

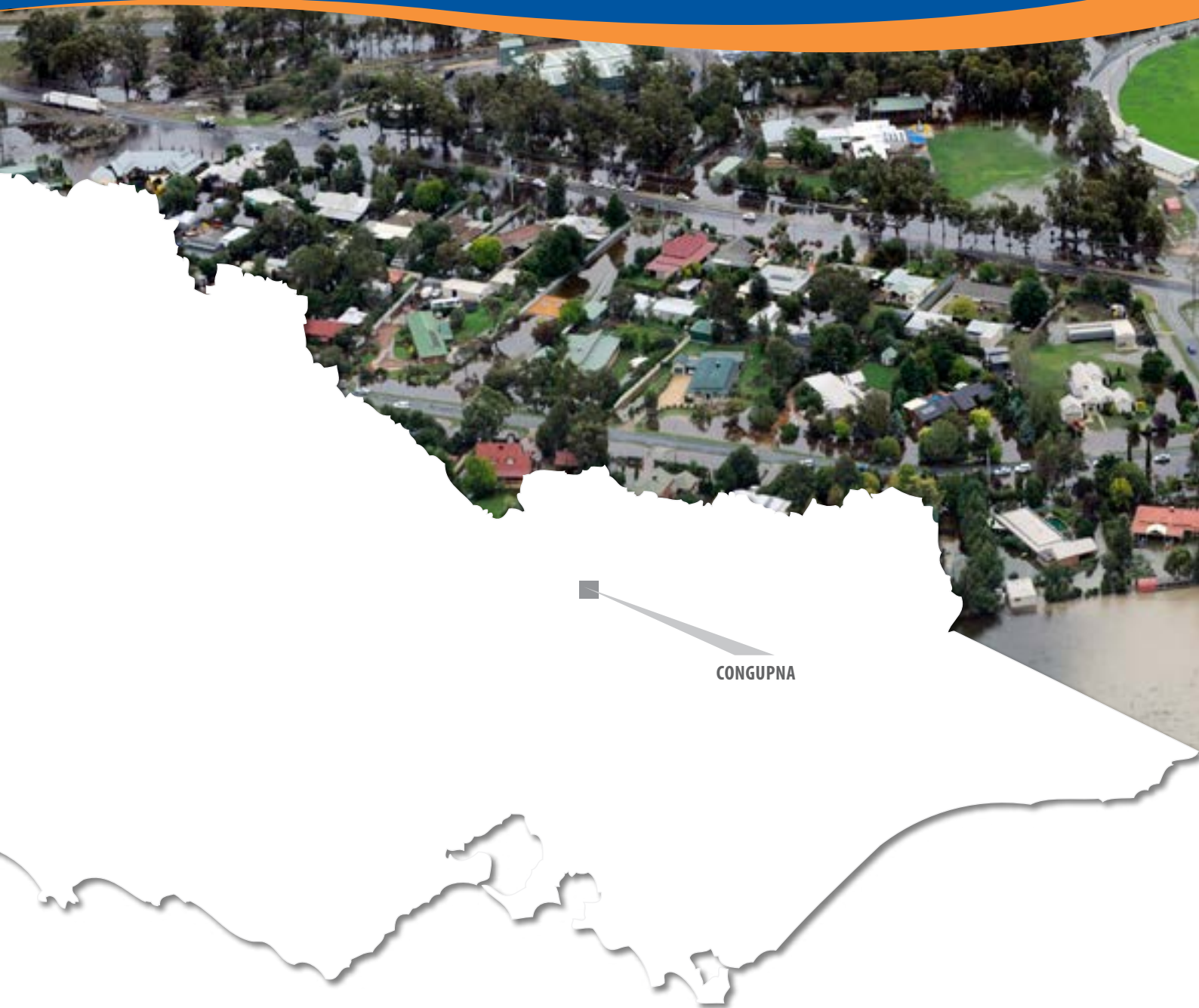


Local Flood Guide Congupna



FloodSafe

Flood information for the Pine Lodge Creek and O'Keefe Creek at Congupna



FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**

For more information visit ses.vic.gov.au

Your Local Flood Information

About this guide

In floods, knowing what to do and when to do it can save lives and reduce damage. This guide provides advice to residents and businesses about what to do before, during and after floods, where to find flood warnings and areas that are at risk.

The Congupna local area

Congupna is located eight kilometres north of Shepparton and has a population of 230 people. The town encompasses a total land area of approximately one square kilometre and is situated at the crossroads of Goulburn Valley Highway and Katamatite-Shepparton Road and is surrounded by farmland on all sides. Congupna has a relatively flat landscape. There are no distinct waterways that flow through the town with over land run-off from south east of the town being the major source of flooding. Pine Lodge Creek north of the town and O'Keefe Creek located east of the town can flood and threaten surrounding farming properties.

Congupna can also be impacted by flash flooding when local heavy rainfall occurs over a short period of time.

The image below is an aerial shot of Congupna taken during the 2012 floods, showing the areas that were impacted.

Did you know?

The Congupna area has a history of both riverine and flash flooding with big floods occurring in 1919, 1939, 1956, 1974, 1993 and 2012.

During Congupna's highest recorded flood in 1993:

- Six homes experienced over-floor flooding and many rural properties were flooded across the area
- Road closures included Wallace Street, and Katamatite-Shepparton Main Road.

The 2012 floods in Victoria were caused by several large storms from a decaying tropical cyclone in Northern Australia over six days from late February into early March.

These storms brought record rainfall of 300 millimetres (more in some areas), especially in the area between the Warby Ranges, Yarrowonga, Echuca and Shepparton. In many areas this widespread rain resulted in flash flooding and record riverine flood levels as floodwater moved across the land and into the waterways.

These floods had a huge impact on towns and communities in many parts of the North East: many houses and businesses were flooded above floor level; many roads, bridges and railway lines were closed or damaged, and some townships were cut off for days with large areas of farmland inundated for weeks.

Even if your property is not affected by floodwater, you may be impacted indirectly by road closures, isolation and disruption to essential services including telephones, power and sewerage.



Disclaimer

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Local rainfall levels and flash flooding

The following table gives an indication of rainfall levels that are likely to cause flooding in the area. The impact of rainfall can vary for a number of reasons including how wet the ground is prior to the rainfall and how quickly it falls.

Rainfall	Likely Impacts
50 millimetres	Shouldn't cause any significant flooding in the area.
75 millimetres	May cause minor flooding including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Come up through drains in nearby streets. ■ Reach the top of creek banks ■ Cover local roads, tracks and low level bridges. ■ Spread across land or go into out buildings on some properties and farms.
125 millimetres	May cause an increase in flooding impacts including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Creek banks spill over and spread across low-lying areas and farmland. ■ Start to threaten buildings, roads, power and other developments. ■ Require evacuation in some areas. ■ Cover main roads.
150 millimetres	May cause widespread flooding across the area, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Threaten more houses and businesses requiring many evacuations ■ Cause properties and whole areas to be cut off, isolated by floodwater. ■ Disrupt major roads, and transport routes.
200 millimetres +	Likely to result in widespread flooding, e.g. 2012 flood event

Are you at risk of flood?

Flash flooding in the Congupna area can occur when heavy rain falls over a short period of time. Flash flooding is likely to result in approximately six homes becoming inundated and the town's drainage network being overwhelmed causing access roads to flood for several hours eg . Katamatite-Shepparton Main Road.

Congupna can also be at risk of riverine flooding when significant rain falls on the Broken River catchment area (eg 1993). Congupna's main flood risk comes from Pine Lodge and O'Keefe Creeks that flow toward Congupna particularly when the Broken River floodwater merges with these local creeks. When the Broken River floods it can spill over its banks in many places, often along the river section between the Gowangardie Weir and the East Goulburn Main Channel where it spreads north easterly towards Congupna and Pine Lodge Creek etc. During big floods, several homes adjacent to Pine Lodge Creek may experience some inundation.

It usually takes 24 - 48 hours for riverine floods to peak in the Congupna area after the Broken River floods and may last one or more weeks or even months. Large pockets of water can remain in low-lying farming areas which impacts how long water will take to drain away.

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- ABC 97.7 FM
- STAR FM 96.9 FM
- 3SR 95.3 FM
- SKY NEWS Television (pay TV)

Broken River flood levels at the Benalla Gauge and Gowangardie Weir Gauge

As well as being exposed to flash flooding, the Congupna district can be subject to riverine flooding from the Broken River system. During a flood, information on Broken River levels can guide residents and businesses of Congupna to plan and prepare for floods.

It is important to know how the predicted flood levels are likely to impact you as you may be affected before the peak. This table includes flood information to help you figure out when you need to start following your flood emergency plan.

Gowangardie Gauge (no warnings)	Broken River at Benalla	Description
6.57 m	5.51 m	October 1993 flood level. Slow onset flood – overland from creek system. Township flooded including 11 properties, with approximately six impacted by over floor flooding. Road closures of major roads in the town.
	4.50 m	MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL
	4.28 m	1974 flood level. At this height, water enters all five waterways (Congupna Creek, Dainton's Creek, Pine Lodge Cree, Guilfus Creek and O'Keefe Creek).
6.39 m	4.26 m	September 2010 flood level.
5.64 m	3.87m	July 1981 flood level.
	3.70 m	MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL
	2.50 m	MINOR FLOOD LEVEL

About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to inform people about the possibility of flooding.

A **Flood Watch** means there is a developing weather pattern that might cause floods in one or two days.

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) will give information about how the floodwater might affect people and properties. This includes safety messages to remind you what to do.

You may receive a General Flood Warning from BoM. This will tell you to expect flooding but there will be no information about specifics including expected times and heights of the flood.

In addition to Riverine flooding, Congupna is prone to flash flooding. Severe Weather Warnings and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are your earliest triggers to activate your Home Emergency Plan.

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe, due to their 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 results in water rising rapidly and flowing powerfully and quickly. Congupna residents should be alert for warnings with flash flooding and remember that flash flooding:

- Occurs so fast that it is difficult to provide a detailed warning. Often it arrives without any warning.
- Usually results from heavy rainfall falling during short severe storms.

Check for Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and Severe Weather Warnings for your area. If you receive a warning, check the BoM and SES websites for information and advice. You can monitor creek heights and rainfall conditions on the BoM website at bom.gov.au

Know your local environment

If you live in the Congupna 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 and stay safe during 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.

Emergency Alert

SES may provide alerts to the Congupna community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All emergency service providers can use Emergency Alert to warn communities about dangerous situations by voice message to landline telephones or text message to mobile phones.

If you receive a warning, make sure that all family members, people at work and your neighbours are aware of the situation.

If you receive an Emergency Alert you should pay attention and act. It could mean life or death.

If you need help to understand a warning, ask a friend, neighbour or family member.

Warnings for Congupna

BoM does not issue flood height predictions for Pine Lodge Creek and O'Keefe Creek at Congupna.

Warnings issued by BoM may provide information about when flooding is possible in the town, but not specifics such as the expected height of the creek's peak. Heavy or prolonged rainfall may be your only indication of future flooding. If flooding is likely, tune into your emergency broadcasters and listen for information or warnings relating to Pine Lodge and or O'Keefe Creeks, Broken Catchment or the Northern Country weather district.

The Broken River gauge at Benalla is the nearest gauge to Congupna that the BoM will use to issue Minor, Moderate and Major flood warnings and usually provides a prediction of a peak flood height and arrival time for this gauge. You can monitor rainfall and river levels on the BoM website. The Broken River gauge at Gowangardie Weir will only provide a river level height reading.

During flash flooding

Driving through floodwater is the number one cause of adult deaths during floods. Never walk, ride, swim or drive through floodwater.

Playing in floodwater is the number one cause of death during floods for children and teenagers. Floodwater is filled with unseen dangers, harbouring hidden debris such as broken glass, shattered timbers and twisted metals as well as sewage, putrid food waste and toxic chemicals.

Floodwater is toxic. Never allow your children to play or swim in floodwater.

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. Conditions may also bring trees or other obstacles in your path, so caution is required

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.

NOW – before a flood

- To check if your home or property is subject to riverine flooding go to the Goulburn Broken CMA website at: gbcma.vic.gov.au/publications/published_documents/floodplain_and_drainage
- Develop an emergency plan.
- Check if you could be cut off by floodwater.
- Know the safest way to go if you decide to leave your property and plan an alternative route.
- Check your insurance policies to ensure your equipment, property and business are covered for flood damage.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit.
- Stay alert for weather warnings and heavy rainfall.

When a flood is likely

- Take action. Follow your emergency plan.
- Listen to your radio for information and advice.
- Check your neighbours are safe and know about the flood.
- Stack possessions on benches and tables with electrical goods in the highest places.
- Anchor objects that are likely to float and cause damage.
- Move rubbish bins, chemicals and poisons to the highest place.
- Put important papers, valuables, photos and other special personal items into your emergency kit.
- Business owners should raise stock, business records and equipment onto benches and tables.
- Rural property owners should move livestock, pumps and machinery to higher ground.
- If you are likely to be isolated, have enough food, drinking water, medicine, fuel and other needs to last at least three days.
- Do not forget pet food and stock feed.

Your emergency plan

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

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

Your emergency plan should identify:

- The types of emergencies that might affect you.
- How those emergencies might affect you.
- What you will do before, during and after an emergency.
- Where to get more information.
- Where you will go if you evacuate and the best way to go in different circumstances.
- A list of phone numbers you will need, including emergency service providers, your insurance company, friends and family.



Visit ses.vic.gov.au to obtain a copy of your Home Emergency Plan workbook

Evacuation

During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency service providers may advise you to evacuate to keep you safe. It is important that you follow this advice.

There are two types of evacuation notices that may be issued via your emergency broadcaster during a flood:

- **Prepare to evacuate** – means you should act quickly and take immediate action to protect your life and property. Be ready to leave your property.
- **Evacuate immediately** – you must leave immediately as there is a risk to lives. You may only have minutes to evacuate in a flash flooding situation.

Do not return to your home until you are sure it is safe to do so. You do not need to wait to be told to evacuate.

Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:



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 _____
- Photos _____
- Family keepsakes _____
- Valuables _____
- Documents _____
- Other _____

During and After a Flood

Never
Drive, Ride or Walk
Through Floodwater

During a flood

When flooding has begun:

- **Never drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater.**
- Remember that floodwater can be deeper than you think and can hide damaged roads and bridges.
- Never let your children play or swim in floodwater. It is dirty, dangerous and deadly.
- Tune in to your emergency broadcasters: ABC Local Radio, Commercial Radio, designated Community Radio Stations and SKY NEWS Television.
- In life-threatening emergencies, call Triple Zero (000).
- For SES emergency assistance during floods and storms call 132 500.
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen powerlines as electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals such as snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood. These animals can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to act quickly.

After a flood

Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to fall. To make sure you stay safe:

- Keep listening to local emergency broadcasters.
- Do not return home until you are sure that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- Investigate the structural safety of your building.
- Drink bottled water or boil all drinking water until advised that the water supply is safe.
- Throw away any food or medicines that may have been in contact with floodwater or affected by power outages.
- When entering a building, use a torch to light your way. Never use matches or cigarette lighters as there may be gas inside.
- Keep the electricity and gas off until checked and tested by a professional.
- Take photographs of all damage for insurance.
- Clean your home straight away to prevent disease.

How SES helps the community

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service provider. Although SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible, especially during flash flooding which occurs so quickly. Therefore it is advisable for you to be prepared for emergencies so that you can share responsibility for your own wellbeing during those times. In a flood, SES assistance may include:

- Giving flood advice
- Protecting essential services
- Helping to protect infrastructure
- Rescuing people from floodwater
- Advising of an evacuation

To assist your preparation, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of the SES Home Emergency Plan by visiting ses.vic.gov.au.



Emergency Checklist

Now: Flood preparation

- Check if your insurance policy cover flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business emergency plan, see ses.vic.gov.au.

When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning

- Listen to Severe Weather Warnings for flash flood.
- Listen to the radio and check the SES website for more 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.
- Leave early if you intend to evacuate.

When flooding may happen soon (heavy rainfall)

- 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. Don't forget to take pets and your medicine with you.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage.
- If you are staying in a caravan or temporary dwelling, move to higher ground before flooding begins.

During the flood

- For SES emergency assistance, call 132 500.
- Do not drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods.
- Never allow children to play in floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods for children and young people.
- Stay away from drains, culverts and waterways as water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, powerlines and damaged buildings.

After the flood: recovery

- If your property has been flooded, check with the City of Greater Shepparton Council for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:

-  ses.vic.gov.au
-  [facebook.com/vicses](https://www.facebook.com/vicses)
-  twitter.com/vicseswarnings

Emergency Contacts

Life-threatening emergency
Police Fire Ambulance

000 Triple Zero
TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)
For SES emergency assistance

132 500

SES information line

Operates during major floods or storms

1300 842 737
1300 VIC SES

VicEmergency

Victorian emergency warnings

emergency.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

Weather information, forecasts, warnings

1300 659 217
bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS)

relayservice.gov.au

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or Triple Zero (000) using NRS:

	DIAL	THEN ASK FOR
■ Speak and Listen (SSR) users phone	1300 555 727	132 500
■ TTY / Voice users phone	13 36 77	132 500

VicRoads

Road closures and hazard reporting service

13 11 70

vicroads.vic.gov.au

City of Greater Shepparton Council Contact Details

Phone: (03) 5832 9700
Email: council@shepparton.vic.gov.au
Web: www.greatershepparton.vic.gov.au

Weather District:

Northern Country

Catchment:

Goulburn Broken Catchment
Management Authority

Emergency Broadcasters

Emergency broadcasters include ABC Local Radio, designated commercial radio stations across Victoria and SKY NEWS Television.

- ABC 97.7 FM
- STAR FM 969.6 FM
- 3SR 95.3 FM
- SKY NEWS Television (pay TV)

Complete the following and keep this information handy close to the phone:

Your electricity supplier: _____

Your gas supplier: _____

Doctor: _____

Vet: _____

Insurance

Policy Number: _____

Phone Number: _____