



Local Flood Guide

Briagolong

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



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**



If life threatening
call triple zero 000

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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.

Cover Photo: RSL Log Cabin Briagolong, 1990. Linda Barraclough

Content reviewed: February 2025



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

Local flood information

 <p>In January 2024, Briagolong experienced flash flooding after receiving 32.2mm of rain in 1 hour.</p>	 <p>The largest flood on record was in 1990 when the floodwater reached 7.78 metres at Freestone Creek.</p>	 <p>Flooding can happen within hours, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.</p>
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Why does Briagolong flood?

Briagolong is at risk of both **flash flooding** and **riverine flooding**, which can happen separately or at the same time. Both are usually caused by heavy rainfall.

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.

- Drainage culverts in the Briagolong township may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall, causing them to overflow.
- The ground may be unable to absorb the amount of rainfall naturally causing the water to pool.
- Freestone Creek may quickly rise, causing water to rise and overflow its banks.

Riverine flooding

This happens when the Freestone Creek rises and overflows it's banks, and spills water onto land.

- Briagolong is built around the Freestone Creek, and parts of the town are on the floodplain, the naturally low-lying areas more likely to be impacted in a flood.
- Rainfall from as far away as Mount Moornapa can end up flowing into the Freestone Creek, potentially causing, or adding to flooding.

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

Briagolong Riverine Flooding

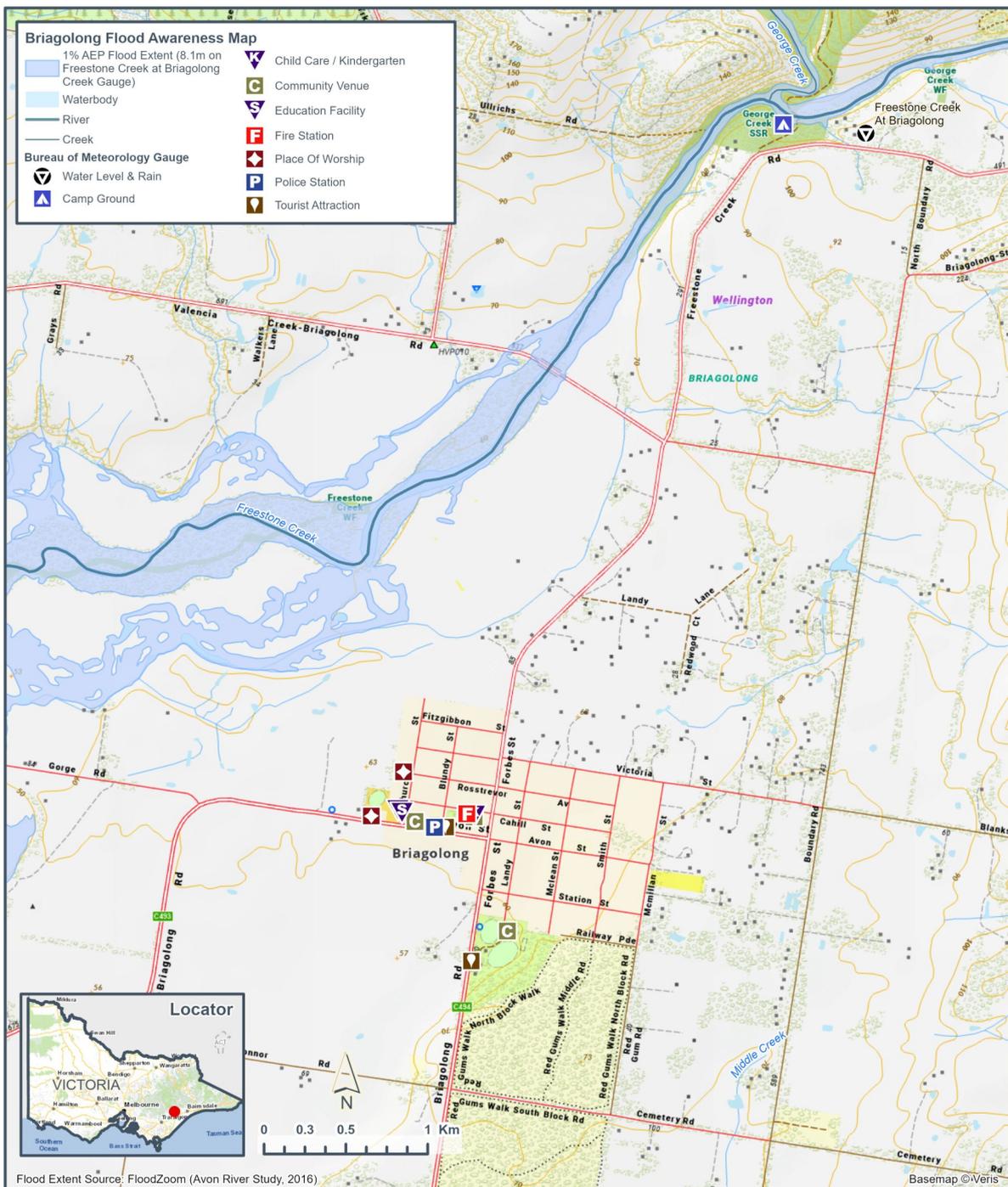
Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

If this map shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See [page 10](#) for more information.

- This map shows the area likely to flood in a significant flood event that would measure at least 8.1m metres high at the Freestone Creek at Briagolong gauge, around 8km north of Briagolong.
- 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.



View an interactive version of this map using West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority's [Community Flood Portal](#), see [page 8](#) 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 provides an idea of what to expect for different flood sizes.



Minor impacts

- Water spilling over river banks and nearby low lying areas.
- Water coming up through drains in nearby streets.
- Water will cover minor paths, tracks, and low level bridges.
- Some backyards and buildings impacted below floor level
- Riverside camp areas and some low lying caravan parks impacted.
- Relocation of stock required in rural areas



Moderate impacts

- Water spilling over riverbanks and covering large areas of land.
- Water above floor level in some houses and buildings.
- Evacuation may be required in some areas.
- Impact to roads and traffic routes.
- Relocation of stock required in rural areas



Major impacts

- Widespread flooding.
- Many houses and businesses are inundated above floor level.
- Properties and whole areas may be isolated.
- Major roads and rail routes closed.
- Many evacuations required.
- Impact to utility services (water, power, sewerage)

1990 Flood



Photo: Estoppeys Road Bridge, Culloden 1990. *Daniel Parker-Estoppey, Friends of Blue Pool and Freestone Creek. August 2020.*

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 11](#) for more information.

Roads surrounding Briagolong:

- Briagolong Road
- Briagolong-Stockdale Road
- Gorge Road
- Maffra-Briagolong Road
- Valencia Creek-Briagolong Road

Briagolong township roads:

- Avon Street
- Cahill Street
- Forbes Street
- Mclean Street
- Rosstrevor Avenue
- Station Street
- Victoria Street



Stay safe by never driving through flood water. It can take just 15cm of flowing water to float a car, that's the height of an average pen.

Previous Flood Event June 2007



7.02[^]
Metres



85mm
Briagolong
24hr rainfall



123.4mm
Mt. Moornapa
24hr rainfall



11
Briagolong
homes



394
Wellington
Shire homes

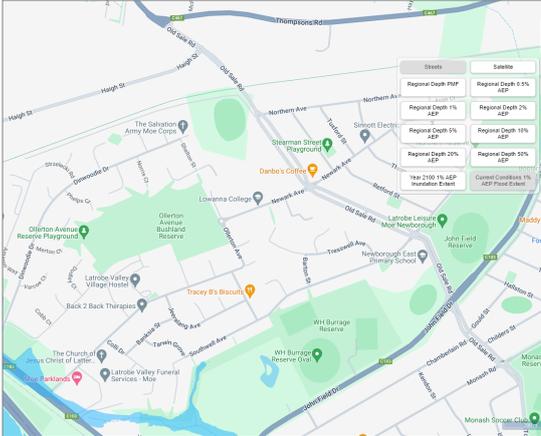
[^] measurement taken from Freestone Creek at Briagolong Gauge



Photo: Delta Bridge, Valencia Creek-Briagolong Road Briagolong 2007 Victoria State Emergency Service (left) and 2023, Stefan Bradley, Sale Gippsland Times (right).

View flood information for your property

West Gippsland CMA



The [Community Flood Portal](#), developed by the West Gippsland 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.

Go to flood.wgcma.vic.gov.au.



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see [page 9](#) for more information.

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

For flood advice and information on flood levels or depths when developing your property.

- **West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority**
wgcm.vic.gov.au | 03 5175 7800

Local Council

For relief and recovery support after a flood event.

- **Wellington Shire Council**
wellington.vic.gov.au | 1300 366 244

Floodwater can be very deep, rise quickly and move fast.
Stay safe by avoiding flooded areas.

December 2017



Photo: Maclean Street (left) and Landy Street (right), Briagolong 1998. Rod Johnson, WGCMA.

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.

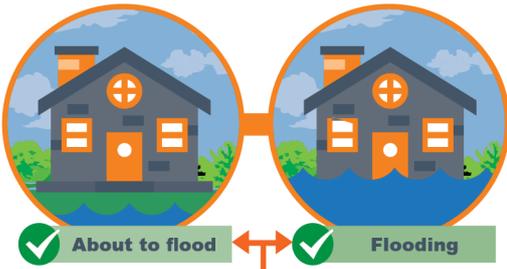


For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



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/west_gippsland.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 100.7FM & 828AM TRFM 99.5FM

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

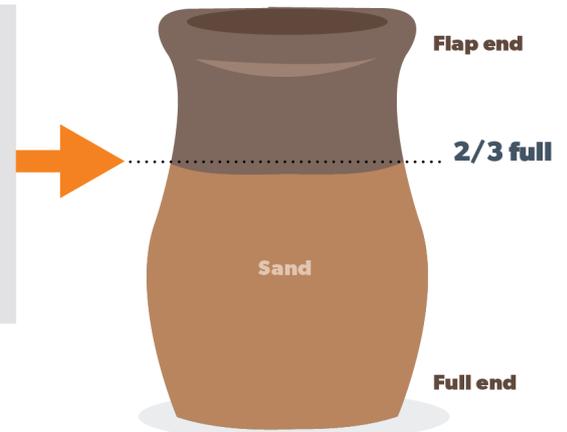


Sandbagging

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

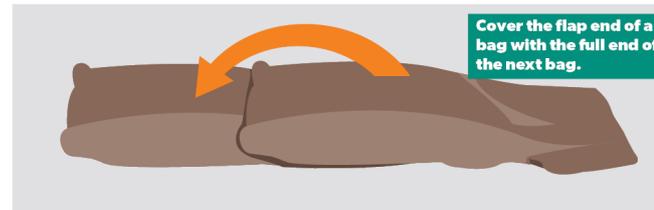
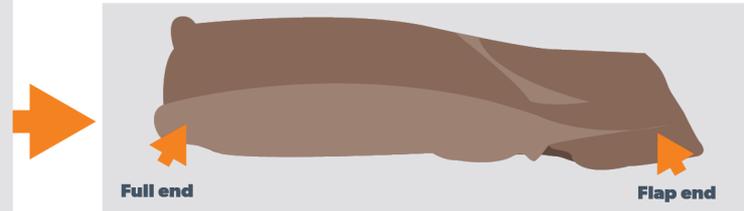
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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?

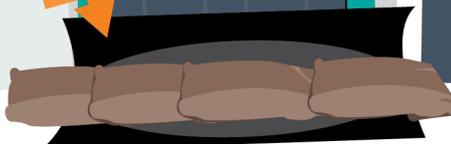
- Place sandbags in plastic bags to cover drainage holes in home (e.g. showers, toilets, sinks) to stop back flow of water.
- Place a small wall across doorways, at least the height of the expected water level. Be careful not to trap yourself inside.
- If available, plastic sheeting may be used under sandbags to reduce the seepage.

Block it

Toilets, bath and all drain holes



Plastic Sheetting



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.

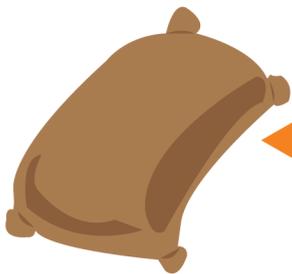


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

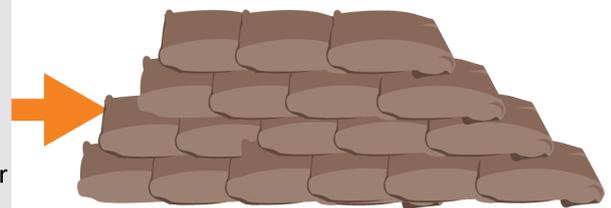


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.