



Flood Safety in Swan Hill

March 2023

We will talk about:

- ✓ **Floods in Australia**
- ✓ **Before a flood**
- ✓ **Flood warnings**
- ✓ **Flood safety**
- ✓ **After a flood**
- ✓ **Health, animals and insects**
- ✓ **Financial support and emergency relief**



Questions

Floods in Australia



Riverine flooding

Water comes over the top of the banks of Rivers or Creeks



Flash flooding

A lot of rain happens quickly and water floods Streets or Houses



Flood warnings



Emergency warning

You are in danger and need to take action. You will be impacted.



Watch & Act

An emergency is developing near you. Take action to protect yourself and others.



Advice

Something is happening near you. Try to find out more information from **trusted sources**.



• **Radio**

- ABC Local 104.3FM, 594AM and 1062AM
- River 1467AM
- Hit 99.5FM
- Triple M 97.9FM



More information



If someone's life is in danger,
Call **000**



Call **132 500** for help from the SES:

- Your house is flooded
- There is water around your house
- A tree has fallen down
- Your roof is damaged or leaking



For help to get ready, go to
www.ses.vic.gov.au



For the latest information go to:

www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Vic Emergency Hotline Call **1800 226 226**

*If you don't speak English call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** for translated information from VicEmergency Hotline.*

Before a flood



1

Find out if floods happen where you:

- work
- live
- plan to visit



2

Know where the **safe areas** are, and how to get there safely.

3

Keep a list of emergency contacts.



4

Make an emergency kit:

- battery powered radio
- torch
- spare batteries



5

If you own a house, check your **home and contents insurance** is up to date and covers you for flood.

Insurance means you:

- pay small amounts of money over time
- get money back to fix damage after an emergency. Like money to fix a window after a storm.



If you rent, you still need **Contents insurance** so you can replace damaged items, like a fridge.

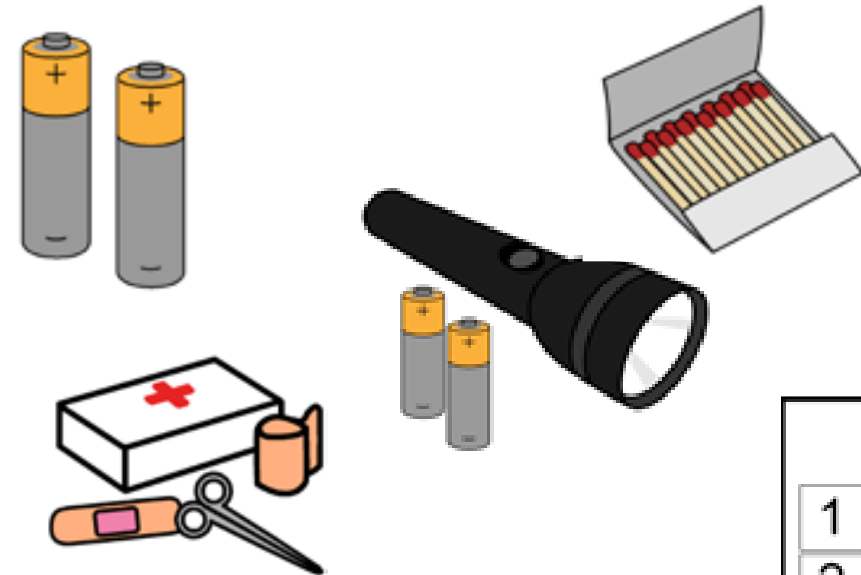
Get your emergency kit ready

Save time in an emergency. Have your emergency kit packed.



Your emergency kit needs:

- waterproof bag for important items
- battery powered radio
- Torch & spare batteries
- first aid kit
- important papers with contact numbers
- a copy of your Home Emergency Plan

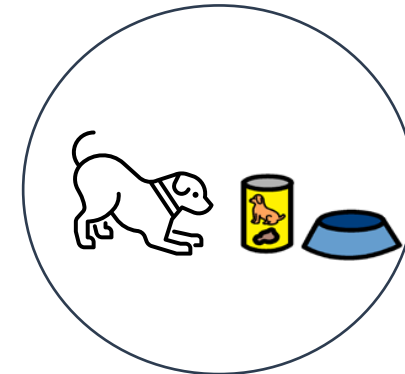


PLAN	
1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____

Take your emergency kit with you

Before you leave home, add:

- phone and charger
- medications
- clothing and sturdy/waterproof footwear
- special things your family need
- toiletries like soap and a toothbrush
- **Prescriptions:** notes from the doctor that let you get medicine
- **Non perishable food:** food that doesn't go in the fridge or freezer
- Bottles of water
- Pet leads, food and bowls.



Flood safety

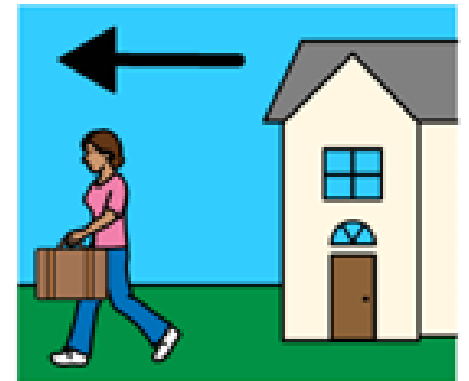


If there is a flood:

- **never** drive, ride or walk in floodwater
- find information from **trusted sources**
- be ready to **evacuate**

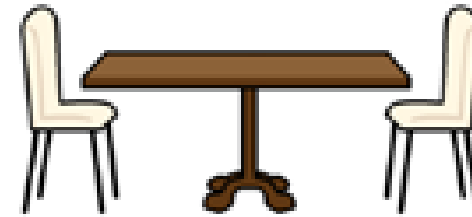


- I. Evacuate means leave your house until it is safe to go home
- II. Act early in a flood. Roads can close when the flood gets worse
- III. Listen to emergency services for help to stay safe



Prepare your home:

- remove Candles and matches (fire hazard)
- put electrical items on tables and benches.
- put important items on tables and benches.
- tie things down so they **cannot** float. For example, plastic furniture or a BBQ.
- Block entry points to home, toilets and drains with sandbags to stop sewage backflow.



Check the news for information about how to stay safe.



<https://soundcloud.com/user-760283919/sets/victorian-flood-news-nembc>



Make sure other people are safe

You might call

- family
- friends
- neighbours.



There are some people who might need more help in a flood:

- older people
- babies
- people who are sick
- people who need help to move around. For example, a person who uses a walking frame.



Flood waters are dangerous and can make you sick



Do not let children play in flood water



Do not go home until it is safe



Do not drive in flood water



Do not fish in flood water



Do not swim in flood water



Do not eat dead fish you find

Who helps during a flood?



State Emergency Service (SES)



Victoria Police



Country Fire Authority (CFA)



Australian Defence Force



Emergency relief centres

Community Relief Information Hub

Swan Hill

Basketball Stadium

15 Gray Street, Swan Hill

An Emergency Relief Centre (ERC) was established at the Swan Hill Basketball Stadium and is available 24 hours, 7 days during the flood response.



Swan Hill Rural City Council

<https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/floods/>

After a flood

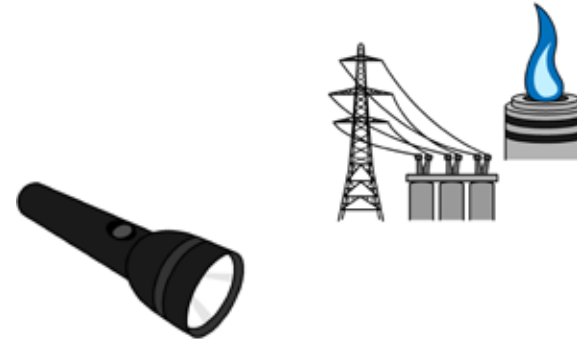


Going home



When you get home after a flood there are things you must do to be safe.

- turn electricity and gas **off** before you go inside.
- use a torch to look through the inside of your house.
- look for damage to the windows, walls and roof.
- Check all food, particularly refrigerated foods should be thrown out and not consumed.



EMERGENCY RECOVERY VICTORIA

FLOOD RECOVERY HOTLINE
1800 560 760

Press 9 for an interpreter

Open every day
7:30am – 7:30pm

VICTORIA

The banner features a blue background with white and yellow text. On the left, there is a stylized illustration of a person with purple hair wearing a headset and working on a laptop. The Victoria logo is in the bottom right corner.

When you get home after a flood there are things you should **not** do.



- do **not** use gas or **electrical appliances** until they are checked for safety.



Electrical appliances are things you use in your home that plug into power sockets.

- kettle
- iron
- hair dryer.



Health, animals and insects



Mould

Mould grows in damp or wet areas with poor ventilation.

For example, a house that has been flooded.

Mould that is in your house can grow and spread.



When you go home **after a flood**:

- look around for mould.
- Is there a musty, damp smell?
- Mould is likely if your house has been flooded. It is important to clean up and dry out the house as quickly as possible.
- Open windows and doors to let air through.



Cleaning up mould:

If you decide to remove mould yourself, make sure you:

- Keep all windows and doors open
- Wear **protective clothing** (shower cap, rubber gloves, eye protection, overalls, suitable footwear and a face mask)



Snakes

After a flood, animals – mice, rats, snakes or spiders - may be in your home, shed or garden.

After a flood:

- ✓ wear boots, gloves and long pants to protect your legs
 - ✓ pay extra attention to your hands and feet when cleaning
 - ✓ if you see a snake, step back and allow it to move away - do not touch it
 - ✓ be aware of snakes swimming in the water
 - ✓ remove waste from around your house. It can attract snakes, spiders, and rodents.
-
- If you find a snake in your house, do not panic.

Call the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186 for a list of snake catchers in your area.



Venomous Snakes



Mainland Tiger Snake



**Highland Copperhead Snake/
Lowland Copperhead Snake**



Red-bellied Black Snake



Eastern Brown Snake



Eastern Small-eyed Snake

If bitten by a snake:

- ✓ **Call ambulance immediately**, regardless if you think it venomous or not
- ✓ **Don't panic and don't move**, staying calm and still can stop the spread of venom in your body
- ✓ **Leave the snake alone**
- ✓ **Apply a pressure immobilisation bandage and splint**
- ✓ **Don't wash, suck, cut or tourniquet the bite**



Spiders

If you are bitten by a spider:

- ✓ wash the area and use ice packs to help with the pain
- ✓ do not apply pressure
- ✓ seek medical help immediately if you were bitten by a redback spider or if your symptoms worsen.



Red back



White-tailed



Funnel-web



Mouse



Huntsman



You can get help from your doctor or
Call NURSE-ON-CALL 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on **1300 60 60 24**

What is it?

Professional Health information and advice in your language

Call Multicultural Health Connect

- ✓ Find health services such as doctors, hospitals and community health centres.
- ✓ Get health advice from a nurse.
- ✓ Better understand Australia's health system and where to get help.
- ✓ Learn about COVID-19, including managing the disease, COVID-19 vaccines, isolation and close contacts.



1800 186 815

Available 11:30am-8pm, 7 days a week including public holidays

Health information and advice from staff who understand and respect your culture and language

healthdirect.gov.au



This service is provided by Healthdirect Australia on behalf of the Australian Government with assistance from the Victorian Department of Health



Multicultural Health Connect: 1800 186 815

Classification: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



**World
Wellness
Group**

Mice, rats and insects

- Mice and rats carry diseases. Remove food and other items that can attract mice and rats.
- Get rid of garbage and place a lid on the rubbish bin. Use traps in dry areas if needed.
- Flies carry diseases. Clean up leftover food and scraps that flies are attracted to straight away.



Mosquitos

- Mosquitoes carry diseases and spread them by biting you.
- Mosquitoes are around pools of water left behind after a flood.
- Mosquitos carry JEV and Ross River Virus that can make you sick. Cover your body as much as possible and use a mosquito repellent.

Keep safe:

- Cover up. Wear long, light, loose-fitting clothes
- Use repellent that has **Picaridin** or **DEET**
- Do not spray repellent on babies or children. You can rub repellent on their clothes instead of their skin. Do not put repellent on their hands.



Food and drinking water safety

If your garden has been flooded, the food you are growing may not be safe to eat.

Do not eat:

- leafy vegetables, such as spinach, cabbage, lettuce and kale
- produce that was already damaged before the flood.
- *A tomato with split skin with exposed flesh will not be safe to eat.*



Drinking water from a tank or the town water supply

- Floodwater can contaminate tanks and other water supplies.
- If your water supply looks, smells or tastes unusual, do not use it **until you can check it is safe**



Floods can be scary

After a flood, people can have many different **reactions** – some may be upsetting. This is common.

Reactions can include: feeling helpless, grief, sadness, anger, trouble sleeping, or unhelpful things like drinking more alcohol or arguing with people around you.



Ask for support from people who care about you and that you trust.

[Click this link for more information about Swan Hill District Health Services](#)

Refugee Health Nurse:

Sonya Plant

Tel: 03 5033 9337

125 Campbell Street

Swan Hill, VIC, 3585

SPlant@shdh.org.au

Do activities that are enjoyable for you. This can help to gain a sense of control, balance, meaning and purpose.



Give yourself time to adjust.





More information



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VICTORIA
State Government



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