



# Local Flood Guide Geelong



# FloodSafe

## Flood information for the Barwon River at Geelong



1995 flood

GEELONG



FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**

For more information visit [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

# The Geelong local area

Geelong is situated at the meeting point of the Moorabool and Barwon Rivers and sits on Corio Bay. In Geelong, there are a number of areas lining the Barwon River subject to flooding. The map below shows the likely impact of a 6.0m flood, measured at the McIntyre Bridge Flood Gauge.

## Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- ABC Radio 774 AM
- Stereo Bay 93.9 FM
- Stereo K-Rock 95.5 FM
- SKY NEWS Television



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## Are you at risk of flood?

Along the Barwon River there are many homes and businesses at risk of flooding. Geelong has a history of significant flooding from the river including in 1909, 1952, 1978, 1983, 1995 and 2001.

Areas that sit on the Barwon River such as parts of Fyansford, Highton, Newtown, Belmont, Breakwater and South Geelong are at risk of flooding from the river.

Since 1852 there have been approximately 14 large floods in the region, with large flooding occurring on average every 10-12 years.

Flash flooding can occur with little to no warning in many parts of Geelong, including the CBD and surrounds.

## Barwon River Flood Levels at the McIntyre Bridge Gauge

Flood levels are recorded at gauges along the Barwon River. When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues a Flood Warning, the predicted flood level will correspond with the gauge information. The following table gives an indication of how Geelong will be impacted at different levels based on river height levels recorded on the McIntyre Bridge Gauge.

6.20 m	Top of Moorabool Street bridge piers touched by floodwater
6.00 m	Base of McIntyre Bridge touched by floodwater. Shannon Ave and High Street overtopped
5.47 m	June 1952 flood level
5.39 m	Bottom of Breakwater Rail Bridge flooded
5.23 m	November 1995 flood level
4.60 m	August 1909 flood level
4.50 m	November 1978 flood level
4.40 m	Levee Bank for the Barwon Valley Caravan Park is overtopped
4.30 m	<b>4.30m MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL</b>
3.80 m	October 1983 flood level
3.68 m	January 2011 flood level
3.60 m	April 2001 flood level
3.28 m	Floor level of Barwon Park Pavilion flooded
3.10 m	Barwon Valley Golf Course inundated
3.10 m	<b>3.10m MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL</b>
3.00 m	Gravel Pitt Road south of Steel Street closed
2.85 m	Enters first boatsheds at Barwon Terrace
2.58 m	September 2010 flood level
2.3m	<b>2.3m MINOR FLOOD LEVEL</b>
	At minor flood level, the Barrabool Road flood gates are closed
2.00 m	Breakwater causeway begins to flood
1.88 m	Roadway to the west of the Breakwater causeway will begin to flood

## Did you know?

The 1995 flood in Geelong was 5.23 metres at the McIntyre Bridge Gauge, classifying it as a major flood. This flood was impacted when high flows from the Barwon, Leigh and Moorabool Rivers combined to cause extensive damage to industrial, commercial and recreational facilities, including:

- Belmont common
- The industrial estate around Gravel Pits Road
- The car park at Kmart
- Caravan parks on Barrabool Road.

It is important to remember that no two floods are the same and floods like this or worse could occur again.

Significant flooding from the river can occur at Geelong as a result of as little as 75 millimetres of rain over one to three days on wet ground, or from 150 millimetres of rain on dry ground. The impacts of flooding on the Barwon River at Geelong can also be impacted by the heights and flow from the Moorabool and Leigh River systems, which branch from the Barwon River.



McIntyre Bridge River Heights Gauge

# About Flood Warnings

## What Warnings Mean

**Flood Watches** and **Flood Warnings** are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to tell people about possible flooding.

A **Flood Watch** means there is a developing weather pattern that might cause floods in one or two days.

**Flood Warnings** mean flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are Minor, Moderate and Major flood warnings.

### A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Reach the top of the river banks
- Come up through drains in nearby streets
- Cover low-lying areas including riverside camping areas
- Affect some low-lying caravan parks
- Cover minor roads, tracks and low level bridges
- Spread across land or go into buildings on some properties and farms.

### A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Spill over river banks and spread across low-lying areas
- Start to threaten buildings, roads, rail, power and other developments
- Require evacuation in some areas
- Cover main roads.

### A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Cause widespread flooding
- Threaten many more houses and businesses
- Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water
- Disrupt major roads and transport routes
- Require many evacuations.

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) will give information about how the floodwater might affect people and properties. This includes safety messages to remind you what to do.

#### Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe, due to their potential to cause significant localised damage through: wind gusts, large hail, tornadoes or flash flooding. Severe thunderstorm warnings are issued to the community by the Bureau of Meteorology.

#### Severe Weather Warnings

These warnings are issued to the community by the Bureau of Meteorology when severe weather is expected that is not directly related to severe thunderstorms, tropical cyclones or bushfires. Examples of severe weather include damaging winds and flash flooding.

**Remember, you may not receive any official warning.**

**Emergency assistance may not be immediately available. Be aware of what is happening around you to stay safe.**

**Never wait for a warning to act.**

## Emergency Alert

SES may provide alerts to the Geelong community through the National Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All Emergency Services can use Emergency Alert to warn communities about dangerous situations by voice message to landline telephones or text message to mobile phones.

If you receive a warning including an Emergency Alert make sure that all family members, people at work and your neighbours are aware of the situation.

**If you receive an Emergency Alert you should pay attention and act. It could mean life or death.**

If you need help to understand a warning, ask a friend, neighbour or family member.

## Flood Warnings for Geelong

For the Barwon River, **Flood Warnings** are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. Flood Warnings provide predictions of flood size (minor, moderate or major), time and possible peak at the various gauges. It is important to note however, that you may still be affected prior to the river reaching its peak.

Predictions for the Barwon River at Geelong are based on the McIntyre Bridge Flood Gauge. It is important to know how the predicted flood levels are likely to affect you (*See page 3: Barwon River Flood Levels Table*). Use this table to figure out when you need to start following your emergency plan.

## Flash Flood Warnings

This type of flooding happens quickly. There may be little or no flood warning. The arrival time or depth can not usually be predicted. You should take care if you have received a Severe Thunderstorm or Severe Weather Warning. These usually contain the possibility of flash flooding.

Short duration, high intensity rainfall (usually associated with thunderstorms) can cause localised flooding within the Greater Geelong area. Such events, which are mainly confined to the summer months, do not generally create widespread flooding since they only last for a short time and affect limited areas. Flooding from these storms occurs with little warning and localised damage can be severe.

Blocked or capacity impaired stormwater drains can also lead to overland flows and associated flooding; the drain surges and excess water flows above ground. The likely location of such flooding is hard to predict other than in cases where a drain has a past history of surging.

### NOW - before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding.
- Check if you could be cut off by floodwater.
- Know the safest way to go if you decide to leave your property and an alternative route.
- Check your home and contents insurance. Many properties are not covered for flood damage.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Develop an Emergency Plan.
- Put together an Emergency Kit.

### When a flood is likely

- Take action. Follow your Emergency Plan.
- Listen to your radio for information and advice.
- Check your neighbours are safe and know about the flood.
- Stack possessions on benches and tables with electrical goods in the highest places.
- Anchor objects that are likely to float and cause damage.
- Move rubbish bins, chemicals and poisons to the highest place.
- Put important papers, valuables, photos and other special personal items into your Emergency Kit.
- Business owners should raise stock, business records and equipment onto benches and tables.
- If you are likely to be isolated, have enough food, drinking water, medicine, fuel and other needs to last at least three days.
- Do not forget pet food and stock feed.

### Your Emergency Plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who have planned and prepared for emergencies have reduced the impact and recovered more quickly.

Taking the time to think about emergencies and make your own plan helps you think clearly and have more control to make better decisions when an emergency occurs.

Your Emergency Plan should identify:

- The types of emergencies that might affect you.
- How those emergencies might affect you.
- What you will do before, during and after an emergency.
- Where to get more information.
- Where you will go if you evacuate and the best way to go in different circumstances.
- A list of phone numbers you will need, including emergency services, your insurance company, friends and family.



Visit [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au) to obtain a copy of your Home Emergency Plan workbook

#### The time for me to evacuate is before:

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### Evacuation

Victoria Police is responsible for coordinating an evacuation in an emergency. During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency services may advise you to evacuate to keep you safe. It is important that you follow this advice.

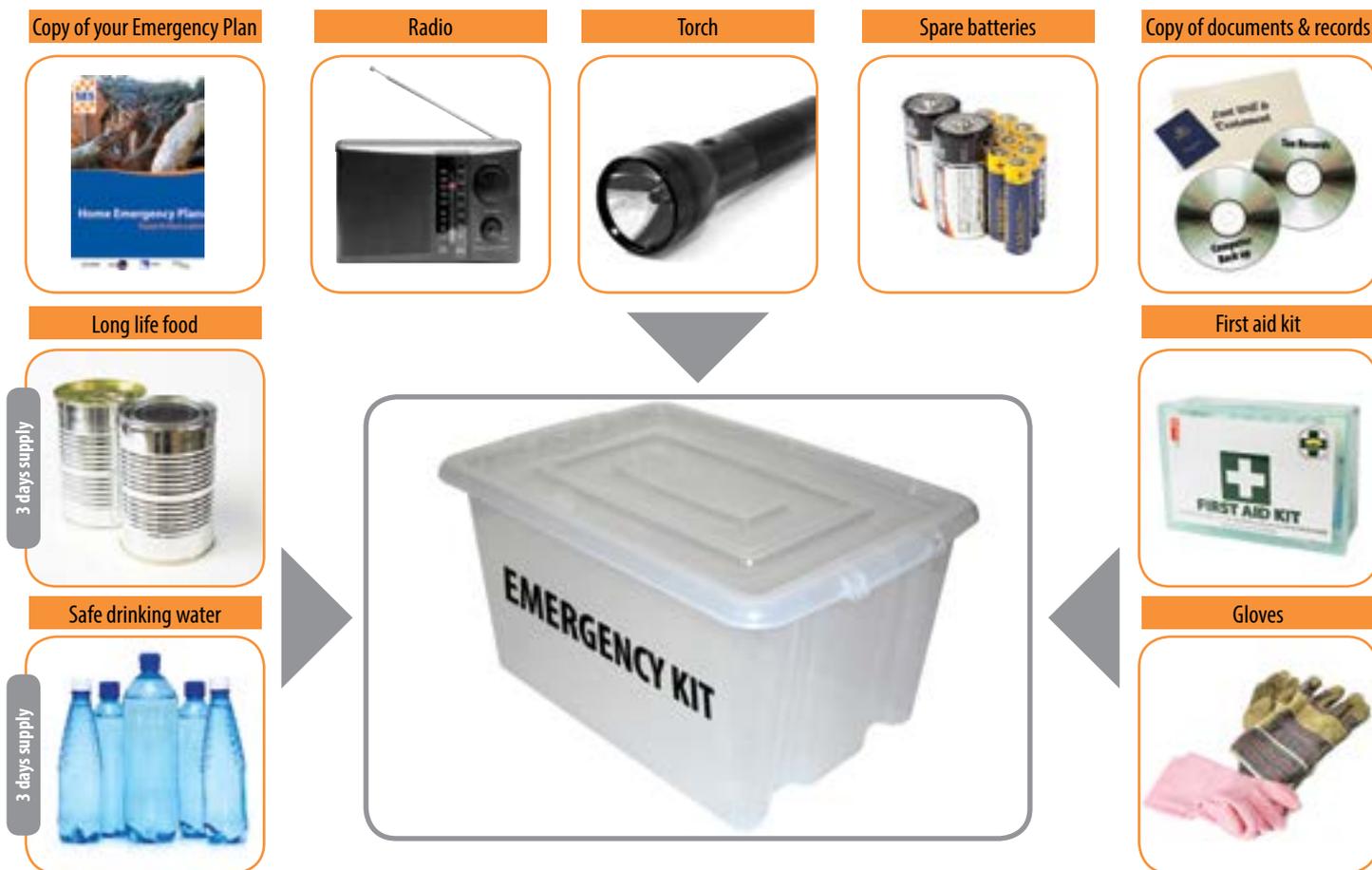
There are two types of evacuation notices that may be issues during a flood:

- **Prepare to evacuate** - means you should act quickly and take immediate action to protect your life and property. You should prepare to leave.
- **Evacuate immediately** - you must leave immediately as there is a risk to lives.

Remember you can leave at any time if you feel unsafe. You do not have to wait to be told to evacuate.

# Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:



Check your kit often. Make sure things work. Replace out of date items.

When a warning is issued, have ready for use or pack into your kit:



## I need to add:

Write your list here. Tick items as you pack them into your kit.

- Special needs \_\_\_\_\_
- Photos \_\_\_\_\_
- Family Keepsakes \_\_\_\_\_
- Valuables \_\_\_\_\_
- Documents \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

# During and After a Flood

**Never**  
Drive, Ride or Walk  
Through Floodwater

## During a Flood

When flooding has begun:

- **Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater.**
- **Floodwaters can be deep and damage roads and bridges.**
- **Do not let your children play or swim in floodwater.** It is dirty, dangerous and deadly.
- Tune in to your emergency broadcasters: ABC Local Radio, Commercial Radio, designated Community Radio Stations and SKY NEWS Television.
- In life-threatening emergencies, call 000 (triple zero).
- **For emergency help from the SES in floods and storms call 132 500.**
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen power lines – electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals, snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood - they can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to leave early.

## When you leave early

- Leaving early is always the safest option, leave well before roads are closed by floodwater.
- Take your emergency kit and three days supply of clothing with you.
- Turn off the electricity, gas and water as you leave.
- Take your pets with you. Do not leave them behind. Dogs should be muzzled.

Go to a relief centre or to stay with friends or family in higher areas.

Relief Centre staff can help you with:

- Temporary accommodation
- Financial help
- Personal support
- Drinks and meals
- Basic clothing and personal needs
- Help to contact family and friends.

If you choose to shelter with a friend or relative, tell authorities where you are staying.

## After a Flood

Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to fall.

To make sure you stay safe:

- Keep listening to local emergency broadcasters.
- Do not return home until advised that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- Drink bottled water or boil all drinking water until advised that the water supply is safe.
- Throw away any food or medicines that may have been in contact with floodwater.
- When entering the building, use a torch to light your way - never use matches, cigarette lighters or any other flame as there may be gas inside.
- Keep the electricity and gas off until checked and tested by a professional.
- Clean your home straight away to stay healthy.
- Take photographs of all damage for insurance.
- Contact Council to let them know about structural damage to your home.

## How SES helps the community

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service. Although our SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible. Therefore it is advisable for you to be prepared for emergencies so that you can share responsibility for your own wellbeing during those times. In a flood, SES assistance may include:

- Giving flood advice
- Protecting essential services
- Helping to protect infrastructure
- Rescuing people from floodwater
- Advising of an evacuation.

To assist your preparation, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of a SES Home Emergency Plan by visiting [ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au)



# Emergency Checklist

## NOW: Flood Preparation

- Check if your home and contents insurance covers flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an Emergency Kit and prepare a home or business Emergency Plan, see [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

## When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning

- Listen to severe weather warnings for flash flooding.
- Listen to radio and check the SES website for more information and advice.
- Go over your Emergency Plan. Pack clothing and other extra items into your Emergency Kit and take this with you if you evacuate.

## When flooding may happen soon (a Flood Warning)

- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Be ready to evacuate. Act early, conditions change rapidly, roads and escape routes can be covered or blocked. Don't forget to take pets and medicine with you.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage. Raise chemicals and oils well above the forecast flood height.
- Move pumps, machinery, hay and livestock to higher ground.

## During the flood

- For emergency assistance, call 132 500 for SES.
- DO NOT drive, ride or walk through floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods.
- NEVER allow children to play in floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods for children and young people.
- Stay away from drains, culverts and waterways, water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, power lines and damaged buildings.

## After the flood: Recovery

- If your property has been flooded, check with City of Greater Geelong for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:

- [ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au)
- [facebook.com/vicses](https://facebook.com/vicses)
- [twitter.com/vicseswarnings](https://twitter.com/vicseswarnings)

# Emergency Contacts

**Life-threatening Emergency**  
Police fire ambulance

**000** Triple Zero  
TTY106

**Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)**  
For flood / storm emergency calls

**132 500**

**SES Information Line**

Operates during major floods or storms

**1300 842 737**  
**1300 VIC SES**  
[www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

**Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)**

Weather Information, forecasts, warnings

**1300 659 217**  
[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

**National Relay Service (NRS)**

[www.relayservice.com.au](http://www.relayservice.com.au)

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or 000 using NRS:

	DIAL	THEN ASK FOR
■ <b>Speak and Listen (SSR)</b> users phone	<b>1300 555 727</b>	<b>132 500</b>
■ <b>TTY / Voice</b> users phone	<b>13 36 77</b>	<b>132 500</b>

**Internet Relay** users log into

[www.iprelay.com.au/call/](http://www.iprelay.com.au/call/)  
then enter: **132 500 or 000**

**VicRoads**

Road closures and hazard reporting service

**13 11 70**  
[www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

**City of Greater Geelong**

Council Flood and Recovery Information

**(03) 5272 5272**

[contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au](mailto:contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au)  
[www.geelongaustralia.com.au](http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au)

Weather district for this region:

Central District

**Emergency Broadcasters**

Emergency broadcasters include ABC Local Radio, commercial radio stations across Victoria and SKY NEWS Television.

- ABC Local Radio 774 AM
- Stereo Bay 93.9 FM
- K-Rock 95.5 FM

**Complete the following and keep this information handy close to the phone:**

Your electricity supplier: \_\_\_\_\_

Your gas supplier: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

Vet: \_\_\_\_\_

**Insurance:** \_\_\_\_\_

Policy number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_