



Local Flood Guide Aireys Inlet



Flood information for Painkalac Creek at Aireys Inlet



Great Ocean Road, Aireys Inlet, 2007

AIREYS INLET



FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**

For more information visit www.ses.vic.gov.au

The Aireys Inlet

Aireys Inlet is a small coastal town located on the Great Ocean Road, approximately 120 kilometres southwest of Melbourne, situated on the banks of Painkalac Creek.

Painkalac Creek begins at the top of the Otway Ranges, approximately ten kilometres northwest of Aireys Inlet, at Painkalac Reservoir. It then flows down the range and through Aireys Inlet into the ocean. Distillery Creek joins Painkalac Creek at Aireys Inlet near Boundary Road.

The map in the middle of this document shows the extent of a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood in Aireys Inlet (see below).

Are you at risk of flood?

Painkalac Creek runs through the town, creating a wide floodplain/estuary of significant environmental value. Controlling the flow of the creek into the ocean are sand bars or berms. The sand bars vary in height as they build up from sand blown along the beach, blocked by the cliff. Normal wave action along the beach also contributes to the natural creation of the inlet (salt lake) forming behind the berms (see image to the right).

Flooding in Aireys Inlet can occur in a few different ways including:

- When widespread and prolonged rainfall occurs across the catchment to the north west of the town, filling the Painkalac Reservoir and diverting runoff to the natural watercourse of the floodplain surrounding Painkalac Creek in Aireys Inlet.
- When intense rainfall over a short period of time falls onto already saturated ground (following earlier rainfall).

In addition, flooding can also occur when the height of the Inlet berms have naturally become too high to allow normal drainage of the creek outlet into the ocean.

Even during normal river flow, water can back up and spread out over the floodplain, breaking the creek banks creating localised flooding.

Annual Exceedance Probability

Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) is the probability of a flood occurring in any given year. The map in the centre (page 4 and 5) shows the expected flooding in a 1% AEP flood in Aireys Inlet in blue. The blue layer is designed to help you see where the water is expected to go in a flood of this size in Aireys Inlet.

AEP is the percentage chance of a flood occurring in each year, for example, a 1% flood means there is a 1% chance of a flood this size occurring in any year. The smaller the percentage of flooding means that it is less likely to occur but is much bigger.

For example, a 1% flood is less likely to occur but will be more damaging than a 10% flood which is more likely to occur but will not flood as large an area as a 1% flood, but could still cause significant damage.

Did you know?

Flooding at Aireys Inlet and the surrounding area has occurred predominantly after short duration heavy rainfall.

Rainfall has been recorded in Aireys Inlet by the Bureau of Meteorology since 1990. By looking at the averages over a number of years, you can gain an understanding of what is expected and more importantly what is higher than average rainfall, which may produce flooding.

In January 2011, 158 millimetres of rainfall was recorded. With a recorded average rainfall of 30 millimetres occurring for January, this was over five times that, with 54 millimetres falling in one day.

While no two floods are the same, floods like this or worse could occur again.

If you live close to a creek, river or in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding. Even if you are not directly affected, you may still need to detour around flooded areas.

Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property.



A natural inlet is formed behind the sand dunes.

The Berm

Consultation and agreement between relevant agencies (Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Surf Coast Shire Council and Victoria Police) is performed before the berm can be artificially opened.

There are a lot of factors that must be taken into consideration such as ecological impacts and traffic management before the decision is made to open the berm.

What warnings mean

Flood Watches and **Weather 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.

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

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 the BoM.

Severe Weather Warnings

These warnings are issued to the community by the 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.

Listen to Severe Thunderstorm and Severe Weather warnings for your area. If you hear a warning check with the BoM and SES for information and advice.

Flash flooding results in water rising rapidly and flowing powerfully and quickly. Aireys Inlet residents should listen out for warnings with flash flooding and remember that flash flooding:

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

Know your local environment

If you live in the Aireys Inlet 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 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.



Berm opened after the Nov 2007 flood

Emergency Alert

SES may provide alerts to the Aireys Inlet community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All emergency services can use an 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 Aireys Inlet

BoM does not issue river height predictions for Aireys Inlet.

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 river peak.

Heavy or prolonged rainfall may be your only indication of future flooding. If flooding is likely, tune into your emergency broadcasters to watch and listen for information relating to Painkalac or Distillery Creek, the Corangamite Catchment or the South West weather district.

Information about potential floods will also be available from VICSES. You can monitor rainfall and river levels on the BoM website at bom.gov.au

Aireys Inlet rainfall levels

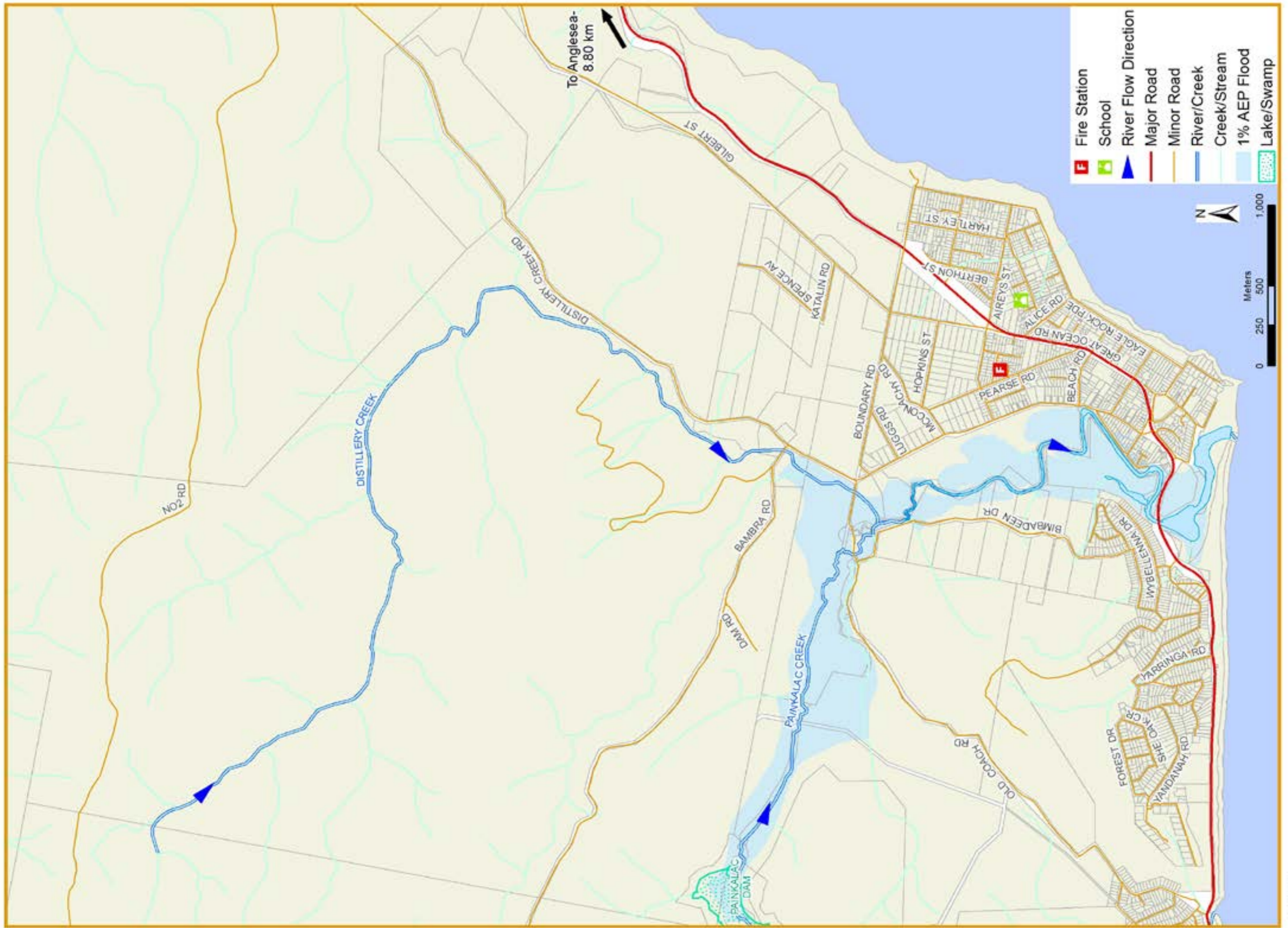
As there are no automated flood warnings in Aireys Inlet, the table below shows how much rain over different periods of time may cause flooding in and around the town, based on a 1% AEP flood extent (shown on the map overleaf).

You can use this table as a guide to possible flooding in Aireys Inlet to help you prepare.

Guidance for the likelihood of flooding at Aireys Inlet based on rainfall:

Duration (hours)	Rainfall in Millimetres (mm)	Flood level
12 hours	93 mm	1% AEP flood (see page 4 and 5)
24 hours	134 mm	1% AEP flood (see page 4 and 5)
48 hours	179 mm	1% AEP flood (see page 4 and 5)
72 hours	202 mm	1% AEP flood (see page 4 and 5)
26 hours	122 mm	November 2007 flood
72 hours	255 mm	April 2001 flood
120 hours	152 mm	January 2011 flood

Source: Bureau of Meteorology



Disclaimer

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What to do in a flood

Never
Drive, Ride or Walk
Through Floodwater

What to do in a flood

FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**

NOW – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Surf Coast Shire Council.
- 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.

Your emergency kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit. A basic emergency kit includes:



When a warning is issued, place extra items into your Emergency Kit, including:

- Mobile phone and charger
- Mementoes and valuables
- Prescriptions and medications
- Requirements for pets
- Strong shoes
- Clothing for at least three days.

Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who have planned and prepared for emergencies have reduced the impact and recovered 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 services, 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.

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.

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 (VICSES) is a volunteer based emergency service. 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 policies 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 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 emergency assistance, call 132 500 for SES.
- 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, water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, power lines and damaged buildings.
- If you are trapped inside a building, stay inside and shelter in the highest place. Call 000 in a life-threatening emergency.

After the flood: recovery

- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.
- If your property has been flooded, check with Surf Coast Shire Council for information and advice.

For more information visit:

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

Emergency Contacts

Life threatening Emergency **000** Triple Zero
Police fire ambulance TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) **132 500**
For flood / storm emergency calls

SES Information Line **1300 842 737**
Operates during major floods or storms **1300 VIC SES**
www.ses.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) **1300 659 217**
Weather Information, forecasts, warnings www.bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS) www.relayservice.com.au

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or 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 **13 11 70**
Road closures and hazard reporting service www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Surf Coast Shire Council Contact Details

Phone: **(03) 5261 0600**
Email: info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au
Web: www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au

Weather District: Central District

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority:

Phone: (03) 5232 9100
Web: www.ccma.vic.gov.au

Emergency Broadcasters

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

-  ABC Radio 774 AM
-  Bay FM 93.9
-  K-Rock FM 95.5
-  SKY NEWS Television

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: _____