

Apex Park, 2020



# Local Flood Guide

*Hamilton*

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



FLOOD STORM  
EMERGENCY **132 500**

**000**  
EMERGENCY  
If life threatening  
call triple zero 000

# Contents

■ <b>Local flood information</b>	<b><u>Page 3</u></b>
Why does Hamilton flood?	<u>Page 3</u>
How do floods impact communities?	<u>Page 3</u>
Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater	<u>Page 4</u>
What might happen in a flood in your area?	<u>Page 5</u>
Download your free Property Flood Report	<u>Page 6</u>
Your local services	<u>Page 6</u>
■ <b>Plan and prepare for floods</b>	<b><u>Page 7</u></b>
■ <b>What to do in a flood emergency</b>	<b><u>Page 8</u></b>
■ <b>Sandbag Guide</b>	<b><u>Page 9</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.


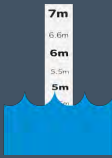

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For more information visit: [ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe](https://ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe)

## Local flood information

 <p>There have been nine significant flood events in Hamilton between 1946 and 2022</p>	 <p>The largest recorded flood was in 1946 when the floodwater reached approximately 4.20 metres</p>	 <p>Flooding can happen within hours of rainfall, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action</p>
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### Why does Hamilton flood?







Hamilton is situated along the Grange Burn and its tributaries and therefore within a natural floodplain, placing Hamilton at risk from **riverine flooding**. Hamilton is also at risk from **flash flooding** which can happen separately or at the same time. Both riverine and flash flooding are usually caused by heavy rainfall.

There are a number of areas in and around the Hamilton township in low-lying areas which are more likely to be impacted in a flood.

- Riverine flooding**  
 This happens when the Grange Burn River, Kennys Road Tributary, Marshalls Road Tributary, and/or Petschels Lane Tributary rises and overflow their banks, spilling water onto land
- Flash flooding**  
 This type of flooding can happen quickly and you may not receive an official warning. Although these floods only last short time, they can cause severe damage



### How do floods impact communities?

 <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>
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## 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 7](#) for more information

- The map below shows the expected depth of a 1% and 20% flood in Hamilton. A 1% flood means there is a 1% chance of a flood this size or larger occurring in any year
- The map is provided as a guide only and represents one of many flood scenarios that could occur in the area



View an interactive version of this map using the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's [GHCMA Flood Portal](#), see [page 6](#) for more information



## 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 depths in the table to help you decide when you will need to act to protect yourself and your property in a flood event. To determine if your property is likely to be affected, use the GHMA flood portal for information specific to your property
- **During a flood:** When a warning is issued by [VicEmergency](#), use the predicted floodwater depth and warning information to understand what the potential impacts may be for you and your community



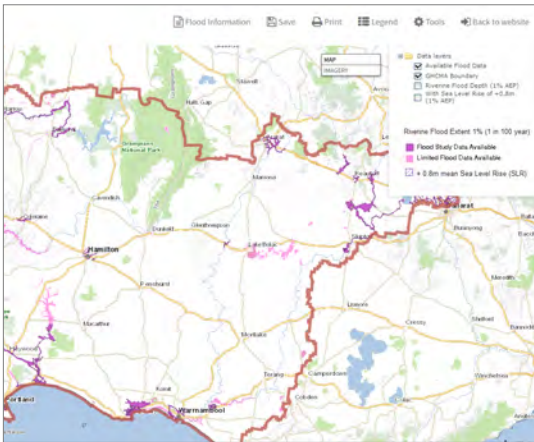
AEP %*	Potential impacts ^
<b>20% AEP</b> (20% chance in any year) 70mm rainfall within 24-48 hours **	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Four buildings at Coleraine Road / Henty Highway and King Street may experience above floor flooding</li> <li>■ Some minor flooding over Kennys Road and North Boundary Road, Young Street and W Schultz Road</li> <li>■ King Street is expected to be under water to a depth of between 0.3 and 0.5 metres</li> </ul>
<b>10% AEP</b> (10% chance in any year) 80mm rainfall within 24-48 hours	In addition to the above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Two further properties may experience above floor flooding near King Street and Coleraine Road intersection (total of 6 buildings)</li> <li>■ King Street is expected to be under water to a depth of more than 0.5 metres</li> <li>■ Some water over the Hamilton Highway</li> </ul>
<b>5% AEP</b> (5% chance in any year) 90mm rainfall within 24-48 hours	In addition to the above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Floodwater breaks the banks of the Grange Burn adjacent to Apex Park</li> <li>■ Two further properties may experience above floor flooding near King Street and Coleraine Road intersection (total of eight buildings)</li> <li>■ Some minor flooding over Sobeys Road</li> <li>■ Water over Mt Napier Road in the area near Holden and Abbott Streets and over the Hamilton highway</li> </ul>
<b>1% AEP</b> (1% chance in any year) 130mm rainfall within 24-48 hours	In addition to the above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Levee at Holden and Abbott Streets overtops</li> <li>■ Four more buildings at Coleraine Road / Henty Highway and King Street may experience over floor flooding (total of 12 buildings)</li> <li>■ Commercial sites north of Ballarat Road may flood</li> <li>■ Coleraine Road / Henty Highway and Kent Street overtopped</li> </ul>

\* AEP is the chance of a flood event of a given size happening in any given year, expressed as a percentage. So, a 1% AEP flood has a 1% chance (or 1 in 100 chance) of happening in any given year

^ This table includes information from flood studies, which are scientific models used to predict impacts for different flood sizes

\*\* Rainfall depths are a rough method of estimating flood events and have been used due to the ungauged nature of the catchments

## Download your free Property Flood Report



The [GHCMA Flood Portal](#), developed by the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, is a tool for residents and businesses to assess their flood risk

- Use the portal to zoom in on your property and see if it's likely to be affected in a large flood event
- Download a free property report for properties inside the mapped area

Go to [flood.ghcma.vic.gov.au](https://flood.ghcma.vic.gov.au)



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see [page 8](#) for more information

## Your local services

### Catchment Management Authority

For general advice about flooding and controls based on planning zones and overlays

- **Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority**  
[ghcma.vic.gov.au](https://ghcma.vic.gov.au) | 03 5571 2526

### Local Council

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

- **Southern Grampians Shire Council**  
[sthgrampians.vic.gov.au](https://sthgrampians.vic.gov.au) | 03 5573 0444

Fairburns Road, 2020



Floodwater can be very deep, rise quickly and move fast

**Stay safe by avoiding flooded areas**

# 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

 Power bank	 Radio	 Drinking water
 Spare batteries	 Documents & records	 First aid kit
 Long life food	 Torch	 Gloves

**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.

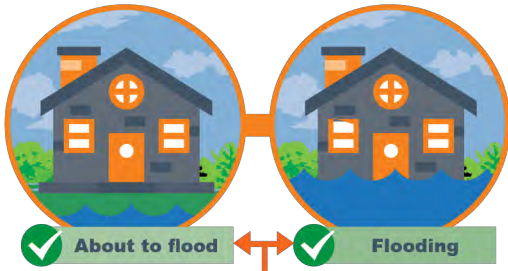



For more details and other tips, visit:  
[ses.vic.gov.au/flood](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)



# 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/glenelg\\_hopkins.shtml](https://bom.gov.au/vic/flood/glenelg_hopkins.shtml)

### Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 94.1 AM, 3HA 981AM, Mixx 88.9 FM

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.

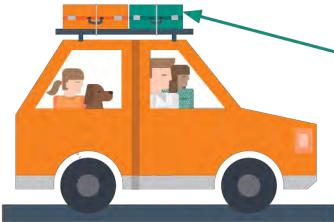
3



### 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:



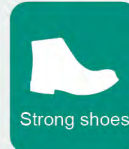
Phone & charger



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)





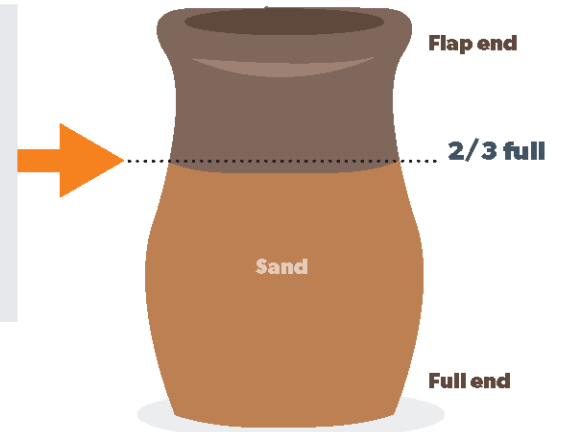
# Sandbagging

## Protecting your home

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

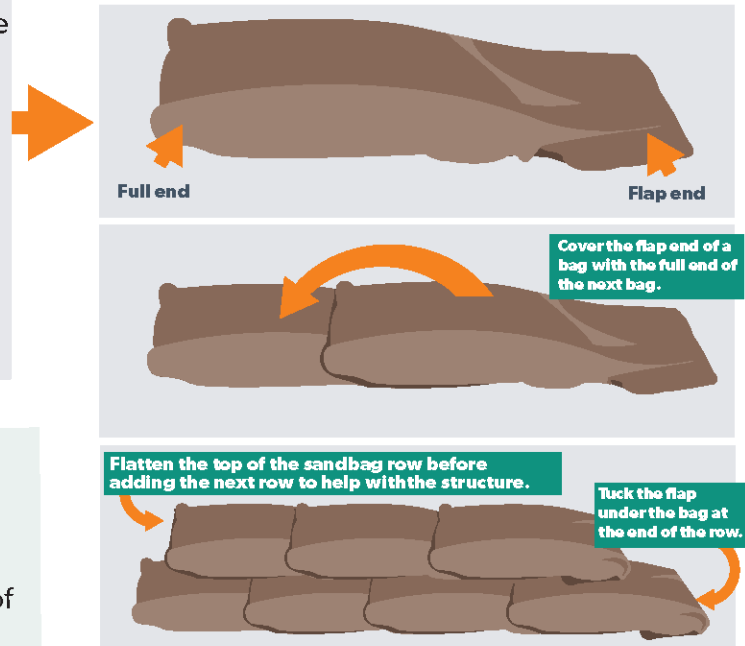
### How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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



### 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.