



Katandra West Local Flood Guide

Flood information for Guilfus Creek and Congupna Creek at Katandra West



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





Katandra West

The township of Katandra West is located 20 kilometres north east of Shepparton in a relatively flat section of the Broken River floodplain. The township covers a total land area of approximately one square kilometre and is situated at the intersection of Hickey Road and Union Road. The township is surrounded by farmland on all sides. There are no defined waterways that flow through Katandra West.

Overland flow is a major source of flooding. This type of flooding occurs when water runs across the land after heavy rainfall, either before it enters a creek or stream, or after a creek or stream breaks its banks.

The image below shows the extent of flooding in Katandra West during the 2012 flash flood. To the west of the town, areas are prone to riverine flooding (overflow from a creek or river) from the Guilfus Creek catchment.



Disclaimer

This publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information has not been independently verified by Victoria State Emergency Service. No liability is accepted for any damage, loss or injury caused by errors or omissions in this information or for any action taken by any person in reliance upon it. Flood risk information is provided by Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.



Are you at risk of flood?



The Katandra West district has experienced flooding in previous years including 1919, 1939, 1956, 1974, 1993 and most recently in 2012.

During significant flooding the nearby Congupna and Guilfus Creeks will begin to fill and may overflow, flooding the surrounding area and threatening farming properties to the west of the town.

These same creeks can also flood if local heavy rain falls on the Dookie Hills such as in 2012. This flood caused the town's drainage network to be overwhelmed by the volume of water making its way across town causing Black Street, Coleman Street, Burgman Street, Hickey Road, Donohue Street and King Street to flood for several days.

Flooding in the Labuan Road area lasted longer than in the town.

Generally, rainfall of 75 millimetres or more in a 24 hour period will result in similar or worse flooding.

Floods in the past have not resulted in homes in the town being flooded above floor level.



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.

Did you know?

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

These storms brought record-breaking heavy rainfall of 300mm (or 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-breaking riverine flood levels as the 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.

The 1993 flood is the largest on record and was caused by the Broken River overflowing its banks at Gowangardie Weir resulting in significant overland flows reaching the western area of Katandra West and surrounding districts.

Even if your property is not affected by floodwater, you may be affected in different ways: road closures, being isolated, cut off for days and disruption to essential services including: telephone, power, drinking water and septic/sewer systems.

Warnings for Katandra West

BoM does not issue flood height predictions for Congupna and Guilfus Creek at Katandra West.

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 Katandra West and or Guilfus Creeks, Broken Catchment or the Northern Country weather district.

The Broken River gauge at Benalla is the nearest gauge to Katandra West 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..



Rainfall levels and flooding at Katandra West

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

Rainfall	Expected Impacts
50 millimetres	Not likely to cause any significant flooding in the area.
75 millimetres	May cause minor flooding impacts such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reaching the top of the creek banks. ■ Coming up through drains in nearby streets. ■ Covering local roads, tracks and low level bridges. ■ Spreading across land or go into out buildings on some properties and farms.
125 millimetres	May cause an increase in flooding impacts such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Creek banks spilling over and spreading across low-lying areas and farmland. ■ Threatening buildings, roads, power and other developments. ■ Requiring evacuation in some areas. ■ Covering main roads.
150 millimetres	May cause widespread flooding across the area, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Threatening more houses and businesses requiring many evacuations. ■ Causing properties and whole areas to be cut off, isolated by floodwater ■ Disrupting major roads, and transport routes.
200 millimetres +	Likely to result in widespread, significant flooding, e.g. 2012 flood.

Staying Informed and Further Information

- Current warnings (VicEmergency) emergency.vic.gov.au 1800 226 226
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) bom.gov.au/vic/warnings 1300 659 217
- VicRoads Traffic traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au
- Emergency Broadcasters
ABC 97.7 FM
HIT 96.9 FM
TRIPLE M 95.3 FM
SKY NEWS Television
- VICSES Social Media
facebook.com/vicses
twitter.com/vicsesnews
- Preparing for Flood Emergencies ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready
- Creating an Emergency Plan redcross.org.au/prepare
- Catchment Management Authority gbcma.vic.gov.au/ (03) 5822 7700
- Greater Shepparton City Council greatershepparton.com.au/ (03) 5832 9700
- National Relay Service (NRS) relayservice.gov.au

**Life-threatening
Emergency
000**



Flood warnings and emergency checklist

Bureau of Meteorology Warnings

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

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. You can also access this information through our 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 of community impact.

WARNING LEVELS

	EMERGENCY WARNING You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.
	WARNING (WATCH AND ACT) 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.
	ADVICE An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions. Can also be used as a notification that activity in the area has subsided and is no longer a danger to you. A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.

ADDITIONAL MESSAGES

	PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.
	COMMUNITY INFORMATION Updates for communities affected by an emergency. Can also be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community.
	EMERGENCY ALERT During some emergencies, communities may be alerted by the sounding of a local siren, or by sending an SMS to mobile phones or a voice message to landlines.

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.

Visit redcross.org.au/prepare start creating your plan.



- 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 a supply of 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 (eg, babies,
- | Elderly)
- | 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 [redcross.org.au/prepare](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 [bom.vic.gov.au](https://www.bom.vic.gov.au) and warnings through [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://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.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.

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.
- 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. Stay safe by never entering flood water. 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](https://www.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. 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.

For VICSES emergency assistance, call 132 500, or Triple Zero (000) in life threatening emergencies.