



Local Flood Guide

Yarra Glen

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



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**



If life threatening
call triple zero 000

Contents



■ Local flood information	<u>Page 3</u>
Why does Yarra Glen flood?	<u>Page 3</u>
How do floods impact communities?	<u>Page 3</u>
Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater	<u>Page 4</u>
What might happen in a flood in your area?	<u>Page 5</u>
What roads are likely to flood?	<u>Page 6</u>
Previous flood impacts	<u>Page 6</u>
Your local services	<u>Page 6</u>
■ Plan and prepare for floods	<u>Page 8</u>
■ What to do in a flood emergency	<u>Page 9</u>
■ Sandbag Guide	<u>Page 10</u>



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

	<p>There have been many significant flood events in Yarra Glen between 1992 and 2021.</p>		<p>The largest flood on record was in 2011 when the floodwater reached 4.77 metres at Yarra Glen Gauge.</p>		<p>Flooding can happen quickly after heavy rainfall, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.</p>
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Why does Yarra Glen flood?

Yarra Glen 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.

- The towns of Yarra Glen and Yering are located on a floodplain, which means that in a flooding event the water is expected to spread and will move slowly downstream.
- Flooding along the Yarra River can vary from fairly rapid rises and falls around Warburton and Healesville to slow water movement with prolonged flooding around Yarra Junction and Yarra Glen.
- Prolonged rainfall over a number of days or weeks can cause the Yarra River to overflow and flood the surrounding areas causing riverine 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

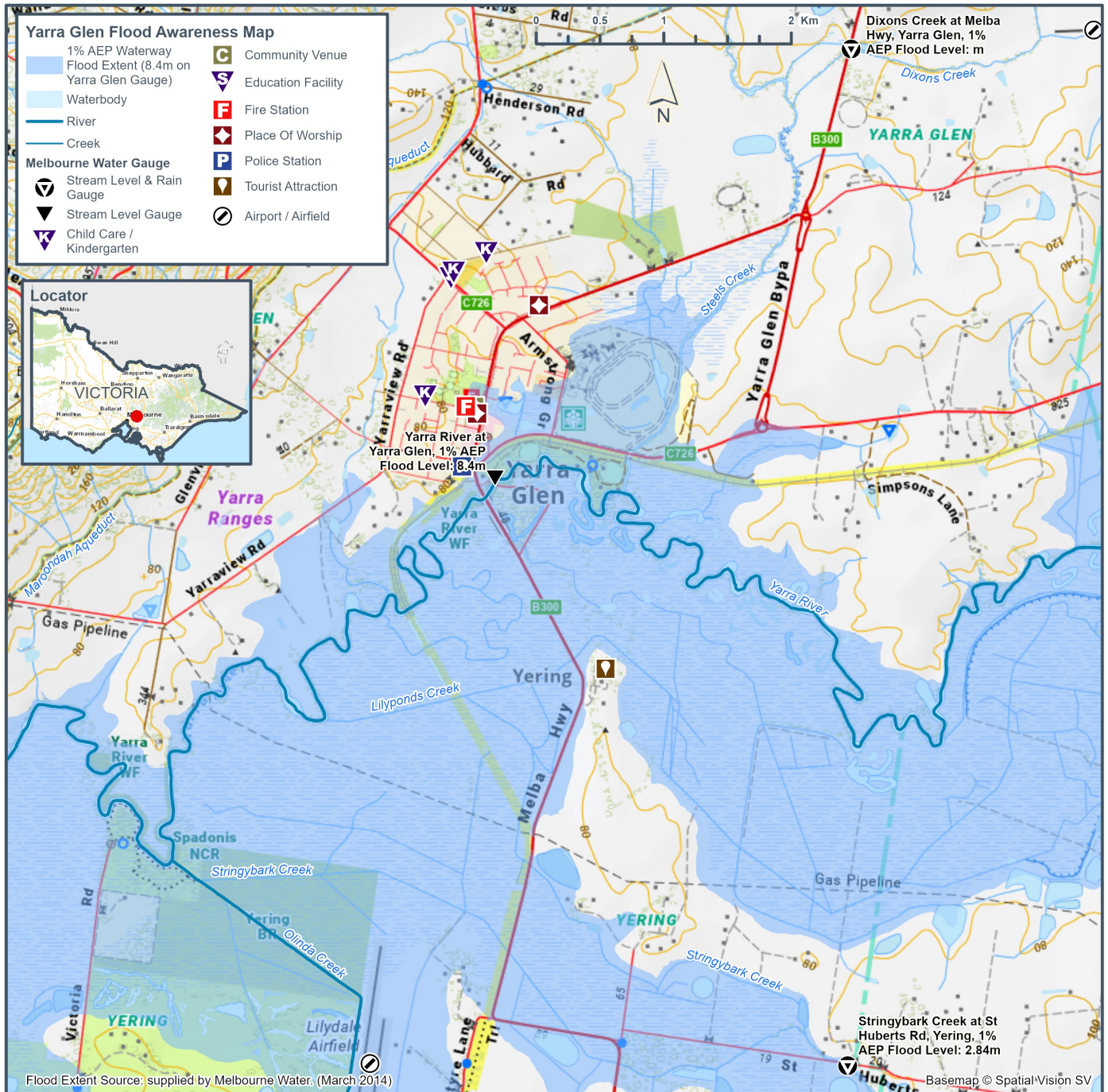


Sewage overflows inside building

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.

Floodwater height (metres)*	Potential impacts
4.10	Minor flood level
	<p>No properties are at risk of flooding. The BBQ area entrance to the Yarra Glen Recreation Reserve and into the toilet block at Sport Oval, Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road, sections of the Yarra Glen Racecourse, Yarra Flats Billabongs pedestrian bridge and internal track, and Spadoni's Nature Reserve internal track are at risk of flooding.</p> <p>Water over the road is possible at the lowest point on Melba Highway.</p>
4.57	Moderate flood level
	<p>1 property at risk of flooding.</p> <p>Community infrastructure that may be flooded at this flood level include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Most of the Yarra Glen Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds ■ More sections of the Yarra Glen Racecourse ■ Yarra Flats Billabongs pedestrian bridge and internal track ■ Spadoni's Nature Reserve <p>Water over the road is possible on the Melba Highway between Lilyponds Creek Bridge and Yarra Glen.</p>
5.0	Major flood level
	<p>14 properties at risk of flooding.</p> <p>Community infrastructure that may be flooded at this flood level include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lilydale Airport ■ Bus routes 685 and 965 may be restricted along Healesville-Yarra Glen Road, Yarra Glen <p>Water over the road may occur on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Healesville-Yarra Glen Road, Yarra Glen between Bell Street and Yarra Valley racecourse ■ Armstrong Grove Yarra Glen
8.40 Flood height shown on map, see page 4.	<p>26 properties at risk of flooding.</p> <p>Community infrastructure that may be flooded include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Yarra Valley Tourist Railway flooded between Yarra Glen Railway Station and Healesville Railway Station <p>Roads that may be impacted by floodwater:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Healesville-Yarra Glen Road, Yarra Glen between Melba Highway and Yarra Glen Bypass. ■ Melba Highway, Yarra Glen with significant levels in parts between Healesville-Yarra Glen Road and St Huberts Road in Yering. ■ Yarraview Road, Yarra Glen.


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.

- The Healesville-Yarra Glen Road, between Bell Street and Yarra Valley Racecourse and between the Melba Highway and the Yarra Glen Bypass
- Armstrong Grove
- Bell Street
- Yarraview Road





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.



2011 flood event

- On 7 February 2011, floodwaters peaked at the Yarra Glen Gauge at 4.77 metres.
- Floodwater impacted the Melba Highway at Yarra Glen and Yering between St Huberts Road and Bell Street. Roads were closed for more than 24 hours.
- The Yarra Valley Racecourse was flooded.

2021 flood event

- On 11 June 2021, floodwaters peaked at the Yarra Glen Gauge at 4.656m.
- Melba Highway at Yarra Glen and Yering between St Huberts Road and Bell Street. Roads were closed for 48 hours.
- The Yarra Valley Racecourse was partially flooded.
- Yarra Glen Recreation Reserve flooded.

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.

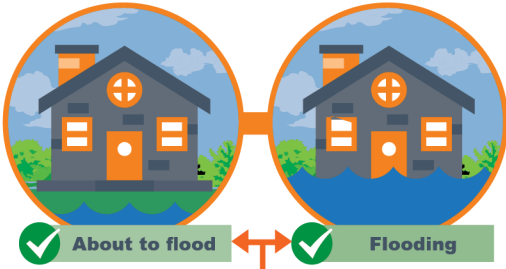



For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



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, Yarra Valley 99.1 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.

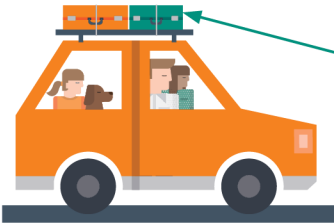
3



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:



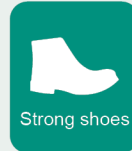
Phone & charger



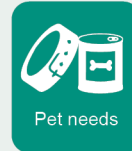
Prescriptions & medication



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



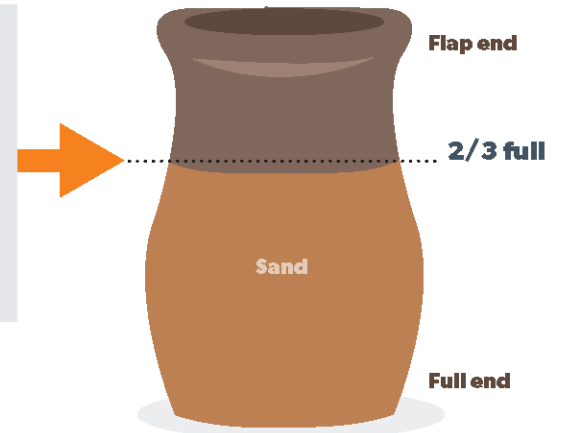
Sandbagging

Protecting your home

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

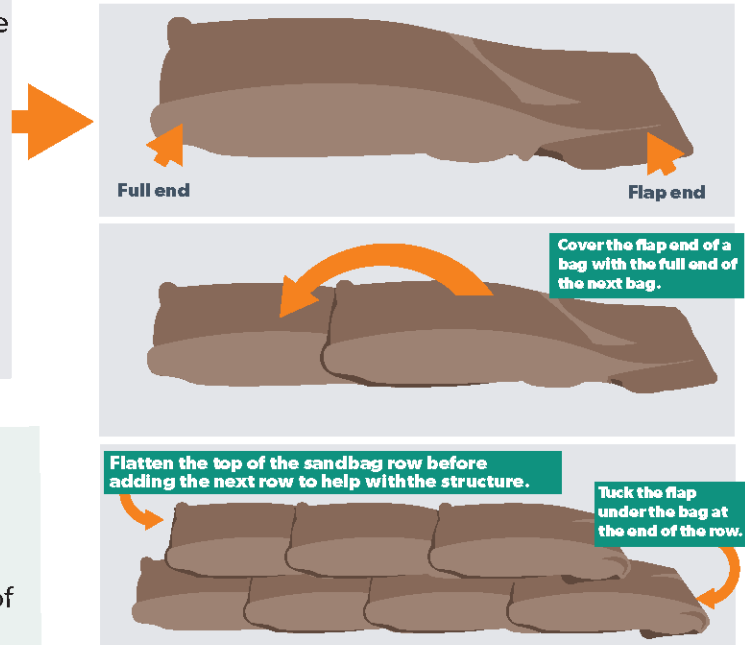
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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 or hand scoop

Where can I purchase these supplies?

- Many sandbag supplies can be purchased from hardware stores or garden centers.
- VICSES do not routinely supply sandbags to households.
- During floods, sandbag distribution points may be established in flood-affected areas.

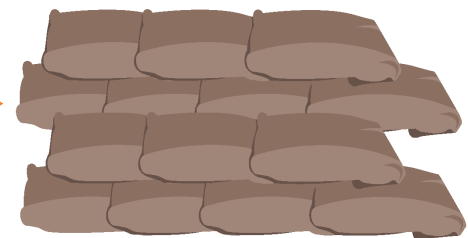


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.