



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

29 October 2020

Simple steps to Get Flood Ready in your region

ARE YOU READY FOR AN EMERGENCY?
THE GET PREPARED APP PUTS EVERYTHING YOU NEED IN ONE PLACE.

1 MAKE ACTION PLANS
2 FIND YOUR EMERGENCY ALERTS
3 SAVE KEY CONTACTS

Download the Get Prepared app and make your plan, visit redcross.org.au/getprepared

in partnership with iag the POWER of humanity AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

SES Safer Communities – Together ses.vic.gov.au

VICSES is preparing for floods this spring as the result of a La Nina, with three simple ‘Get Flood Ready’ steps now recommended to help you stay safe and reduce damage, costs and stress.

Australian Red Cross have developed a detailed **RediPlan** “to protect what matters most” – and is available online and is an Easy English version from <https://www.redcross.org.au/prepare> or on the “Get Prepared” app. Local flood guides can also be found at <https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready/your-local-flood-information>

Sandbagging is also a key step in flood preparation and damage prevention. VICSES recommends the following if you **Plan to Stay Dry** during serious riverine or flash flooding in your area:

- 1. Bag it** - by correctly laying sandbags where water may get into your home: external doors, underfloor air vents etc.
- 2. Block it** - by covering your toilet and shower plug drains to prevent sewage back-flow.
- 3. Lift it** - by shifting valuables and important things up onto tables, shelves or benchtops, livestock to higher paddocks on your property or to safer places on other farms. Decide now what items are important for you to protect and put that list in your plan.
- 4. Leave** - leave early to the home of family or friends in a safer area, or to a relief centre that might be organised by your local council – leaving is still ok to do in-line with COVID-19 travel restrictions during an emergency. Work out where you’ll go now, especially if you plan to take pets or animals. Leaving early is always the safest flood decision, before conditions worsen and you’ll never have to drive through dangerous floodwater. It can take just 15cm of flowing floodwater to float a small car. People attempting to drive through floodwater are the number one cause of death in a flood.

To **Get Flood Ready** at home, on the farm and in business, you can also access more VICSES resources here: www.ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready

Call 132 500 if you require emergency assistance from VICSES during storms and floods. If your emergency is life-threatening call Triple Zero (000).

For more information, contact:

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(Note: office currently closed due to Covid 19)