



# Local Flood Guide

*Maribyrnong*

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](https://ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe)

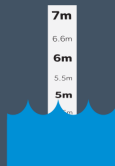


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## Local flood information



There have been 7 significant flood events in Maribyrnong between 1906 and 2022.



The largest flood on record was in 1906 when the floodwater reached 4.50 metres at The Chifley Drive gauge.



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

## Why does Maribyrnong flood?

Maribyrnong 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

- Happens when the Maribyrnong River rises and overflows its banks.
- Water spills onto nearby land, affecting homes, roads, and public spaces.
- Often caused by prolonged or intense rainfall over the catchment area.

### Flash flooding

- Occurs suddenly, often with little or no warning.
- Caused by heavy rainfall overwhelming stormwater drains or falling on hard surfaces like roads.
- Water can rise rapidly, flow with force, and cause severe damage in a short 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



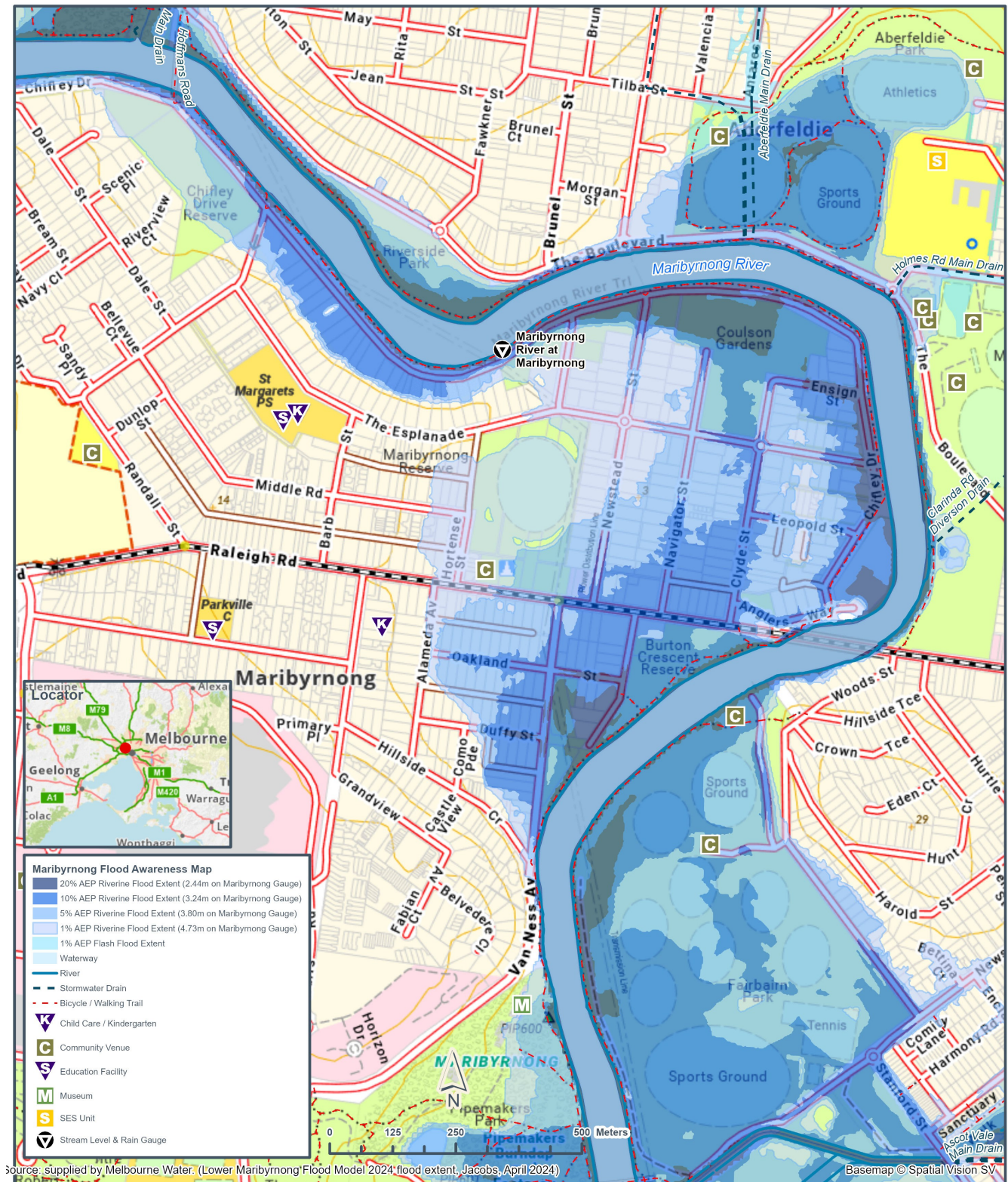
Sewage overflows inside building



## Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

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 likely to flood at different floodwater heights measured (in metres) at the Chifley Drive Gauge at Maribyrnong River.



The above map uses Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) to indicate the percentage chance of a flood of this size (or greater) happening in any year.

## 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.



Height* (metres)	AEP % Flood Extent	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
4.73m	1%	
4.50m		September, 1906 flood event.—highest flood on record. Some houses submerged and swept away.
4.26m		September, 1916 flood event. Second highest recorded flooding.
4.20m	2%	May, 1974 flood event - traffic gridlocked, 372 properties flooded.
4.22m		October, 2022 flood event—major disruptions and evacuations.
3.80m	5%	
3.31m		September, 1993 flood event. Anglers Tavern lounge and bistro areas under nearly two metres of water, and a further 50 residences flooded over floor level.
3.24m	10%	
<b>2.9m</b>		<b>Major flood level</b> Tram services along routes 57 & 82 and bus services 468 & 952 along Raleigh Road likely to be impacted.
2.83m		November, 1954 flood event. Maribyrnong River breaks its banks causing 200 families to be temporarily homeless. More than 60 rescued by Army boats.
2.44	20%	
<b>2.3m</b>		<b>Moderate flood level</b>
2.21m		January, 2011 flood event. Flooding of the lower floor at Anglers Tavern commenced. Closure of Chifley Drive, Plantation Street and nearby adjoining roads. Infrastructure improvements then implemented and have reduced the risk of similar floods having the same impact.
<b>1.7m</b>		<b>Minor flood level</b>

\*The height measurement is at the Chifley Drive Gauge.

^This table includes information from previous flood events.



## What might happen in a flood in your area?

Although no two floods are the same and the environment is constantly changing, the below provides an idea of what to expect for different flood sizes.



### Minor impacts

- Water spilling over river banks and nearby low lying areas.
- Water coming up through drains in nearby streets.
- Water will cover minor paths, tracks, and low level bridges.
- Some backyards and buildings impacted below floor level



### Moderate impacts

- Water spilling over riverbanks and covering large areas of land.
- Water above floor level in some houses and buildings.
- Evacuation may be required in some areas.
- Impact to roads and traffic routes.



### Major impacts

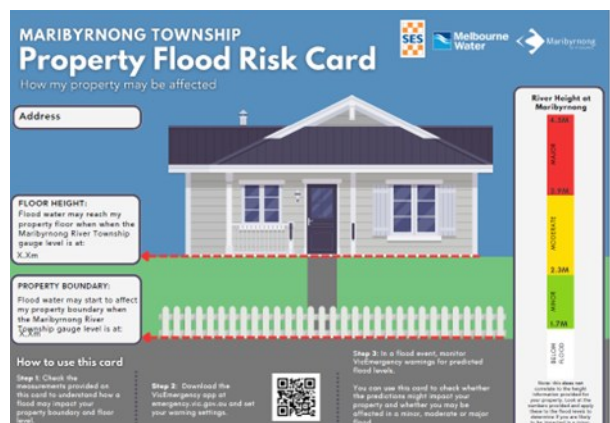
- Widespread flooding.
- Many houses and businesses are inundated above floor level.
- Properties and whole areas may be isolated.
- Major roads and rail routes closed.
- Many evacuations required.
- Impact to utility services (water, power, sewerage)

Historical flood marker, corner of Chifley Drive and Plantation Street.



Please refer to your Property Flood Risk Card that explains the site specific impacts of a forecast flood on your property.

If you don't have one or to find out more, contact Maribyrnong Council on (03) 9688 0222.



## What roads are likely to flood?

Residents in Maribyrnong Township may become isolated from flooding surrounding Maribyrnong River.

Properties located around Chifley Dr, The Esplanade, Raleigh Rd & Van Ness Ave may have access cut along local roads as well as Raleigh Rd.

During a flood, the roads listed below may flood and could be closed.

For current road closures, check [VicTraffic](#). [VicEmergency](#) may include road closures in its warnings, see [page 8](#) for more information.

- |                     |                     |                    |                   |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Almeda Avenue     | ■ Anglers Way       | ■ Burton Crescent  | ■ Chicago Street  |
| ■ Chifley Drive     | ■ Clyde Street      | ■ Cumberland Drive | ■ Duffy Street    |
| ■ Ensign Street     | ■ Hillside Crescent | ■ Hortense Street  | ■ Leopold Street  |
| ■ Middle Road       | ■ Navigator Street  | ■ Newstead Street  | ■ Oakland Street  |
| ■ Plantation Street | ■ Raleigh Road      | ■ The Esplanade    | ■ Van Ness Avenue |



**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.

The following essential infrastructure is at risk of flooding during a range of flood events:

- Tram services along Routes 57 & 82 may become affected by flooding at stops 42 & 43 along Raleigh Rd during a major flood event at Maribyrnong.



Maribyrnong, October 2022

Floodwater can be very deep, rise quickly and move fast.

**Stay safe by avoiding flooded areas.**

## Emergency Checklist

- Check if your insurance policy covers flooding.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers in your phone. Refer to page 9.
- Download the Vic Emergency app on your mobile phone. (insert QR code)
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business emergency plan, see [redcross.org.au/prepare](https://redcross.org.au/prepare)

### Before Flooding

- Leaving early before flooding occurs is always the safest option. Evacuating through floodwater is very dangerous and you may be swept away.
- Stay informed—monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the [bom.gov.au](https://bom.gov.au) and warnings through [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://emergency.vic.gov.au)
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage.
- Listen to the radio and check the VICSES website for 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.

### During Flooding

- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Conditions change rapidly; roads and escape routes can be covered or blocked.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- Seek shelter indoors, away from floodwater.
- If floodwater comes inside, move to a higher point such as a kitchen bench or second story.
- Stay away from trees, drains, low-lying areas, creeks, culverts and floodwater.

### Evacuating in Flooding

- Flood water is dangerous. Never enter floodwater. It can take just 15cm of water to float a car.
- Find alternative travel routes if roads or underpasses are flooded.
- Be aware of driving hazards, such as mud, debris, damaged roads and fallen trees. If driving conditions are dangerous, safely pull over away from trees, drains and floodwater.

### After Flooding

- For recovery information, contact your local council, go to the VicEmergency Relief and Recovery—[emergency.vic.gov.au/Relief](https://emergency.vic.gov.au/Relief) page or call the Vic Emergency Hotline -1800 226 226
- Drive slowly, obey all road signs and never drive through floodwater.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.



## VICSES Warnings




VICSES utilises the VicEmergency app, website and hotline to distribute flood warnings and emergency information in Victoria. See [page 10](#) for more information.

You can also access this information through our social media channels and emergency broadcasters.

VICSES warnings aim to provide you with information to help you make good decisions to protect yourself and your family.

The warning level is based on severity, conditions and the likelihood of community impact.

### WARNING LEVELS

	<b>ADVICE</b> An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.
	<b>WATCH AND ACT (WARNING)</b> An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others.
	<b>EMERGENCY WARNING</b> You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted.



## Your local services

### Catchment Management Authority

For general advice about flooding and controls on planning scheme amendments.

- **Melbourne Water**  
[melbournewater.com.au](https://melbournewater.com.au) | 13 17 22

### Local Council

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

- **Maribyrnong City Council**  
[maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](https://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) | 03 9688 0200

# 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](https://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](https://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](https://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.

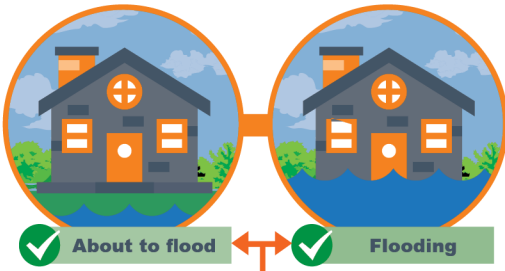


For more details and other tips, visit:  
[ses.vic.gov.au/flood](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)



# 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](https://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/melbourne.shtml](https://bom.gov.au/vic/flood/melbourne.shtml)

### Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 774 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.

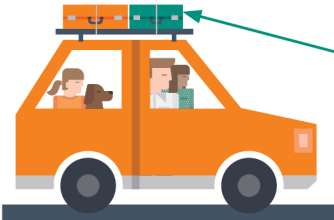
3



### 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



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](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)