



# Skipton

## Local Flood Guide

Riverine flood information for Mt Emu Creek at Skipton



For flood emergency assistance call  
**VICSES on 132 500**



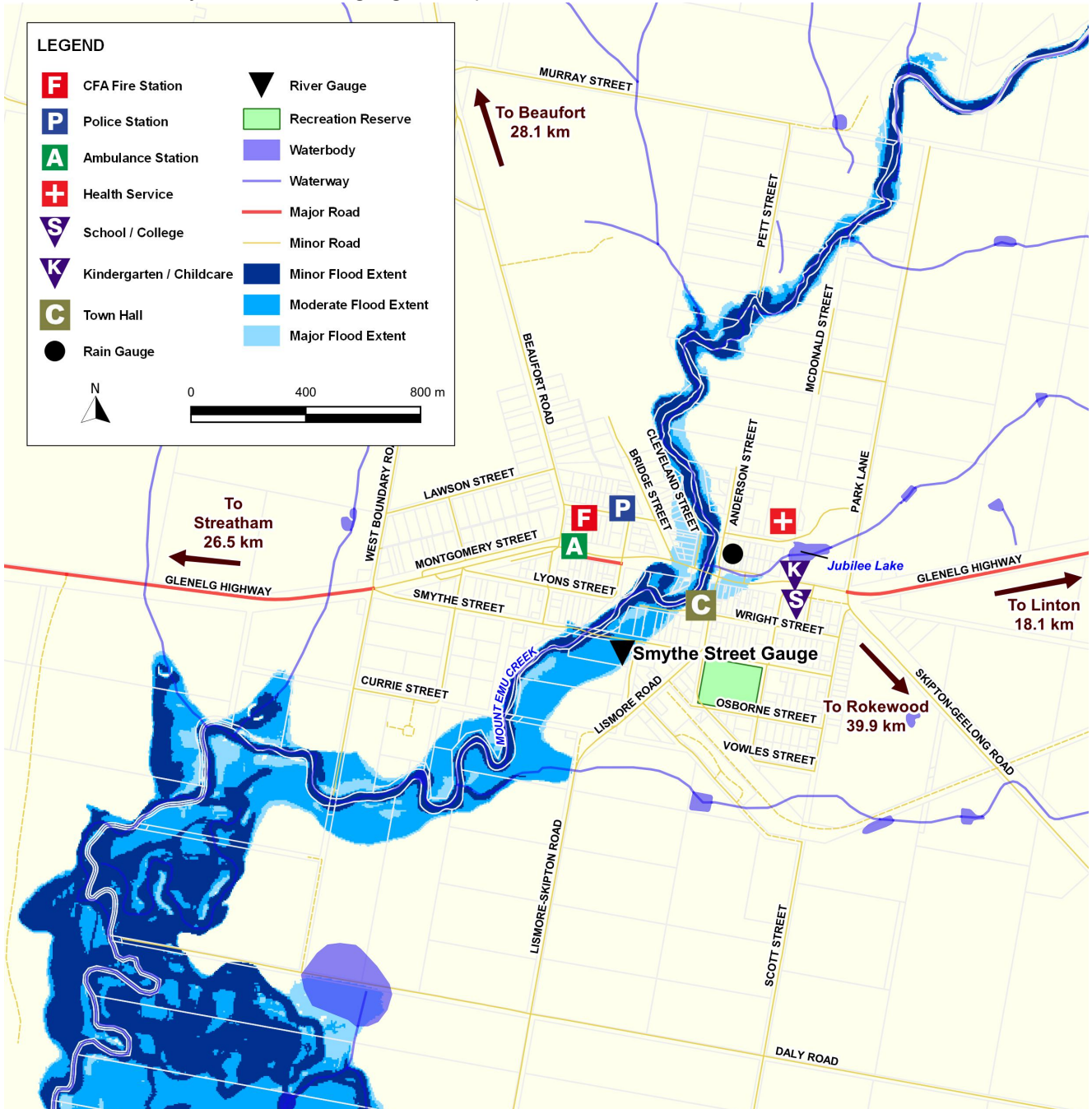


### Skipton

Skipton is a small rural township approximately 50 kilometres west of Ballarat. It is situated on Mount Emu Creek.

Skipton is located on a natural floodplain and has a history of flooding, including 1909, 1933, 1963, 2011 and 2022 (more details below).

The following map shows the expected flooding in a major flood in Skipton. A major flood measures 5.1 metres on the Smythe Street flood gauge in Skipton.



#### Disclaimer

This map publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information havenot been independently verified by 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 Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.



## Are you at risk of flood?

Flooding in Skipton occurs from two major sources:

- Flash Flooding from Skipton reservoir (otherwise known as Jubilee Park Lake) caused by intense rainfall over a short period of time, and;
- Riverine Flooding from Mt Emu Creek due to widespread and prolonged rainfall in the area, causing water to overflow from the creek into surrounding low-lying areas.

### Where does it flood?

Roads and properties on either side of Mount Emu Creek are most impacted in flood events, as seen in the 2011 flood. In particular, properties along the lower end of Montgomery Street experience flooding and the Glenelg Highway Bridge can be overtopped, which splits the town in two.

### What has changed since the last flood?

In 2016, works were completed to increase the capacity of culverts along Montgomery Street. These works have significantly reduced flooding caused by Jubilee Park Lake spills. In 2022, the Bureau of Meteorology announced new warning times ahead of minor and moderate flooding. See page 5 and 6 for more information.

## Did you know?

Skipton has experienced extensive and frequent riverine flooding from Mt Emu Creek. Significant flooding in the area has occurred in 1980, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1992, 1995, 1996, 2010, 2011, 2016, 2019 and 2022.

The January 2011 flood was the largest flood event recorded in Skipton. During this flood, 145.5 millimetres of rain fell on already wet ground over the previous five days, causing:

- Flooding many of the shops and businesses along Montgomery Street.
- 30 residential properties inundated, with flood water depths of over 1.5 metres in some properties.
- Covering the Glenelg Highway Bridge, closing the highway for more than two days and splitting the town in two.



**No two floods are the same. Floods like this or worse could occur again.**

**If you live in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding or need to detour around flooded areas.**

**Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property.**

**Floodwater is dangerous – never walk, ride, drive or play in floodwater.**

### Glenelg Highway Bridge Mural



*Glenelg Highway Bridge pylon mural by Jimmy Buscombe (Corangamite Shire)*

In 2022, a mural artwork was completed on the south-eastern pylon of the Glenelg Highway Bridge on Montgomery Street. The mural features a platypus, a brolga, and a flock of galahs on a background of gum trees and river reeds.

The mural was conceived by community members during flood planning in 2018, and acts as an informal gauge for people to determine if flood waters are rising, and to quickly communicate approximate water depth to others.



## Mount Emu Creek flood levels at the Skipton Gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height at the Smythe Street Bridge, Skipton.

While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you an indication of what you could expect at certain flood heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected.

### Average Exceedance Probability (AEP)

Flood risk is often described as a percentage based on the Average Exceedance Probability (AEP). The AEP is a percentage chance of a flood occurring in any given year (e.g. a 1% AEP flood has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year).

This means that the higher the percentage, the more likely a flood of that size will occur in any given year, and smaller percentages indicate less likely flood that might have bigger impacts. Example: A 1% flood is less likely to occur, but more damaging than a 10% flood, which is more likely to occur but is expected to be less damaging.

Height (metres)	Impact/level
6.07	1% AEP Flood/1-in-100 year: 37 properties are impacted by floodwater, with 26 flooded above floor.
6.04	January 2011 Flood (see map page 2): Properties on the lower end of Montgomery Street are flooded and Skipton is split in two as the Glenelg Highway Bridge is overtopped.
5.76	Floodwater overtops the road on both sides of the Glenelg Highway Bridge and additional properties are flooded.
5.23	5% AEP/1-in-20 year: Floodwater impacts 32 properties, with multiple properties on Montgomery Street flooded above-floor. Access is cut to Wright, Montgomery, Hardy and Cleveland Streets.
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Major flood level</b>
4.97	September 2010 Flood Level
4.88	October 2022 Flood level. 10% AEP/1-in-10 year: Floodwater breaks out from the eastern bank of Mt. Emu Creek, and overtops Wright Street and Smythe Street. Three properties may be impacted by floodwater.
<b>4.7</b>	<b>Moderate flood level</b>
4.18	20% AEP/1-in-5 year: Stewart Park fills early. No overbank flows of Mt. Emu Creek within Skipton. No properties flooded. Flooding overtops the Smythe Street Bridge, cutting access.
<b>4.00</b>	<b>Minor flood level</b>
2.35	October 2020. Minimal flooding on low-lying rural farmland.

## Staying Informed and Further Information

- Current warnings (VicEmergency) [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://emergency.vic.gov.au) 1800 226 226
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) [bom.gov.au/vic/warnings](https://bom.gov.au/vic/warnings) 1300 659 217
- VicRoads Traffic [traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](https://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)
- Emergency Broadcasters  
 ABC 107.9 FM  
 Power 103.1 FM  
 3BA 102.3 FM  
 SKY NEWS Television
- VICSES Social Media [facebook.com/vicses](https://facebook.com/vicses)  
[twitter.com/vicsesnews](https://twitter.com/vicsesnews)
- Preparing for Flood Emergencies [ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe](https://ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe)
- Creating an Emergency Plan [redcross.org.au/prepare](https://redcross.org.au/prepare)
- Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority [ghcma.vic.gov.au](https://ghcma.vic.gov.au) 03 5571 2526

**Life-threatening  
Emergency: 000**  
**VICSES Storm/Flood  
Emergency: 132 500**






# Flood warnings and emergency checklist

## Bureau of Meteorology Warnings

**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. This service covers the whole state.

A **Flood Warning** means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major flood warnings. This service is only available where flood warning systems are in place. The table on page 4 shows what might be occurring in Skipton at each flood warning level.

 A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:
Spill over river banks and cover nearby low lying areas.	Spill over river banks and cover larger areas of land.	Cause widespread flooding.
Come up through drains in nearby streets.	Reach above floor levels in some houses and buildings.	Many houses and businesses are inundated above floor level.
Require the removal of stock in some cases.	Require evacuation in some areas.	Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water.
Cover riverside camping areas and affect some low-lying caravan parks.	Affect traffic routes.	Closes major roads and rail routes.
Cover minor roads paths, tracks and low level bridges.	Require the removal of stock in rural areas.	Require many evacuations.
Affect backyards and buildings below floor level.		Affect utility services (power, water, sewage etc).
Mt Emu Creek reaches minor flood level at 4m. <b>You may receive a minor flood warning 6 hours before this level is reached.</b>	Mt Emu Creek reaches moderate flood level at 4.7m. <b>You may receive a minor flood warning 12 hours before this level is reached.</b>	Mt Emu Creek reaches major flood level at 5.1m. <b><u>You may not receive a major flood warning in advance: Stay informed and monitor conditions.</u></b>

## Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe when there is 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 or bushfires. Examples of severe weather include damaging winds and flash flooding.

## Flash Flooding

- Flash Flooding can occur quickly due to heavy rainfall. You may not receive an official warning.
- Stay informed: monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the BoM website and warnings through VicEmergency.



## VICSES Warnings

VICSES utilises the VicEmergency app, website and hotline to distribute flood warnings and emergency information in Victoria. Communities can also access this information through VICSES social media channels and emergency broadcasters.

VICSES warnings aim to provide you with information to help you make good decisions to protect yourself and your family. The warning level is based on severity, conditions and the likelihood that the emergency could impact on the community.

### WARNING LEVELS

	<p><b>EMERGENCY WARNING</b></p> <p>You are in imminent danger and need to take action now. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p><b>WATCH AND ACT</b></p> <p>An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others. A Moderate flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p><b>ADVICE</b></p> <p>An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions. A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.</p>

### EVACUATION

If an evacuation is recommended, you will be guided to do so in the action statement in the warning.

	<p><b>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY</b></p> <p>An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>
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### ADDITIONAL MESSAGES

	<p><b>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Can be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community; or to issue a newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.</p>
	<p><b>EMERGENCY ALERT</b></p> <p>During some emergencies, we may alert communities by sounding a local siren, or by sending an SMS to mobile phones or a voice message to landlines.</p>

## Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time and with little warning. People who plan and prepare for emergencies can reduce the impact and recover faster.

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

Visit [redcross.org.au/prepare](https://redcross.org.au/prepare) start creating your plan.

- 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 Kit

Visit [Emergency Toolkit](#) for more information



Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit with supplies for 3 days:



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 (eg, babies, elderly and people with a disability)	
Photos	
Family keepsakes	
Valuables	
Other	



## Emergency Checklist

- Check if your insurance policy covers flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers in your mobile phone.
- Download the Vic Emergency app on your mobile phone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business.
- Emergency plan, see <https://www.redcross.org.au/prepare>



## Before Flooding

- Leaving early before flooding occurs is always the safest option. Evacuating through floodwater is very dangerous and you may be swept away.
- Stay informed- monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the <http://www.bom.gov.au> and warnings through [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage.
- Listen to the radio and check the VICSES website for 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.

## During Flooding

- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Conditions change rapidly; roads and escape routes can be covered or blocked.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.
- Seek shelter indoors, away from floodwater.
- If floodwater comes inside, move to a higher point such as a kitchen bench or second storey.
- Stay away from trees, drains, low-lying areas, creeks, canals, culverts and floodwater.

## Evacuating in Flooding

- Flood water is dangerous. Never enter floodwater. It can take just 15cm of water to float a car.
- Find alternative travel routes if roads or underpasses are flooded.
- Be aware of driving hazards, such as mud, debris, damaged roads and fallen trees. If driving conditions are dangerous, safely pull over away from trees, drains and floodwater.

## After Flooding

- For recovery information, contact your local council, go to the VicEmergency Relief and Recovery-[emergency.vic.gov.au/Relief](http://emergency.vic.gov.au/Relief) page or call the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226).
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.
- Stay away from damaged and flooded buildings, fallen trees and powerlines and damaged roads until authorities advise it is safe to do so.
- Drive slowly, obey all road signs and never drive through floodwater.
- When cleaning, protect your health and safety. Wear strong boots, gloves and protective clothing and wash your hands and clothes regularly.

For VICSES emergency assistance, call **132 500**,  
or **Triple Zero (000)** in life threatening emergencies.