



# Local Flood Guide

## Maribyrnong

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



FLOOD STORM  
EMERGENCY **132 500**



If life threatening  
call triple zero 000

# Contents

■ <b>Local flood information</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Page 3</a></u></b>
Why does Maribyrnong flood?	<u><a href="#">Page 3</a></u>
How do floods impact communities?	<u><a href="#">Page 3</a></u>
Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater	<u><a href="#">Page 4</a></u>
What might happen in a flood in your area?	<u><a href="#">Page 5</a></u>
Your local services	<u><a href="#">Page 5</a></u>
■ <b>Plan and prepare for floods</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Page 6</a></u></b>
■ <b>What to do in a flood emergency</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Page 7</a></u></b>
■ <b>Sandbag Guide</b>	<b><u><a href="#">Page 8</a></u></b>



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.


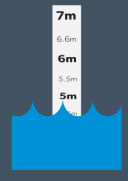

**Content reviewed:** May 2024



For more information visit: [ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe](https://ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe)



## Local flood information

	<p>There have been 7 significant flood events in Maribyrnong between 1906 and 2022.</p>	 <p>The largest flood on record was in 1906 when the floodwater reached 4.50 metres at The Chifley Drive Gauge.</p>	 <p>Flooding can happen within hours, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.</p>
---	---	--	--

## Why does Maribyrnong flood?







Heavy rainfall can cause **flash flooding**. This can happen quickly and you may not receive an official warning. Although these floods only last short time, they can cause severe damage.

- The ground may be unable to absorb the amount of rainfall naturally causing the water to pool. More buildings and less green spaces can impact this.
- The Maribyrnong River may quickly rise, causing water to rise and overflow its banks.



## How do floods impact communities?

Even if your home or workplace stays dry, floods can impact you in many ways.

					
<p>Buildings flooded</p>	<p>Road closures</p>	<p>Drinking water supply and quality affected</p>	<p>Power outages</p>	<p>Mobile and internet network outage</p>	<p>Sewage overflows inside building</p>

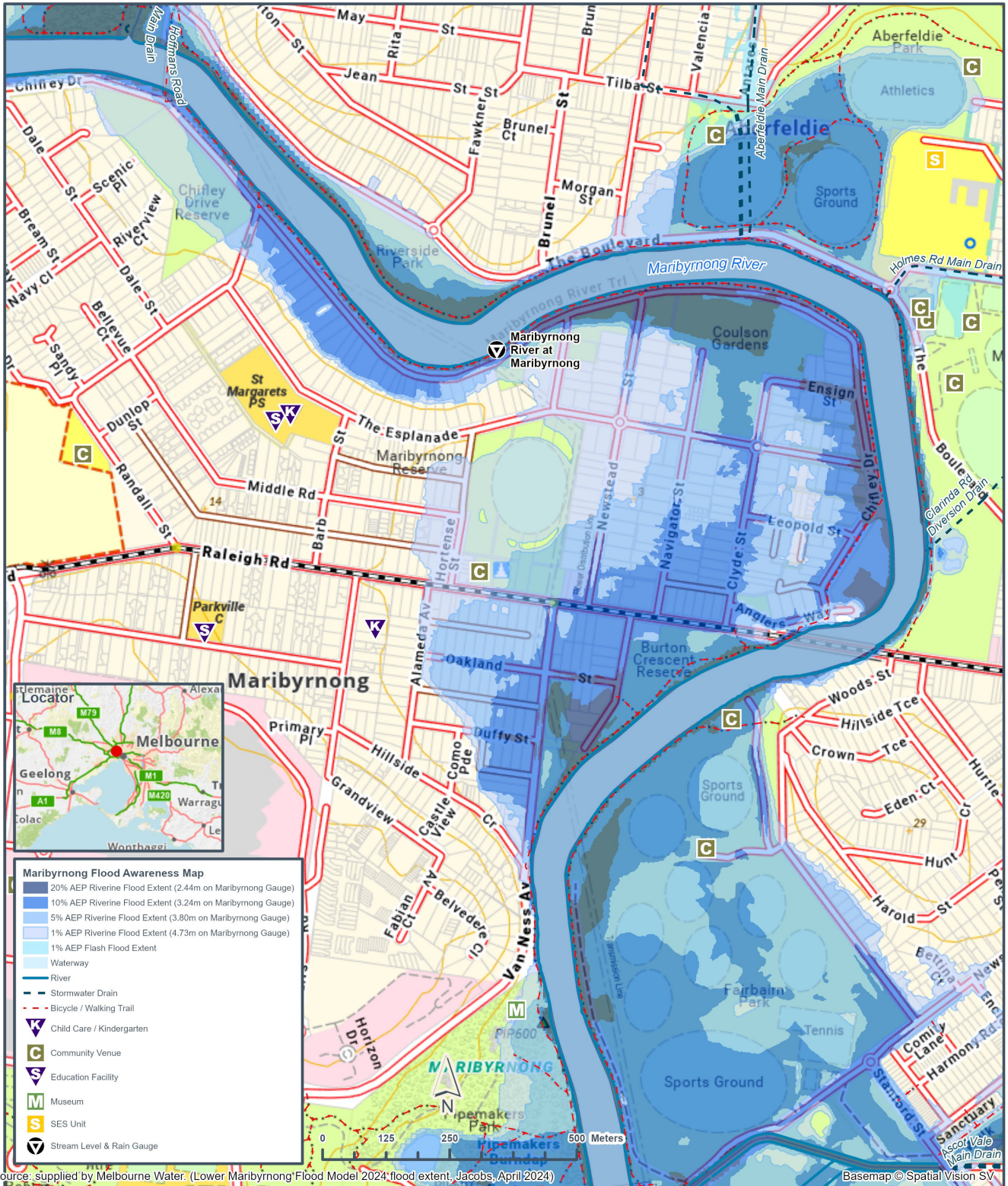


## Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

If this map shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See [page 6](#) for more information.

This map shows the area likely to flood at different floodwater heights measured (in metres) at the Chiefly Drive Gauge at Maribyrnong River. It uses Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) to indicate the percentage chance of a flood of this size (or greater) happening in any year.

- 4.73m - 1% AEP
- 3.80m - 5% AEP
- 3.24m - 10% AEP
- 2.44m - 20% AEP



## 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.

- **Before a flood:** Use the floodwater heights in the table to help you decide when you will need to act to protect yourself and your property in a flood event.
- **During a flood:** When a warning is issued by [VicEmergency](#), use the predicted floodwater height and warning information to understand what the potential impacts may be for you and your community.



Height*	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
4.73m	1% AEP Flood Extent
4.50m	September 1906 flood event. Highest recorded flooding affecting the Maribyrnong Flood Plain
4.26m	September 1916 flood event. Second highest recorded flooding
4.20m	May 1974 and October 2022 flood event.
3.83m	September 1993 flood event. Anglers Tavern lounge and bistro areas under nearly two metres of water, and a further 50 residences flooded over floor level.
3.80m	5% AEP Flood Extent
3.24m	10% AEP Flood Extent
<b>2.9m</b>	<b>Major flood level</b> Tram services along routes 57 & 82 and bus services 468 & 952 along Raleigh Road likely to be impacted
2.83m	November 1954 flood event. Maribyrnong River breaks its banks causing 200 families to be temporarily homeless. More than 60 rescued by Army boats.
2.44m	20% AEP Flood Extent
<b>2.3m</b>	<b>Moderate flood level</b> January 2011 flood event. Flooding of the lower flood at Anglers Tavern commenced. Closure of Chifley Drive, Plantation Street and nearby adjoining roads. Infrastructure improvements then implemented and have reduced the risk of similar floods having the same impact.
<b>1.7m</b>	<b>Minor flood level</b>

\*The height measurement is at the Chifley Drive Gauge.

^This table includes information from previous flood events.

## Your local services

### Catchment Management Authority

For general advice about flooding and controls on planning scheme amendments.

- **Melbourne Water**  
[melbournewater.com.au](http://melbournewater.com.au) | 13 17 22

### Local Council

For relief support after a flood event and general land use planning.

- **Maribyrnong City Council**  
[maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) | 03 9688 0200



# 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](https://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](https://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](https://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.

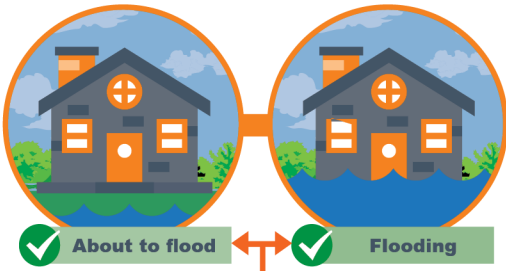



For more details and other tips, visit:  
[ses.vic.gov.au/flood](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)



# 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](https://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](https://bom.gov.au/vic/flood/melbourne.shtml)

### Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 774 AM

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.

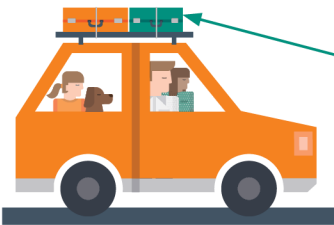
3



### 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:



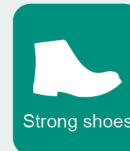
Phone & charger



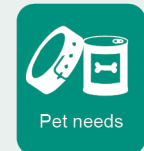
Prescriptions & medication



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](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)



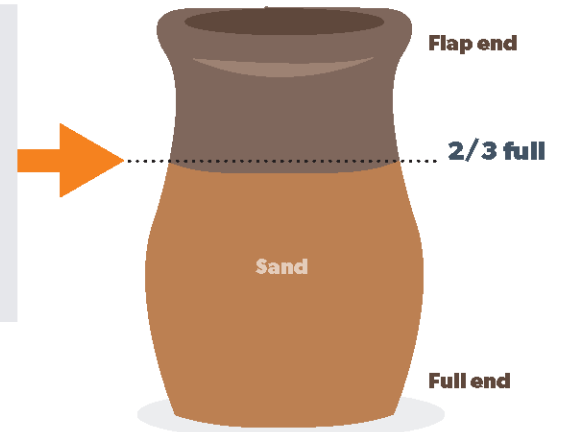
# Sandbagging

## Protecting your home

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

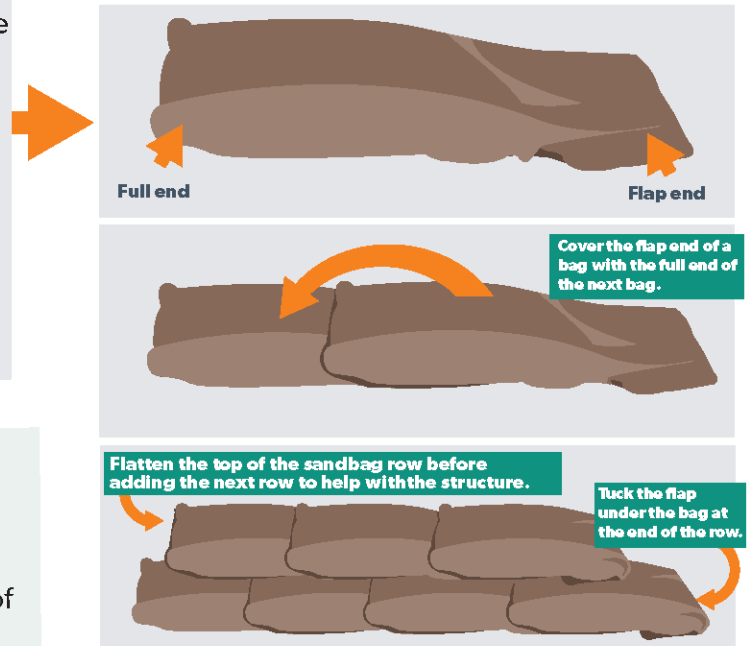
### How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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?

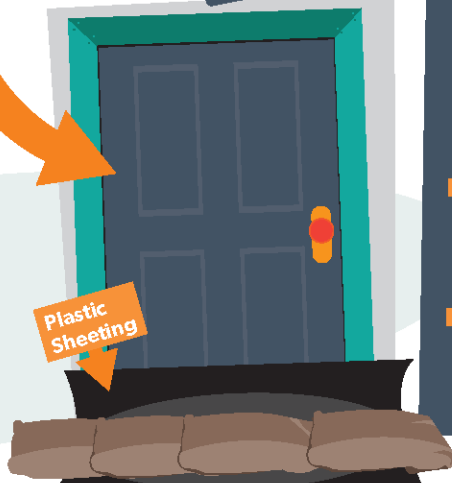
- Place sandbags in plastic bags to cover drainage holes in home (e.g. showers, toilets, sinks) to stop back flow of water.
- Place a small wall across doorways, at least the height of the expected water level. Be careful not to trap yourself inside.
- If available, plastic sheeting may be used under sandbags to reduce the seepage.

#### Block it

Toilets, bath and all drain holes



Plastic Sheeting



### 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.

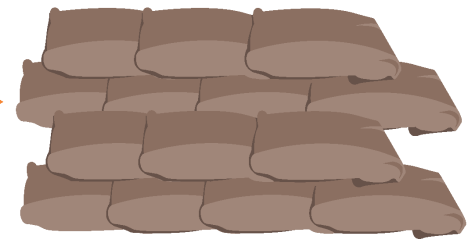


### How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.