

# FLOOD



This fact sheet contains information on suggested actions to perform before, during and after a flood. It also contains information about warnings, emergency contacts and general information to consider when writing your emergency management plan.

## Flood warnings

Flood warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM). The warnings can range from:

- A Flood Watch notifying that there may be a flood in 1-2 days.
- A generalised Flood Warning for an area, river or catchment where there is no specific flood warning system.
- Warnings of 'minor', 'moderate' or 'major' flooding where available.
- River height predictions based on a flood gauge.
- A Severe Weather Warning or Severe Storm Warning predicting heavy rainfall which could result in flash flooding.

Warnings are also available on the State Emergency Service (SES) website at [www.ses.vic.gov.au/warnings](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/warnings).

**Do not wait for an official warning to act. If you feel as though your caravan park is in danger of flooding activate your flood action plan immediately.**

## Emergency contacts

Contact	Number
Life-threatening emergency (police, fire, ambulance)	000 (Triple Zero)
State Emergency Service (SES)	132 500
SES information line (operates during major events)	1300 842 737

## Important information about floods

Many Victorian caravan parks are built on flood planes or near water however your caravan park does not need to be located near a river or stream to flood. Flash flooding can occur after heavy rainfall associated with severe weather or severe storms. Be aware that floods can damage and block roads.

Never attempt to drive through floodwater. Floodwater can contain raw sewage and poisonous chemicals. Be aware of potential health risks associated with flood water and ensure nobody walks, rides or drives through floodwater.

Responding to a flash flood is different to responding to flooding from a slower riverine flood. In a flash flood situation, there is often no warning as flooding happens so quickly. In the event of a flash flood, shelter in place in the highest part of the park and call for emergency assistance if required.

SES has developed Local Flood Guides which can help you prepare for flooding and help you work out what type of flooding you could be impacted by. These are available on the SES website at [www.ses.vic.gov.au/prepare/your-local-flood-information](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/prepare/your-local-flood-information).

# Action plan for floods

Please note: these actions are general suggestions only, you will need to think of details and triggers that are specific to your park.

## Suggested actions to take before a flood

There are a number of actions you can take to help prepare for flooding, which may also be relevant for other hazards, including:

- Prepare an emergency kit which includes a battery powered radio, spare batteries, a torch, first aid kit and a copy of your emergency management plan.
- Check currency and relevance of insurance.
- Ensure permanent outdoor furniture is secured or can be easily secured, as these can become floating objects in a flood.
- Keep an up to date residents and guest list to be used in the case of evacuations.
- Ensure movable vans are maintained in a movable state. In a flood, vans can be moved to higher ground to avoid damage.
- Develop arrangements for emergency warnings to be communicated to occupants (PA system/ door knocking/ public notices etc.).
- Provide information for caravan park occupiers and visitors on safety procedures and considerations as well as warning systems at your caravan park.
- You may choose to provide your park occupants with information on actions they can take in a flood to protect their lives and property. The SES has a brochure available online at [www.ses.vic.gov.au/prepare/caravan-parks-and-campgrounds](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/prepare/caravan-parks-and-campgrounds).

## Suggested actions to take when a Flood Watch is issued

- Keep an eye on the weather, stay alert.
- Check your emergency kit is stocked and batteries are charged.
- Ensure all park occupants are aware that a Flood Watch has been issued.
- Monitor conditions and watch for triggers.
- If you are in a flash flooding area, consider moving vans as a precaution. You may have no time if flash flooding occurs.

## Suggested actions to take when a Flood Warning is issued

- Complete required actions for a Flood Watch if not already done so.
- Notifying all park occupants of the Flood Warning.
- Secure any items such as outdoor furniture that could float away.
- Relocate any movable sites, vans, vehicles and boats to higher ground.

## Suggested actions to take when a Severe Weather Warning for flash flooding is issued

- Notify all park occupants of the flash flooding warning.
- Tune into your emergency broadcasters - ABC Local Radio, commercial radio and designated community radio stations, or SKY NEWS Television.
- Prepare your emergency kit and ensure it is well stocked and batteries are fully charged.
- Consider moving vans as a precaution. You may not have time if flash flooding occurs.
- Raise chemicals and waste containers to above the predicted flood level.
- Elevate furniture and electrical items as high as possible and inform occupants to do the same.
- Evacuate if necessary. Take your emergency kit with you.



## Suggested actions to take during a flood

- Listen to your emergency broadcaster for advice and updates.
- Alert park occupants of the situation, continue to keep them informed.
- Call VicRoads (131170) to check for road closures.
- If advised to evacuate, leave immediately. Follow your evacuation plan.
- Alert any staff not on the premises to stay away until floodwater has receded and it is safe to return.

## If evacuating:

- Take your emergency kit with you.
- Turn off gas, water and electricity at the mains.
- Lock your office and check occupants lock vans and cabins.
- Store computers, cash and critical records in a flood-free location, or as high as possible.
- Follow advice of emergency services.
- Ensure all park occupants have also evacuated.

## Suggested actions to take after a flood

- Listen to your emergency broadcaster for information and advice.
- Check with SES before allowing occupants back into the park.
- If you didn't evacuate, only leave the premises once floodwater has completely receded.
- Call VicRoads (13 11 70) to check for road closures.
- Have all utilities and electronics professionally checked before use.
- Remove debris and clean, repair and disinfect buildings (make sure to wear protective clothing including enclosed, waterproof, puncture proof gloves and sturdy shoes as well as long pants)
- Salvage, clean and dry as much as possible.
- Restock your emergency kit.
- Restore critical records, cash, computer equipment and files.

