



# Local Flood Guide

## *Loch Sport*

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

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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:** Loch Sport, *Victoria State Emergency Service*. 2007.

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For more information visit: [ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe](https://ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe)



## Local flood information

 <p>The Gippsland Lakes have a history of flooding, including at Loch Sport.</p>	 <p>In June 2007, 300mm of rainfall in the Gippsland Lakes resulted in lake levels rising 1.3 metres above normal levels.</p>	 <p>Flooding typically occurs one to three days after the rivers have experienced flooding with peaks slow to rise and recede.</p>
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## Why does Loch Sport flood?

When the Gippsland Lakes rise and overflow their banks, and spill water onto land, it causes **riverine flooding**. The most common cause of this is prolonged heavy rainfall.

- Loch Sport is built along the Gippsland Lakes between Lake Victoria and Lake Reeve and parts of the town are on the flood plain, the naturally low-lying areas more likely to be impacted in a flood.
- The Latrobe, Macalister, Avon, Mitchell, Nicholson and Tambo Rivers all flow into the Gippsland Lakes and flooding of these rivers can lead to flooding of the Gippsland Lakes.
- Low-lying coastal areas in the Gippsland Lakes at Loch Sport may flood due to storm surges caused by strong winds and low pressure during storms, resulting in an abnormal rise in water levels at Lake Victoria or Lake Reeve and the Gippsland Lakes.
- Abnormally high tides are a natural and predictable exceptionally high tide where the ocean meets the land. They may cause or add to existing flooding.
- Stormwater drainage may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall or cope when Lake Victoria or Lake Reeve is in flood, causing backflow or overflow of the drains.

## 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

## Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

If these maps shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See [page 8](#) for more information.

- This map shows the area likely to flood in at 2.0m flood event measured at the Loch Sport Marina.
- This is a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event 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 7](#) for more information.



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

## 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 and previous flood events <sup>^</sup>
	1% AEP Flood, see <a href="#">page 4</a>
1.90m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ More than 600 properties will experience flooding with 1.3m of water over the property.</li> <li>■ More than 2400 properties will be isolated.</li> </ul>
1.50m	<b>2007 flood level</b> - 110 residences were damaged from flood water.
<b>1.40m</b>	<b>Major flood level</b> Nearly 400 properties will experience flooding and more than 2000 isolated properties east of Cliff Street and National Park Road intersection.
1.20m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The area east of National Park Road and Cliff Street intersection are isolated as a result of floodwater across the road up to 0.6 metres.</li> <li>■ Stockyard Hill Road (the causeway) is now closed and 90 Mile Beach is not accessible.</li> <li>■ Many local roads will experience flooding, isolating over 100 homes and restricting movement around Loch Sport.</li> </ul>
1.00m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Properties along Reeves Street will now be isolated.</li> <li>■ Properties facing Lake Reeve may be at risk of flooding, although this may be delayed by one to two days.</li> </ul>
<b>0.90m</b>	<b>Minor flood level</b> 29 properties surrounding Lake Victoria are affected by flood water and 26 are isolated.
0.70m	Victoria Parade will start to flood from lake water flowing back through the stormwater drains affecting properties on Seagull Drive, Victoria Street and Victoria Parade.
0.20m	Average tidal range.
0.00m	

\*The height measurement is at the [Loch Sport Marina](#) gauge.

<sup>^</sup>This table includes information from previous flood events and 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 below 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.

### Minor Flood 0.9m

- Centre Road
- Foster Street
- Seagull Drive
- Victoria Parade
- Wallaby Road

### Flood height 1.2m

- National Park Road at Cliff Street is closed

### Major Flood 1.4m

- Anthony Court
- Barton Street
- Basin Boulevard
- Charlies Street
- Christopher Court
- Cliff Street
- Davies Street
- Joan Court
- Karen Court
- Lake Reeve Causeway
- National Park Road
- Sanctuary Road
- Sandra Court
- Simon Court
- Stevenson Road
- Wilhelm Road

## Previous flood impacts

While no two floods are the same, understanding the impacts of past floods can help you anticipate impacts of future flood events.

### 2007 Flood Event



1.5  
Metres

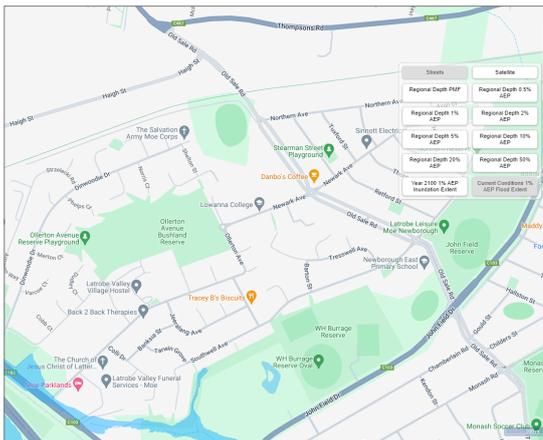


110  
Properties

Areas of Gippsland recorded more than 120mm of rainfall in 24 hours during June 2007, leading to most rivers and the Gippsland Lakes going into a major flood.



## View flood information for your property



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](https://flood.wgcma.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.

- **West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority**  
[wgcm.vic.gov.au](https://wgcm.vic.gov.au) | 03 5175 7800

### Local Council

For relief support after a flood event and general land use planning.

- **Wellington Shire Council**  
[wellington.vic.gov.au](https://wellington.vic.gov.au) | 1300 366 244



Floodwater can be very deep, rise quickly and move fast.

**Stay safe by avoiding flooded areas.**

# 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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://bom.gov.au/vic/flood/west_gippsland.shtml)

### Emergency broadcasters



**Radio** | ABC 828 Am, TR FM 99.5, 3GV Gold 1242 AM

**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](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)

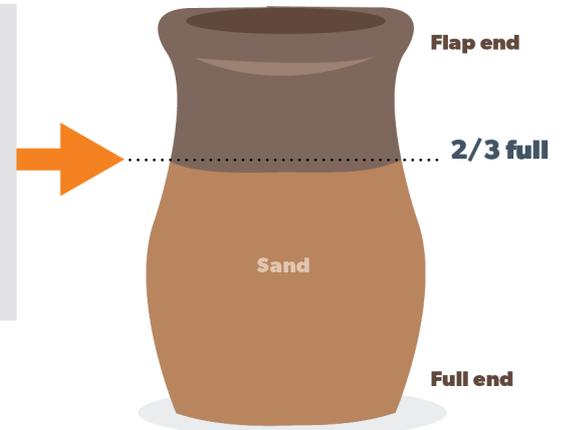


# Sandbagging

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

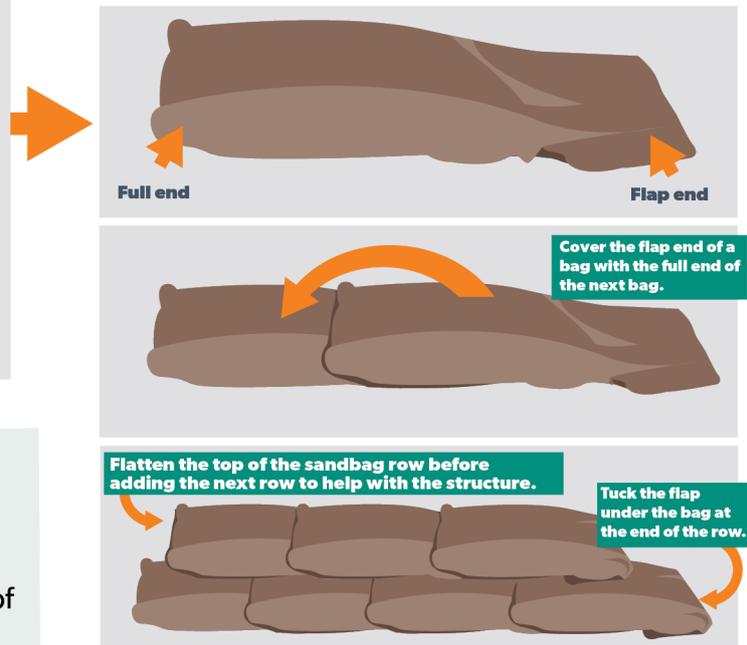
## How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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.

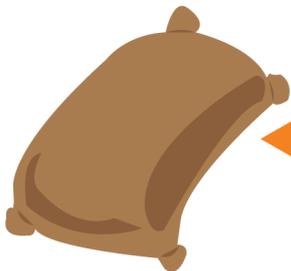


### What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

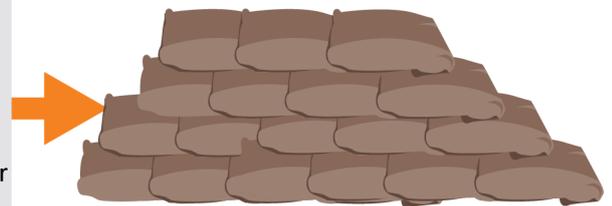


### How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.