



Local Flood Guide

Balaclava and St Kilda

Understand, prepare, and respond effectively to your flood risk.

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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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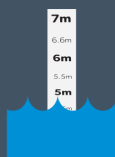


For more information visit: ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe

Local flood information



There have been 4 significant flood events in Balaclava and St Kilda between 2010 and 2022.



The largest flood on record was in 1957 when the water level reached 3.32 metres along Elwood Canal.



Floodwater in St Kilda and Balaclava usually rises quickly but generally drains away within a few hours.

Why does Balaclava and St Kilda flood?

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

- The stormwater drainage along the Shakespeare Grove Main Drain, which runs through Balaclava and St Kilda, may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall causing them to overflow.
- When water in the Elwood Canal rises, the water levels in the Shakespeare Grove Main Drain usually increase as well, which can cause or add to existing flooding.
- Storm surges and tidal flows from Port Phillip Bay may also have an impact on flooding as they may limit the ability of the drainage network to release the storm water into the bay.
- With the development of more houses, buildings and roads, there is a reduced amount of natural ground to soak up rain. This means more water flows into drains and waterways, which can increase the risk of flooding during severe weather events.

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

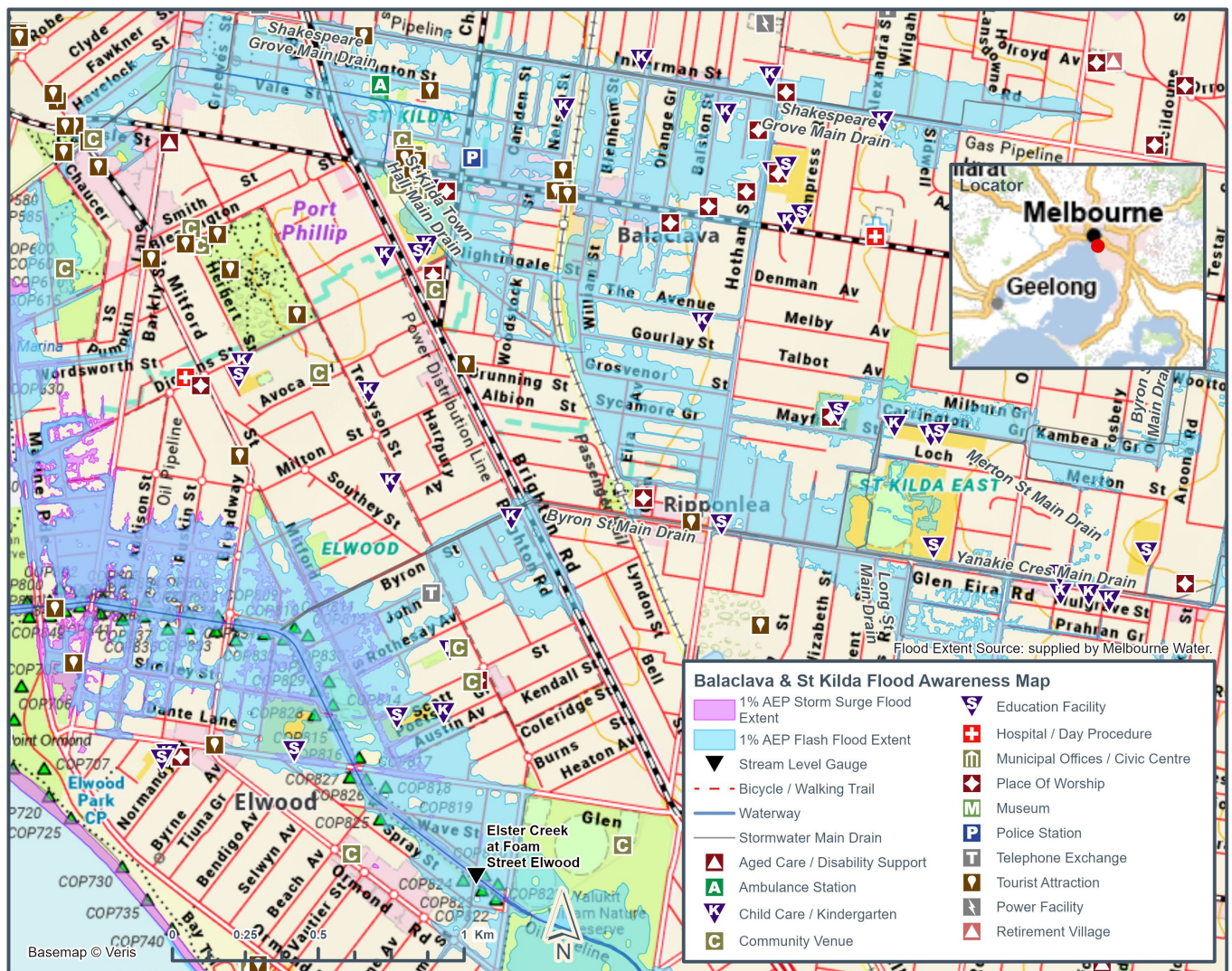


Sewage overflows inside building

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 6](#) for more information.

- This map shows the areas likely to flood at three different height levels in a significant flood.
- 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.



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.

Chance of flood size in any year	Potential impact
1% (or greater) chance in any year	■ All services listed in 2% and 20% are likely to be impacted.
2% (or greater) chance in any year	■ Tram Services along Carlisle Street, Routes 3 and 79 likely impacted by flooding along Carlisle Street between Brighton Road, St Kilda and Balaclava Railway Station ■ Sandringham Railway Line at Ripponlea Station likely impacted. ■ St Kilda Primary School sports ground and yard likely to be flooded.
20% (or greater) chance in any year	■ St Kilda Police Station on Chapel Street, St Kilda is likely to be flooded over floor and experience access issues along Chapel Street between Brighton Road and Inkerman Street. ■ City of Port Phillip Town Hall carpark is likely to be flooded. ■ Windsor Ambulance Station on Pakington Street, St Kilda likely to be flooded over floor level. ■ Tram Services along Chapel Street, Routes 78 and 79 likely impacted by flooding along Chapel Street between Brighton Road, St Kilda and Inkerman Street.



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

Stay safe by avoiding flooded areas.

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 [8](#) for more information.

Balaclava

- Marlborough Street
- Nightingale Street
- Rosamond Street
- Stuart Street
- Sycamore Grove
- William Street
- Woodstock Street

St Kilda

- Barkly Street
- Blanche Street
- Chapel Street
- Carlisle Street
- Greeves Street
- Havelock Street
- Duke Street
- Irwell Street
- Lyell Street
- Market Street
- Martin Street
- Pakington Street
- Vale Street

St Kilda East

- Camden Street
- Inkerman Street
- Kalynma Grove
- Lansdowne Road
- Wenden Grove



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.

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

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

- **Melbourne Water**
melbournewater.com.au | 13 17 22

Local Council

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

- **City of Port Phillip**
portphillip.vic.gov.au | 03 9209 6777

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.

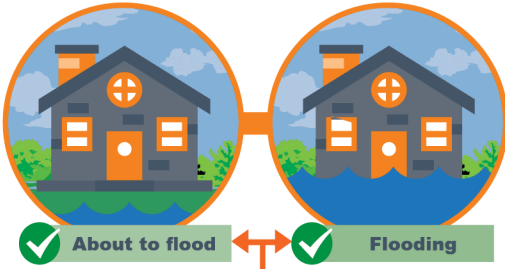


For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



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/port_phillip.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 774 AM, 3AW 693 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.

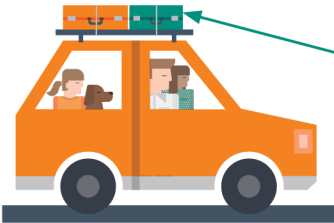
3



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:

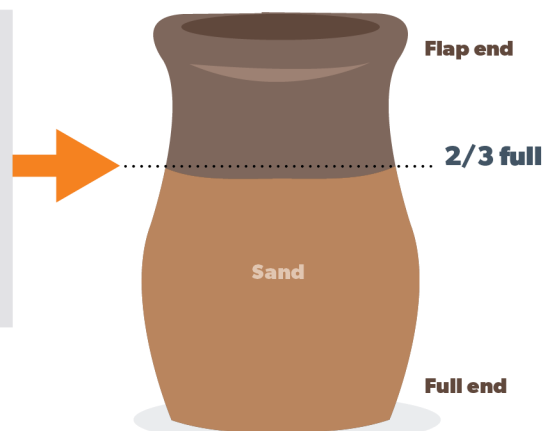
ses.vic.gov.au/flood

Sandbagging

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

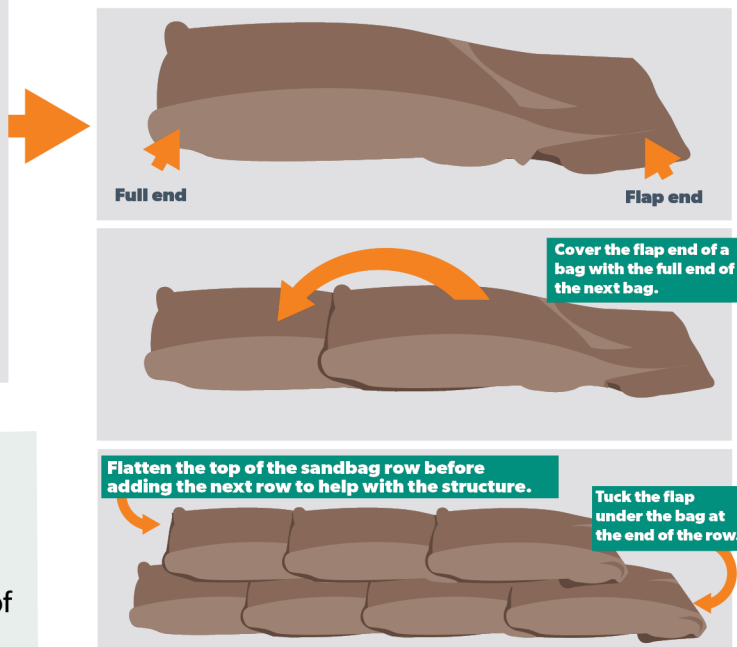
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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.

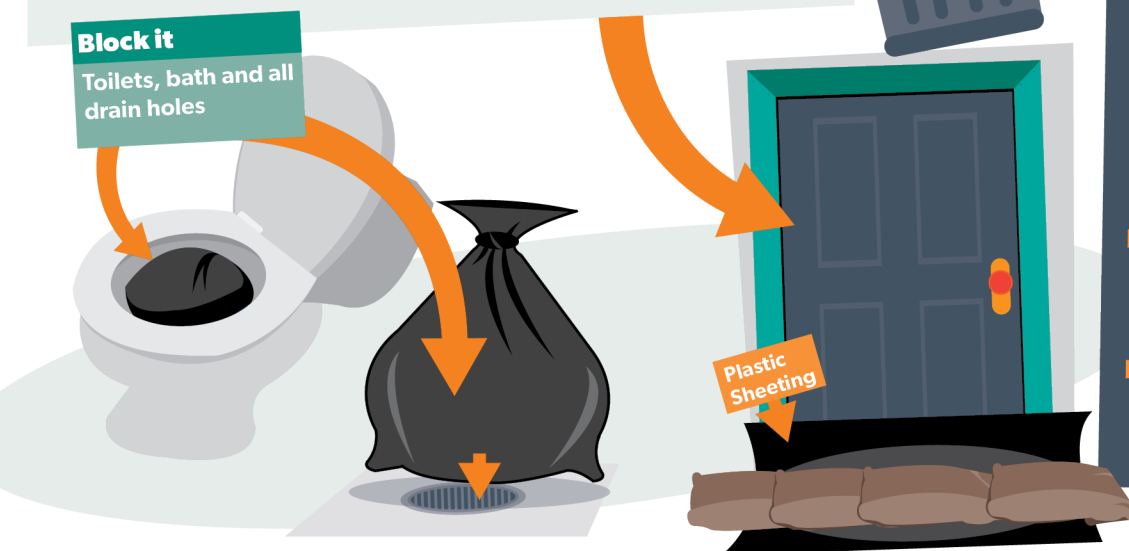


Where do I place the sandbags?

- 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



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.

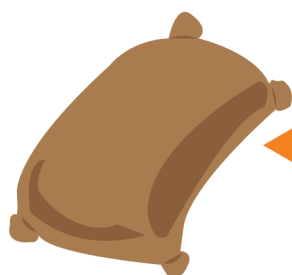


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

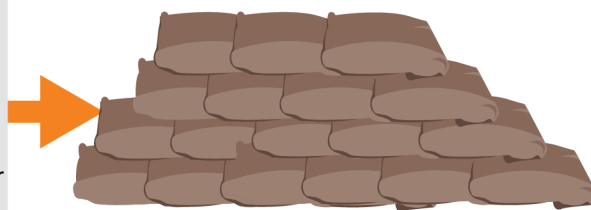


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.

