



Local Flood Guide

Orbost to Marlo

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



EAST GIPPSLAND
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY



EAST GIPPSLAND
SHIRE COUNCIL



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.

Cover: Snowy River at Marlo, October 2022. *Lakes Entrance Helicopters, David Visser.*

Content reviewed: November 2025



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

Local flood information



There have been 4 significant flood events in the area between 1998 and 2016.



The largest flood on record was in 1978 when the floodwater reached 10.8 metres at the Snowy River gauge at Jarrahmond.



Flooding can happen within hours, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.

Why does Orbost flood?

Orbost to Marlo is at risk of both **riverine flooding** and **flash flooding**, which can happen separately or at the same time. Both are usually caused by heavy rainfall.

Riverine flooding

This happens when the Snowy River rises and overflows its banks, and spills water onto land.

- Towns in this area are built along the Snowy River and parts of the towns roads are near the floodplain, a naturally low-lying area more likely to be impacted in a flood.
- Rainfall from as far away as The Great Dividing Range can end up flowing into the Snowy River potentially causing, or adding to flooding.
- When temperatures rise quickly, snow in Mount Kosciuszko can melt, increasing the water level in the Snowy River potentially causing or adding to flooding.
- Flows from Broddribb River, releases from Snowy River Hydro and king tides can also influence flooding on the Snowy River.

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.

- The ground may be unable to absorb the amount of rainfall naturally causing the water to pool. More buildings and less green spaces can impact this.
- Drainage systems may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall, causing them to overflow.
- The Snowy River may quickly rise, causing water to rise and overflow its banks.

How do floods impact communities?



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

If this map shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See page [9](#) for more information.

- This map shows the area of Orbost likely to flood in a Minor (4.1m) and a Major (8.9m) flood event when measured at the Snowy River at Jarrahmond gauge.



Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

If this map shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See page 9 for more information.

- This map shows the area of Marlo likely to flood in a Minor (4.1m) and a Major (8.9m) flood event when measured at the Snowy River at Jarrahmond gauge.



Flooding of rivers can impact the water quality and can lead to hazards such as:

- Debris including trees and objects in floodwater
- Wildlife being transported by floodwater,
- Hazardous material being present in floodwater, or
- Muddy water and sediment affecting visibility.

Snowy River at Marlo Entrance. 7 July 2016. East Gippsland Flood Watch



What might happen in a flood in your area?

Although 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.

- **Before a flood:** Use the floodwater heights in the table to help you decide when you will need to act to protect yourself and your property in a flood event.
- **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)*	Potential impacts and previous flood events [^]
4.1m	Minor flood level <p>The Snowy River begins to break out of its channel into low lying areas of the floodplains and drains at Jarrahmond and south of Orbost near the Brodribb River and Lake Curnip, with some areas having a 2 metre depth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• B Road (including Bouchers Lane) between Forrest Road and Nixons Road is closed due to flood water.• Buchan-Orbost Road between Bete Belong Road and Deaseys Cutting Road is affected by floodwater.• Jarramond Road between Guns and Huxters Road is affected by flood water.• Low lying areas on Lochend Road, Sandy Flat Road and Healeys are affected by floodwater.• Walking and cycling tracks are affected by floodwater.
5.7m	The Snowy River continues to extend across the floodplains at Bete Belong, Jarrahmond and between Orbost and Marlo at depths up to 1.2 metres including; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Griebenows Road• Gargans Lane• Birkins Road• Healeys Road• Huxters Road• James Road
6.9m	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low lying areas of Marlo Road are affected by flood water up to 0.8m deep.• Corringle Road south of Ewings Marsh Road is affected by flood water up to 0.8m deep restricting access to the campground and Marlo Coastal Reserve.• Tabbara Road south of Sandy Flat Road is affected by floodwater.• Old Marlo Road and Beach Road, Marlo are affected by floodwater and boat ramps are inaccessible.
7.4m	Moderate flood level <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marlo Road between Snaggers Lane and Marlo township is affected by floodwater• Buchan-Orbost Road between Burn Street and Bete Belong Road• Forrest Road between Marlo Road and Macleod Road including Forest Park• The Orbost Snowy River Caravan Park at Nicholson Street is flooded.
8.4m	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marlo-Cabbage Tree Road at Emu Creek is affected by flood water.• Old Station Road and Beach Road at Ewings Marsh are affected by floodwater.
8.9m	Major flood level <p>The roads and areas impacted by flooding continue to experience rises in floodwater and affecting a larger area, with some areas having depths of 1.2m of dangerously fast flowing floodwater.</p>
12.1m	February 1971 flood event, see page 7.

*The height measurement is at the [Snowy River Gauge at Jarrahmond](#).

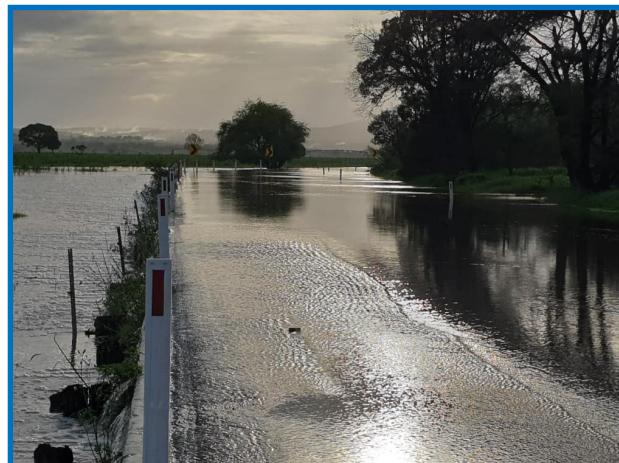
[^]This table includes information from previous flood events and flood studies, which are scientific models used to predict impacts at different flood heights and flows.

Orbost to Marlo Recreation

The Orbost to Marlo area attracts tourists and visitors for camping, boating, fishing and other land and water-based activities.

It is important to know that some areas have limited telecommunication signal, and you may not receive warning of an emergency that affects your area including:

- Woods Point Camp Ground
- Long Point Picnic Ground
- Sandy Point Camp Ground
- Marlo Road Rest Areas
- Lochend Road Rest Areas



Marlo Road, Orbost. 2022. SES Orbost Unit.

What roads are likely to flood?

During a flood, roads may flood and could be closed.

For current road closures, check [VicTraffic](#). [VicEmergency](#) may include road closures in its warnings, see [page 9](#) for more information.

Previous flood impacts

While no two floods are the same, understanding the impacts of past floods can help you anticipate impacts of future flood events.

February 1971 Flood Event

The largest flood event on record occurred for the Snowy River in February 1971 when the catchment received huge amounts of rainfall over a 24 period. Resulting in the Snowy River rising by almost 5 metres in 8 hours and peaking at 12.1 metres.

300 people were evacuated, some stranded and rescued by helicopter.

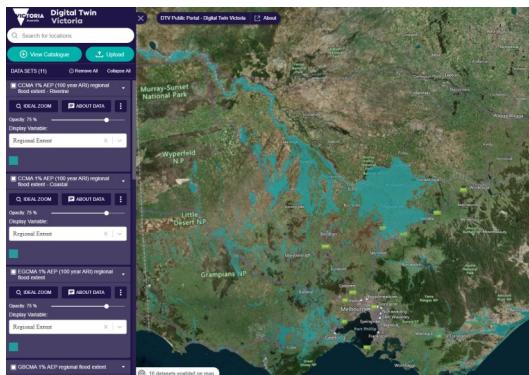
The damages were extensive to homes, train lines and road, stock, agricultural land and equipment and sadly resulted in 1 fatality.

As a result of the flooding, the landscape and subsequent flood behaviour changed in the lower Snowy River region.



Orbost Pump House at Forest Road and Clarke Street (left) and Baileys Bridge (right), 1971. [Orbost & District Historical Society](#)

View the interactive flood map on Digital Twin Victoria (DTV)



The [Digital Twin Victoria Public Portal](#) brings together 2D, 3D and live data in a single online place for everyone to use. The portal hosts some flood mapping data.

- Use the map to zoom in on where you live, work and travel to see if it's likely to be affected in a flood event.

Go to digitaltwin.vic.gov.au



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

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

For flood advice and information on flood levels or depths when developing your property.

- **East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority**
egcma.com.au | 03 5152 1184

Local Council

For relief and recovery support after a flood event.

- **East Gippsland Shire Council**
eastgippsland.vic.gov.au
03 5153 9500

East Gippsland Emergency Dashboard

East Gippsland Shire Council's Emergency Dashboard provides community with centralised real-time access to emergency information including weather, emergency warnings, road closures, river heights and power outages.

To support community preparedness the East Gippsland Emergency Dashboard provides access to:

- Local Flood Guides, via the Victoria State Emergency Service website, and
- Community Emergency Management Plans and Local Incident Management Plans on the 'Your Community' page.

Go to emergencydashboard.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au



Stay safe by never driving through floodwater. It can take just 15cm of flowing water to float a car, that's the height of an average pen.

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.

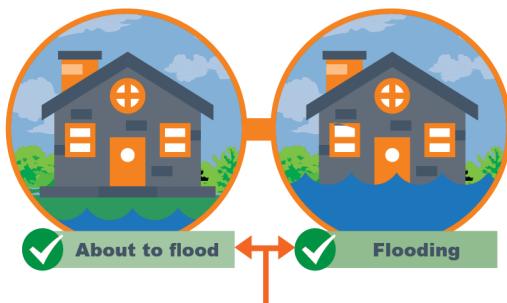


For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



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



vicemergency @vicemergency



1800 226 226

- 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/east_gippsland.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 97.1 FM or 828 AM
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



3 day supply
Prescriptions & medication



3 day supply
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

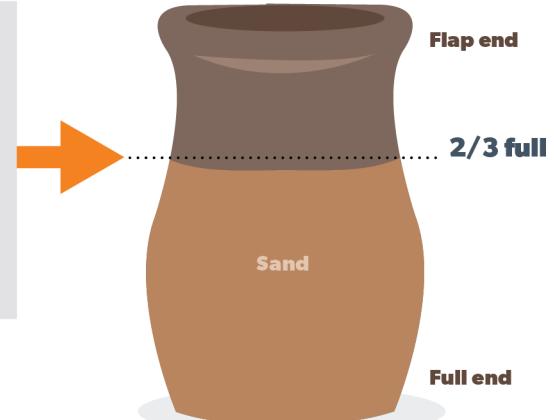


Sandbagging

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

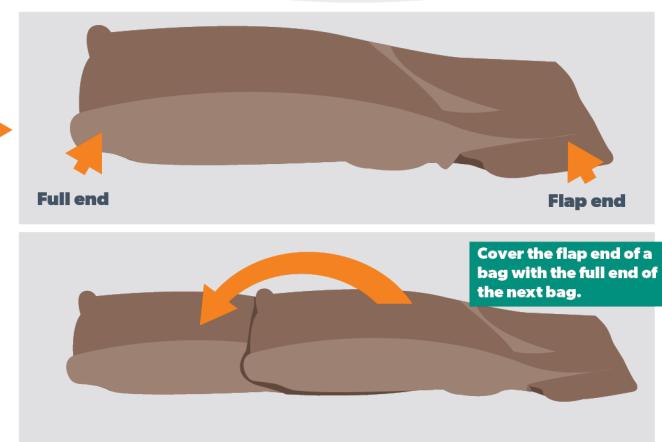
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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.



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.