



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

16 September 2020

Find your local flood guide – and prepare this spring



With above-average rainfall and possible flash flooding in the north west this Spring, residents are encouraged to plan ahead using VICSES' latest, local resources.

It follows the recent Climate Outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), indicating a heightened risk of a wet weather La Niña system across Victoria, and much of the country.

VICSES' Northwest Community Resilience Coordinator Gavin Quinn and Chief Operations Officer Tim Wiebusch are encouraging locals to learn the basics when it comes flooding preparedness, and staying safe during extreme weather events.

The following is recommended for residents in Victoria's north west.

1. **Understand the local flood history in your suburb or township.** Access these resources by following this link: ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready/your-local-flood-information
2. **Take note to never drive on flooded roads.** It can take just 15 cm of water to float a small car. That's the height of an average pen. Stay safe by never entering floodwater, it can be fatal.
3. Know what to do if your home is being threatened by major flooding and what we mean by **'Bag It, Block It Lift It and Leave'**. Bag it - by laying sandbags where water may get into your home. Block it - by covering your toilet and drains to prevent back-flow and then 'Lift-it and Leave' by shifting valuables onto tables and benchtops and leaving early to a family or friends house on higher ground (which is still okay to do in-line with COVID-19 restrictions).

For more information, contact:

VICSES State Media Duty Officer
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Call 132 500 you require assistance from VICSES during storms and floods, and always call Triple Zero (000) in a life-threatening emergency.

Quotes attributable to VICSES Northwest Community Resilience Coordinator Gavin Quinn.

“It is important that residents in the northwest get familiar with their local flood guides and think ahead this spring. A good first step is to download the Vic Emergency App and set up a ‘watch zone’ to receive relevant notifications.”

“Last spring we saw nearly 600 Requests for Assistance in the North-West region, with 2020 expected to be even busier due to a those heavier predicted rainfall events.”

“When it comes to individual units in the northwest, Bendigo tends to be the busiest in spring – while in the Mallee it’s the Mildura and Swan Hill unit. It should be an eventful season in the region.”

Quotes attributable to VICSES Chief Operations Officer Tim Wiebush.

“From a flooding perspective, there are similarities in the climate outlook to what we experienced in 2016 and at its worst we could even see similar to what occurred in 2010 and 2011. That was the last significant La Niña event and the flood impacts had devastating consequences right across Victoria.”

“We know a protracted flood event is the last thing Victorian’s need in 2020, we’re preparing for it with our partner emergency services, and we need the community to be prepare for it too”.