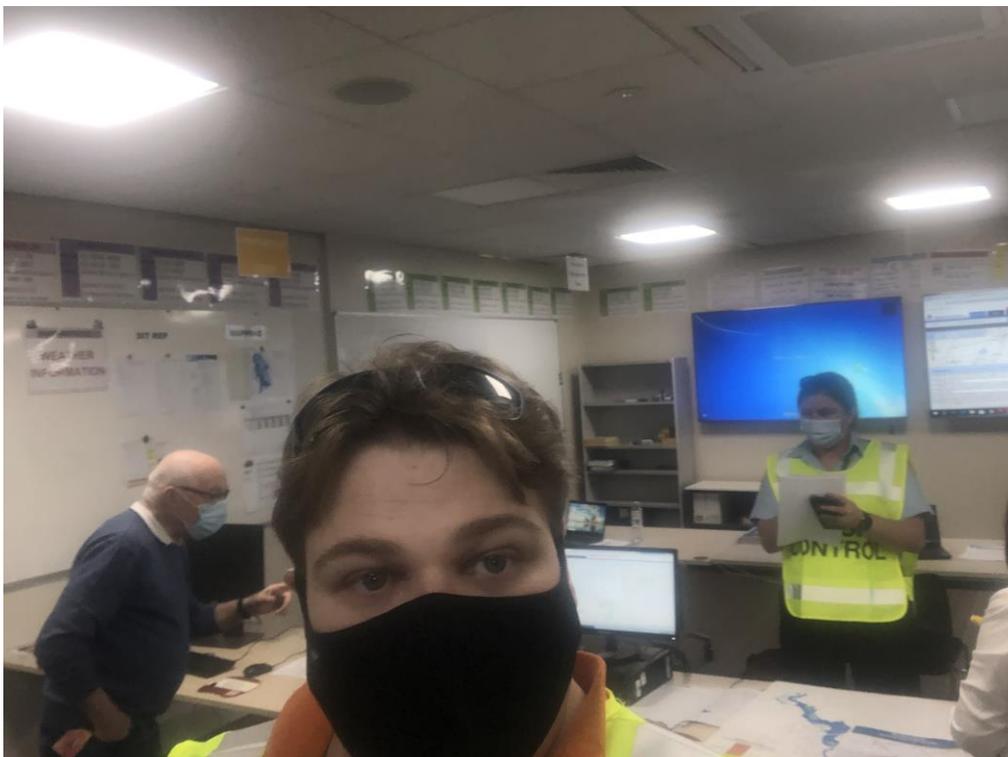


29 October, 2020

North east tests control centre 'split' to Get Flood Ready



A 'split' exercise undertaken at the Wangaratta Incident Control Centre (ICC)

Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) continues to prepare for possible flooding in the north east, as the state continues to see the effects of a La Niña weather pattern.

As a vital part of flood preparedness, VICSES has been involved in testing out the region's Incident Control Centres (ICCs), working under the health and safety requirements set by the COVID-19 personal distancing guidelines.

Due to those restrictions, a "split ICC" that saw personnel at two locations working on the one flood, was tested in Benalla and Wangaratta as part of an emergency exercise. It included representatives from VICSES, Victoria Police, CFA, DELWP, DHHS, Ambulance Victoria, Catchment Management Authorities, local councils and more.

VICSES knows floods are the last thing we need, but with heavy rain continuing into warmer months, riverine and flash flooding may occur. We ask the community to continue to Get Flood Ready. For more information head to <https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready>

You can also check the latest Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) updates at www.bom.gov.au/vic/warnings

For more information, contact:

VICSES State Media Duty Officer (6am-10pm)
Phone: 1300 783 933
Email: media@ses.vic.gov.au

VICSES NE Region Office (9am-5pm)
Phone: 03 9256 9650 ask NE Duty Officer to RSVP
Email: northeast@ses.vic.gov.au



**Quotes attributable to Incident Controller/VICSES North East Region Operations Manager
Brendan Corboy:**

“As La Niña is well and truly here and starting to build with an almost weekly rain event, so far bringing minor and moderate flooding to some of our flood-prone areas, yesterday’s exercise was the second test for a “split ICC” operating under Covid-19 conditions” explained

“The exercise was a vital test for what might soon be the real flood, so we want to make sure we could not only effectively manage the flood and help keep people safe during the emergency, but also work within the Covid-19 restrictions on how many people can be involved, having enough space between the ICC team while working, having briefings, eating meals and so on, all while wearing face masks and hand sanitising.”

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