

24 September 2020

VICSES hits the pool and urges spring flood preparedness



The public are being urged to prepare for above average rainfall and the potential for widespread flooding this spring.

The Bureau of Meteorology today updated its climate outlook for the remainder of 2020 predicting above average rainfall for Victoria with a strong likelihood of a La Nina weather pattern which is currently at 'Alert' status.

There is particular attention on the northern parts of the state above the ranges.

VICSES Chief Officer Tim Wiebusch today joined the Bureau of Meteorology's Dr Andrew Watkins alongside SES volunteers in the pool at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC).

They were there to demonstrate that it can take just 15cm of water for a small car to float and to highlight the dangers of attempting to drive through floodwater.

In terms of natural hazards, floods are the second highest cause of fatalities in Australia with a large majority of those fatalities due to people being washed away in vehicles.

Research conducted by the University of New South Wales (UNSW) has indicated it can take as little as 15cm of water for a small car float.

Deciding to drive on a flooded road might be the last decision you ever make.

To prepare for the risk of widespread riverine flooding this Spring, VICSES has developed a number of [local flood guides](#) for townships most at-risk of flooding.

For more information, contact:

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



Local flood guides provide information about the flood history and the risk of riverine and flash flooding in the local area, informing residents about key actions and details of any local flood warning services.

Locals around the state are encouraged to get familiar with their local flood guide, and prepare for what could be a very wet spring in 2020 and what a flood might mean for them.

Widespread rainfall of between 5-15mm is predicted for much of Victoria tomorrow (Friday) with isolated totals of up to 40mm possible in some areas along with unseasonably cold temperatures and an icy Antarctic blast.

Climate outlook here - bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

VICSES local flood guides here - ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready/your-local-flood-information

15 to Float - 15tofloat.com.au

**Quotes from Head of Operational Climate Services, Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)
Dr Andrew Watkins**

“Looking forward from now until Christmas, we’re looking at high odds of above average rainfall in Victoria particularly on and north of the divide

“The rivers are starting to fill, dams are starting to fill, so that will mean with any heavy rain, we could expect to see some flooding and flash flooding at times.”

Quotes from VICSES Chief Officer Tim Wiebusch

“We’re receiving a strong confidence in above average rainfall particularly for the northern parts of Victoria. We could see the risk of widespread flooding”

“It only takes 15cm to float a small vehicle, and all it does is risk your safety and tie up our emergency services unnecessarily.”

“There’s nothing more frustrating for emergency services than when we see vehicles trapped in flash flood waters, we’ve given these warnings on numerous occasions not to attempt to drive through even the smallest amount of water.”

Image: VICSES volunteers demonstrating the '15 to Float' message at MSAC.