Overview

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) has developed an educational investigative game (**www.vicses.com.au/floodsafe-game**) which encourages the identification and learning about hazardous objects which can be found in floodwater and cause harm.

The following lesson plan can be conducted before or after the game has been played and assists in consolidating students' learning and understanding.

It is suggested that any observations, student work or comments recorded during this lesson be displayed in your classroom, under the heading **'Hidden dangers in floodwater'**, for others to see and learn from.

Outline	Materials	Time	Conclusion
To introduce the dangers of swimming, walking and playing in floodwater.	■ Container (bucket or bag) ■ Pencils/textas ■ *Support material #1*: *Flood examples* ■ *Support material #2: Hazardous objects* cut out each image (and place in the container) ■ *Worksheet #1: Hazardous objects recording sheet* ■ *Support material #3: FloodSafe awareness poster* ■ *Support material #4: Being prepared for floods* ■ *Worksheet #2: Paddy's awareness poster*	Approx 45–60 minutes	Students will participate in discussions about safety in floodwater and create a classroom display to consolidate their understanding.

Introduction: 10 minutes

1   Using images from *Support material #1,* ask students if they know what has happened in each of the pictures (if necessary explain that flooding has occurred).

2   Discuss flooding with students. How does flooding happen? Where do you think it happens? Does it happen all the time? What can happen to things, animals and people during a flood? How do you think people feel when they are caught in floods (e.g. sad, unhappy, scared, frightened, worried)? Students' responses can be recorded on cards or a large sheet of paper and displayed.

3   Ask students if they think it would be good to swim, walk or play in floodwater. Why? Stress how dangerous it is as there can be many hidden things in the water, the water is moving very fast and is unpredictable.

   It is important to emphasise that flooding is something that doesn't occur all the time, but just in case it does, it's important to know how to stay safe.

Activity

4 Hold up the container containing the 10 images from *Support material #2*, select a student, without looking to select one of the pictures.

5 As a group, identify the hazardous object portrayed in the picture and discuss how it could harm someone (e.g. broken limbs, cuts, sickness, drowning).

6 Write the object and the students' responses on *Worksheet #1*.

7 Select another student and repeat process until all pictures have been discussed. Students may wish to add other objects to the list. Remind students of the danger of drowning.

8 Ask the students how all these things might get into the floodwater. Where do they come from? (E.g. peoples yards, rubbish bins, parks, drains, gardens, etc.)

9 Display *Support material #3* and ask students what they should do if a flood happens. Incorporate ideas from the *Support material #4* that stress the need to listen to any adult they are with.

10 Display *Worksheet #2*, discuss what message they think Paddy the Platypus is saying and ask students to complete the worksheet.

Conclusion
10–15 minutes

11 Once completed, ask students to sit in a circle and share their sentences with the group.

12 In conclusion, ask everyone to share one thing they have learnt about floodwater and why they should not swim, walk or play in it.

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Source: http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/01/16/3113796.htm?site=westernvic

Source: http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-01-16/historic-floodwaters-swamp-victorian-towns/1907276

Riverine flooding

Flood examples

Source: http://www.barraba.com.au/manilla-river-rises-in-barraba-73.cfm

Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Werribee_River_in_flood_over_cottrell_street_in_Werribee.jpg

Riverine flooding

Flood examples

Source: http://www.3aw.com.au/listener_images_of_victorian_floods?selectedImage=35

Source: http://www.3aw.com.au/listener_images_of_victorian_floods?selectedImage=35

Flash flooding

Flood examples

Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Driving_through_flash_flood.jpg

Source: http://www.abc.net.au/news/image/1907294-3x2-340x227.jpg
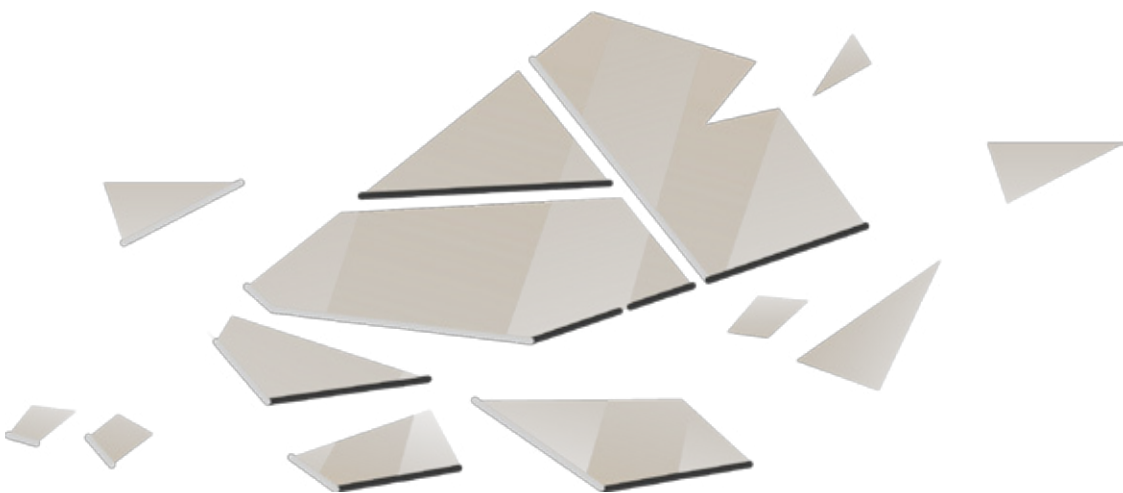
Flash flooding

Source: http://web.mst.edu/~rogersda/teton_dam/

Dam failure
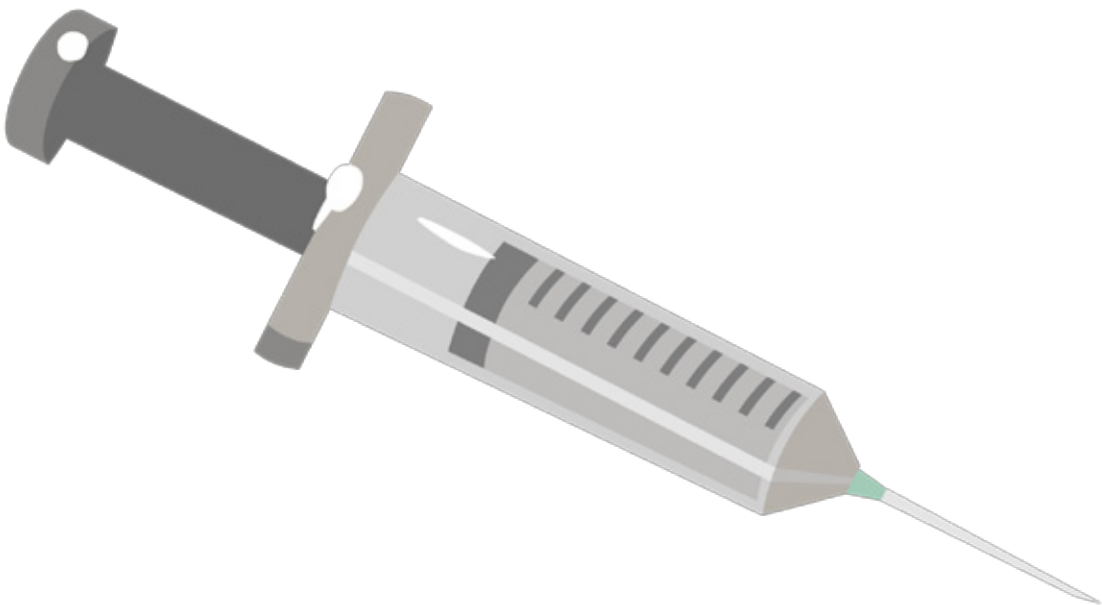

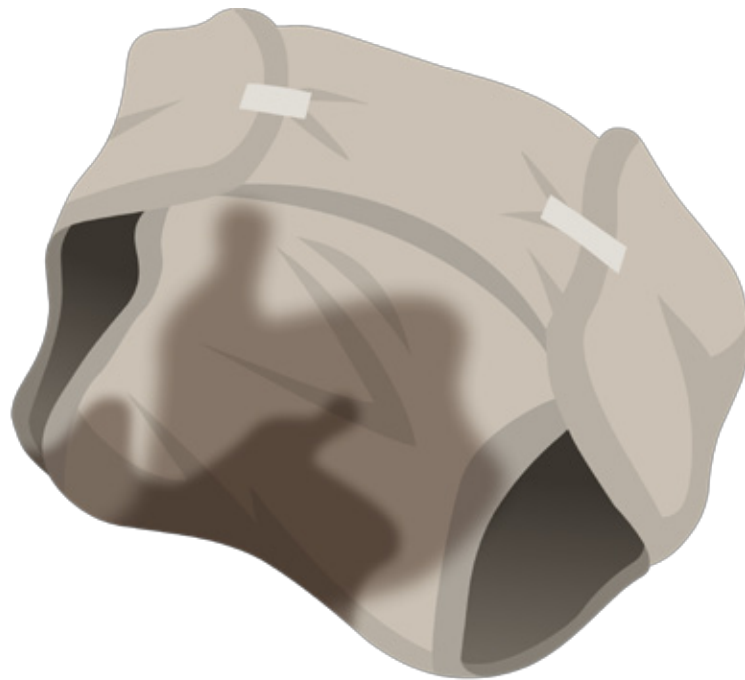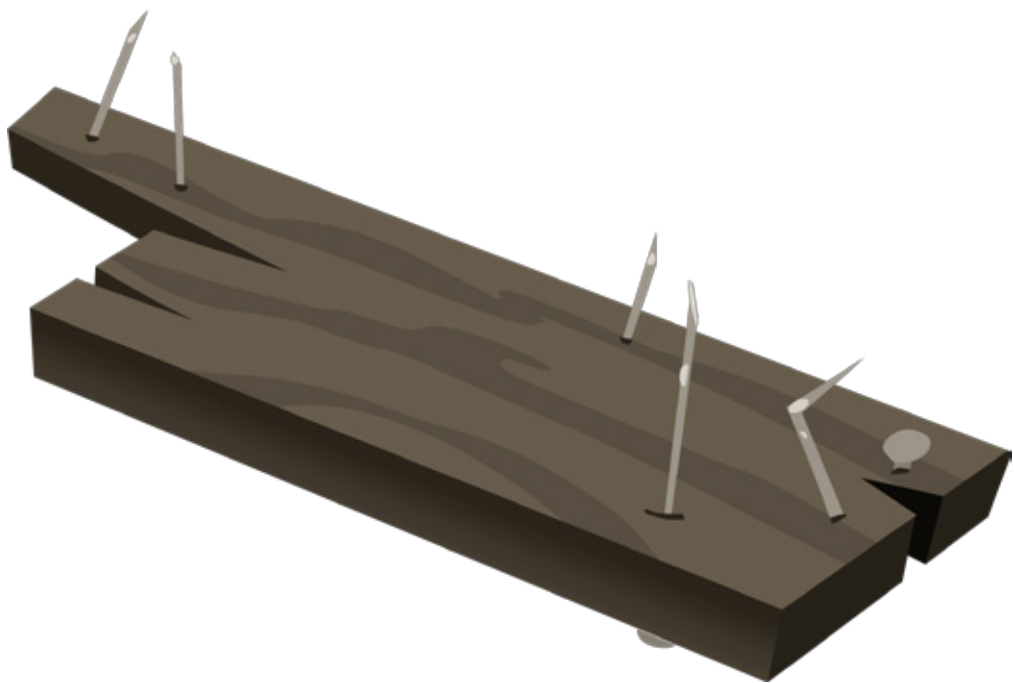Source: http://www.acus.org/content/hurricane-sandy-storm-surge

Storm surge

Think of your own hazardous object and draw it on this card

Think of your own hazardous object and draw it on this card

Hazardous objects

Hazardous object	What harm can it cause

Hazardous object	What harm can it cause

FloodSafe awareness poster

SES

Playing in floodwater exposes your kids to more than just the risk of drowning.

Playing in floodwater may look like fun but under the surface it contains contaminants, toxins and harbours infectious diseases.

What's in floodwater

- **Toxic chemicals**
- **Animal faeces**
- **Decaying animals**
- **Garbage and waste**
- **Fallen powerlines**
- **Broken glass**
- **Twisted metal**
- **Tree branches**

Floodwater health risks

- **E.coli infection**
- **Rotavirus (diarrhea)**
- **Typhoid**
- **Leptospirosis**
- **Hepatitis A**
- **Infected wounds**
- **Dermatitis**

Never swim, play or walk in floodwater. You don't know what you're getting into.

SES

FloodSafe

Victoria
State Government

For more information www.ses.vic.gov.au

FloodSafe awareness poster

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Being prepared for floods

Types of flood warnings

Minor flood warning: Roads submerged/closed, water level reaches the top of a riverbank. Minor floods may cause little or no damage.

Moderate flood warning: In addition to the above water starts to approach houses and buildings, water running over the top of a riverbank. Evacuation plans may be enacted. Moderate flooding has the potential to cause damage to property.

Major flood warning: In addition to the above, water is now entering farmland, housing and buildings, properties and towns become isolated, evacuations plans enacted. Major flooding can cause extensive damage to property and life.

Prepare

If you live in a flood prone area, you should have a pre-prepared flood plan outlining what to do during the above flood scenarios (minor, moderate and major). You should also have packed and ready an emergency toolkit. The kits should contain items such as a radio with spare batteries, personal items such as photos, documents (insurance certificate) and ID, some food and water, pets and pet food, gloves and torch, and glasses and medical items.

Stay informed

- **Turn on the radio/TV**
- **Tell your neighbours**
- **Phone your relatives**

Act quickly

- **Move valuables to higher ground**
- **Check your emergency kit has everything required for evacuation**
- **Turn off gas/electricity**
- **Block toilets**
- **Lock doors**

Evacuate

- **Take pre-packed emergency kit containing food, clothes, pets, pet food and medications**
- **Do not drive through floodwater**
- **Let others know if you are going and where**
- **Take a mobile phone and charger**

Paddy's awareness poster

SES

Complete each sentence using the words in the shapes, then colour in Paddy.

WALK   SWIM   PLAY

Never _ _ _ _ in floodwater.

Never _ _ _ _ in floodwater.

Never _ _ _ _ in floodwater.

Paddy's awareness poster

SES

Write three sentences about what could happen if you don't listen to Paddy. Draw a picture for each.