



Coburg North

Local Flood Guide

Flood information for Coburg North



For flood emergency assistance call
VICSES on **132 500**



The Victoria State Emergency Service respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional owners of the land throughout Victoria and acknowledges their ancestors and elders, past, present and emerging.

Reviewed: October 2020



Coburg North

The area is prone to flooding during heavy rainfall events that can result in road closures and effect private and commercial properties. This guide provides an overview of the risk of flood and includes information that can help you to be more prepared in case of an emergency.

This guide focusses on Coburg North, a suburb in the Moreland City Council, approximately 11 kilometres north of Melbourne’s Central Business District. It’s a mainly residential suburb, but does have pockets of industry and was once home to the Kodak Factory.

Merlynston Creek and Merri Creek are the two main waterways that run through Coburg North. The Merlynston Creek runs through Coburg North from the north-west to the south-east, feeding into the Merri Creek which flows down the eastern side of the suburb. The Merri Creek transports water from north of Melbourne past Coburg North and into the Yarra River. Due to the increased development within the suburb, rain water is not easily absorbed into the ground which can lead to flash flooding. Flash flooding occurs with little warning, only lasts a short time and can cause severe localised damage.

The following map shows the expected flooding in a 1% flood in Coburg North. A 1% flood means that there is a 1% chance of a flood of this size occurring in any one year.



Disclaimer

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Are you prepared for a flood?

This guide contains important information on the key agencies that can provide assistance, where to find flood warning and storm information, helpful websites and practical information on how to be better prepared.

Experience shows that those who plan and prepare for emergencies can reduce the impact of the emergency and can recover quicker afterwards.

Further information on 'Preparing for Flood Emergencies' is also available at ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready

Are you at risk of flood?

Most areas of Melbourne experience some level of flooding during an extreme storm event, with those developed prior to the 1970's generally being more likely.



Prolonged rainfall events can affect areas along Merri Creek. The main impacted areas include the green strips alongside the creek (including the Merri Creek trail), as well as the Coburg Lake area and Jackson Reserve.

Flash flooding provides a larger risk within Coburg North. Due to the urbanisation of the area, water does not have the same ability to be absorbed into the ground and therefore runs off to lower lying areas during periods of heavy rain (for example, more than 20 millimetres of rain per hour, such as during a thunderstorm). This volume of water can overwhelm stormwater drains leading to flash flooding. Flash flooding can occur with little warning, last a short period of time and cause severe localised damage.

Although the water will drain away relatively quickly, areas that could be affected include:

- Sussex Street, from South Street, across Boundary Road to Kent Street
- The east end of Kent Street
- Pallet Street at Bakers Road
- Allenby Street
- The cycle path on Renown Street (opposite Elliot Street)

Did you know?

Historically, several major floods have affected people living in this area, such as:

- In December 2011, the SES Broadmeadows Unit received 450 requests for assistance after 52 millimetres of rain fell on that day. Flooding was made worse due to the hailstorm which resulted in blocked drains.
- The 2003 flood measured 2.61 metres on the Merlynston Creek gauge at Fawkner and caused flooding up to 1.4 metres on Sussex Street resulting in people needing to be rescued from their cars. SES volunteers also found a washing machine on Bell Street near Merri Creek that had washed down from six streets away. SES received 250 requests for assistance from this event.

If you require assistance during a flood or storm, contact SES on 132 500. Your local SES Broadmeadows Unit will be able to assist you.



No two floods are the same. Floods like this or worse could occur again.

If you live in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding or need to detour around flooded areas.

Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property



Merlynston Creek flood levels at the Fawkner Gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height at the Fawkner Gauge at Sussex Street. While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you an indication of what you could expect at certain flood heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected.

Height (metres)	Impact/level
	Height shown map page 2.
3.13 metres	1% flood level (1% chance of a flood this size in any year)
	Community Infrastructure likely to flood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Western Ring Bicycle/ Walking Path at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories • Retarding Basin wetland under the Western Ring Road. • Bus Route 534 along Boundary Road and Sussex Street
	171 Properties are at flood risk
	Streets in Coburg North at risk of water over the road at greater than 300mm depth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pallett Street • Allenby Street • Boundary Road • Adler Grove • Shaw Court • Tonkin Avenue • Rollo Street • Bridges Avenue • Shorts Road • Lily Street • Ulm Street • Catherine Street • Dawson Street • Williams Road • Guilfoyle Avenue • Elliott Street • Renown Street
2.79 metres	5% flood level (5% chance of a flood this size in any year)
	Community Infrastructure likely to flood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Western Ring Bicycle/ Walking Path at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories • Retarding Basin wetland under the Western Ring Road. • Bus Route 534 along Boundary Road and Sussex Street
	65 Properties are at flood risk
	Streets in Coburg North at risk of water over the road at greater than 300mm depth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pallett Street • Allenby Street



Height (metres)	Impact/level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary Road • Adler Grove • Shaw Court • Tonkin Avenue • Rollo Street • Bridges Avenue • Shorts Road • Lily Street • Ulm Street • Catherine Street • Dawson Street • Williams Road
2.26 metres	20% flood level (20% chance of a flood this size in any year)
	Community Infrastructure likely to flood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Western Ring Bicycle/ Walking Path at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories • Retarding Basin wetland under the Western Ring Road.
	15 Properties are at flood risk
	Streets in Coburg North at risk of water over the road at greater than 300mm depth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pallett Street at Bakers Road • Allenby Street

Staying Informed and Further Information




■ Current warnings (VicEmergency)	emergency.vic.gov.au	1800 226 226
■ Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)	bom.gov.au/vic/warnings	1300 659 217
■ VicRoads Traffic	traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au	
■ Emergency Broadcasters	ABC 774 AM SKY NEWS Television 3AW 693 AM	Life-threatening Emergency 000
■ VICSES Social Media	facebook.com/vicses twitter.com/vicsesnews	
■ SES Broadmeadows Unit	facebook.com/broadmeadowsses	
■ Preparing for Flood Emergencies	ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready	
■ Creating an Emergency Plan	redcross.org.au/prepare	
■ Melbourne Water	melbournewater.com.au	131 722
■ Moreland City Council	moreland.vic.gov.au	9240 1111



Flood warnings and emergency checklist

A **Flood Watch** means there is a developing weather pattern that might cause floods in one or two days. This service covers the whole state.

A **Flood Warning** means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major flood warnings. This service is only available where flood warning systems are in place.

 A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:
Spill over river banks and cover nearby low lying areas.	Spill over river banks and cover larger areas of land.	Cause widespread flooding.
Come up through drains in nearby streets.	Reach above floor levels in some houses and buildings.	Many houses and businesses are inundated above floor level.
Require the removal of stock in some cases.	Require evacuation in some areas.	Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water.
Cover riverside camping areas and affect some low-lying caravan parks.	Affect traffic routes.	Closes major roads and rail routes.
Cover minor roads paths, tracks and low level bridges.	Require the removal of stock in rural areas.	Require many evacuations.
Affect backyards and buildings below floor level.		Affect utility services (power, water, sewage etc).

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe when there is potential to cause significant localised damage through wind gusts, large hail, tornadoes or flash flooding. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued to the community by BoM.

Severe Weather Warnings

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

Flash Flooding

- Flash Flooding can occur quickly due to heavy rainfall. You may not receive an official warning.
- Stay informed- monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the [BoM website](#) and warnings through [VicEmergency](#).



VICSES Warnings

VICSES utilises the VicEmergency app, website and hotline to distribute flood warnings and emergency information in Victoria. Communities can also access this information through VICSES 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 that the emergency could impact on the community.

WARNING LEVELS	
	<p>EMERGENCY WARNING</p> <p>You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category</p>
	<p>WARNING (WATCH AND ACT)</p> <p>An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others. A Moderate flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p>ADVICE</p> <p>An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.</p> <p>Can also be used as a notification that activity in the area has subsided and is no longer a danger to you. A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.</p>

ADDITIONAL MESSAGES	
	<p>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW</p> <p>An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>
	<p>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</p> <p>A newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.</p> <p>Can also be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community.</p>
	<p>EMERGENCY ALERT</p> <p>During some emergencies, we may alert communities by sounding a local siren, or by sending an SMS to mobile phones or a voice message to landlines.</p>

Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time and with little warning. People who plan and prepare for emergencies can reduce the impact and recover faster.

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

Visit redcross.org.au/prepare start creating your plan.



- 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 Kit

Visit [Emergency Toolkit](#) for more information



Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit with supplies for 3 days:



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 (eg, babies, elderly and people with a disability)	
Photos	
Family keepsakes	
Valuables	
Other	



Emergency Checklist

- Check if your insurance policy covers flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers in your mobile phone.
- Download the Vic Emergency app on your mobile phone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business.
- Emergency plan, see <https://www.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 <http://www.bom.gov.au> and warnings through www.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.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.
- Seek shelter indoors, away from floodwater.
- If floodwater comes inside, move to a higher point such as a kitchen bench or second storey.
- Stay away from trees, drains, low-lying areas, creeks, canals, 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](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/Relief) page or call the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226).
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.
- Stay away from damaged and flooded buildings, fallen trees and powerlines and damaged roads until authorities advise it is safe to do so.
- Drive slowly, obey all road signs and never drive through floodwater.
- When cleaning, protect your health and safety. Wear strong boots, gloves and protective clothing and wash your hands and clothes regularly.

For VICSES emergency assistance,
call **132 500**, or **Triple Zero (000)**
in life threatening emergencies.