



Greater Melbourne

Understanding flood warnings

Many parts of Greater Melbourne have a flood risk. Knowing how floods may impact you will help you prepare.

The Bureau of Meteorology gives as much advance warning as possible before flooding is expected.

We issue 2 main types of flood advice:

- flood watch
- flood warning.

Flood watch

We issue a flood watch up to 4 days in advance when weather forecasts show riverine flooding may occur.

This gives early advice when flooding is possible in an area. We base this on forecast rainfall and how wet the river catchment is.

Flood warning

We issue a flood warning for a location when riverine flooding is expected or occurring.

This includes estimated times until flood impact and if it's likely to be a minor, moderate or major flood.

This depends on:

- river height at specific locations
- the likely impacts of the water level.

We update flood warnings as more information becomes available or when the flood risk changes.

Flash flooding

Sometimes, heavy or intense rainfall can quickly lead to flash flooding anywhere.

Flash flooding can happen suddenly, often with little or no warning.

The bureau issues severe weather warnings or severe thunderstorm warnings when heavy or intense rainfall is forecast or underway that may lead to flash flooding.

Learn more about the bureau's flood warning services www.bom.gov.au/resources/learn-and-explore/flood-knowledge-centre.



Yarra River, Melbourne, Victoria.

Flood warning levels

Minor flooding

If the water level reaches the minor flood level, it causes inconvenience. It may impact low-lying areas near water courses. Roads, low-level bridges, bicycle and pedestrian paths may be under water. Minor flooding may affect some gardens and buildings below the floor level.

Moderate flooding

If the water level reaches the moderate flood level, a bigger area is under water. Main traffic routes may be affected. Some buildings may be affected above floor level. Evacuation may be required. In rural areas, removal of livestock is necessary.

Major flooding

If the water level reaches the major flood level, large areas are under water. Many buildings may be affected above floor level. Properties and towns are likely to be isolated and major rail and traffic routes closed. Evacuation may be required. Utility services such as power may be affected.

Understanding flood advice



Watch

Prepare



Broad area of flood risk



Early advice for potential flooding



Issued 1–4 days before impact



Warning

Take action



Specific location of flood risk



Minor, moderate, major flooding



Issued when likely or occurring

Know your weather.
Know your risk.

bom.gov.au

Prepare and stay informed

VICSES

Learn how to prepare to be flood ready and stay safe. Visit the **VICSES website**.

www.ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe/emergencies/flood

VicEmergency

Visit the **VicEmergency website** and download the app for flood warnings and advice on what you should do.

<https://linktr.ee/vicemergency>



Advice



Watch
and act



Emergency
warning

Bureau of Meteorology

Stay up to date with the latest forecasts and warnings through the **BOM website**.

www.bom.gov.au

Enable notifications to get the latest warnings for your location through the **BOM Weather app**.

www.bom.gov.au/bom-weather-app

Melbourne Water

Learn more about Melbourne Water's flood and drainage services.

Visit **Melbourne Water's website**

www.melbournewater.com.au/water-and-environment/flooding-and-drainage