



# The Ovens Valley area is at risk!

*“Do you remember the 1993 flood?”*

- 260 Houses flooded
- 75 Commercial businesses inundated and shelf stock destroyed
- Several bridges damaged
- “Water over road” causes many road closures, including the Great Alpine Road
- Caravan parks and motels inundated
- Pumps, fencing, livestock, plant & machinery destroyed

**Floods cause more damage, in terms of dollars and life, per annum than ANY other emergency! Be FloodSmart**

**It is estimated that, for a well-prepared community subject to frequent flooding and with approximately 10 hours warning, actual damage can be reduced by up to 60%**

## How to prepare for Flood Events in the Ovens Valley area

*It's your responsibility to protect your family and property from the damaging effects of flood!*

### FloodSmart Contacts

Life threatening Emergency **000**

Victoria State Emergency Service **132 500**  
[www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

Victoria State Emergency Service Flood & Storm Information Line **1300 842 737**  
*(operates during significant flood and storm events)*

Alpine Shire **(03) 5755 0555**

Rural City of Wangaratta **(03) 5722 0888**

Bureau of Meteorology **1300 659 217**

VicRoads - Road closures **131 170**  
[www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

[www.ses.vic.gov.au/FloodSmart](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/FloodSmart)

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## How VICSES can help you

The Victoria State Emergency Service is a volunteer organisation which assists Victoria during floods, storms and other natural hazards and emergencies. This includes planning for floods and educating people about how to protect themselves and their property.

VICSES is trained to respond to flood and storm damage, where appropriate to effect temporary repairs and, where possible, to advise and/or assist with some preventative measures.

*This may include:*

- placing tarpaulins on damaged roofs
- giving flood safety advice
- providing access to homes and businesses
- providing flood safety education; and
- rescuing people trapped or injured in damaged buildings.

VICSES volunteers are not paid and give up their time, often braving drenching rain and winds, to help the community.

If you would like to know more about how you can protect yourself from the damaging effects of storms, visit [www.ses.vic.gov.au/FloodSmart](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/FloodSmart)

## Your Property

During a flood, there may be many life-threatening situations or homes requiring assistance, so calls will be prioritised.

For life-threatening emergencies call 000 immediately. You will be prompted for Police, Fire or Ambulance.

For non-life threatening emergency assistance as the result of flood or storm damage to your property, call 132 500 for VICSES volunteers. Temporary building repairs may be undertaken to reduce further damage. It is the homeowner's responsibility to organise permanent repairs. Contact your insurance company if applicable.

VICSES Flood & Storm Information Line

**1300 VIC SES**  
**1300 842 737**

## What you can do now

Areas of the Ovens Valley are flood prone, including FLASH type flooding. Homes, businesses and other "assets" are subject to flooding and services you use may be affected. You may become isolated due to roads being cut and unable to get to work or appointments. Even if your home, workplace or business does not flood, you need to consider that in the event of a flood, your community will certainly be affected. Perhaps your stock and water pumps could be at risk, areas of recreation inundated, or the school bus run cancelled. Therefore, you need to be prepared.

Follow this quick check sheet (right) to help you and your family to be FloodSmart.

**FLASH flooding usually occurs due to heavy rains and results in a very rapid rise of water over a short period of time, especially where the land is steep or close to river catchments.**

**FLASH flooding normally lasts a few hours.**

## Did you know?

Between 2000 and 2006, 25 people have died as a result of flooding in Australia.

Review [www.ses.vic.gov.au/FloodSmart](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/FloodSmart) and download your FloodSmart Action Guide. This contains more information and a practical guide to prepare both your family and your property.

**VICSES cannot guarantee an immediate response to every affected property during a major incident. Residents need to be prepared.**

**Temporary building repairs may be undertaken to reduce further damage. It is the homeowner's responsibility to organise permanent repairs.**

## Quick Check List

### Flood Pre-Preparation

- Check your home and contents insurance. Check exactly what you are covered for
- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone
- Assemble an emergency kit
- Prepare a Home Emergency Plan. You can download your action kit now from [www.ses.vic.gov.au/FloodSmart](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/FloodSmart)

### When you hear the flood warning

- Listen to ABC radio for warnings and advice
- Check you meter box (if installed) for your FloodSmart risk category

### When flooding may be imminent

- Safely secure valuables and important documents as high as possible
- Turn off mains water, gas and electricity
- Secure chemicals and oils on high shelves in an enclosed area
- If necessary, collect sandbags and sand to protect your property
- Ensure your neighbours are aware and prepared

### During the flood

- DO NOT drive through floodwaters
- DO NOT allow children to play in floodwaters. If you must enter floodwaters, wear solid shoes, not thongs or bare feet, and check the depth and current with a stick. Stay away from drains, culverts and water that's more than knee-deep. Note: floodwaters may contain sewage
- Beware of fallen powerlines, damaged trees and flooded creeks

### After the flood

- For emergency assistance, call 132 500 for VICSES
- Review [http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency/em\\_pub/fact\\_sheets\\_flood.htm](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency/em_pub/fact_sheets_flood.htm) for specific information regarding restoring your house
- Have all wet electrical items professionally tested prior to use
- Have gas appliances inspected and cleaned to prevent a gas explosion or fire
- Check your smoke detectors are still working