



Victorian Warnings

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) is Australia's national weather, climate and water agency and provides the following warning services:

- Tropical Cyclone Warning Service
- Fire Weather Warning Service
- Severe Thunderstorm Warning Service
- Severe Weather Warning Service
- Flood Warning Service
- Tsunami Warning Service
- Marine Warning Service
- Other Warning Services including frost, haze and road weather alert.

It is important to remember that you may not always receive a warning. Monitor the conditions in your area and look for signs that may trigger you to activate your emergency plan e.g. rising water from a local river due to heavy rainfall.

For further information visit www.bom.gov.au/australia/warnings

Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS)

The Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) is a distinctive siren sound that is played in the event of an emergency. It is designed to alert the public via radio, television and public address systems in areas such as shopping centres or sports grounds that an official emergency announcement is about to be made concerning an emergency which could affect them.

Emergency Alert

Emergency Alert is a telephone warning system that all emergency services can use to warn communities about dangerous situations by voice message to landline telephones or text message to mobile phones. The text message will be from the number 04 44 444 444 and calls will be displayed as a Private Number.

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

Emergency Alert is a community warning system that attempts to provide a message to the vast majority of phones in an area defined by the emergency services. You should not rely solely on receiving a telephone warning as it is only used in life-threatening situations.

For further information visit www.emergencyalert.gov.au

Bushfire Warnings

All bushfire alerts and warnings are posted on the Country Fire Authority (CFA) website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries website at www.dse.vic.gov.au.

Other ways to ensure you are notified of a bushfire warning include:

- The Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on 1800 240 667
- Keep informed by listening to emergency broadcasters which include ABC Local Radio, commercial and designated community radio stations and SKY NEWS Television.

- Callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment can contact the VBIL via the National Relay Service on 1800 555 677.
- Keep an eye on weather forecasts and fire danger ratings in your area.

Flood Warnings

Flood Watches and Weather Warnings are issued by BoM to tell people about the possibility of flooding. The SES will give information about how the flood might affect people and properties. This includes safety messages to remind you what to do.

The Flood Warning Service provides different types of information depending on the type of flooding and the flood risk.

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 Flood Warning means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. Warnings of 'minor', 'moderate' or 'major' flooding can be given in areas where the BoM has installed specialised warning systems. In these areas, the flood warning message will identify the river valley, the locations expected to be flooded, the predicted severity of the flood and when it is likely to occur.

In each state, flood warnings and river height bulletins are available via some or all of the following:

- The SES at www.ses.vic.gov.au/warnings
- BoM website and recorded telephone warnings. Dial 1900 926 113 (National Directory). Please note charges apply.
- Emergency Broadcasters including ABC Radio, commercial and designated community radio stations and SKY NEWS Television.

Storm Warnings

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is given when a thunderstorm is expected 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 thunderstorm warnings issued by the BoM are accessible through the following communications systems:

1. Recorded Telephone warnings: Dial 1900 926 113 (National Directory). Please note charges apply.
2. BoM Website: www.bom.gov.au
3. SES website: www.ses.vic.gov.au
4. Weather forecasts and emergency broadcasters.

A Severe Weather Warning is 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, hail, tornadoes and flash flooding.

Tsunami Warnings

Tsunami warnings are issued by the BoM and distributed to media outlets and emergency management agencies such as the SES. Tsunami are usually generated by large undersea earthquakes. In the event of a large undersea earthquake, data is analysed to determine whether the earthquake may generate a tsunami that will affect the Australian coastline. Once analysed, the BoM will issue:

A National Tsunami No Threat Bulletin - when it is determined that there is no threat of a dangerous tsunami.

A National Tsunami Watch - similar to Flood Watch. A Tsunami Watch warns that there is a possible tsunami that may affect the Australian coastline (including island territories).

A Tsunami Warning - once there is a high degree of confidence that a tsunami threat exists. Warnings will indicate the degree of tsunami magnitude. Tsunami Warnings have two major categories:

a. Marine Environment Threat - This means that the Tsunami is expected to affect the marine environment for specified coastal areas. Although land inundation is not expected, there may be flooding in low-lying coastal areas and variations in sea level.

b. Land Inundation Threat - Warnings for low-lying coastal areas of major land flooding, dangerous waves and strong ocean currents. Significant flooding is expected and possible extensive damage to marine infrastructure as well as buildings and infrastructure near the shore.

A Tsunami Watch/Warning Cancellation - upon further analysis, it is determined that there will be no danger to the Australian coastline and activities can resume as normal.

