



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

18 September 2020

Severe weather to impact first weekend of eased restrictions

Residents and travellers in the state's north west are being advised to take precautions despite restrictions easing in regional Victoria this week and prepare for incoming severe weather.

Weather

The Bureau of Meteorology are advising that widespread rainfall totals of between 10-20mm are expected in **North West Victoria** on Saturday, with isolated falls between 20-40mm.

Severe thunderstorms are likely with potential for heavy rainfall which may lead to flash flooding alongside damaging winds.

Fresh north-easterly winds with damaging gusts (90-100km/hr) are likely about elevated areas in the **Grampians** and central highlands on Saturday afternoon and evening and extending to **north-east** alpine areas early on Sunday.

Key community preparedness messages

Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) State Agency Commander David Tucek advises:

- With **restrictions easing**, more people are now free to travel around regional Victoria but we're really encouraging people to monitor conditions and take care particularly on Saturday afternoon and evening.
- It's also the start of **school holidays** so we're expecting a number of people are planning to **camp** in popular locations this weekend. We encourage people to avoid setting up camp under trees or on low-lying areas alongside creeks or rivers.
- Residents should take the time now to **clean your gutters**, downpipes and drains to ensure they are not blocked.
- Check that loose items such as outdoor furniture, umbrellas and trampolines are safely secured well before the storm arrives.
- Park your car undercover and away from trees,
- Be mindful of the risk of falling trees. The safest place to be during a storm is indoors.
- Flash flooding can occur quickly due to heavy rainfall. Stay safe by never driving through floodwater. It can take just **15cm of water to float** a small car. That's the height of an average pen. Please never drive or walk through floodwater.

For more information, contact:

VICSES State Media Duty Officer
Phone: 1300 783 933
Email: media@ses.vic.gov.au

- Roads may become closed due to landslides with the risk increased in areas recently affected by fire.
- Call **132 500** you require assistance from the SES, and always call Triple Zero (000) in a life-threatening emergency.

The climate outlook indicates the likelihood for above-average rainfall this Spring so VICSES is preparing for the potential of riverine flooding in the coming weeks and months. It's also encouraging the community to consider their local flood history and flood preparedness plans.

**VICSES regional spokesperson available for comment or interviews on request: North West (Loddon Mallee), North East (Hume) or Mid West (Grampians).*



Stay safe while camping

- Never camp under trees or branches.
- Avoid camping on low-lying land near creeks, rivers, streams and other waterways.
- Stay informed — monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the Bureau of Meteorology website, and warnings through VicEmergency.

For more information visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready

 **FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY**
132 500


If life threatening
call triple zero 000

BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

THUNDERSTORM FORECAST



Saturday



Issued at

11:33am AEST, 18 September

Valid until

Midnight Saturday, 19 September 2020

If storms develop and become severe, warnings will be issued at www.bom.gov.au/vic/warnings

