

Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

Preparing for next time

Knowing **who** is responsible for **what** in an emergency event can point you in the right direction for information and updates, easing some of the stress during a disaster. The **State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP)** outlines the government agencies who are responsible in an emergency in the areas of mitigation, response, relief, and recovery.

Response to an emergency occurs before, during, and immediately after the event. In Victoria, government and non-government agencies have specific responsibilities.

During emergency events, agencies are allocated as the control agency or support agency. Control agencies are primarily responsible for managing the response. Support agencies assist the control agencies.

There may be multiple control and support agencies involved in an emergency event who work closely together to coordinate the response.

For more detailed information about each of these control agencies and their responsibilities, visit emv.vic.gov.au/responsibilities/sempr/roles-and-responsibilities/response.

What do I do in a severe storm or flood?

The best way to stay safe in an emergency is to have a plan. Emergencies can be stressful, so having a plan can help you to think more clearly and make better decisions.

As the control agency for storms, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and tsunamis in Victoria, VICSES has resources to support Victorians to plan for emergencies at home, at work, at school, and when on holidays.

Plan and stay safe with VICSES by visiting ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe.

Local Flood Guide for Myrtleford

Plan for floods by being prepared. VICSES has a **Local Flood Guide** for Myrtleford available in both English and Italian.

The Flood Guide contains valuable information about how you can best prepare for floods in the Myrtleford area.

Access the Local Flood Guide for Myrtleford by visiting ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe/flood-guides/alpine-shire-council.

RESPONSE CONTROL AGENCIES

Country Fire Authority (CFA) is a volunteer firefighting service with local-led community fire brigades. They are the control agency for fires that occur on private land in Country Area Victoria | cfa.vic.gov.au

Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning (DELWP) protect the natural environment, including infrastructure and heritage. They are the control agency for fires that occur in state forests, national parks, and protected public land | delwp.vic.gov.au

Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES) is primarily a volunteer-based organisation. They are the control agency for storms, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and tsunamis in Victoria | ses.vic.gov.au

Victorian Police (VicPol) is responsible for evacuation and traffic management in consultation with control agencies and expert advice | police.vic.gov.au

Alpine Shire Council is responsible for working with the agencies listed above and others to assist the coordination of emergency management activities and resources | alpineshire.vic.gov.au

VICSES self-assessment guide

Not sure when to call for help? The following self-assessment guide provided by VICSES can help you to know when to call **132 500**:

Is anyone's life in danger? **Call 000**

Are you seeking emergency help in a flood or storm because:

- > A tree has fallen down and caused structural damage to your home or vehicle?
- > There is damage to your roof or it is leaking significantly?
- > A tree or large branch has fallen and is preventing you from entering or leaving your home?
- > Your property is flooded or about to flood?

If your answer is **YES**, call VICSES on **132 500**. Your request for assistance will be logged and a local volunteer may contact you for further details.

If your answer is **NO**, you may consider taking the following actions:

- > Contact your insurer to make a claim or arrange permanent repairs
- > Contact a professional tradesperson to repair damage or remove debris, if required

What's happening in your community?

The **Keep Calm Committee** started when community members in the Kiewa Valley rallied together with the Mount Beauty Neighbourhood Centre after the Black Summer Bushfires 2019/20.

In February 2021, the Keep Calm Committee organised a Red Cross RediCommunities workshop in conjunction with the local Red Cross team to develop a plan that assessed the needs of the Kiewa Valley communities and how best to support these needs.

Over two days, the Keep Calm Committee brought together community members and representatives from a range of key agencies, including Council, CFA, Ambulance Victoria, and VicPol, to exchange information and work collaboratively to discuss the needs of Kiewa Valley residents.

This workshop led to the development of resources, including a map that plots places to know in times of emergencies, and the Community Resilience Action Group (CRAG), which aims to educate members of the Kiewa Valley communities to ensure that they are prepared for the next emergency event.

For more information about the Keep Calm Committee, visit mountbeauty.org.au/keep-calm-committee.

Funding opportunities

Community Enterprise Foundation Alpine Bushfire Recovery Grants Program | Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for established not-for-profit organisations in the Alpine region. Closes 29 September 2022. Visit communityenterprisefoundation.com.au.

FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities | Grants up to \$25,000 are available for a broad range of community-led initiatives. Round 15 closes 29 November 2022. Visit frrr.org.au/funding/place/strengthening-rural-communities or contact Vivienne McCrory on **1800 170 020** or info@frrr.org.au.

Power Saving Bonus for Victorian Households | Victorian residential energy account holders are eligible for a \$250 Power Saving Bonus. Find out if you are eligible to apply by visiting compare.energy.vic.gov.au.

Victorian Government Solar for Business Program | Rebates of up to 50% of the total cost are available for small businesses in Victoria to install approved small-scale solar systems up to 30kW. Find out if you are eligible for a rebate value of up to \$3,500 by visiting solar.vic.gov.au/site-4/solar-small-business.

Visit Victoria Regional Events Fund | Regional communities are invited to apply for funding opportunities that support the acquisition, growth, or planning of events across regional areas. Visit corporate.visitvictoria.com/events/regional-events or contact Tourism North East on **03 5728 2773**.

Indi Volunteer Grants | Eligible not-for-profit community organisations with a minimum of 40% volunteers are invited to put forward an expression of interest to receive grants between \$1,000 - \$5,000. Closes 20 September 2022. Visit helenhaines.org/resources/grants.

Indi Funding Finder | The Federal Member for Indi has comprehensive information on grants available on their website, including how to apply for grants and upcoming opportunities in the region. For more information, visit helenhaines.grantguru.com.au.

Get ready at the Redi Expo!

The Alpine Community Recovery Committee (CRC) is excited to present the **Redi Expo!** on Saturday 22 October 2022 in conjunction with the Myrtleford Show.

The Redi Expo! is an interactive experience with prizes, showbags, music, and magic that asks community ahead of the next emergency: Are You Ready?

Agencies will be at the event to encourage information sharing and highlight the need for individuals and communities to get ready for the next emergency.

Get ready at the Redi Expo! held as part of the Myrtleford Show at the Myrtleford Showgrounds. For more information about the Myrtleford Show, visit themyrlefordshow.com.au.



WHAT HAS BEEN FUNDED?

In December 2021, the Government Hill Arts Precinct celebrated the beauty of the natural Alpine environments through the completion of an interactive mural on the side of the Courthouse Shed.

The interactive mural, created by Chiltern-based artist Kirrily Anderson, encourages an appreciation for the arts while educating admirers about flora and fauna found in the Alpine region: the Omeo Gum, the Snow Gum, the Mountain Hickory Wattle, the Happy Wanderer, the Mountain Tea Tree, the Mountain Violet, and the Emperor Gum Moth.

The project also provided an exterior upgrade of the debilitating storage shed used by the Bright Courthouse and fixed the roller door, upgrading the security and functionality of the space.

Find the mural by visiting the Bright Courthouse in the Government Hills Art Precinct, Bright.

This addition to the Government Hill Arts Precinct was proudly funded from the Victorian Government's response to the 2019-20 bushfires through the Alpine Shire Council Community Recovery Grants Program.



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