



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

A Wet Cup Day sees VICSES volunteers respond to over 480 incidents

14 November 2018

Over the course of last week's Melbourne Cup Day, Victoria experienced intense rainfall resulting in flash flooding across the Melbourne metropolitan area, with the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) receiving more than 480 requests for assistance.

Throughout the day, VICSES volunteers remained busy, receiving a total of 232 calls for help due to flooding and 170 for building damage.

Unfortunately there were many incidents involving vehicles becoming trapped after driving into floodwater.

VICSES volunteers and our emergency service partners were called to the rescue of 18 vehicles from floodwater across 11 locations in the city, including north-west of Melbourne in St Albans, where four vehicles entered floodwaters with their occupants requiring rescuing after their vehicle became stranded in floodwater.

Data provided by insurance agencies shows that in the seven days after the event, there have been more than 60 motor vehicle claims for vehicles damaged due to floodwaters and over 1,160 property claims.

VICSES is reminding the public to never drive through floodwater.

Roads can be washed away, bridges can be damaged and floodwater may contain sewage and debris.

The risk is simply not worth it.

Remember, it can take just 15 cm of water to cause a car to lose traction. Victorians are encouraged to learn more at 15toFloat.com.au

It's important to realise that if driving conditions become dangerous, the best move to make is to pull over.

Quotes attributable to Tim Wiebusch, VICSES Chief Officer

"Summer and Spring are periods when we see these weather events, that can cause flash flooding. It's important to never drive, walk or play in floodwater and park your vehicles under cover."

"Well done to our VICSES volunteers who yet again did an fantastic job responding to incidents across Melbourne and the state during what was a busy day."

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