

Your Flood Risk

Recent events have shown that floods can occur anywhere and at any time, including when people are relaxing on holidays or travelling.

Many caravan and camping areas are on low-lying land close to a river, stream, estuary or beach front. This increases the chance of flash, riverine, tidal and storm surge flooding.

Your problems may be worse if you and your caravan cannot be easily evacuated during flooding or if you do not know how floods may affect the park or ground you are visiting.

When arriving at any caravan park or campground, take a few minutes to find out about your surroundings.

Check evacuation routes, and ask how you will be notified of an emergency. Just a few minutes could reduce your danger as floods can happen quickly.



Courtesy of the Coffs Harbour Advocate

Preparing for Floods

Listen for warnings and act immediately

Emergency warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology and broadcast on ABC and most commercial radio stations.

These warnings can range from:

- A Flood Watch notifying that there may be a flood in 1-2 days.
- A Flood Warning notifying that flooding is about to happen or is already happening.
- A Severe Weather Warning or Severe Thunderstorm Warning predicting heavy rainfall which could result in flash flooding.

These warnings are a trigger to take time to prepare or move before a flood happens.

Protecting your caravan

Be aware that the light weight construction of your van and annexe means they are very likely to be damaged by floods or potentially washed away.

Here are some simple tips to help you protect your caravan:

- Move the van early to higher, safer ground.
- Firmly tie down gas bottles.
- Consider taping the doors and all windows.
- Turn off electricity, gas and water supplies.
- Raise all items to high points within the van.
- Remove or pack up your annexe.
- Lower the van to the ground to provide additional stability and make sure hand brake is on.

All moveable vans should be kept in a towable condition. This includes inflating tyres, having jacks wound up and services readily detachable.

During a Flood

A Flood Warning is issued for most riverine areas when flooding is about to happen. Flood Warnings provide a predicted flood level and the expected time when the river will reach that level. Remember, the floodwater may affect you before it reaches the highest predicted level.

Flash flooding can occur quickly and may be caused by heavy rain in surrounding areas. Often there is little to no warning of flash flooding so staying alert to the local weather is your best action.

During a flood, park occupants and visitors should:

- Listen to advice and direction of park management.
- Listen to local radio for information, updates and advice.
- Prepare your van to be moved to a flood free location by making sure it is in a towable condition.
- Collect important papers, valuables and special personal items to put in your Emergency Kit and take with you when evacuating.
- Keep in contact with other park occupants and park management and let them know if you are relocating and where you are relocating to.

Remember that **you** are best placed to keep you and your family safe. Assess your own risk and act! Do not put yourself at risk.



Preparing for Evacuation

When notified of a flood you should:

- Get prepared and be ready to evacuate.
- If your van or cabin is permanent, secure it before you leave.
- Turn off and disconnect all services from vans and tightly secure top and bottom of gas bottles.
- Help neighbours and tell others what is happening.
- Know your local relief centre.
- You must leave before your access to higher ground is blocked by floodwater.

You should plan to protect yourself, family, caravan and camping gear from the damaging effects of a flood.

When you Evacuate

The decision to advise people to evacuate is not taken lightly and is done to protect life. When you evacuate:

- Listen to advice and direction of park management.
- Take your Emergency Kit with you.
- Proceed to the designated evacuation location or relief centre and wait for further instruction.
- Inform the park manager of your intention to relocate and where you plan to relocate to.
- Always take your pets with you.
- Report to the evacuation or relief centre and register where you are moving to. **This helps the emergency services focus on the real emergency and not look for people that are already safe.**
- Do not return until emergency services tell you it is safe to do so.
- Remember that every flood is different and will impact differently.

Suggested items for your basic Emergency Kit



How SES Can Help

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is the lead agency for responding to flood and storm emergencies throughout Victoria. This includes planning for floods and educating people on how to protect themselves and their property.

During flood and storm emergencies SES provides flood information, warning and safety advice, relocation and evacuation information. SES volunteers undertake rescues and provide essential supplies to people isolated by floodwater.

While SES provides information, awareness of your local situation and early action is the best way for you to be FloodSafe.

FloodSafe Contacts

Life threatening Emergency Police/ Fire/ Ambulance	000 Triple Zero
Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) For flood/ storm emergency	132 500
SES Information Line Operates during major flood/ storm events	1300 842 737 1300 VIC SES www.ses.vic.gov.au
Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) Weather information, forecasts, warnings	1300 659 217 www.bom.gov.au
VicRoads Road closures & hazard reporting service	13 11 70 www.vicroads.vic.gov.au
Department of Human Services (DHS) Relief and recovery advice	www.dhs.vic.gov.au
Parks Victoria Parks information centre	13 19 63 www.parks.vic.gov.au
Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) Catchment information	www.depi.vic.gov.au

Caravan Park Details:

ABC Radio Victorian local radio A to Z listing:

Albury	106.5 FM	Mildura	104.3 FM
Alexandra	102.9 FM	Murray Valley	102.1 FM
Apollo Bay	89.5 FM	Myrtleford	91.7 FM
Ballarat	107.9 FM	Omeo	720 AM
Bendigo	91.9 FM	Orbost	97.1 FM
Bright	89.7 FM	Portland	96.9 FM
Cann River	106.1 FM	Sale	828 AM
Corryong	99.7 FM		100.7 FM
Eildon	97.3 FM	Sunraysia	104.3FM
Goulburn Valley	97.7 FM	Wangaratta	106.5 FM
Horsham	594 AM	Warrnambool	1602 AM
La Trobe Valley	100.7 FM	Western Victoria	94.1FM
Mallacoota	104.9 FM	Wodonga	106.5 FM
Mansfield	103.7 FM		
Melbourne area	774 AM		

Your local radio:

For more information visit:

- www.ses.vic.gov.au
- www.facebook.com/vicses

Never
Walk, Ride or Drive
Through Floodwater

