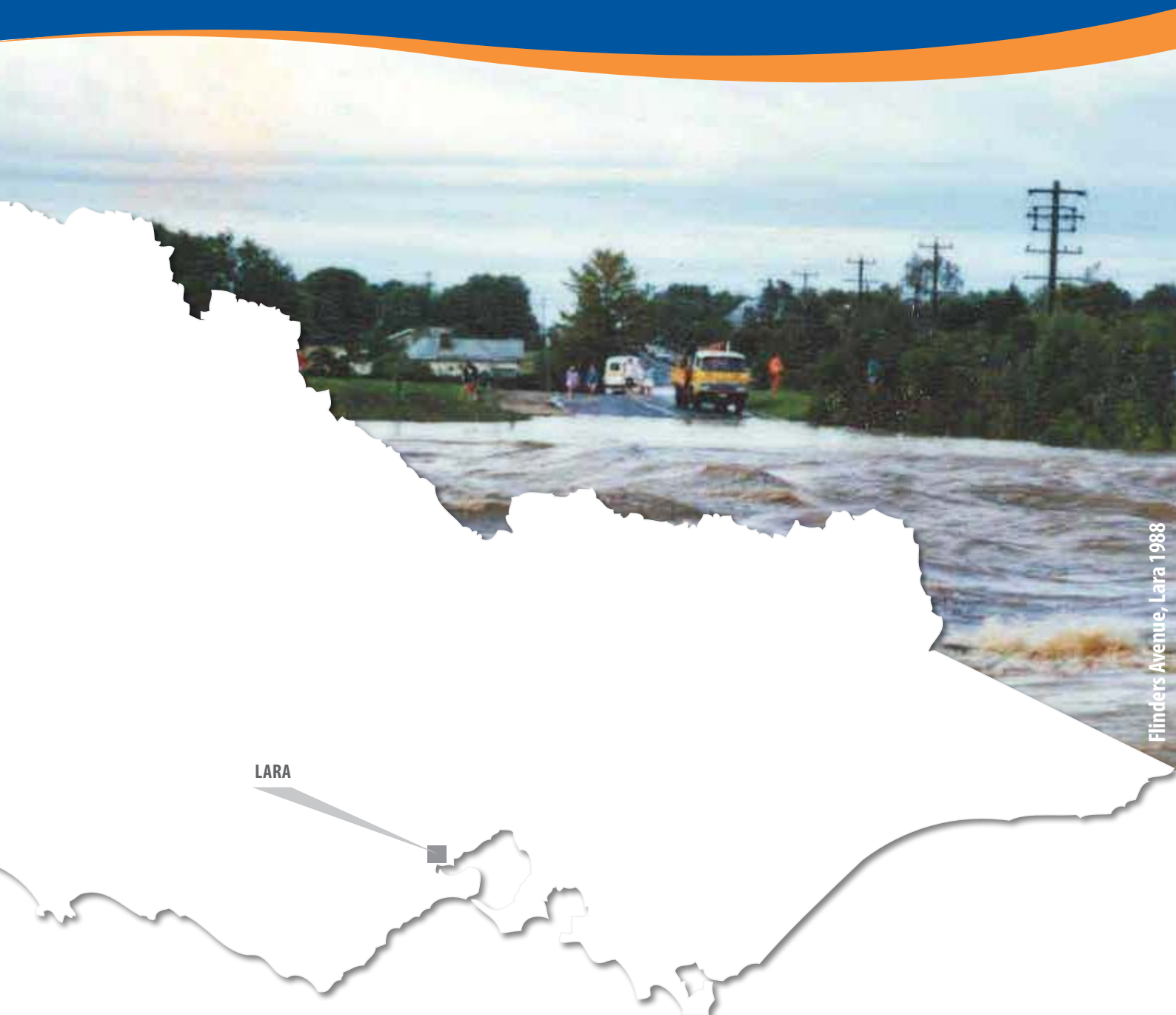




# Local Flood Guide Lara



Flood information for Hovells Creek at Lara



Flinders Avenue, Lara 1988

LARA



FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**

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

## The Lara local area

Lara is located 15 kilometres north of Geelong. Hovells Creek runs through the centre of the town, north of Windermere Road to Rennie Street in the south until it meets Limeburners Lagoon at Corio Bay.

## Are you at risk of flood?

Hovells Creek is a shallow, slow moving watercourse that is filled when rain falls in the Northwest of the catchment and flows down through the Creek.

In heavy rainfall or in sustained rainfall over a number of days, homes and businesses in and around the township of Lara can flood and the town may be divided by the Hovells Creek floodplain. In particular, the town centre is at risk of flooding, as the drainage networks become full and water builds up, spilling over into surrounding areas.

Due to the particularly flat nature of the landscape in the North East of Lara, flooding in the town lasts for a number of days.

As there is a risk of flooding in the area, the City of Greater Geelong developed a flood warning system for Hovells Creek following the 1988 flood. The warning system consists of three gauges in the Hovells Creek catchment area that transmits rainfall details to a base station and is then analysed to determine if there is a threat to residents. This network was built and is maintained by the Council and allows residents to receive a warning through usual channels for potential flooding.

Following the 1973 flood, a levee was constructed and completed in 1986. Following the 1988 flood the levee had to be repaired and approximately 600 millimetres was added to the height of the levee in some areas.

## Annual Exceedance Probability

Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) is the probability of a flood occurring in any given year. The map in the centre (page 4 and 5) shows the expected flooding in a 1% AEP flood in Lara in blue. The blue layer is designed to help you see where the water is expected to go in a flood of this size in Lara.

AEP is the percentage chance of a flood occurring in each year, for example, a 1% flood means there is a 1% chance of a flood this size occurring in any year. The smaller the percentage of flooding means that it is less likely to occur but is much bigger.

For example, a 1% flood is less likely to occur but will be more damaging than a 10% flood which is more likely to occur but will not flood as large an area as a 1% flood, but could still cause significant damage.

## Emergency broadcasters

During an emergency, tune into your emergency broadcaster. Emergency broadcasters in Lara include:

- ABC Radio 774 AM
- Bay FM 93.9
- K-Rock FM 95.5
- SKY NEWS Television

## Did you know?

Hovells Creek has a history of flooding, usually occurring between November and February. Significant flooding in the area has occurred in 1933, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988 and in 2011. The 1973 flood caused significant damage to the area when 190 millimetres of rain fell in two bursts: 70 millimetres in eight hours followed by 120 millimetres over 12 hours.

The 1988 flood is the largest flood on record. During this flood, 120 millimetres of rain fell in just five hours on already wet ground in the area causing:

- The levee bank at the rear of Ponds Drive to overtop.
- Flooding of 78 properties, with 60 flooded inside the building.
- Flooding of the Station Lake Road Bridge, Flinders Avenue and Rennie Street, impacting access in and out of Lara.
- Essential services, including power, phone and gas were disrupted.
- Damage to rural areas and farmland in surrounding areas.

No levee is flood proof and levees can and do fail, as seen in 1988 when a section of the Lara levee overtopped and caused properties around Ponds Drive and Martain Avenue to flood.

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

If you live close to a creek, river or in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding. Even if you are not directly affected, you may still need to detour around flooded areas.

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



Rennie Street, 2011 flood. The flood gauge indicates a depth of water over the road height of 0.4 metres.

# About Flood Warnings

## What warnings mean

**Flood Watches** and **Weather 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.

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.

As Lara is prone to flash flooding, Severe Weather 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 the BoM.

## Severe Weather Warnings

These warnings are issued to the community by the 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.

Listen to Severe Thunderstorm and Severe Weather warnings for your area. If you hear a warning check with the BoM and SES for information and advice.

Flash flooding results in water rising rapidly and flowing powerfully and quickly. Lara residents should listen out for warnings with flash flooding and remember that 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 the Lara 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 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 Lara community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All emergency services can use an 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 Lara

BoM does not issue river height predictions for Hovells Creek in Lara.

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 river peak.

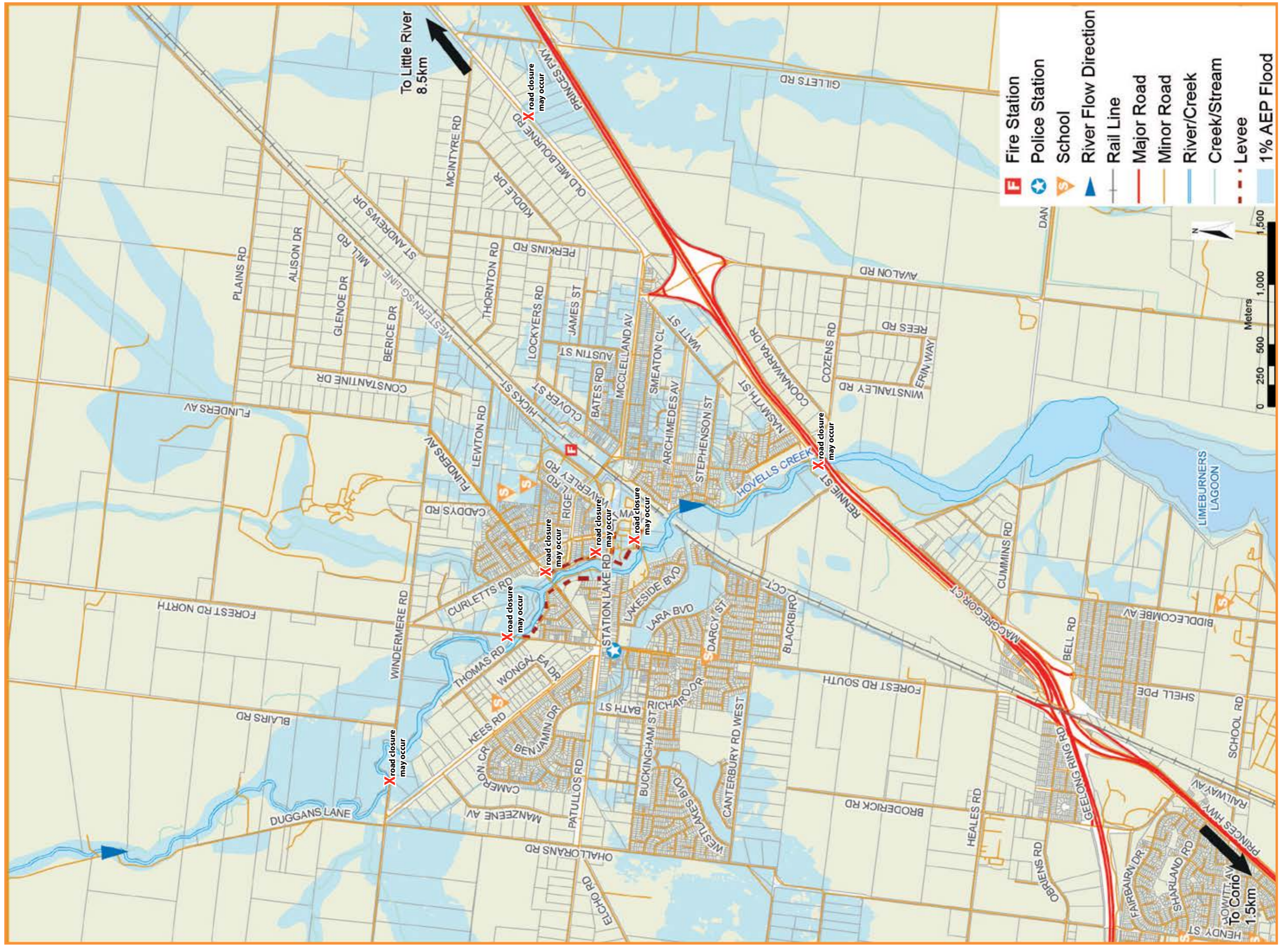
Heavy or prolonged rainfall may be your only indication of future flooding. If flooding is likely, tune into your emergency broadcasters to watch and listen for information relating to Hovells Creek, Corangamite Catchment or the Central weather district.

Information about potential floods will also be available from SES. You can monitor rainfall and river levels on the BoM website at [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au)



Flinders Avenue, 2011 flood. The Flood Gauge indicates a depth of water to 1.9 metres. During dry weather, the Creek height is around 0.4 metres.





Disclaimer

This publication is presented by the Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information have not been independently verified by the 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 information is provided by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.



# What to do in a flood

**Never**  
Drive, Ride or Walk  
Through Floodwater

## NOW – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Geelong City 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.
- Stay alert for weather warnings and heavy rainfall.

## Your emergency kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit. A basic emergency kit includes:



When a warning is issued, place extra items into your Emergency Kit, including:

- Mobile phone and charger
- Mementoes and valuables
- Prescriptions and medications
- Requirements for pets
- Strong shoes
- Clothing for at least three days.

## 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 [ses.vic.gov.au](http://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.

# What to do in a flood

**FLOOD STORM  
EMERGENCY 132 500**

## 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.

## 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

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service. 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](http://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 [ses.vic.gov.au](http://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.
- 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 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.
- If you are trapped inside a building, stay inside and shelter in the highest place. Call 000 in a life-threatening emergency.

## After the flood: recovery

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

For more information visit:

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

# Emergency Contacts

**Life threatening Emergency** **000** Triple Zero  
Police fire ambulance TTY106

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

**SES Information Line** **1300 842 737**  
Operates during major floods or storms  
**1300 VIC SES**  
[www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

**Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)** **1300 659 217**  
Weather Information, forecasts, warnings  
[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** **13 11 70**  
Road closures and hazard reporting service  
[www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

## Geelong City Council Contact Details

Phone: **(03) 5272 5272**  
Email: [contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au](mailto:contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au)  
Web: [www.geelongaustralia.com.au](http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au)

**Weather District:** Central

**Catchment Management Authority:** Corangamite  
[www.ccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccma.vic.gov.au)

## Emergency Broadcasters

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

-  ABC Radio 774 AM
-  Bay FM 93.9
-  K-Rock FM 95.5
-  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: \_\_\_\_\_