



Local Flood Guide

Sale

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.

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



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Sale Local Flood Guide

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

Local flood information



There have been 3 significant flood events in Sale between 1978 and 2007.



The largest flood on record was in 1978 when the floodwater reached 5.20 metres at the Thomson River at Sale Wharf gauge.



Flooding can happen within hours, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.

Why does Sale flood?

Sale 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 Thomson River, Flooding Creek and the Sale Canal rise and overflow their bank, and spill water onto land.

- Sale is built along both the Lavers Creek and Flooding Creek, with naturally low-lying areas such as Desailly Flats, Myrtlebank and Wurruk are all located on the floodplains surrounding Sale are also subject to flooding.
- Water from the Latrobe River can end up flowing into the Thomson River and Flooding Creek potentially causing, or adding to flooding.
- The Sale Canal allows floodwater to enter the Latrobe River prior to entering the Gippsland Lakes, however, water can spill over the banks of the Sale Canal in times of flood.

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.

- Stormwater drainage may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall, causing them to overflow.
- The Thomson River, Flooding Creek or Sale Canal 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.



Buildings flooded



Road closures



Drinking water supply and quality affected



Power outages



Mobile and internet network outage



Sewage overflows inside building

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^
5.20m	June 1978 flood event
4.23m	June 2007 flood event
4.10m	June 2010 flood event
4.00m	Major flood level, See page 4.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Princes Highway may be closed at Wurruk due to floodwater. ■ Desailly Flats including Cunninghame Street and the sportsground experience flooding. ■ The Sale Canal area experiences floodwater rising across a larger extent including Grand Canal Drive.
3.75m	April 1990 flood event
3.00m	Moderate flood level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ South Gippsland Highway will be closed due to floodwater, and affect low lying properties in this area. ■ Desailly Flats and Port of Sale will experience quick floodwater rise affecting Canal Road, Grand Canal Drive, Mcmillan Street and at Riverview Road. ■ Government Road, Back Maffra Road and West Simpson Street will experience flooding. ■ Properties on Stephenson Street, Johns Street, Dargo Street, Stevens Street and Parks Street will experience flooding. ■ Agricultural land in Myrtleford and Sale experiences flooding.
2.40m	Minor flood level, See page 4.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Low lying areas of Myrtlebank-Fulham Road may be affected by floodwater. ■ Low-lying areas of Princes Highway between Foster Street and Settlement Road, Canal Reserve, Dargo Street and Park Street experience flooding. ■ Rural roads including Waterworks Road, Centre Road, Pooleys Road, Spencers Road, Kearys Road, Tangees Road and Butchers Road areas experience flooding. ■ Stephensons Street, Maxfield Road, Lacey Street and low-lying areas around Flooding Creek experience flooding . ■ Areas of Lake Wellington and Sale Wetlands become challenging to navigate while flooding.

*The height measurement is at the [Thomson River at Sale Wharf gauge](#).

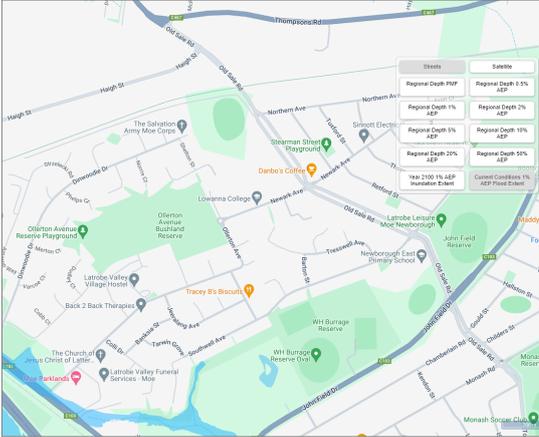
^This table includes information from previous flood events

What roads are likely to flood?

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

For current road closures, check [VicTraffic](#). [VicEmergency](#) may include road closures in its warnings, see [page 7](#) for more information.

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.



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see [page 7](#) 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.

Port of Sale, October 2023. *Sale Gippsland Times*, Zoe Askew.

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/west_gippsland.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 100.7FM or 828AM, Gold 1242AM, 99.9

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

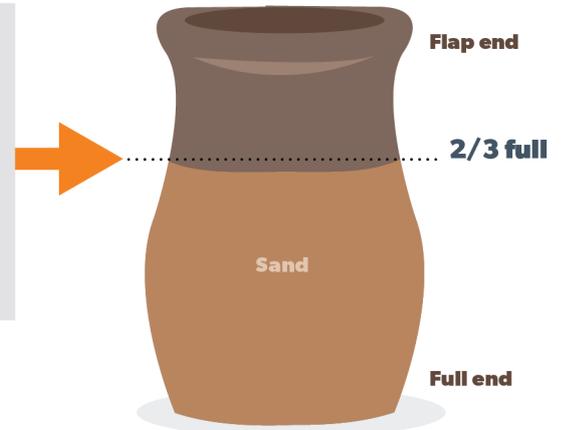


Sandbagging

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

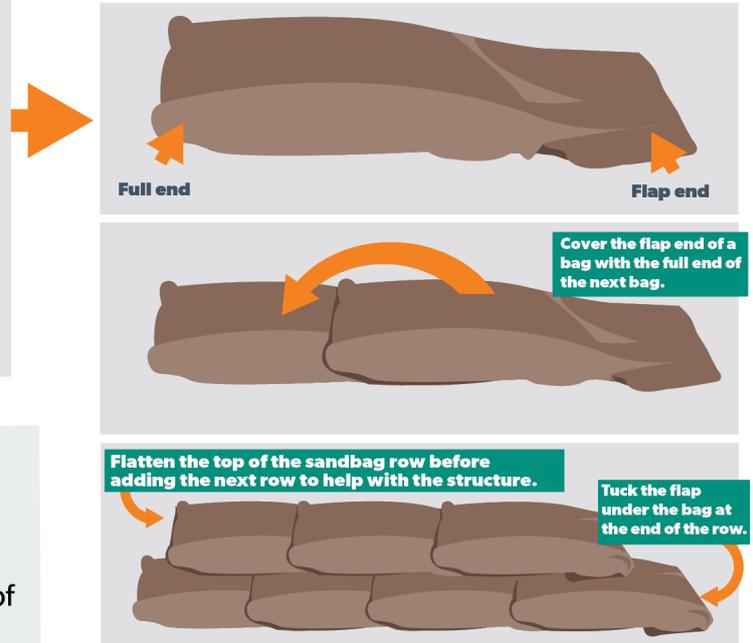
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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.

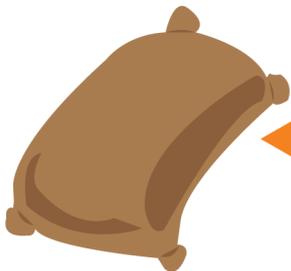


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

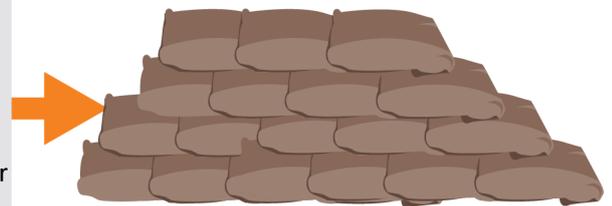


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.