



# Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

14 December 2019

## A busy night for VICSES volunteers

Over the last 24 hours, Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) volunteers have responded to more than 500 calls for assistance across the state

Overnight, 10 people were evacuated from their homes in Birchip, after 20 properties received over-floor flooding, following heavy rain and flash flooding.

A community meeting will be held at 11:00am at the Birchip Leisure Centre, a relief centre has also been set up at the same venue.

In the North West, the Sunraysia Highway is closed due to flooding.

There are also several roads closed in the Wangaratta area, including the Hume Freeway between Barnwartha and Wangaratta.

Drivers are urged avoid the area.

Commuters should remember to drive to conditions and plan ahead before travelling. You can visit [traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au) for the latest information.

Yesterday emergency services successfully relocated 120 people, following the Hume Freeway closure.

A number of vehicles still remain stranded on the Hume Freeway. Works will be undertaken today to clear the roads and reopen the Freeway.

Flash flood warnings remain in place for Birchip, Wangaratta, Wangandary, Tarrawingee, Peechelba, Eldorado, Everton and surrounding areas, including the Hume Freeway. VICSES advises the public to avoid travelling in these areas.

There is also a minor flood warning along the Avoca River to Charlton Town and a number of flood watches current throughout the state. Make sure you stay up-to-date with the latest information by visiting [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au).

*Remember, floodwater is dangerous.*

Flash flooding can occur quickly, it can be deep, rise quick and move fast. Stay safe by never entering floodwater.

It can take just 15cm of floodwater to cause a small car to float.

If you require VICSES assistance dial 132 500, for life threatening emergencies call 000.

### For more information, contact:

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