

Beaufort, 2016



# Local Flood Guide

*Beaufort*

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

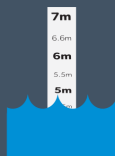


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## Local flood information



There have been 11 significant flood events in Beaufort since 1975 and 2022.



The largest flood on record was in 2011 when Beaufort received a record 96.8mm of rain within 12 hours.



Flooding can happen quickly after heavy rainfall, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.

## Why does Beaufort flood?

Beaufort 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

This happens when the Yam Holes Creek, Cemetery/Garibaldi Creek or the Cumberland rises and overflow their banks, and spills water onto land. The most common cause is prolonged heavy rainfall.

- Beaufort is located along Yam Holes Creek, with some parts of the town situated on low-lying floodplain. These parts of the town are prone to flooding.
- Large floods occur when more than one of the creeks overflow at the same time. The Cemetery/Garibaldi Creek has a higher risk of flooding when Lake Beaufort is full.
- The smaller creeks of Beaufort; Ding Dong, Cemetery/Garibaldi and Cumberland, can flood independently of Yam Holes Creek or at the same time, depending on where rain falls within the catchment.

### Flash flooding

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

- 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.

## How do floods impact communities?



Buildings flooded



Road closures



Drinking water supply and quality affected



Power outages



Mobile and internet network outage



Sewage overflows inside building



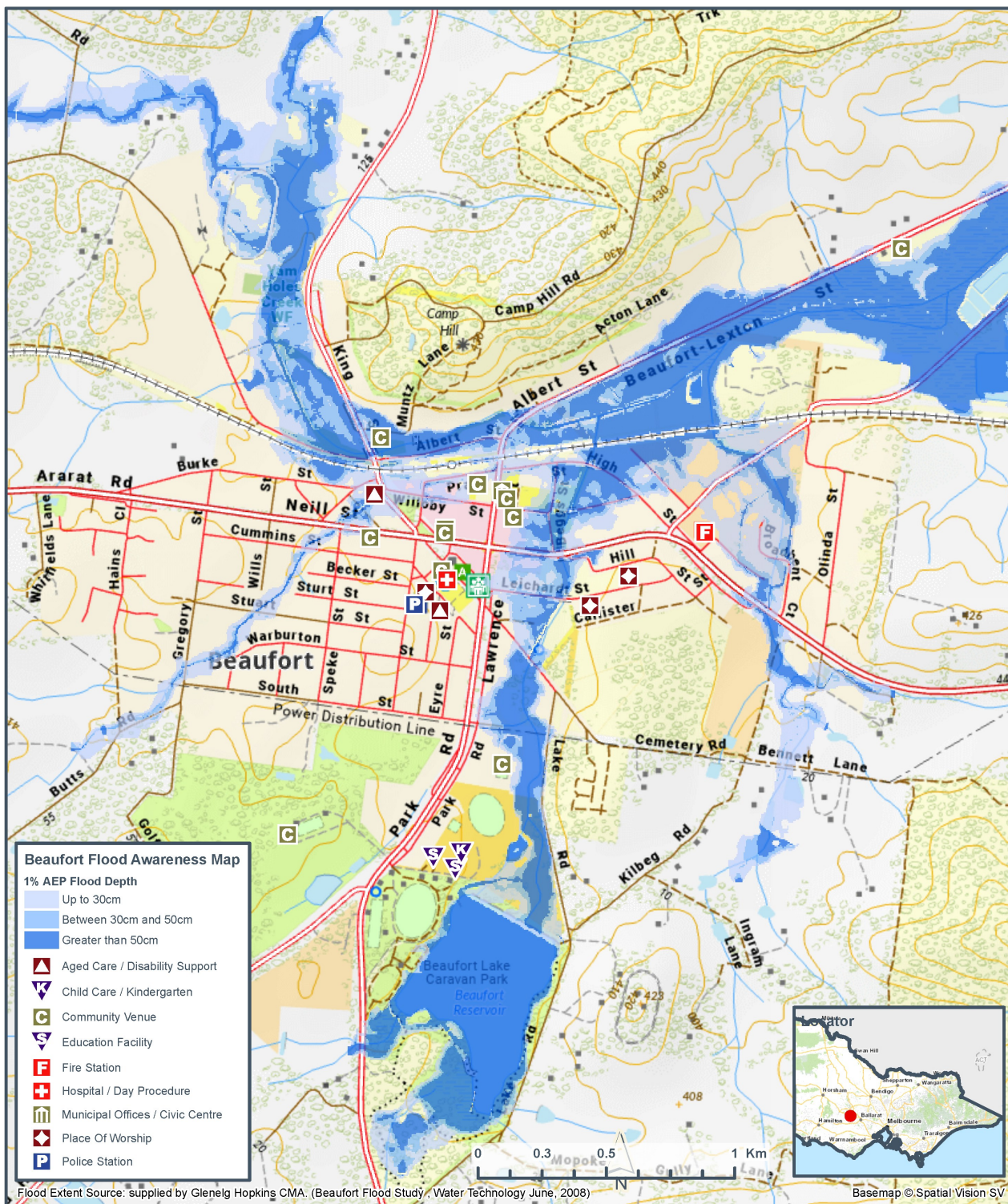
## Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

If this map shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See [page 7](#) for more information.

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



View an interactive version of this map using the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's [GHCMA Flood Portal](#), see [page 6](#) for more information.



## 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.



Rainfall mm	How likely is this flood to happen^	Potential impacts^
71.6 mm in 6 hours to 90 mm in 12 hours	1% (as shown on map, see <a href="#">page 4</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 214 total properties anticipated to be impacted with 52 buildings anticipated to experience above floor level flooding.</li> <li>■ Buildings likely to be affected include the Beaufort Scout and Girl Guide Hall as well as the Railway Hotel.</li> <li>■ Flooding may cut access to Racecourse Road.</li> </ul>
38 mm in 1 hour to 80 mm in 12 hours	2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Flooding is expected to impact 211 total properties with 44 buildings anticipated to experience above floor level flooding</li> </ul>
31 mm in 1 hour to 68 mm in 12 hours	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Flooding is expected to impact 209 properties with 39 buildings anticipated to experience above floor level flooding.</li> <li>■ Flooding overlaps the Beaufort Railway Line to a depth of 0.30m.</li> <li>■ Access may be cut to Neil Street (Western Highway).</li> </ul>
26 mm in 1 hour to 59 mm in 12 hours	10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Flooding is expected to impact 197 properties, with 32 buildings anticipated to experience above floor level flooding.</li> <li>■ Flooding may cut access to King Street.</li> </ul>
21 mm in 1 hour to 50 mm in 12 hours	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Flooding is expected to impact 181 properties with 21 buildings anticipated to be flooded above floor.</li> <li>■ Central Highlands Water Sewer Pumping Station may start to be impacted.</li> <li>■ Access may be cut to High Street, Albert Street, Albert Street, Leichardt Street, Willoby Street and Havelock Street.</li> </ul>

^This table includes information from previous flood events



## Previous flood impacts

### 2011 flood event

The January 2011 flood event is the largest flood on record in the town. During this flood, record rainfall of 96.8 millimetres of rain fell in less than 12 hours, causing:

- The Western Highway to be overtopped by 300mm, cutting access and closing in four sections.
- 70 properties impacted by flooding, 39 of these were impact above floor level.
- Multiple roads impacted by flooding.
- Many local facilities were flooded including Bicentennial Park, the former Beaufort Primary School oval, and the former Ambulance Station as well as the Council Depot yards.



**Image:** Antique Store Neil Street, Beaufort 2011

## Download your free Property Flood Report



Go to: [my.floodreport.com.au/ghcma/](https://my.floodreport.com.au/ghcma/)

The [GHCMA Flood Portal](https://my.floodreport.com.au/ghcma/), developed by the Glenelg Hopkins 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.



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](https://vicemergency.vic.gov.au/), see page [8](#) for more information.

## Your local services

### Catchment Management Authority

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

- **Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority**  
[ghcma.vic.gov.au](https://ghcma.vic.gov.au) | 03 5571 2526

### Local Council

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

- **Pyrenees Shire Council**  
[pyrenees.vic.gov.au](https://pyrenees.vic.gov.au) | 1300 797 363

# 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.

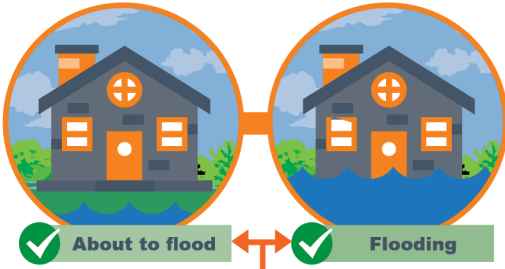


For more details and other tips, visit:  
[ses.vic.gov.au/flood](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)



# 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.  
[https://www.bom.gov.au/vic/flood/glenelg\\_hopkins.shtml](https://www.bom.gov.au/vic/flood/glenelg_hopkins.shtml)

### Emergency broadcasters



**Radio** | ABC Local 107.9 FM and 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.

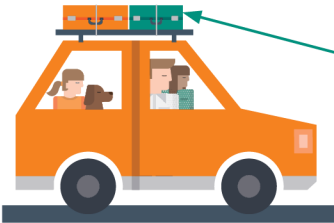
3



### 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:



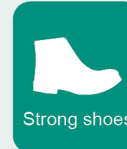
Phone & charger



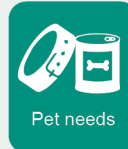
Prescriptions & medication



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)



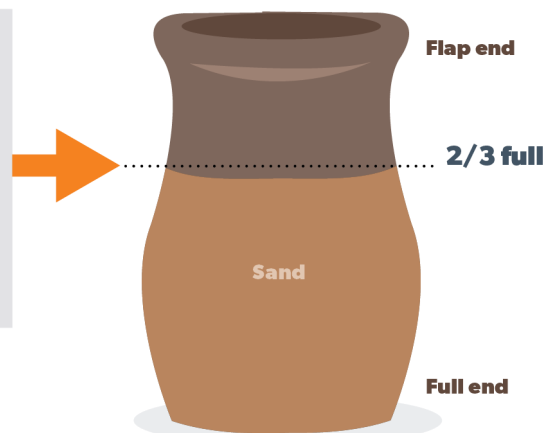


# Sandbagging

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

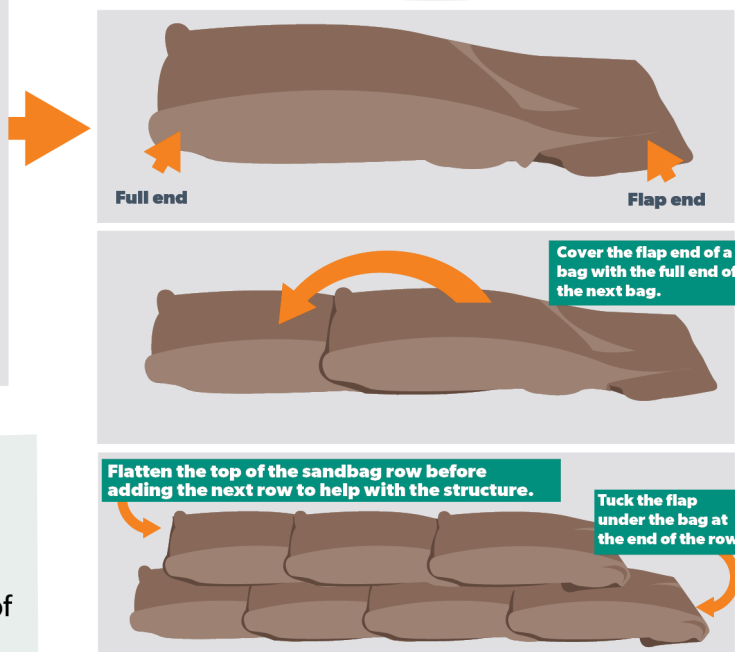
## How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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.

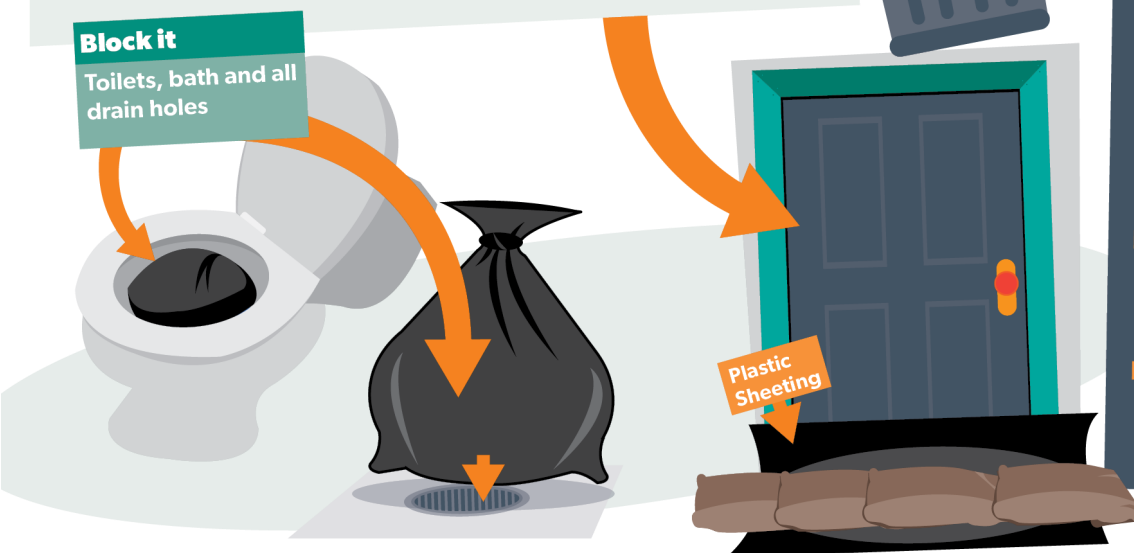


## Where do I place the sandbags?

- 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.

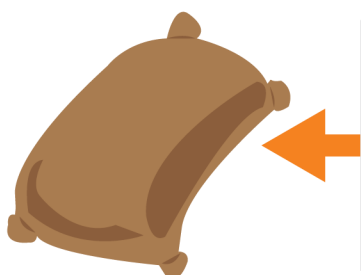


### *What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?*

- 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.

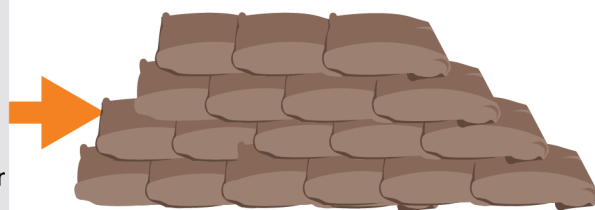


### *How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?*

- 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.