

St Arnaud, 2021



Local Flood Guide

St Arnaud

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.

Content reviewed: June 2026



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

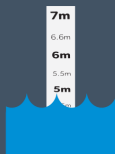


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Local flood information



There have been four significant flood events in St Arnaud between 2010 and 2025.



The largest flood on record was in 2011 when between a total of 240 mm of rainfall was recorded in just 3 days.



Flooding can happen within as little as half an hour, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.

Why does St Arnaud flood?

Heavy rainfall can cause **flash flooding**. This can happen in as little as half an hour and you may not receive an official warning. Although these floods only last short time, they can cause severe damage.

- Stormwater drainage may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall, causing it to overflow.
- 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.
- St Arnaud Creek may quickly rise, causing water to rise and overflow its banks.



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

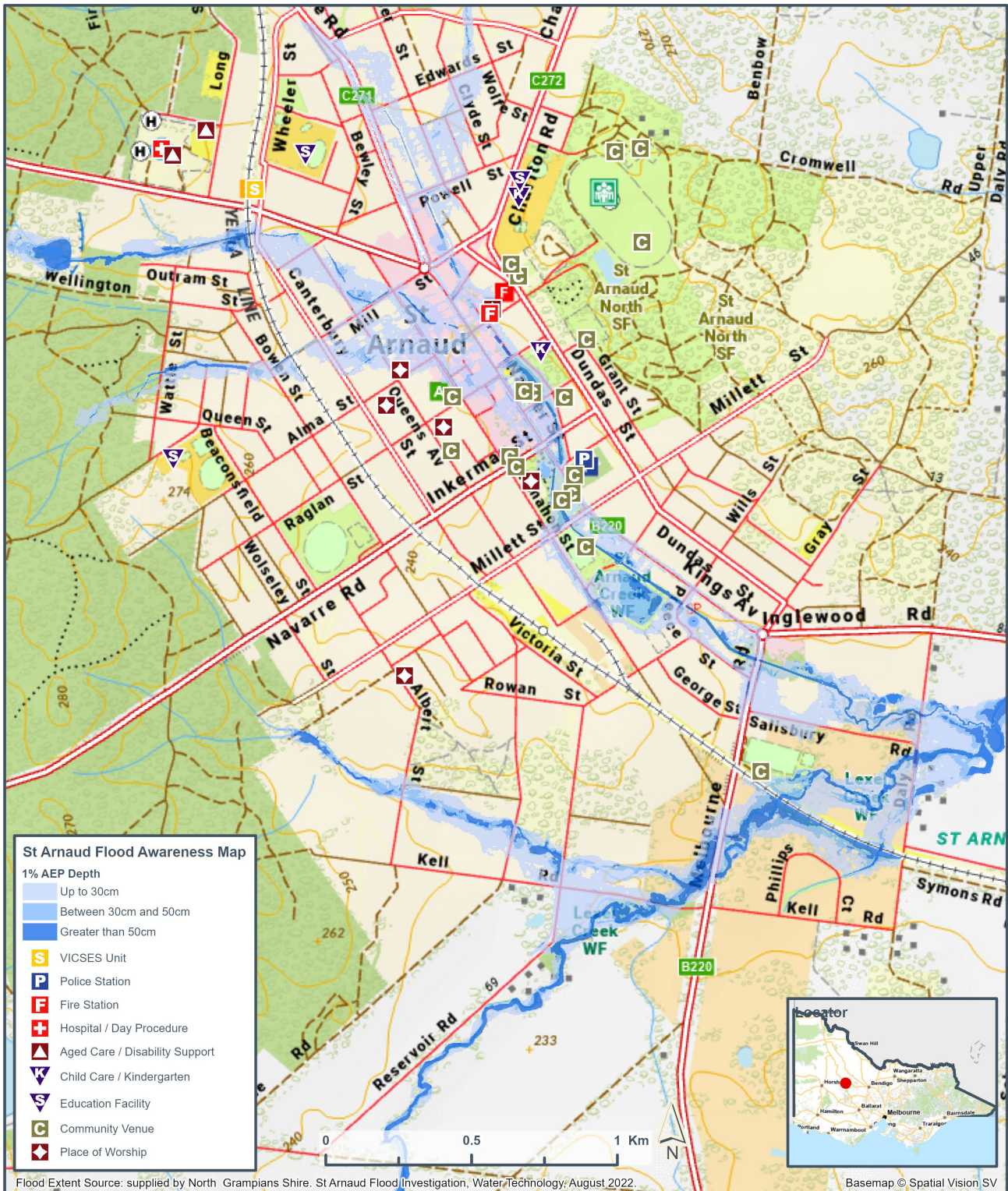
Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

If this map shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See page [8](#) for more information.

- This map shows the area likely to flood in a significant flood event.
- This is referred to as a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), which means there is a 1% chance of this size flood (or greater) happening in any year.



View an interactive version of this map using North Central Catchment Management Authority's portal called [Flood Eye](#), see page [7](#) for more details.



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 rainfall details 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 rainfall and warning information to understand what the potential impacts may be for you and your community.



Rainfall* (millimetres)			Potential Impacts^
Half hour	1 Hour	6 Hours	
40	50	77	1% AEP Flood ■ Brisbane Street heavily impacted by floodwater. ■ Walker Street water level is expected to exceed 0.3m ■ Kings' avenue is overtopped, impacting several houses. ■ The St Arnaud Recycle located at the south is inundated.
34	42	67	2% AEP Flood ■ Shallow water found across the residential area between Edwards Street and Powell Street ■ Water Flows along Mill Street from the west then breaks out from the roadside drain at Canterbury Street and McMahons Street. After that the overland flow goes along Napier Street and joins the main channel after Inkerman Street.
27	34	56	5% AEP Flood ■ Water Flows in the roadside drain along Silvermines Road, joining the main channel at Alma Street
23	28	48	10% AEP Flood ■ Shallow flow is observed near Brisbane Street impacting several Houses ■ Minor Breakout from the main channel at Millett Street. ■ Minor Breakout from the Lexel Creek overtopping the Melbourne Road.
18	23	40	20% AEP Flood ■ Minor breakout at the start of the main channel. ■ Overland Flow occurs at Jennings Street from the main channel, flowing along the Kings Avenue ■ King Georges Park is filled with water coming off McMahon

^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.

What roads are likely to flood?

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 9](#) for more information.

- Brisbane Street
- Walker Street
- Kings Avenue
- Edwards Street
- Powell Street
- Clyde Street
- Butcher Street
- Mill Street
- Canterbury Street
- Jennings Street
- McMahon Street
- Millett Street
- Silvermines Road
- Alma Street
- Valance Lane
- Napier Street
- Inkerman Street
- Kell Road
- Howitt Street
- Inglewood Road



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.

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.

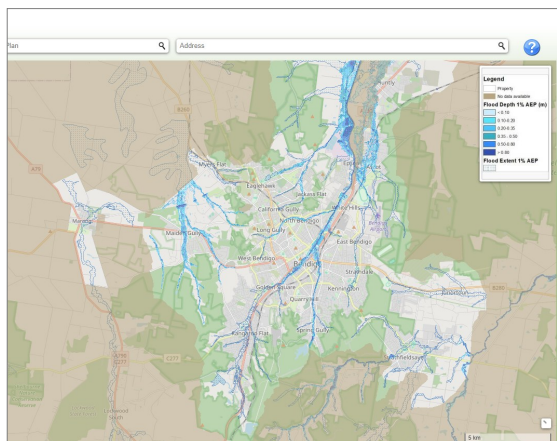
November 2018 Flood

- 100mm of rain fell in 1 hour
- More than four businesses suffered internal building damage, these building were in Kell Road, Inglewood Road and Napier Street. Businesses impacted included the St Arnaud Pharmacy and an Automotive business.
- More than eight houses were impacted by floodwater up to a depth of 300mm in Queens Street, Millett Street, Howitt Street, Napier Street and Brisbane Street. Flooding caused significant internal damage to these houses.
- More than 50 properties were impacted by flooding causing damage to fences and other private property.

November 2021 Flood

- 87mm of rain fell in a 3 hour period
- Near identical impacts to the 2018 event:
- 4 businesses obtained building damage
- 8 houses reported water inundation
- A water rescue was reported by Victoria State Emergency Service

Download your free Property Flood Report



Flood Eye, developed by the North Central Catchment Management Authority, is a tool for residents and businesses to assess their flood risk.

- Use the portal to zoom in on your property and see if it's likely to be affected in a large flood event.
- Download a free property report for properties inside the mapped area.

Go to floodreports.nccma.vic.gov.au.



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see [page 8](#) for more information.

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

For general advice about flooding and controls based on planning zones and overlays.

- **North Central Catchment Management Authority**
nccma.vic.gov.au | 03 5448 7124

Local Council

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

- **Northern Grampians Shire Council**
ngshire.vic.gov.au | 03 5358 8700



2021

Floodwater can be very deep, rise quickly and move fast.
Stay safe by avoiding flooded areas.

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.

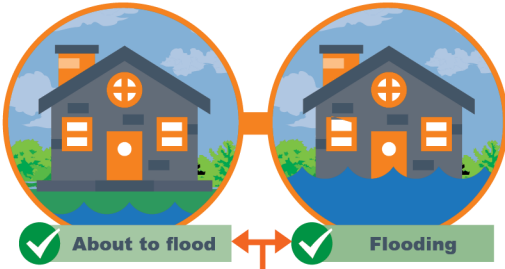


For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



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
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/north_central.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC Local 91.1 FM and 594 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.

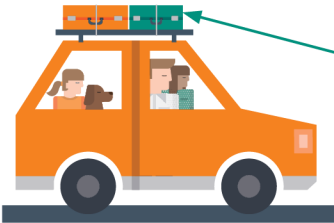
3



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:



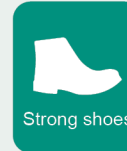
Phone & charger



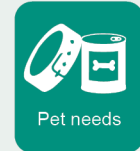
Prescriptions & medication



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

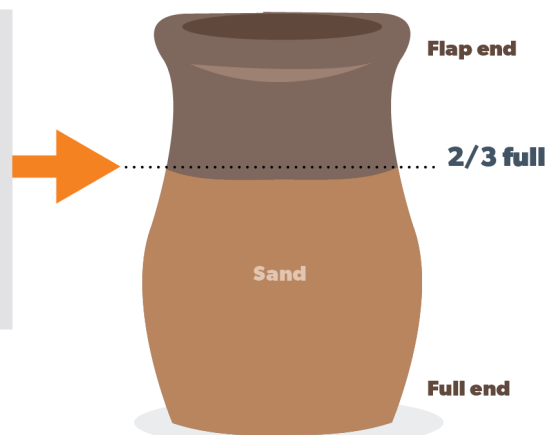


Sandbagging

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

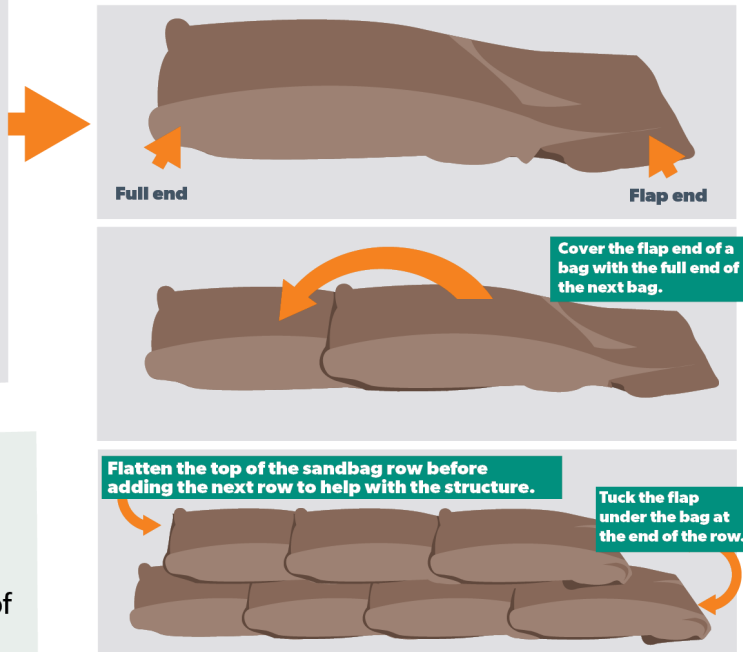
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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?

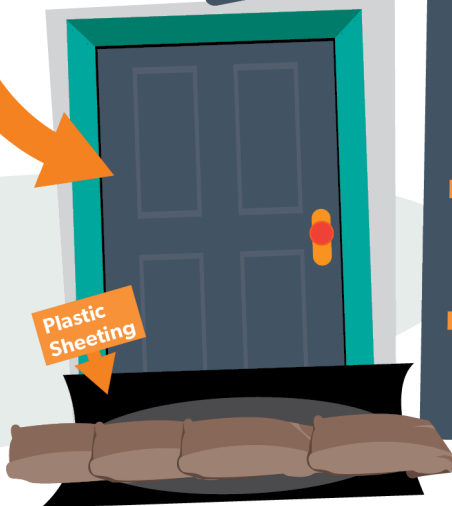
- Place sandbags in plastic bags to cover drainage holes in home (e.g. showers, toilets, sinks) to stop back flow of water.
- Place a small wall across doorways, at least the height of the expected water level. Be careful not to trap yourself inside.
- If available, plastic sheeting may be used under sandbags to reduce the seepage.

Block it

Toilets, bath and all drain holes



Plastic Sheetting



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.

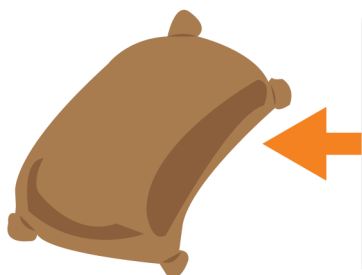


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

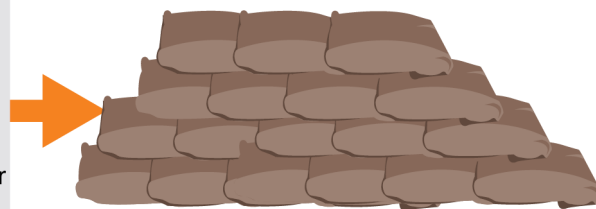


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.

