



Local Flood Guide

Healesville

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.

Content reviewed: April 2025



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

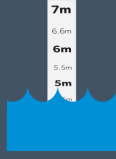


This material/publication was produced with funding provided by the Australian Government in partnership with the States and Territories under the National Partnership Agreement for Disaster Risk Reduction.


Local flood information



There have been many significant flood events in Healesville between 1984 and 2021.



During the June 2021 flood event, the Watts River peaked at 3.34 metres at the Healesville Gauge.



Flooding can happen quickly after heavy rainfall, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.

Why does Healesville flood?

Healesville 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

- Riverine flooding happens when the Watts River and/or Grace Burn Creek rise and overflows their banks, spilling water onto land.
- Healesville is built around the Watts River, and parts of the town are on the floodplain. The naturally low-lying areas more likely to be impacted in a flood.
- Prolonged rainfall over a number of days or weeks may cause the Watts River to overflow, affecting the centre parts of the town.



Flash flooding

- Flooding from the Watts River with flows from the Grace Burn Creek can cut off the northern, southern and eastern parts of Healesville from each other for short periods.
- During heavy or prolonged rainfall, the ground may be unable to absorb the amount of rain, naturally causing the water to pool.

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

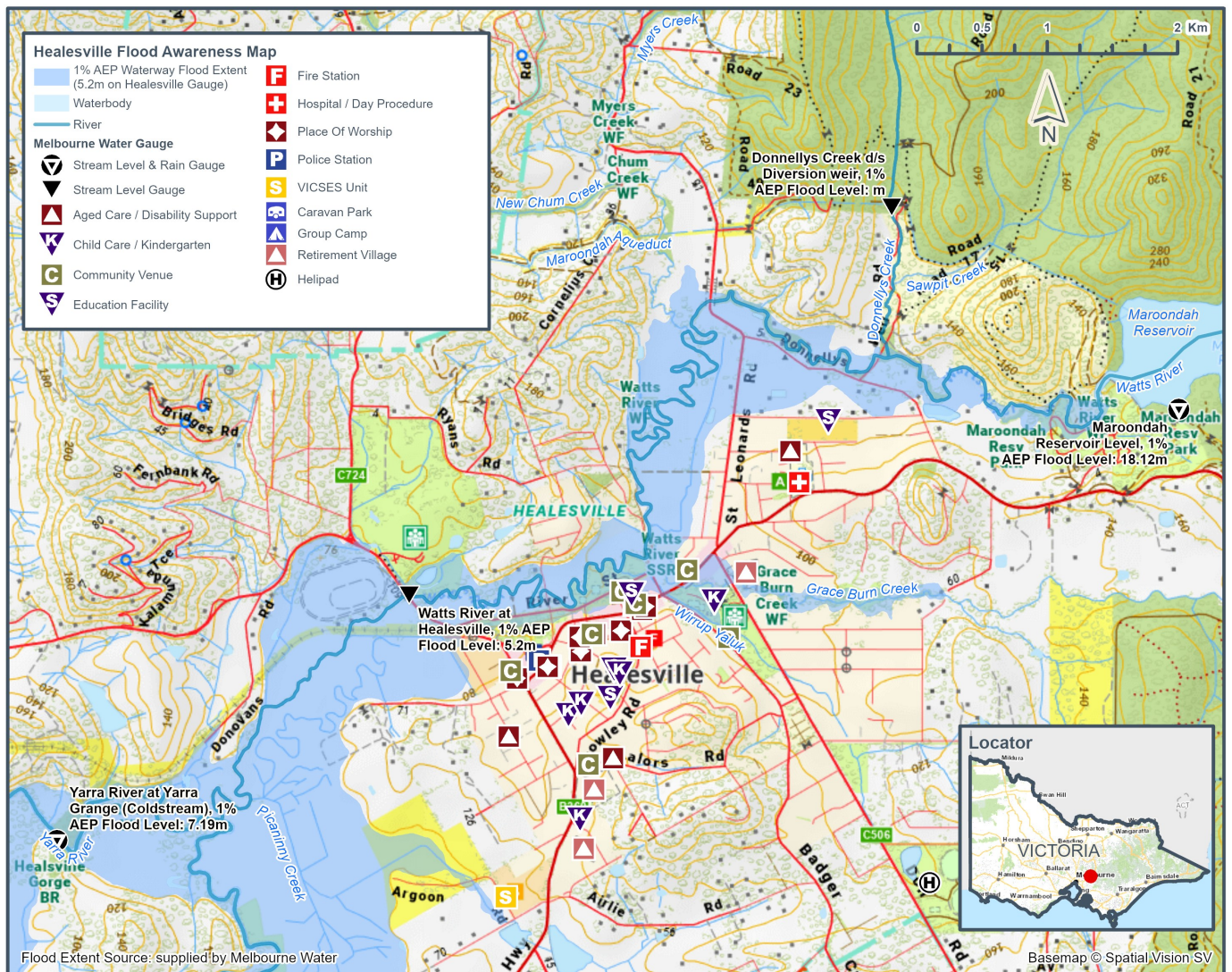


Sewage overflows inside building

Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

If this map 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 a significant flood event.
- 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.



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^
5.10 metres 1% AEP As shown on map on page 4.	55 properties at risk of flooding. In addition to areas affected at a moderate and minor flood levels, community infrastructure that may be flooded include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Healesville RSL carpark ■ Healesville Walk Shopping Centre ■ Healesville Amateur Racing Club ■ Healesville Tourist Railway line west of Healesville-Kinglake Road. ■ Tennis Courts, Netball Court, Skate Park and BBQ areas in Queens Park ■ Queens Park Kindergarten ■ Entrance to Maroondah Retirement Village via Don Road ■ Car Park on River Street holding Community Market (1st Sunday Each Month) Essential infrastructure likely impacted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sewer Emergency Relief point, Railway Parade, Healesville
	Extensive area flooding expected with properties likely flooded.
4.0 metres	Major flood level
3.35 metres	Community infrastructure that may be impacted by floodwater includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bus Routes 684, 685, 686, 687 & 965 (Night Bus) likely impacted along Maroondah Highway and Routes 686, 685 & 965 along Don Road, Healesville.

Continued on page 6

	<p>4 properties at risk of flooding.</p> <p>In addition to the Coronation Park Picnic area and carpark, community infrastructure that may be flooded at this flood level includes Queens Park. River Street, Healesville is approximately 0.40m under water.</p>
3.20 metres	Moderate flood level
<p>3.18 metres</p> <p>16 October 2021 flood peak level</p>	<p>Flood event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Maroondah Reservoir reached 16.60m with more than 35cm flowing over the spillway. ■ Juel Crescent flooded. ■ 2 properties on Donnellys Weir Road, Healesville impacted by flooding.
	<p>2 properties may be impacted at this level.</p> <p>Community infrastructure that may be impacted by floodwater include the Coronation Park carpark, and the Coronation Park Picnic area behind the Healesville Walk Shopping Centre.</p> <p>Water over the road may occur River Street, Healesville.</p>
2.85 metres	Minor Flood Level

*The height measurement is at the Healesville gauge at the Kinglake Road Bridge.

^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 below may flood and could be closed.

For current road closures, check [VicTraffic](#). [VicEmergency](#) may include road closures in its warnings, see [page 9](#) for more information.

- Bradshaw Drive
- Camerons Road
- Don Road
- Donnellys Weir Road
- Glenfern Road
- Healesville—Kingslake Road
- Juel Crescent
- Maroondah Highway
- Maroondah Parade
- Myers Creek Road
- Railway Parade
- River Street
- Rutter Avenue
- St Leonards Road
- Walkers Lane
- Wallace Parade
- Weiss Road
- Wilson Street





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.

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.

2012 flood event

- During the July 2012 flood event, wild weather brought down trees and caused flooding of the Healesville Caravan Park.

June 2021 flood event

- During the June 10, 2021 flood event, the Watts River floodwaters peaked at 3.34 metres at the Healesville Gauge.
- River Street and Wilson Street flooded.
- Coronation Park, Queens Park and Beachworth Bakery carpark flooded.

October 2021 flood event

- During the October 16, 2021 flood event, the Watts River floodwaters peaked at 3.18 metres at the Healesville Gauge.



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

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

For general advice about flooding and controls based on planning zones and overlays.

- **Melbourne Water**
melbournewater.com.au | 13 17 22

Local Council

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

- **Yarra Ranges Council**
yarraranges.vic.gov.au | 1300 368 333

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.

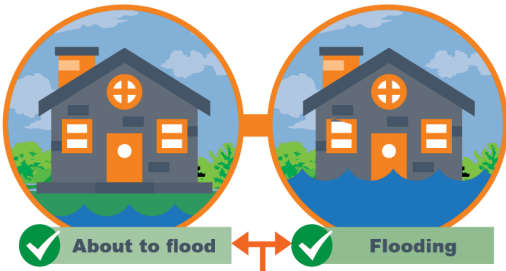



For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



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/melbourne.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 774 AM | 3AW 693 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.

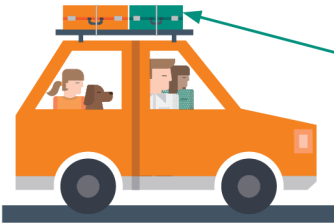
3



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:



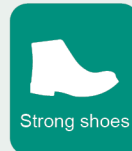
Phone & charger



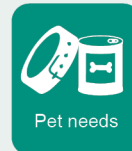
Prescriptions & medication



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

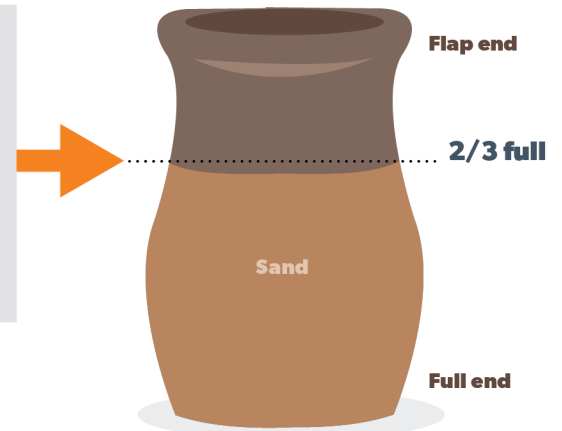


Sandbagging

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

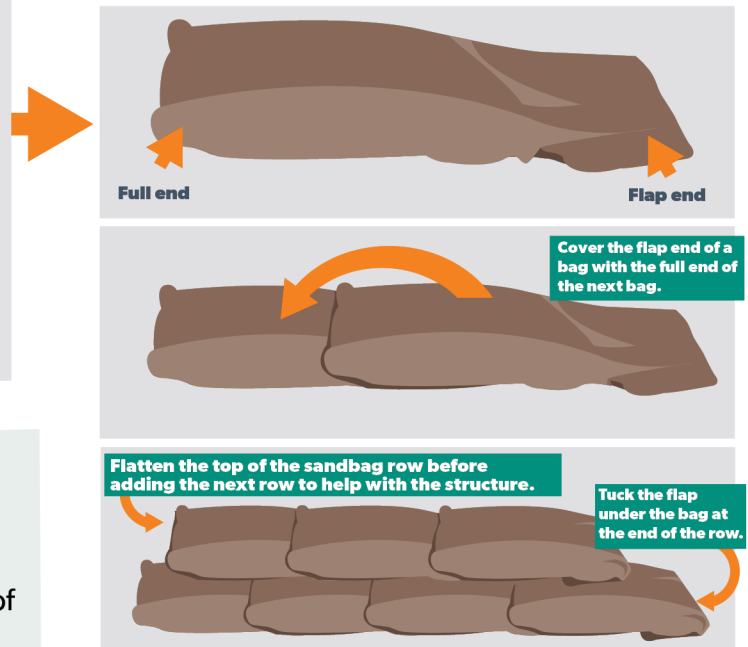
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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.

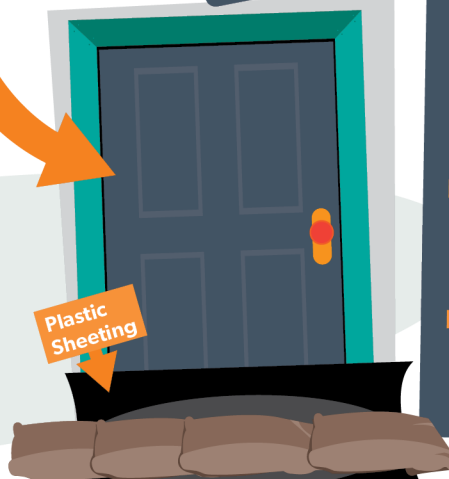


Where do I place the sandbags?

- 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



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.

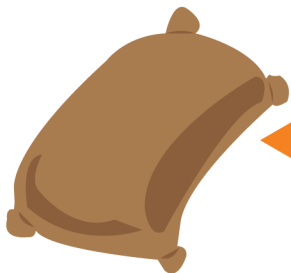


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

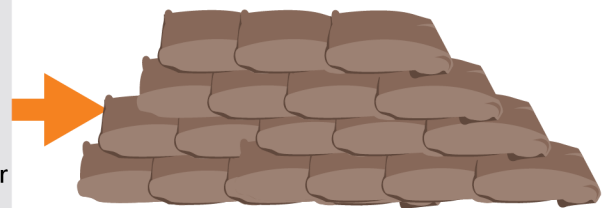


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.