

How will floods affect your business?

Life

- Floods can be life threatening to you, your employees and your customers. Most flood deaths occur when people enter flood water.

Property

- Floods cause hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of damage to business stock, plant, equipment, furniture and fittings every year.
- Damage can be caused by water inundation, debris, humidity, contamination, mould and power disruption.
- No insurance or an insurance policy with little or no protection for loss associated with flooding will significantly prevent you from recovering quickly, this will be more costly than having appropriate insurance cover.

Profits

- It usually takes a week or more to clean up after a flood, adding to your costs and stress. Your business may have to close for an extended period of time.
- It can take several weeks or months for your business to return to normal. Your customers may take their business elsewhere.



Tips – Do you require sandbags to secure doors and windows?

1. Locate local stores who supply sandbags.
2. Watch the sandbagging training video on the SES website.
3. Consider how many you need and where you will store them. Prepare an emergency kit.

Business Flood Planning
Get ready, have a plan, know what to do...

ses.vic.gov.au



Business Flood Planning

Remember...Get ready, have a plan, know what to do!

Preparing for a Flood

During flood events the SES and other emergency services are in high demand and must prioritise calls for assistance, so rather than rely on the emergency services for help it is important you are prepared to look after yourselves.

Tip: Know your flood risk and consider ways to reduce the risk of flooding to protect your business, this will help you to start trading again soon after a flood event:

- Contact your local council's Catchment Management Authority (CMA) who will be able to provide you with flood information specific to your area and property.
- Speak to your local SES unit and nearby businesses who may be able to share their local knowledge and experiences of flooding.
- Check if there is a Local Flood Guide for your community on the SES website as this may contain important information for you.
- Check out the Business Flood Planning toolkit available on the SES website to help you make a start with planning.

Emergency kit

Prepare an emergency kit: www.ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready/emergency-plans-and-kits

Business flood plan **Radio** **Torch** **Spare batteries**

Documents & records **First aid kit** **Gloves** **Emergency contact numbers**

Emergency Kit



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Business Flood Planning Flyer - v1 May 2020



Tip: Create your Business Flood Plan, available at www.ses.vic.gov.au

Key Flood and Storm Contacts

Life threatening emergency Police /Fire/ Ambulance	000
Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) For flood/storm emergency assistance	132 500
VicEmergency emergency.vic.gov.au	1800 226 226
VicRoads Traffic traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au	13 11 70
Bureau of Meteorology bom.gov.au/vic/warnings	

Bureau of Meteorology Warnings

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 flood in one or two days. This service covers the whole state.

A **Flood Warning** means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major flood warnings. This service is only available where flood warning systems are in place.

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

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

- Flash Flooding can occur quickly due to heavy rainfall. You may not receive an official warning.
- Stay informed- monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the BoM website and warnings through VicEmergency.



Tip: Identify the triggers that prompt you to start taking action, such as flood warnings.



Download the VicEmergency app and create a Watch Zone

Visit: emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare

Download the app from:



Set up emergency notifications

Take the following simple steps:

- Download the VicEmergency app and create a Watch Zone.
- Follow VicEmergency and VICSES on social media.
- Know the frequency of your local emergency broadcaster.



Remember

- Emergency assistance may not be immediately available, plan and prepare to protect your business.
- Your main priority is the safety of your employees and customers.
- Never enter floodwater.

Types of warnings



Emergency Warning

You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted.

A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.



Warning (Watch and Act)

An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others.

A Moderate flood warning usually fits into this category.



Advice

An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.

A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.