



FloodSafe Week 2014

FloodSafe Week 2014

Monday 19 May - Sunday 25 May

The Victorian State Emergency Service (SES) runs FloodSafe Week every year as an opportunity to raise awareness of the risk of flooding in Victoria. The FloodSafe program seeks to build community resilience by helping communities understand floods and be prepared.

The key message of FloodSafe Week 2014 is:

“Never enter floodwater...you don't know what you're getting into”

Floodwater is filthy, toxic and dangerous. Entering floodwater is extremely dangerous. Avoid these risks by never entering floodwater: It's that easy.

Why is floodwater dangerous?

- By the time floodwater has reached your neighbourhood, it has picked up all kinds of awful materials including toxic chemicals, animal faeces, decaying animals, garbage, broken glass and twisted metal.
- Anyone who comes into contact with floodwater may be exposed to E.Coli infection, diarrhoea, hepatitis and infections and dermatitis to name a few. Any wounds you have can easily become infected.
- Driving through floodwater is the biggest killer of adults in Australian floods. Floodwater can also wash away roads or bridges, creating slips and sinkholes, so even seemingly shallow water across a familiar road can pose danger.
- Floodwater as shallow as the bottom of your car door can sweep away your vehicle, and by then you've already lost control. Don't ever risk driving through floodwater.
- It isn't just drowning that kills. Floodwater also contains a range of dangers – dangers that may harm your kids if they play in it. Staying out of floodwater is an important part of keeping your family safe.

FloodSafe Week events

SES volunteers will be holding a range of events to discuss flood preparedness with their local community including displays, school visits and launching new Local Flood Guides for high risk communities.

FloodSafe Week is an opportunity to meet local SES volunteers and learn how people and businesses can get prepared and ready for floods. A little preparation goes a long way and everyone needs to take responsibility for their own safety and find out what their local flood risk is.

For a full list of FloodSafe Week events, or for information on putting together an emergency kit or emergency plan visit:

- ses.vic.gov.au
- [facebook.com/vicses](https://www.facebook.com/vicses).



Upper Murray near Walwa, 2010



Yogi, Wangaratta's unofficial flood gauge

For more information, contact your SES Community Resilience Coordinators Sue Sheldrick and Nattalie Brown.

■ Ph: 03 9256 9650

■ Email: northeast@ses.vic.gov.au

ses.vic.gov.au



How to prepare for floods

Every home and business should prepare for floods by putting together an emergency kit including a torch, radio, first aid kit, important documents, bottled water, food and medicines for three days. Practicing what you will do in an emergency (emergency plan), learning about local flood risk, and knowing where to find information in an emergency will also help you to prepare.

SES experience shows that people who prepare for flood ahead of time suffer fewer ill-effects and bounce back more quickly. Working together, Victorians can create a safer and more resilient community.

Flooding in north east Victoria

The mountains, valleys, flat plains, towns and farms have all experienced some type of flooding in the past. Big floods like the 1993 flood happened roughly every 15-20 years.

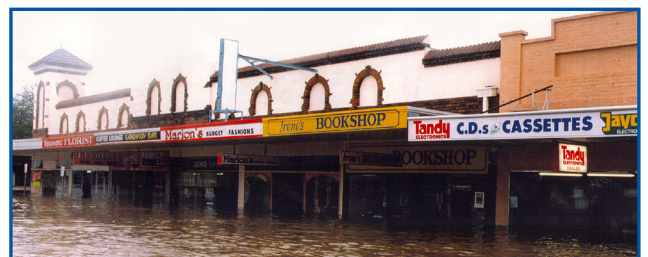
In recent times, rainfall has been heavier resulting in damaging floods at unusual times of year. Floods can be more dangerous in areas that have recently experienced a bushfire.

Flooding in north eastern Victoria can occur via:

- Flooding from rivers, creeks and other waterways which happen when too much rain overflows rivers and creeks.
- Flash flooding which can occur after heavy rain. Rain overflowing from gutters or drains can travel over the land, through buildings and along roads. Flash floods can rise quickly, be powerful and fast moving. Hilly areas are particularly prone to flash flooding as floodwater moves downhill more quickly.
- Dams or levees collapsing or being overtopped by floodwater.

Thunderstorms can also bring other dangers. Strong winds can blow over trees or damage power lines. Large hail can block downpipes and damage roofs.

If you live, work or travel in north eastern Victoria, watch the weather, check for warnings and know what you will do if you are affected by a flood. Floods are dangerous and deadly. People and animals can drown. Floods can damage buildings, wash away bridges and roads, cause landslides and make driving and walking very dangerous.



Benalla, 1993 flood



Numurkah area, 2012 flood

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