



Local Flood Guide



Castlemaine, Campbells Creek, Chewton

Flood information for Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**

For more information visit
ses.vic.gov.au

Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton

The Mount Alexander Shire is located within the catchments of two river systems, the Loddon and Campaspe Rivers. The Campaspe River begins to the south of the Shire in the ranges around Trentham and flows north through the eastern areas of the Shire. The Coliban River also flows north through the eastern part of the Shire joining the Campaspe Reservoir at Lake Eppalock. There are numerous creeks that feed both of these rivers within the eastern part of the Shire. These factors all play a part in the risk and the likelihood of the townships becoming flooded.

Barkers Creek and Forest Creek meet at Castlemaine and form Campbells Creek which then passes through the township of Campbells Creek on its way to the Loddon River at Guildford.

The communities of Castlemaine and Campbells Creek are likely to experience flash flooding from heavy rainfall occurring over a short period of time. The advice and warning the township may receive are of a general nature as flash flooding generally limits the available time for adequate and accurate predictions of flood impact. Historically flash flooding has occurred so quickly that there may be no time for a warning. It is important for residents to be aware of the potential for future flash flooding and plan for it.

Mount Alexander received limited flood warning advice as there are no gauging stations located on Campbells Creek, Barkers Creek or Forest Creek to trigger a warning for riverine flooding.

In September and October 2016, many areas of the Mount Alexander Shire were affected by wide spread riverine and flash flooding.

Roads were cut or impassable due to flooding in areas of Baringhup West, Elphinstone, Walmer, Guildford, Harcourt, Castlemaine, Taradale, Metcalfe and parts of the Pyrenees and Midland Highways. Extensive interruptions to school bus routes and cancellation of bus services affected many students and residents in the shire.

The impacts on the Loddon House Holiday Park in Baringhup, just downstream of the Cairn Curran Reservoir, resulted in eight caravans sustaining water damage and the evacuation of residents on 3 October 2016, as spills from Cairn Curran weir were increased due to continuing inflows.

Flooding affects both rural and urban areas as well as local and state roads that run along the creeks



1889

A major flood occurred in Castlemaine on New Year's Day. There was destruction of property at Chewton, Castlemaine, Campbells Creek, Yapeen, and Guildford. The devastation included the loss of several lives and the destruction of several thousand pounds worth of property.



1909

On Sunday 10 September at 2:30 am. Creeks spread out all over the low lying parts of the districts, and a number of dredging plants were submerged. The Botanical Gardens were flooded. Several houses were inundated. This flood event was the highest recorded flood which affected a number of businesses, houses and rural properties that were severely impacted.



1934

Heavy rainfall occurred in the district late in the afternoon in October, causing the creeks to rise rapidly. At Newstead very heavy rain fell, totaling 208mm in three hours. The road between Castlemaine and Newstead was flooded. The water of the Loddon River at Newstead was within 304mm (a foot) of the top of the levee bank.



1973

The Shire recorded 127.8mm for January 1973 resulting in the second highest flood on record.



Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton

The January 2011 flood event is the highest recorded flood since 1909 in Castlemaine. Flooding caused damage to business, homes and sporting facilities, and caused significant distress and hardship to members of the community.

In 1889 the loss of several lives and the destruction of several thousand pounds worth of property occurred due to the flooding.

The 1909 flood event caused flooding in the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens and severely affected a large number of businesses, houses and rural properties.

Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton were impacted by floodwaters in September and November 2010, January 2011 and again in February 2012.

In 2012 Mount Alexander Shire experienced unexpected heavy rainfall, including over 75mm in a 90 minute period. Gingell Street, Greenhill Avenue, Barker Street, Taylor Street, Bruce Street, Chapmans Road, Happy Valley Road, Berkeley Street, Campbell Street and the Pyrenees Highway were affected or cut off by flood water.

The February 2012 flood event occurred during the night, resulting in extreme risk to residents and emergency response workers in terms of ability to combat the flooding.

Flooding affects both rural and urban areas as well as local and state roads that run along the creeks.



2000

On Australia Day, 26 January, several houses in the Campbells Creek area were flooded. Some houses had water pass over the floor due to overland flash flows.

On Tuesday 24 October the Loddon River peaked at 5.62 metres at Newstead and the levee bank at Strangways was overtopped.



2012

Mount Alexander Shire received over 1300 calls for assistance including: 115 Households affected - 63 properties which experienced above floor flooding; 20 Local businesses were flood affected; 11 Council buildings were flood affected and 280 requests regarding public infrastructure.

2010/2011

Castlemaine, Chewton and Campbells Creek were affected by overland and riverine floodwaters in September 2010, November 2010 and again in January 2011. The 2011 flood event is believed to be the highest flood on record. The Shire received approximately five times the January average rainfall. This resulted in flooding to 65 households, 40 farming properties and damage to Council and community infrastructure.



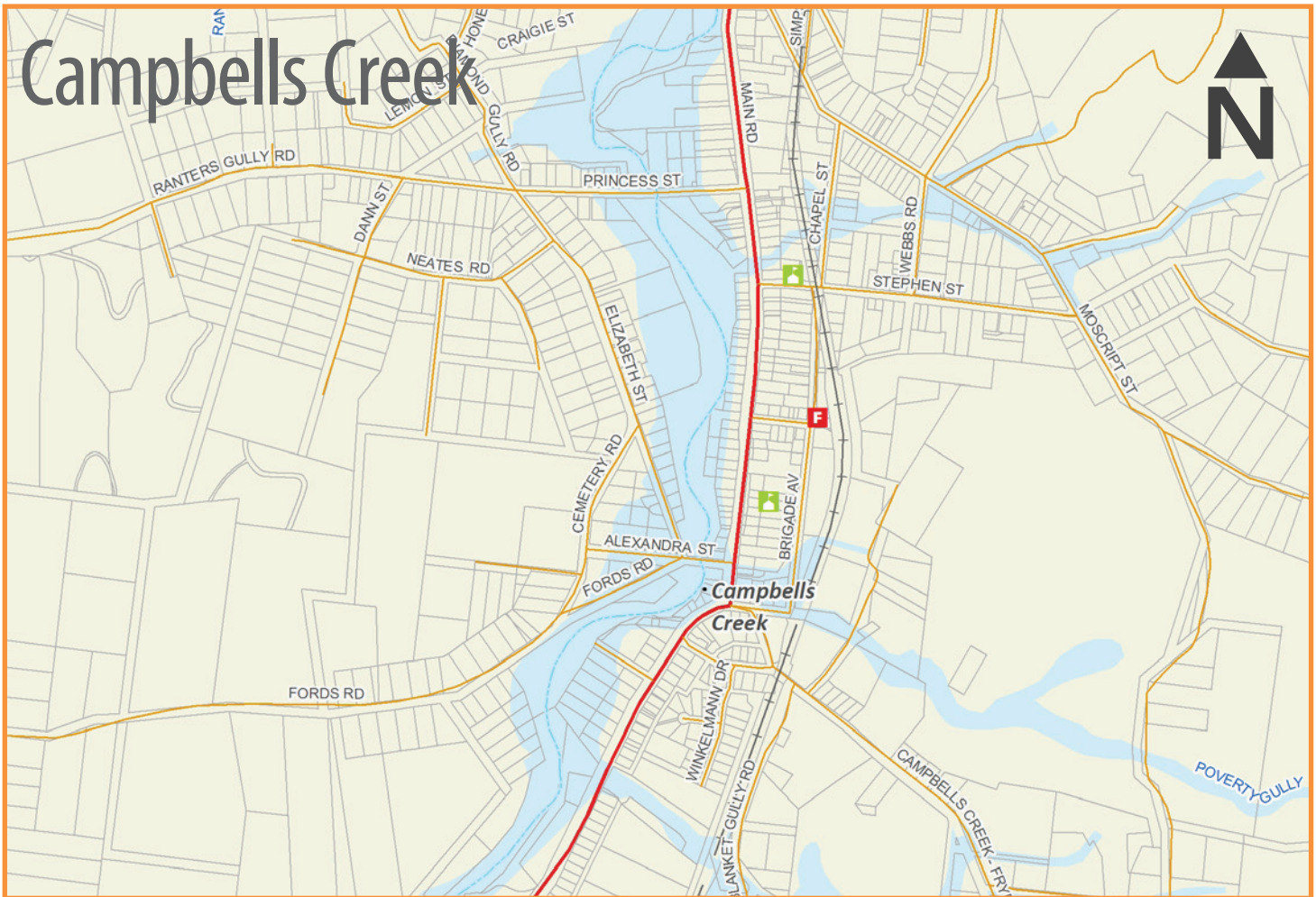
Castlemaine



Map Key

- | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Fire Station | SES Station | Church | Minor Road | River/Creek/Stream |
| Police Station | Hospital | Railway | Levee | 1% AEP Flood (Modelled) |
| School | Camp Ground | Major Road | Extent of Floor Data | |

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Preparing for Floods

Prepare a plan

Now – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Mount Alexander Shire.
- Develop an emergency plan.
- Check if you could be cut off by floodwater.
- Know the safest way to go if you decide to leave your property and plan an alternative route.
- Check your insurance policies to ensure your equipment, property and business are covered for flood damage.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit.
- Stay alert for weather warnings and heavy rainfall.

When a flood is likely

- Take action. Follow your emergency plan.
- Listen to your radio for information and advice.
- Check your neighbours are safe and know about the flood.
- Stack possessions on benches and tables with electrical goods in the highest places.
- Anchor objects that are likely to float and cause damage.
- Move rubbish bins, chemicals and poisons to the highest place.
- Put important papers, valuables, photos and other special personal items into your emergency kit.
- Business owners should raise stock, business records and equipment onto benches and tables.
- Rural property owners should move livestock, pumps and machinery to higher ground.
- If you are likely to be isolated, have enough food, drinking water, medicine, fuel and other needs to last at least three days.
- Do not forget pet food and stock feed.

Warnings and being alert

VicEmergency is the primary site for flood and fire warnings and shows emergency incidents in Victoria on a real-time Google Map display.



<http://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond>

It is very important to understand how storms and floods may affect you and that you have a plan for such events.

During these events the Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) can receive many requests for assistance and may take some time to reach you.

People living in the Castlemaine, Campbells Creek or Chewton areas can also access and monitor storm warning and severe Weather warnings through the Bureau of Meteorology website: <http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/warnings>

Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who have planned and prepared for emergencies have reduced the impact and recovered faster.

Taking the time to think about emergencies and make your own plan helps you think clearly and have more control to make better decisions when an emergency occurs.

Your emergency plan should identify:

- The types of emergencies that might affect you.
- How those emergencies might affect you.
- What you will do before, during and after an emergency.
- Where to get more information.
- Where you will go if you evacuate and the best way to go in different circumstances.
- A list of phone numbers you will need, including emergency services, your insurance company, friends and family.



Visit ses.vic.gov.au to obtain a copy of your Home Emergency Plan workbook

Evacuation

During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency service providers may advise you to evacuate to keep you safe. It is important that you follow this advice.

There are two types of evacuation notices that may be issued via your emergency broadcaster during a flood:

- **Prepare to evacuate** – means you should act quickly and take immediate action to protect your life and property. Be ready to leave your property.
- **Evacuate immediately** – you must leave immediately as there is a risk to lives. You may only have minutes to evacuate in a flash flooding situation.

Do not return to your home until you are sure it is safe to do so. You do not need to wait to be told to evacuate.

Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:



Check your kit often. Make sure things work. Replace out of date items.

When a warning is issued, have ready for use or pack into your kit:



I need to add:

Write your list here. Tick items as you pack them into your kit.

- Special needs _____
- Photos _____
- Family keepsakes _____
- Valuables _____
- Documents _____
- Other _____

Emergency Checklist

Now: Flood preparation

- Check if your insurance policies cover flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business emergency plan, see ses.vic.gov.au.

When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning

- Listen to Severe Weather Warnings for flash flood.
- Listen to radio and check the SES website for more information and advice.
- Go over your emergency plan. Pack clothing and other extra items into your emergency kit and take this with you if you evacuate.
- Leave early if you intend to evacuate.

When flooding may happen soon (heavy rainfall)

- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Conditions change rapidly, roads and escape routes can be covered or blocked. Don't forget to take pets and your medicine with you.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage.
- If you are staying in a caravan or temporary dwelling, move to higher ground BEFORE flooding begins.

During the flood

- For SES emergency assistance, call 132 500.
- DO NOT drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods.
- NEVER allow children to play in floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods for children and young people.
- Stay away from drains, culverts and waterways as water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, powerlines and damaged buildings.
- If you are trapped inside a building, stay inside and shelter in the highest place. Call Triple Zero (000) in a life-threatening emergency.

After the flood: recovery

- If your property has been flooded, check with Mount Alexander Shire for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:

-  ses.vic.gov.au
-  facebook.com/viceses
-  twitter.com/viceseswarnings

Emergency Contacts

Life-threatening emergency **000** Triple Zero
Police Fire Ambulance TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) **132 500**
For SES emergency assistance

VicEmergency Hotline **1800 226 226**

VicEmergency **emergency.vic.gov.au**
Victorian emergency warnings

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) **1300 659 217**
Weather information, forecasts, warnings
bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS) **relayservice.gov.au**

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or Triple Zero (000) using NRS:

	DIAL	THEN ASK FOR
■ Speak and Listen (SSR) users phone	1300 555 727	132 500
■ TTY / Voice users phone	13 36 77	132 500

Internet Relay users log into iprelay.com.au/call/
then enter: **132 500 or 000**

VicRoads **13 11 70**
Road closures and hazard reporting service
vicroads.vic.gov.au

Mount Alexander Shire Contact Details

Phone: **03 5471 1700**
Email: info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
Web: www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Weather District: North Central

Catchment: North Central Catchment Management Authority

Emergency Broadcasters

Emergency broadcasters include ABC Local Radio, designated commercial radio stations across Victoria and SKY NEWS Television.

 ABC Local 91.1 FM	 Gold 1071 AM
 TripleM Bendigo 93.5 FM	 Gold 98.3 FM
 KLFM 96.5 FM	 Hit 91.9 FM
 SKY NEWS Television	 Phoenix 106.7 FM

Complete the following and keep this information handy close to the phone:

Your electricity supplier: _____

Your gas supplier: _____

Doctor: _____

Vet: _____

Insurance

Policy Number: _____

Phone Number: _____