



Local Flood Guide

Dargo

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



EAST GIPPSLAND
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL
The Heart of Gippsland



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**



EMERGENCY

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: Dargo, 2007. *Victoria State Emergency Service*

Content reviewed: November 2025



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

Local flood information

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <p>History shows that multiple floods can happen in any given year in Dargo. This happened in 1974, 1998, 2010, 2011 and 2012.</p> | | <p>The largest flood on record was in 2012 when the floodwater reached 5.129 metres at the Dargo River at Lower Dargo gauge.</p> | | <p>Flooding can happen within hours, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Why does Dargo flood?

Dargo 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 Dargo River rises and overflows its banks, and spills water onto land.

- Dargo township is built along the Dargo River 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 Hotham can end up flowing into the Dargo River potentially causing, or adding to flooding.
- When temperatures rise quickly, snow in Mount Hotham can melt, increasing the water level in the Dargo River potentially causing or adding to flooding.

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.

- Dargo River may quickly rise, causing water to rise and overflow its banks.

How do floods impact communities?

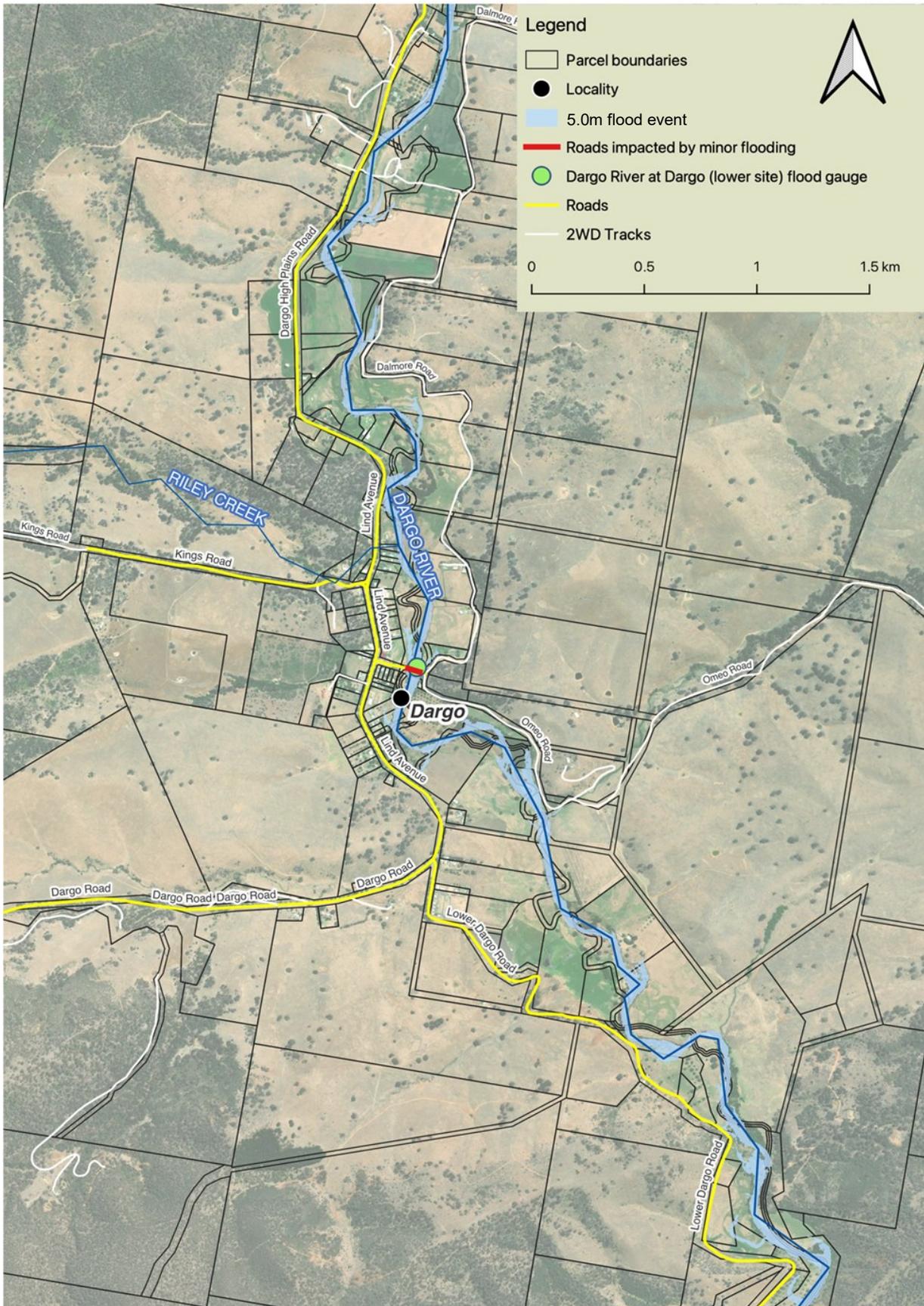
Even if your home or workplace stays dry, floods can impact you in many ways.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| <p>Buildings flooded</p> | <p>Road closures</p> | <p>Drinking water supply and quality affected</p> | <p>Power outages</p> | <p>Mobile and internet network outage</p> | <p>Sewage overflows inside building</p> |

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 8](#) for more information.

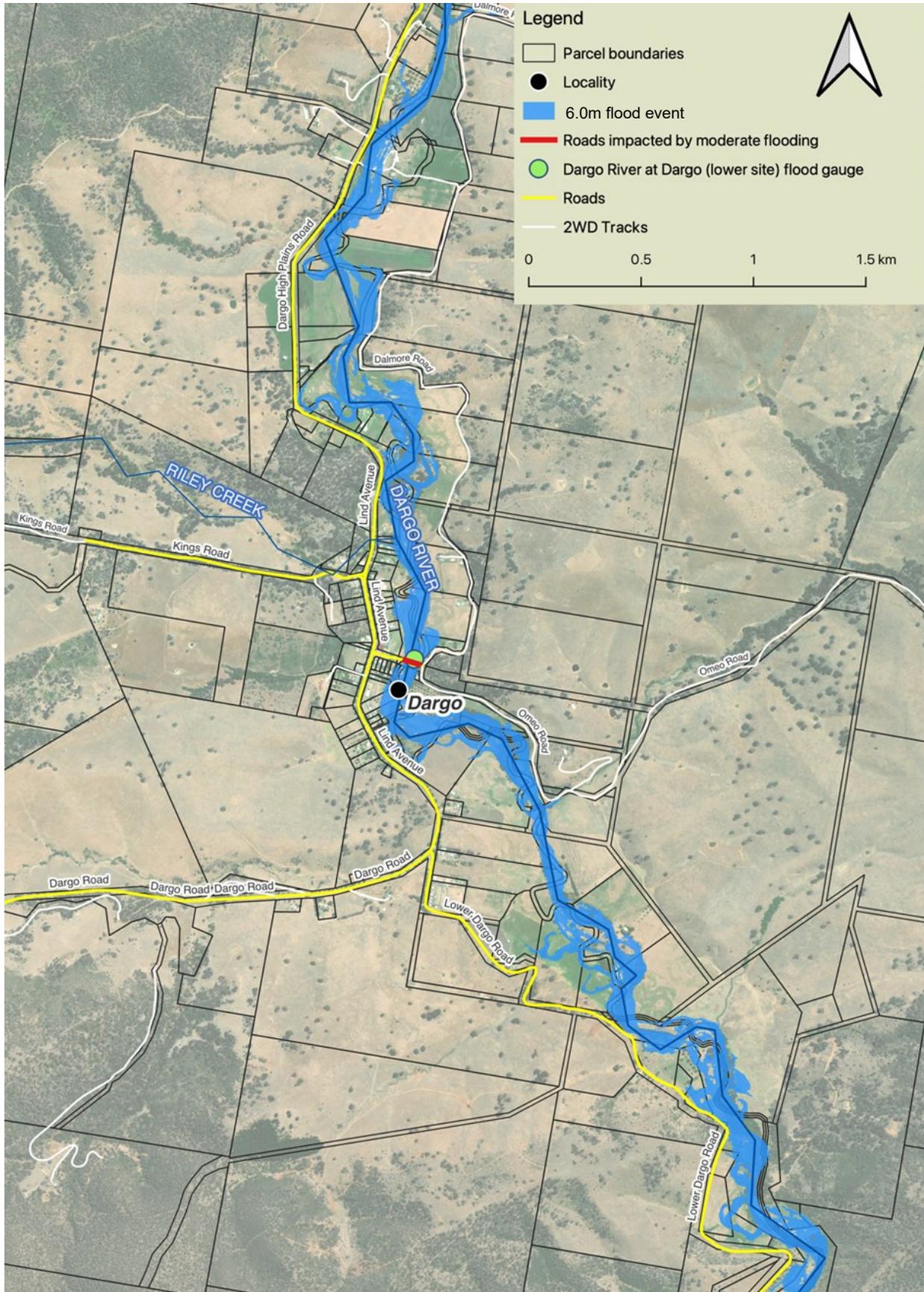
- The following maps shows the area likely to flood in a 5.0m height event at the [Dargo River at Lower Dargo Road gauge](#).



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 8](#) for more information.

- The following maps shows the area likely to flood in a 6.0m height event at the [Dargo River at Lower Dargo Road gauge](#).



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.

| Floodwater Height (metres)* | Potential impacts^ |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 5.0m | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Flooding causes closure to the west side of Jones Road Bridge and Upper Dargo Road at Two-Mile Creek.■ Water starts to flood Dargo High Plains Road at Smith Creek Crossing and Lind Avenue at Rileys Creek crossing.■ Water is mostly contained to the Dargo River with water spilling from the river bends affecting roads and agricultural land. |
| 6.0m | <p>In addition to the impacts at 5.0m flood level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Dargo Road Bridge at Lower-Dargo-Tabberabbera Road and areas south along Dargo Road are flooded and impassable.■ Floodwater blocks Dargo High Plains Road at Grady Creek and Omeo Road at the Omeo Bridge.■ Properties at Dalmore Road and the east side of the Dargo River are isolated.■ Flooding is experienced at the east edges of properties between the Dargo River and Lind Avenue.■ Low-lying buildings and homes are likely to be flooded above floor level.■ Water now floods a larger extent of agricultural and farm land. <p>The following impacts could happen in a flood larger than a 6.0m flood level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Roads that access Dargo township and roads within Dargo township are likely to flood causing isolation to the town and properties within.■ Properties surrounding the Dargo township and in the area where Riley Creek meets the Dargo River are likely to flood.■ Dangerous, fast moving flood water is likely where Riley Creek joins the Dargo River and downstream of the Omeo Road Bridge at Omeo Road. |

*The height measurement is at the [Dargo River at Lower Dargo Road](#) gauge.

^This table includes information from flood studies, which are scientific models used to predict impacts at different flood heights and flows.

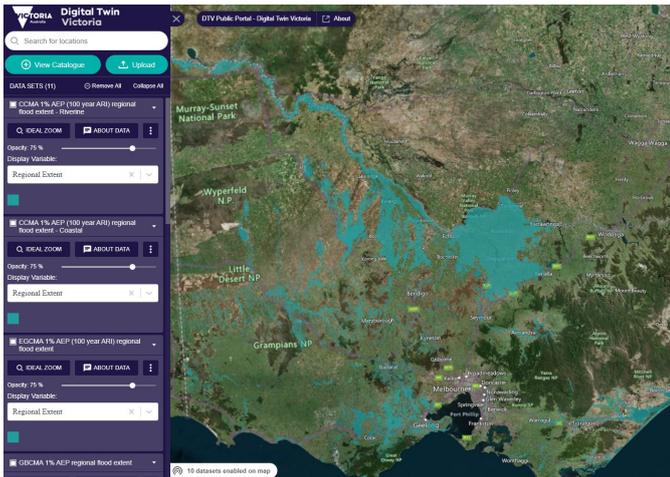
What roads are likely to flood?

During a flood, the roads listed above may flood and could be closed.

For current road closures, check [VicTraffic](#).

[VicEmergency](#) may include road closures in its warnings, see [page 8](#) for more information.

View the interactive flood map on Digital Twin Victoria (DTV)



The [Digital Twin Victoria Public Portal](#) brings together 2D, 3D and live data in a single online place for everyone to use. The portal hosts some flood mapping data.

- Use the map to zoom in on where you live, work and travel to see if it's likely to be affected in a flood event.

Go to digitaltwin.vic.gov.au



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see [page 8](#) for more information.

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

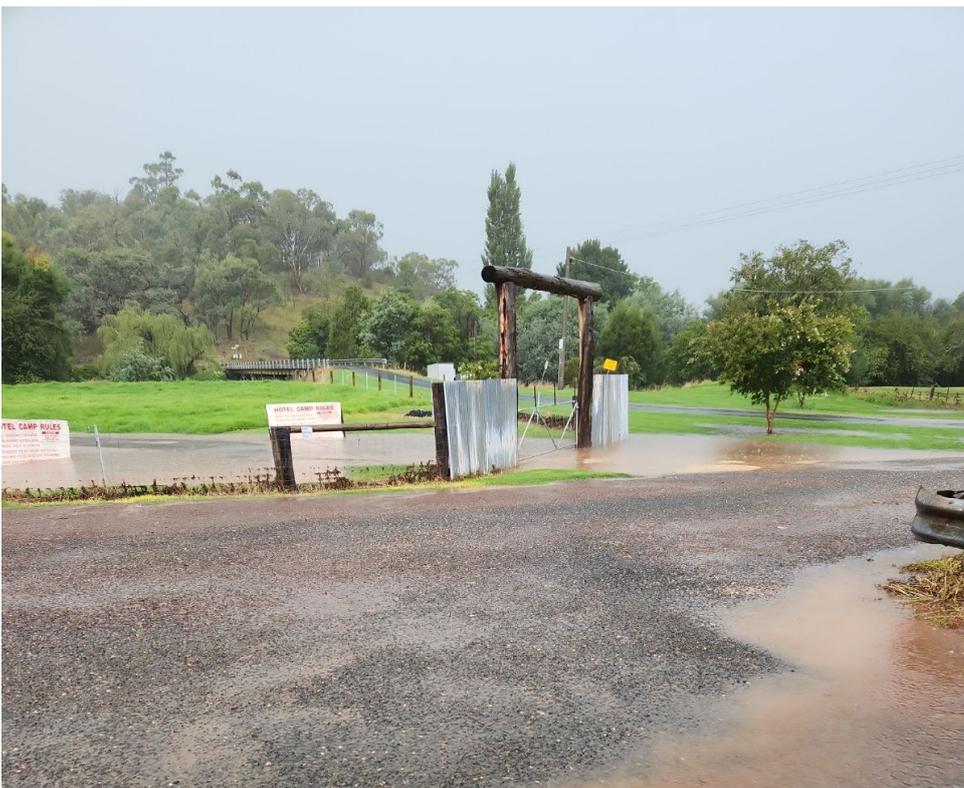
For flood advice and information on flood levels or depths when developing your property.

- **East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority**
egcma.com.au | 03 5152 1184

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.

Image: Dargo Hotel, 2024.
Dargo Hotel Facebook.

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

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Power bank | Radio | Drinking water |
| Spare batteries | Documents & records | First aid kit |
| Long life food | Torch | Gloves |

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/east_gippsland.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 100.7FM or 828AM, REGFM 105.5, 99.9 FM

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

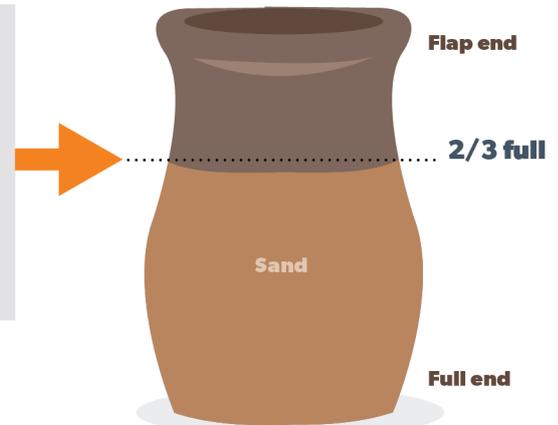


Sandbagging

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

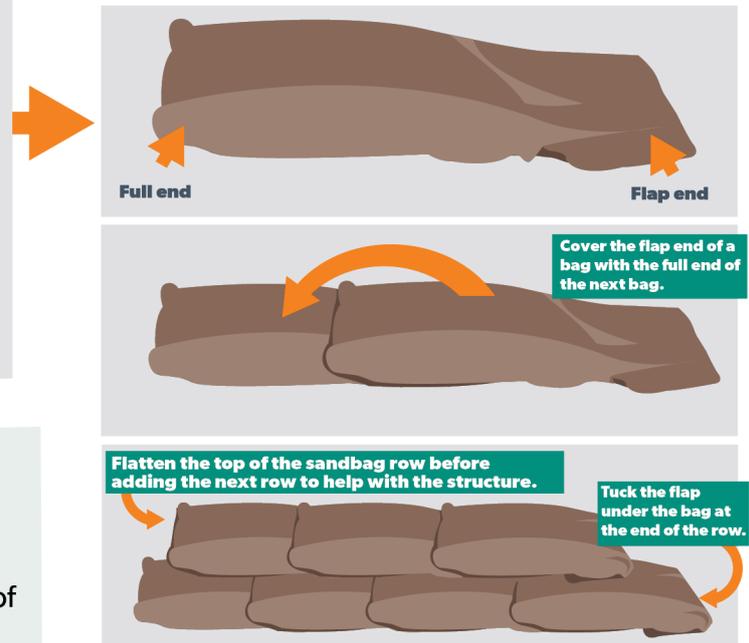
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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?

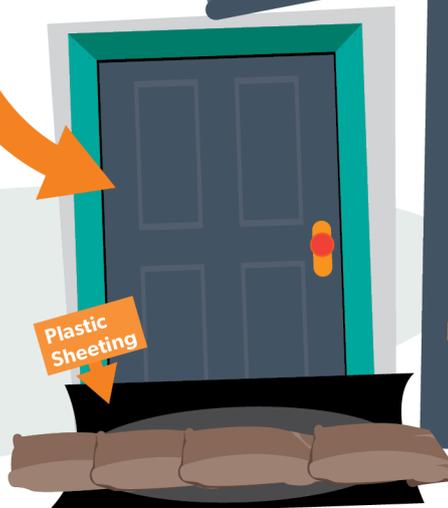
- Place sandbags in plastic bags to cover drainage holes in home (e.g. showers, toilets, sinks) to stop back flow of water.
- Place a small wall across doorways, at least the height of the expected water level. Be careful not to trap yourself inside.
- If available, plastic sheeting may be used under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

Block it

Toilets, bath and all drain holes



Plastic Sheeting



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.

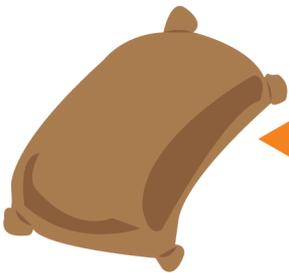


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

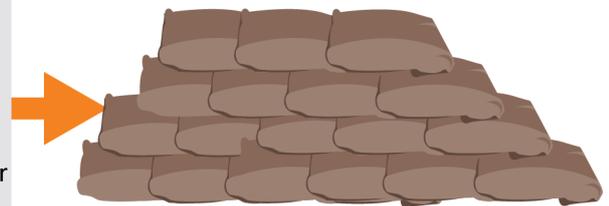


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.