

It's up to you to stay informed



Local News

Listen to ABC local radio, commercial and designated community radio stations and watch Sky News TV



VicEmergency Hotline

1800 226 226 (free call)



VicEmergency Website

www.emergency.vic.gov.au



Social Media

www.facebook.com/vicemergency



www.twitter.com/vicemergency



VicEmergency App

Apple and Android mobiles and tablets



SES Website

www.ses.vic.gov.au



CFA Website

www.cfa.vic.gov.au



Keep an eye on the weather

at the Bureau of Meteorology website or on the app – www.bom.gov.au

Always use more than one source of emergency information

To report an emergency call triple zero 000 (TTY 106)

Insurance – are you covered?

The Insurance Council of Australia identifies there are variations between insurance policies in relation to coverage for natural disasters. It is important you know exactly what you are covered for and how much your insurer will pay if your property is impacted by a fire, flood or storm.



This brochure has been prepared by the Wimmera Emergency Management Team in conjunction with the Country Fire Authority and Victoria State Emergency Service.



Prepared: October 2022

Understand the warnings

There are three different levels of warnings - Advice, Watch and Act and Emergency Warning - plus a recommendation to evacuate. Don't expect warnings to be issued in any particular order. The first warning you hear about could even be an Emergency Warning if a fire starts close to you.



Advice

An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.



Watch and Act

An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others.



Emergency Warning

You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately.



You may also see an **Evacuation** symbol. This means that an evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.

Do not rely on an official warning to leave.

Emergencies can start quickly and threaten you within minutes.



Emergency Information Accessibility

For people who speak a different language

Call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and request translated information from the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired

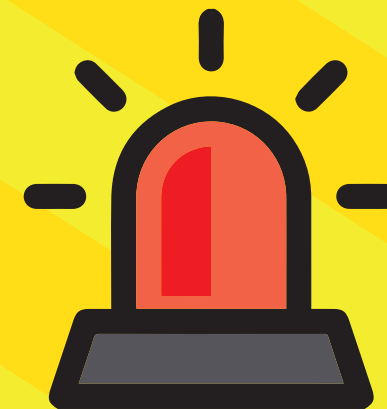
Contact the VicEmergency Hotline through the National Relay Service:

- **TTY** – phone 1800 555 677, then ask for 1800 226 226
- **Speak and Listen** – phone 1800 555 777, then ask for 1800 226 226
- **Internet relay users** connect to the National Relay Service.

Wimmera 72

Visit the Wimmera 72 website for important links and information when disaster occurs www.wimmera72.com.au

Wimmera Emergency Management Team



Are you Emergency Aware?

Get ready ...



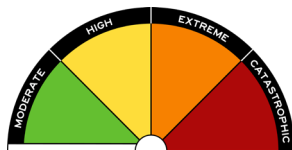
Know what to do...



Fire

- Stay informed - download the VicEmergency App, set up your watch zone and tune into emergency broadcasters.
- Decide now and practice as a family how you'll respond to a nearby fire on high fire-risk, Total Fire Ban (TFB) or Extreme days.

- Use the **Fire Danger Ratings** to take action and stay safe. It tells you how dangerous a fire could be if one was to start. As the rating increases, so does the risk of fire.



Every day you should:

- Monitor conditions and official sources for warnings.
- If a fire starts near you, take action immediately to protect your life.
- Do not wait for a warning.
- Adhere to local regulations governing fire activity.
- Ensure any industrial and agricultural activities adhere to relevant guidelines.

- Prepare for your pets and stock. Remember to make provisions for them in your vegetation and bushfire plans and any emergency kit preparations.
- Talk to your family, friends or neighbours about how you'll know when to leave and where to go to stay safe.
- Prepare your property and roadside frontage - even if you intend to leave early or not actively defend, it will help others. Remember that fire trucks need good access.
- Review your insurance (see overleaf).
- Prepare your personal fire response kit - protective clothing, fire blankets, water, first aid and medication, toiletries, important documents, first aid kit, torch, batteries, mobile phone and battery operated radio and phone charger.

Make a plan

A written and well practiced Bushfire Preparedness Plan will help you remember what you need to do in a crisis.

For more information about making a Bushfire Preparedness Plan visit:

Australian Red Cross - www.redcross.org.au/prepare

Country Fire Authority - www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare



Flood

- Stay informed - download the VicEmergency App, set up your watch zone and tune into emergency broadcasters.
- Review your insurance (see overleaf).

If you are inside ...

- Stay inside and be aware of rising flood water.
- If floodwater comes inside, move to a higher point such as a kitchen bench or second storey.
- Contact family members and neighbours to ensure they are aware of the situation, if it's safe to do so.

If you evacuate from your home or workplace ...

- Prepare your personal emergency kit - protective clothing, water, first aid and medication, toiletries, important documents, torches, mobile phone and battery operated radio and phone charger.
- Remember to take your pets.
- Turn off gas and electricity at your home or workplace.
- Travel to the home of family or friends who are in a safe location, away from flooding.
- Check for road closures when you leave and follow instructions from emergency services.

If you are outside ...

- Stay away from trees, drains, low-lying areas, creeks, canals, culverts and floodwater.
- Seek shelter indoors, away from floodwater.

If you are driving when flash flooding occurs ...

- NEVER drive through floodwater - it can take just 15cm of flowing 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 or damaged trees.
- If driving conditions are dangerous, safely pull over on higher ground, away from trees.

Be flood ready

Bag it: Get your sandbags ready and in place to prevent water from entering your property.

Block it: Block drains, toilets and doorways.

Lift it: Lift your valuables up high.

Leave: Make your way to a safe destination as soon as possible.



Storm

Storms can occur anywhere at any time. They often bring strong winds, flash flooding, large hailstones and lightning. They can cause major damage and put your life at risk.

How to plan and stay safe before a storm hits ...

- Park your car undercover and away from trees.
- Clean your gutters, downpipes and drains to ensure they are not blocked.
- Check that loose items such as outdoor furniture, umbrellas and trampolines are safely secured.
- Be alert to dangerous road conditions when driving. Avoid travel if possible.
- Review your insurance (see overleaf).

What to do during a storm ...

Ensure you do the following during a storm to protect yourself, your family and your property:

- Stay indoors and away from windows.
- Look out for and avoid falling or damaged trees, damaged roads and debris, fallen powerlines (ALWAYS assume that they are live).
- If outdoors, move to a safe place indoors. Stay away from trees, drains, gutters, creeks and waterways.
- Be aware of hazardous trees - heat, fire or recent storms may make trees unstable and more likely to fall during a storm.
- Avoid travel if possible.
- If driving conditions are dangerous, safely pull over away from trees, drains, low lying areas and floodwater and watch out for hazards. Find an alternative travel route if roads are impacted.

Be prepared

You may be isolated for an extended period of time. Make sure you have essential supplies prepared to last for at least 3-5 days including food, drinking water, medications and pet food.

**FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY
132 500**



If life threatening
call triple zero (000)