

Skipton, 2022



Local Flood

Skipton

Understand, prepare, and respond effectively to your flood risk.



FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**



If life threatening call triple zero 000

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Victorian State Emergency Service acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to their cultures and Elders past and present.

Disclaimer: Victoria State Emergency Service assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions for any of the content in this document.

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For more information visit: ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe



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Local flood information

	<p>There have been six significant flood events in Skipton between 2010 and 2022.</p>		<p>The largest flood on record was in 2011 when the floodwater reached over 6 metres at Mount Emu Creek Skipton Guage.</p>		<p>Flooding can happen quickly after heavy rainfall, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.</p>
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Why does Skipton flood?

Skipton is at risk of both **riverine flooding** and **flash flooding**, which can happen separately or at the same time as a result of heavy rainfall.

Riverine flooding

This happens when Mount Emu Creek rises and overflows its banks, and spills water onto land. The most common cause is prolonged heavy rainfall.

- Skipton is built around Mount Emu Creek, and parts of the town are on the floodplain, the naturally low-lying areas more likely to be impacted in a flood.



Flash flooding

This type of flooding can happen quickly and you may not receive an official warning. Although these floods only last short time, they can cause severe damage.

- Flash flooding from Skipton reservoir (Jubilee Park Lake) can occur due to intense rainfall over a short period of time.

How do floods impact communities?

Even if your home or workplace stays dry, floods can impact you in many ways.

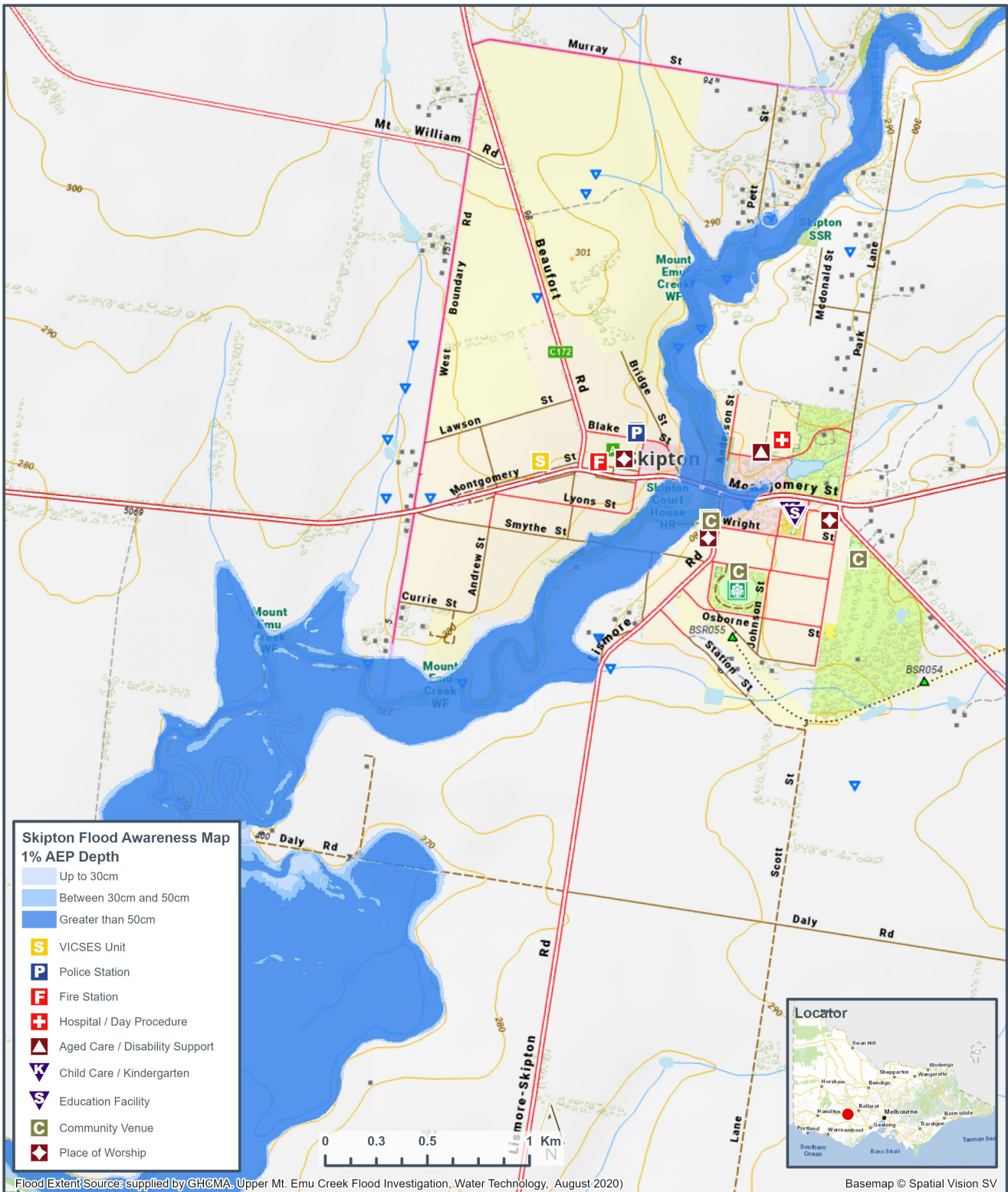
Buildings flooded	Road closures	Drinking water supply and quality affected	Power outages	Mobile and internet network outage	Sewage overflows inside building

Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

This map shows the area likely to flood in a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event. A 1% AEP flood has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year.

The 1909 flood was ungauged and not formally recorded, but is widely regarded as the largest known historical flood in Skipton and potentially bigger than the flood in 2011. The 2011 flood was approximately a 1.5% AEP event, making it very similar (though slightly smaller) in size to the mapped event below

If this map shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See [page 8](#) for more information.



What might happen in a flood in your area?

Although history shows no two floods are the same and the environment is constantly changing, the below table provides an idea of what to expect at different flood heights from the Mount Emu Creek Skipton Gauge.

- **Before a flood:** make sure you know and understand the water depth at which your home or property becomes at risk. Pay close attention to the intensity and frequency of rainfall in the catchment, as these can provide earlier clues that you may need to activate your flood plan
- **During a flood:** When a warning is issued by [VicEmergency](#), use the predicted floodwater height and warning information to understand what the potential impacts may be for you and your community

Floodwater height (metres)*	How likely is this flood to happen^	Potential impacts
6.08m	1% chance in any year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Significant flooding on both sides of the creek and across the floodplain, up and downstream of Glenelg Highway. ■ 34 properties are expected to be impacted by floodwater, 32 of these above floor level
6.04m		January 2011 flood level
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Shops in the lower end of Montgomery Street including the supermarket, chemist, hotel, garage, art gallery and pottery were flooded along with 30 residential properties. Flood depths exceeded 1.5m in some properties. ■ The Glenelg Highway bridge was overtopped and the Highway was closed for more than 2 days. ■ The town was split in two.
5.55m		October 2022 flood level
5.23m	5% chance in any year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Floodwater may impact upto 27 properties with 25 experiencing flooding above-floor level. ■ Access is anticipated to be cut to Smythe and Wright Streets, and part of the Glenelg Highway.
4.97m		September 2010 flood level
4.89m	10% chance in any year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Floodwater spills out from the eastern bank of Mt.Emu Creek, and spreads over Wright Street and Smythe Street. ■ One property may be impacted by floodwater.
4.18m	20% chance in any year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stewart Park fills early. No overbank flows of Mt. Emu Creek within Skipton. No properties flooded. ■ Flooding of the Smythe Street Bridge blocks access.
2.35m		October 2020 flood level
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Minimal flooding on low-lying rural farmland.

*The height measurement is at the Mount Emu Creek Skipton Gauge at Skipton.

^This table includes information from previous flood events and flood studies, which are scientific models used to predict impacts at different flood heights and flows.

Previous flood impacts

Whilst floods are most often different, understanding the impacts of past floods can help you anticipate impacts of future flood events.

2011 flood event

The January 2011 flood event in Skipton was the largest flood on record for the town. In the months leading up to the event, conditions across the Mount Emu Creek catchment were significantly wetter than average, with between 200mm and 300mm of rainfall recorded for the month. The highest daily rainfall occurred on 14 January, when 64.4mm was recorded at Skipton. The flood event resulted in:

- Flooding of shops on the lower end of Montgomery Street including the supermarket, chemist, Hotel, garage and art gallery.
- 30 residential properties impacted.
- Flood depths over 1.5 metres in some properties.
- The Glenelg Highway Bridge was covered in floodwater and the Highway was closed for more than two days causing the town to be split in two.



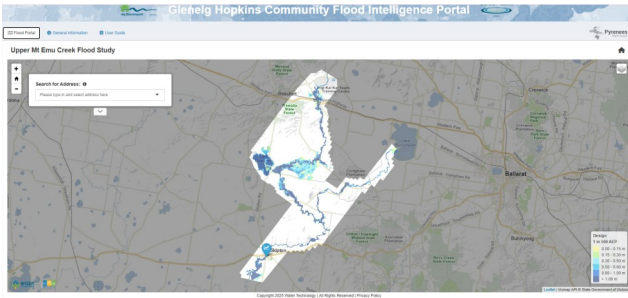
2011 (Source: Mark Greenbank)

Mitigation works implemented since the 2011 flood event include:

- Increased capacity of culverts along Montgomery Street in 2016. These works significantly reduced flooding caused by Jubilee Park Lake
- New warning times ahead of minor and moderate flooding, announced in 2022 by the Bureau of Meteorology
- A mural painted on the south-eastern pylon of the Glenelg Highway Bridge on Montgomery Street in 2022. The mural acts as an informal gauge to monitor rising water levels and indicate the approximate water depth



Download your free Property Flood Report



The [GHCMA Flood Portal](#), developed by the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, is a tool for residents and businesses to assess their flood risk.

- Use the portal to zoom in on your property and see if it's likely to be affected in a large flood event.
- Download a free property report for properties inside the mapped area.

Go to: myfloodreport.com.au/ghcma/



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see page 9 for more information.

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

For general advice about flooding and controls based on planning zones and overlays.

- **Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority**
ghcma.vic.gov.au | 03 5571 2526

Local Council

For relief support after a flood event and general land use planning.

- **Corangamite Shire**
corangamite.vic.gov.au | 03 5593 7100



2022 (source: Maree White)

Plan and prepare for floods

1 How to stay informed

VicEmergency is Victoria's source of emergency information and warnings.

- Set-up a watch zone for your area for alerts when warnings are issued.
- Learn about the three different warning levels.



VicEmergency app
emergency.vic.gov.au
1800 226 226



vicemergency



@vicemergency



2 Make an Emergency Plan

Use information from your Local Flood Guide and your Catchment Management Authority, to help you decide;

- What you will do in a flood emergency
- When you will do it
- Who you will inform



Red Cross RediPlan is a free tool that helps you create a simple emergency plan that supports the flood actions you have chosen.

- Visit redcross.org.au/prepare
- Download the [Get Prepared](#) app

3 Prepare an emergency kit



You may need to stay safe for 72 hours in a disaster before help arrives. Make sure you have safe drinking water, food, and any special needs or medications for all family.



There will be extra items to be added to your emergency kit in an emergency like clothes, a phone and charger.



Watch a video on how to get your Emergency kit ready.

youtu.be/XgyLnKDMkNo

4 Reduce impacts to your property

- Keep gutters and drains clear of debris including leaves and any other items.
- Check your building and contents insurance, what kind of flooding does it cover?
- Move your valuable possessions up high.
- Back up important files and documents to a cloud storage or USB kept elsewhere.
- Identify higher ground on or around your property, away from the danger area.
- Consider buying sand and sandbags ahead of time, refer to our Sandbag Guide for more information.

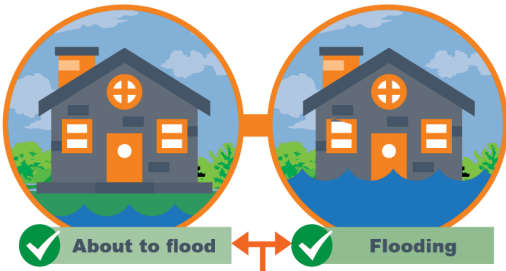



For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



What to do in a flood emergency

When to call VICSES



 **Flood emergency assistance call VICSES 132 500**

 **If life threatening call triple zero 000**

Stay Informed

VicEmergency

Emergency warnings will provide information on what is happening and advice of what you should do.

You may not receive an official warning before a flood.



VicEmergency app
emergency.vic.gov.au
1800 226 226



vicemergency @vicemergency



■ Set-up a watch zone for alerts for your area.

Bureau of Meteorology



Monitor rainfall, river levels, weather forecasts/warnings.
bom.gov.au/vic/flood/glenelg_hopkins.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 107.9 FM, 3BA 102.3 FM, Power 103.1 FM
TV | Sky News

If you expect floodwater at your property

1



Bag it

Sandbag doorways and low-lying windows to slow floodwater entering your home.

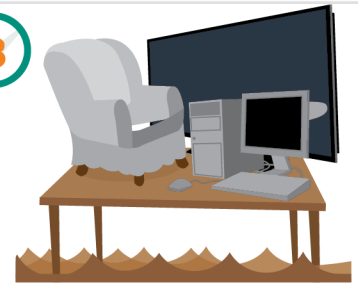
2



Block it

Block toilets, bath and drains using a sandbag ideally placed inside a plastic rubbish bag.

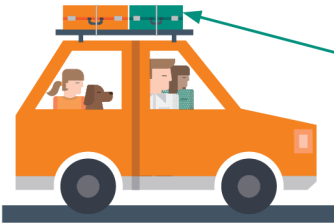
3



Lift it

Put your valuables and electrical items as high as possible. Turn off power, gas, and water at the mains.

4



Leave

- Leave **before** the flood arrives.
- Check warnings from VicEmergency for information like evacuation or relief centres, and road closures.
- Travel to the home of family or friends who are in a safe location, away from the flooded area.

Take your emergency kit and add the items below:



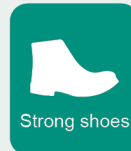
Phone & charger



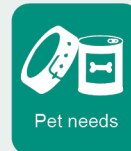
Prescriptions & medication



Clothes for your family



Strong shoes



Pet needs

Never drive through floodwater

Large



A Large 4WD can be moved by water only 45cm deep.

Small



A small car can be moved by water only 15cm deep.



For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood

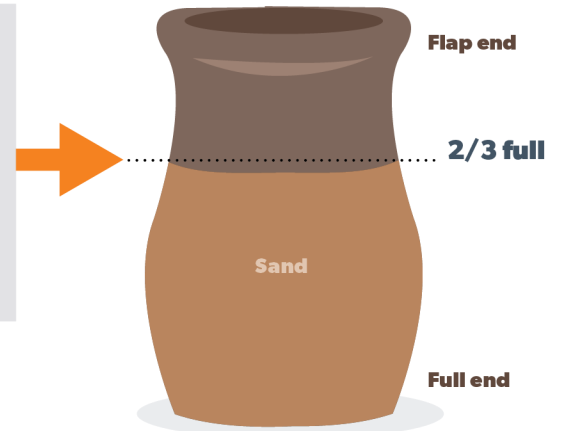


Sandbagging

Sandbags won't stop the water completely, but can reduce the amount of water entering your home.

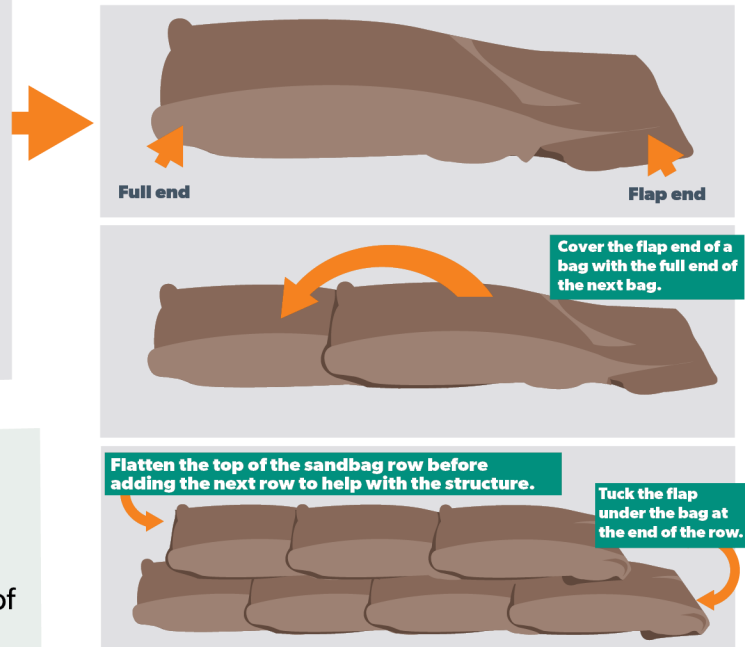
How do I fill a sandbag?

- Only use sand to fill hessian bags. Do not use dirt.
- Only fill sandbag two-thirds full.
- Do not over fill the sandbag as it will be too heavy to carry.
- Do not tie the top of the sandbag.
- Take care when filling and lifting the sandbag, to avoid injury.



How do I lay sandbags?

- Lay sandbags like brickwork. Stagger rows so that the joins do not line up.
- Start at one end and work to the other end.
- Ensure the unfilled part of the bag is covered by the next bag.
- Tuck flap under the bag at the end of the row.
- If the sandbag wall is going to be more than five (5) bags high, you will need to lay two (2) rows wide.



Where do I place the sandbags?

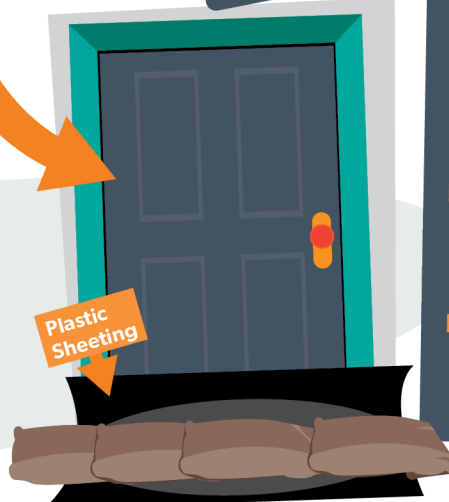
- Place sandbags in plastic bags to cover drainage holes in home (e.g. showers, toilets, sinks) to stop back flow of water.
- Place a small wall across doorways, at least the height of the expected water level. Be careful not to trap yourself inside.
- If available, plastic sheeting may be used under sandbags to reduce the seepage.

Block it

Toilets, bath and all drain holes



Plastic Sheetting



What do I do once I have finished with the sandbags?

- Sturdy gloves should be worn when handling wet sandbags as they can contain chemicals, waste and diseases.
- Sandbags that have been in contact with floodwater need to be thrown away.
- Contact your local council to find out how to dispose of your sandbags safely.



Sandbags and sand

Preparing your home

Having sandbag supplies ready can assist you before a flooding emergency occurs.

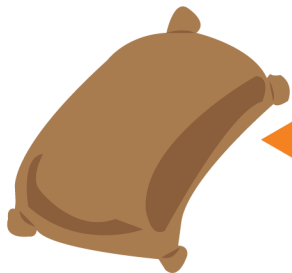


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- Sandbags
- Sand
- Plastic sheeting
- Gloves and safety goggles
- Shovel and hand scoop

Where can I purchase these supplies?

- Many sandbag supplies can be purchased from hardware stores or garden centres.
- VICSES do not routinely supply sandbags to households.
- During floods, sandbag distribution points may be established in flood-affected areas.

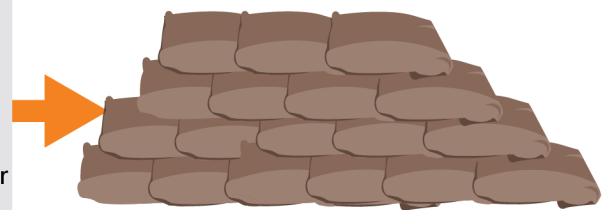


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- Most homes can be protected by less than 25 sandbags.
- The number of sandbags will depend on your local flood risk and availability.
- Sandbags are filled 2/3 full which requires around 15-20kgs of sand per bag.

How do I store my sand and sandbags?

- Filled sandbags only have a short shelf life.
- It is recommended to store sandbags empty.
- Sandbags should be stored in a cool dry area away from UV light.
- Sand should be kept dry and can be stored in water resistant containers or under a tarp.
- Sand is heavy - ensure it is stored so it can be moved safely.



When should I sandbag my home?

- **You** are best placed to decide if there is a need to sandbag your home, based on local knowledge and past flood events.
- Monitor your local conditions. Stay up-to-date with weather forecasts and warnings by downloading the **BOM Weather** and **VicEmergency** apps, or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.
- If you think you are at risk, do not wait for an official warning to act.