



# Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton Local Flood Guide

Flash flood information for the Campbells, Barkers and Forest Creeks



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





## Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton

The townships of Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton are located in central Victoria on Barkers Creek, Forest Creek and Campbells Creek.

These towns are subject to flash flooding, with large storm events resulting in stormwater drainage systems and waterways exceeding their capacity and breaking out of bank.

Significant flood events in recent years that have impacted Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton were in September 2010, November 2010, January 2011 and in February 2012.

***Flash flooding can reach full peak in only a few minutes, with no warning.***

### Are you at risk of flood?



Chewton lies alongside Forest Creek which meets Barkers Creek at Castlemaine. These form Campbells Creek which then passes through the township of Campbells Creek on its way to the Loddon River at Guildford.

Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton have a history of flash flooding from heavy rain falling over a short period of time. Historically, flash flooding has occurred so quickly that there has been no time for a warning. It is important for residents to be aware of the potential for future flash flooding and plan for it.



The following maps show the potential extent of flooding in a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event. A 1% AEP flood means there is a 1% chance of a flood of this size occurring in any year.



### Castlemaine



**Disclaimer**

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### Campbells Creek



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### Chewton



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## Did you know?

The January 2011 flood event is believed to be the highest recorded flood since 1909 in Castlemaine. Flooding caused damage to businesses, homes and community facilities, and caused significant distress and hardship to members of the community.

- In 1889, a major flood occurred on New Year's Day, impacting Chewton, Castlemaine, Campbells Creek, Yapeen, and Guildford. The devastation included the loss of several lives and the destruction of several thousand pounds worth of property.
- On Sunday 10 September 1909 at 2:30am, creeks spread out all over the low lying parts of the district, and a number of dredging plants were submerged. The Botanical Gardens, several houses and businesses were flooded.
- The shire recorded 127.8mm of rain in January 1973 resulting in the second highest flood on record.
- In 2000 on Australia Day, flash flooding impacted several houses in the Campbells Creek area.
- 2010/11 Castlemaine, Chewton and Campbells Creek were affected by flooding in September 2010, November 2010 and again in January 2011. The shire received approximately five times the January average rainfall. This resulted in flooding to 65 households, 40 farming properties, and damage to Council and community infrastructure.
- In February 2012 unexpected heavy rainfall, including over 75mm in a 90 minute period caused flooding in Mount Alexander Shire. Gingell Street, Greenhill Avenue, Barker Street, Taylor Street, Bruce Street, Chapmans Road, Happy Valley Road, Berkeley Street, Campbell Street and the Pyrenees Highway were affected or cut off by flood water.
- In September and October 2016, many areas of the shire were affected by wide spread riverine and flash flooding, with many roads cut or impassable.



**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**





## What you can do:

### Know your local environment

If you live in the Castlemaine, Campbells Creek or Chewton area, keep an eye on the weather, especially heavy rainfall or sustained rainfall over a number of days.

Knowing your local area and making your own observations are a great way to help you prepare for future floods.

**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.**

### During flash flooding

When flash flooding is likely, if you decide to leave, do so **well before** flooding occurs. Leaving early before flooding occurs is always the safest option. You may decide to shelter with neighbours, family or friends in a safer area.

Evacuating through floodwater is very dangerous and you may be swept away. **Never** drive, ride or walk through floodwater.

If you do not leave early enough and become trapped by rising floodwater inside your home or business, stay inside your building and seek the highest part such as a second storey. Stay there and call Triple Zero (000) if your emergency is life-threatening.

If you are staying in a caravan or temporary dwelling, move to higher ground **before** flooding begins.

### Staying Informed and Further Information

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|--|--|----------------|
| ■ Current warnings (VicEmergency)              | <a href="https://emergency.vic.gov.au">emergency.vic.gov.au</a>  | 1800 226 226   |
| ■ Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)                  | <a href="https://bom.gov.au/vic/warnings">bom.gov.au/vic/warnings</a>  | 1300 659 217   |
| ■ VicRoads Traffic                             | <a href="https://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au">traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au</a>  |                |
| ■ Emergency Broadcasters                       | ABC Local 91.1 FM<br>Hit 91.9 FM<br>Triple M 93.5 FM<br>KLFM 96.5 FM<br>Gold 98.3 FM<br>Phoenix FM 106.7 FM<br>Gold 1071 AM<br>SKY NEWS Television |                |
| ■ VICSES Social Media                          | <a href="https://facebook.com/vicses">facebook.com/vicses</a><br><a href="https://twitter.com/vicsesnews">twitter.com/vicsesnews</a>               |                |
| ■ Preparing for Flood Emergencies              | <a href="https://ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready">ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready</a>  |                |
| ■ Creating an Emergency Plan                   | <a href="https://redcross.org.au/prepare">redcross.org.au/prepare</a>  |                |
| ■ North Central Catchment Management Authority | <a href="https://nccma.vic.gov.au/">nccma.vic.gov.au/</a>  | (03) 5448 7124 |
| ■ Mount Alexander Shire Council                | <a href="https://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au">www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au</a>  | (03) 5471 1700 |

**Life-  
threatening  
Emergency  
000**



# 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><b>EMERGENCY WARNING</b></p> <p>You are in imminent danger and need to take action now. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p><b>WATCH AND ACT</b></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><b>ADVICE</b></p> <p>An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions. A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.</p>

### EVACUATION

	<p><b>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY</b></p> <p>An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>
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### ADDITIONAL MESSAGES

	<p><b>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Can be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community; or to issue a newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.</p>
	<p><b>EMERGENCY ALERT</b></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](https://redcross.org.au/prepare) start creating your plan.



**ARE YOU READY?**  
DO ONE SIMPLE THING TO MAKE YOU SAFER

- 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 (e.g. Items for 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](http://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://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.