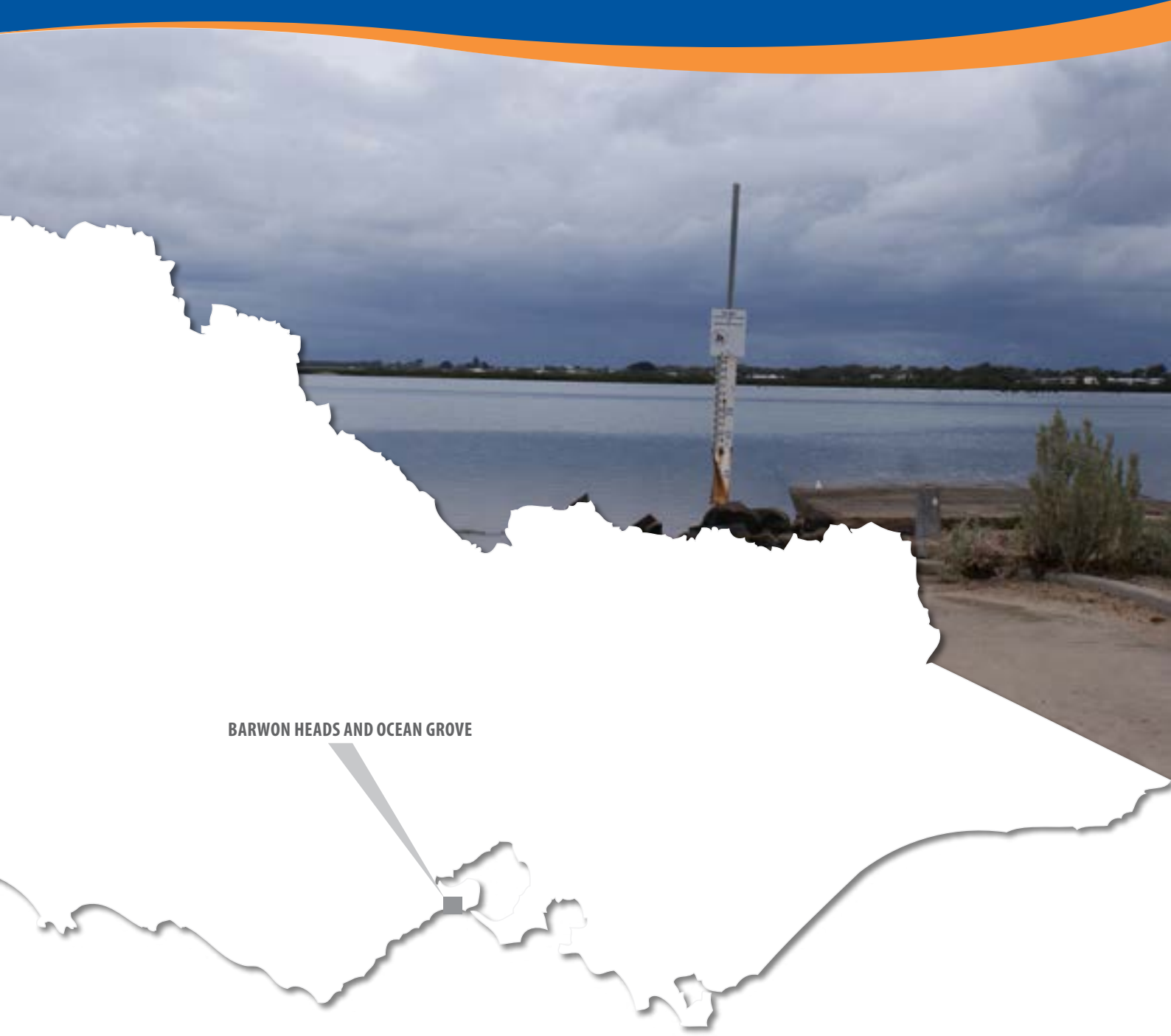




Local Flood Guide Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove



Flood information for the Barwon River at Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove



BARWON HEADS AND OCEAN GROVE



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**

For more information visit
www.ses.vic.gov.au

The Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove local area

Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove are located on the banks of the Barwon River below Lake Connewarre on the Victorian coast in the City of Greater Geelong.

The towns are highly influenced by their surrounding waterways, including the Barwon River which runs along both the northern and eastern border of Barwon Heads and Bass Strait which runs along the southern border. These areas are at risk of flooding, from the Barwon River and Murtnaghurt Lagoon.

The map below shows the impact of flooding in the area at 6.0 metres on the McIntyre Bridge Gauge in Geelong, which is used for Flood Warnings for the area.

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- ABC Radio 774 AM
- Stereo Bay 93.9 FM
- Stereo K-Rock 95.5 FM
- SKY NEWS Television

City of Greater Geelong

Phone: (03) 5272 5272

Email: contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

Web: www.geelongaustralia.com.au



Disclaimer

This map publication is presented by the Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information have not been independently verified by the Victoria State Emergency Service. No liability is accepted for any damage, loss or injury caused by errors or omissions in this information or for any action taken by any person in reliance upon it. Flood information is provided by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.

Are you at risk of flood?

Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove are subject to flooding from the Barwon River. In addition, stormwater runoff in Barwon Heads is released into the Barwon River through storm water pipes and pumps or into groundwater in the region, increasing the risk of stormwater and flash flooding.

Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove can also experience flash flooding from heavy rainfall overwhelming the local drainage system.

The effects of storms and flooding is likely to impact areas close to Murnaghurt Lagoon, west of the Barwon Heads township.

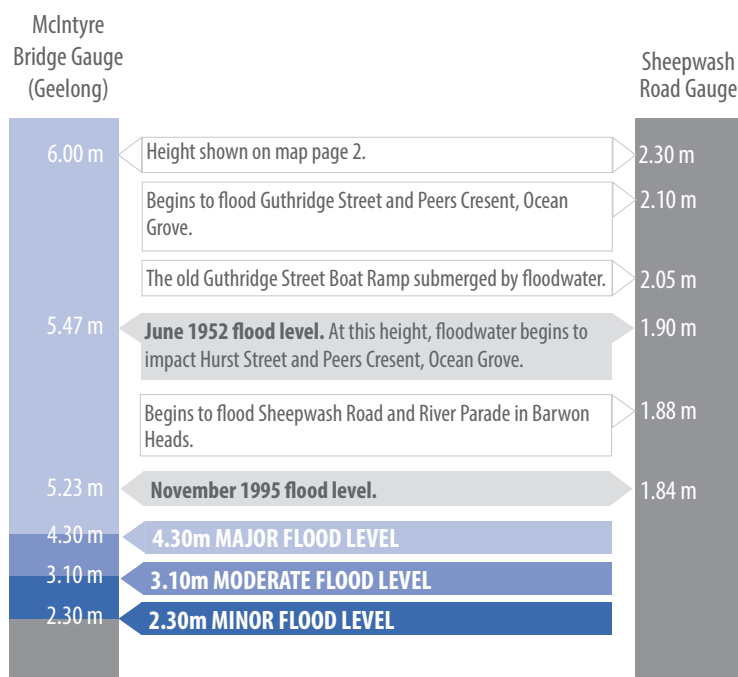
Areas of Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove are also subject to flooding from tidal surge. Floods can be more severe when combined with a king tide.

Flood gauges in Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove

Flood levels are recorded at gauges along the Barwon River. When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues a Flood Warning, the predicted flood level will correspond with the Barwon River Gauge located at the McIntyre Bridge Gauge in Geelong.

The Sheepwash Road Gauge is not monitored by BoM but can provide some useful information about potential impacts of flooding in the area, particularly around comparisons of previous events.

The following table gives an indication of how Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove might be impacted at different levels based on river height levels recorded on the Sheepwash Road Gauge in comparison with the McIntyre Bridge Gauge in Geelong:



Did you know?

Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove have a history of flooding including in 1880, 1909, 1951, 1952, 1973, 1978, 1995 and 2002. In 2002, flash flooding occurred when 89 millimetres of rain fell in the area over 24 hours.

Local knowledge indicates that the most severe flood experienced in the area was in 1952 which measured 1.9 metres on the Sheepwash Road Gauge. This flood was caused when 560 millimetres of rain fell over four days in the Otways Catchment, flowing down the Barwon River.

This flood lasted for weeks and was caused when the Barwon River overflowed, flooding the towns.

During this flood:

- Floodwater broke through a five foot high sandbag wall built to try and save the town.
- 400 people were rescued and evacuated from flooded houses.
- Floodwater remained in low-lying areas for nearly six weeks.

This flood occurred prior to the Plummer Bank (Flood Levee) being rebuilt following the 1995 flood.

No levee is flood proof and no two floods are the same. Floods like this or worse could occur in the area again. Be aware of the risks and be prepared for floods in this area.

Once the Barwon River has peaked at Geelong, it usually takes between 20 to 36 hours to reach Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove depending on size of the flood.



River Gauge, which is replicated in the area (see map page 2).

About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to tell people about possible flooding.

A **Flood Watch** means there is a developing weather pattern that might cause floods in one or two days.

Flood Warnings mean flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major Flood Warnings.

A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Reach the top of the river banks.
- Come up through drains in nearby streets.
- Cover low-lying areas including riverside camping areas.
- Affect some low-lying caravan parks.
- Cover minor roads, tracks and low level bridges .
- Spread across land or go into buildings on some properties and farms.

A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Spill over river banks and spread across low-lying areas.
- Start to threaten buildings, roads, rail, power and other developments.
- Require evacuation in some areas.
- Cover main roads.

A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Cause widespread flooding.
- Threaten many more houses and businesses.
- Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water.
- Disrupt major roads and transport routes.
- Require many evacuations.

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) will give information about how the floodwater might affect people and properties. This includes safety messages to remind you what to do.

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe, due to their potential to cause significant localised damage through: wind gusts, large hail, tornadoes or flash flooding. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued to the community by BoM.

Severe Weather Warnings

These warnings are issued to the community by BoM when severe weather is expected that is not directly related to severe thunderstorms, tropical cyclones or bushfires. Examples of severe weather include damaging winds and flash flooding.

Flash flooding happens quickly. There may be little or no warning. The arrival time or depth of a flash flood can not always be predicted.

Remember, you may not receive any official warning.

Emergency assistance may not be immediately available. Be aware of what is happening around you to stay safe.

Never wait for a warning to act.

Emergency Alert

SES may provide alerts to the Barwon Head and Ocean Grove communities through the National Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All emergency services providers can use Emergency Alert to warn communities about dangerous situations by voice message to landline telephones or text message to mobile phones.

If you receive a warning including an Emergency Alert make sure that all family members, people at work and your neighbours are aware of the situation.

If you receive an Emergency Alert you should pay attention and act. It could mean life or death.

If you need help to understand a warning, ask a friend, neighbour or family member.

Flood Warnings for Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove

For the Barwon River, **Flood Warnings** are issued by BoM. Flood Warnings provide predictions of flood size (minor, moderate or major), time and possible peak at the various gauges. It is important to note that you may be affected prior to the river reaching its peak.

Predictions for the Barwon River at Barwon Heads are based on the McIntyre Bridge Flood Gauge in Geelong. It is important to know how the predicted flood levels are likely to affect you (See *page 3: Flood gauges in Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove*). Use this table to figure out when you need to start following your emergency plan.

NOW – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding.
- Check if you could be cut off by floodwater.
- Know the safest way to go if you decide to leave your property and an alternative route.
- Check your home and contents insurance. Many properties are not covered for flood damage.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Develop an emergency plan.
- Put together an emergency kit.

When a flood is likely

- Take action. Follow your emergency plan.
- Listen to your radio for information and advice.
- Check your neighbours are safe and know about the flood.
- Stack possessions on benches and tables with electrical goods in the highest places.
- Anchor objects that are likely to float and cause damage.
- Move rubbish bins, chemicals and poisons to the highest place.
- Put important papers, valuables, photos and other special personal items into your emergency kit.
- Business owners should raise stock, business records and equipment onto benches and tables.
- If you are likely to be isolated, have enough food, drinking water, medicine, fuel and other needs to last at least three days.
- Do not forget pet food and stock feed.

Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who have planned and prepared for emergencies have reduced the impact and recovered more quickly.

Taking the time to think about emergencies and make your own plan helps you think clearly and have more control to make better decisions when an emergency occurs.

Your emergency plan should identify:

- The types of emergencies that might affect you.
- How those emergencies might affect you.
- What you will do before, during and after an emergency.
- Where to get more information.
- Where you will go if you evacuate and the best way to go in different circumstances.
- A list of phone numbers you will need, including emergency service providers, your insurance company, friends and family.



Visit ses.vic.gov.au to obtain a copy of your Home Emergency Plan workbook

The time for me to evacuate is before:

Evacuation

Victoria Police is responsible for coordinating an evacuation in an emergency. During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency service providers may advise you to evacuate to keep you safe. It is important that you follow this advice.

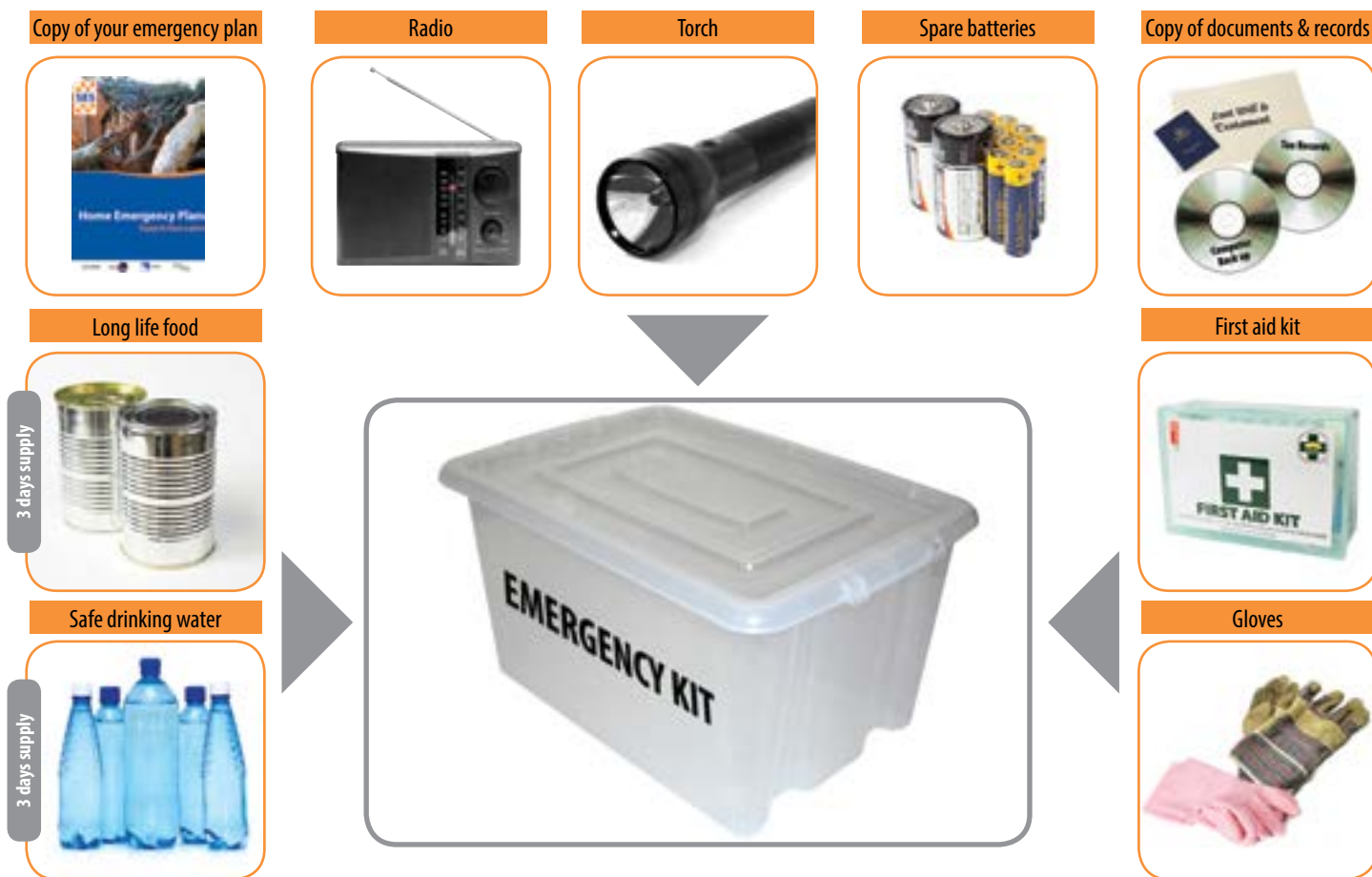
There are two types of evacuation notices that may be issued during a flood:

- **Prepare to evacuate** – means you should act quickly and take immediate action to protect your life and property. You should prepare to leave.
- **Evacuate immediately** – you must leave immediately as there is a risk to lives.

Remember you can leave at any time if you feel unsafe. You do not have to wait to be told to evacuate.

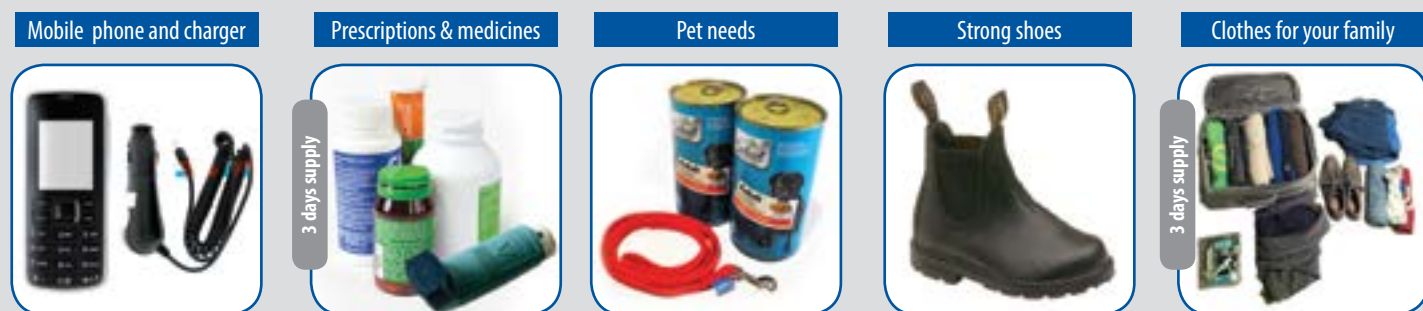
Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:



Check your kit often. Make sure things work. Replace out of date items.

When a warning is issued, have ready for use or pack into your kit:



I need to add:

Write your list here. Tick items as you pack them into your kit.

- Special needs _____
- Photos _____
- Family keepsakes _____
- Valuables _____
- Documents _____
- Other _____

During and After a Flood

Never
Drive, Ride or Walk
Through Floodwater

During a Flood

When flooding has begun:

- **Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater.**
- **Floodwaters can be deep and damage roads and bridges.**
- **Do not let your children play or swim in floodwater.** It is dirty, dangerous and deadly.
- Tune in to your emergency broadcasters: ABC Local Radio, Commercial Radio, designated Community Radio Stations and SKY NEWS Television.
- In life-threatening emergencies, call Triple Zero (000).
- **For emergency help from SES in floods and storms call 132 500.**
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen powerlines as electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals, snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood. These animals can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to leave early.

When you leave early

- Leaving early is always the safest option, leave well before roads are closed by floodwater.
- Take your emergency kit and three days supply of clothing with you.
- Turn off the electricity, gas and water as you leave.
- Take your pets with you. Do not leave them behind. Dogs should be muzzled.

Go to a relief centre or to stay with friends or family in higher areas.

Relief Centre staff can help you with:

- Temporary accommodation
- Financial help
- Personal support
- Drinks and meals
- Basic clothing and personal needs
- Help to contact family and friends.

If you choose to shelter with a friend or relative, tell authorities where you are staying.

After a Flood

Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to fall. To make sure you stay safe:

- Keep listening to local emergency broadcasters.
- Do not return home until advised that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- Drink bottled water or boil all drinking water until advised that the water supply is safe.
- Throw away any food or medicines that may have been in contact with floodwater.
- When entering the building, use a torch to light your way. Never use matches, cigarette lighters or any other flame as there may be gas inside.
- Keep the electricity and gas off until checked and tested by a professional.
- Clean your home straight away to stay healthy.
- Take photographs of all damage for insurance.
- Contact Council to let them know about structural damage to your home.

How SES helps the community

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service. Although SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible. Therefore it is advisable for you to be prepared for emergencies so that you can share responsibility for your own wellbeing during those times. In a flood, SES assistance may include:

- Giving flood advice
- Protecting essential services
- Helping to protect infrastructure
- Rescuing people from floodwater
- Advising of an evacuation.

To assist your preparation, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of the SES Home Emergency Plan by visiting ses.vic.gov.au.



Emergency Checklist

NOW: Flood Preparation

- Check if your home and contents insurance covers flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business emergency plan, see ses.vic.gov.au

When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning

- Listen to Severe Weather Warnings for flash flooding.
- Listen to radio and check the SES website for more information and advice.
- Go over your emergency plan. Pack clothing and other extra items into your emergency kit and take this with you if you evacuate.

When flooding may happen soon (a Flood Warning)

- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Be ready to evacuate. Act early, conditions change rapidly, roads and escape routes can be covered or blocked. Don't forget to take pets and medicine with you.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage. Raise chemicals and oils well above the forecast flood height.
- Move pumps, machinery, hay and livestock to higher ground.

During the flood

- For SES emergency assistance, call 132 500.
- DO NOT drive, ride or walk through floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods.
- NEVER allow children to play in floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods for children and young people.
- Stay away from drains, culverts and waterways as water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, powerlines and damaged buildings.

After the flood: Recovery

- If your property has been flooded, check with City of Greater Geelong for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:

-  ses.vic.gov.au
-  facebook.com/vicses
-  twitter.com/vicseswarnings

Emergency Contacts

Life-threatening emergency **000** Triple Zero
Police Fire Ambulance TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) **132 500**
For SES emergency assistance

SES Information Line **1300 842 737**
Operates during major floods or storms
1300 VIC SES
ses.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) **1300 659 217**
Weather Information, forecasts, warnings
bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS) www.relayservice.com.au
The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or Triple Zero (000) using NRS:

	DIAL	THEN ASK FOR
■ Speak and Listen (SSR) users phone	1300 555 727	132 500
■ TTY / Voice users phone	13 36 77	132 500

Internet Relay users log into www.iprelay.com.au/call/
then enter: **132 500 or 000**

VicRoads **13 11 70**
Road closures and hazard reporting service
vicroads.vic.gov.au

City of Greater Geelong **(03) 5272 5272**
Council Flood and Recovery Information
contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au
www.geelongaustralia.com.au

Weather district for this region: Central District

Emergency Broadcasters
Emergency broadcasters include ABC Local Radio, commercial radio stations across Victoria and SKY NEWS Television.

- ABC Local Radio 774 AM
- Stereo Bay 93.9 FM
- K-Rock 95.5 FM
- SKY NEWS Television

Complete the following and keep this information handy close to the phone:

Your electricity supplier: _____

Your gas supplier: _____

Doctor: _____

Vet: _____

Insurance: _____

Policy number: _____

Phone number: _____