



Local Flood Guide Beaufort



Flood information for the Yam Holes, Ding Dong, Cemetery/Garibaldi and Cumberland Creeks at Beaufort



BEAUFORT

Beaufort, January 2011 flood



Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

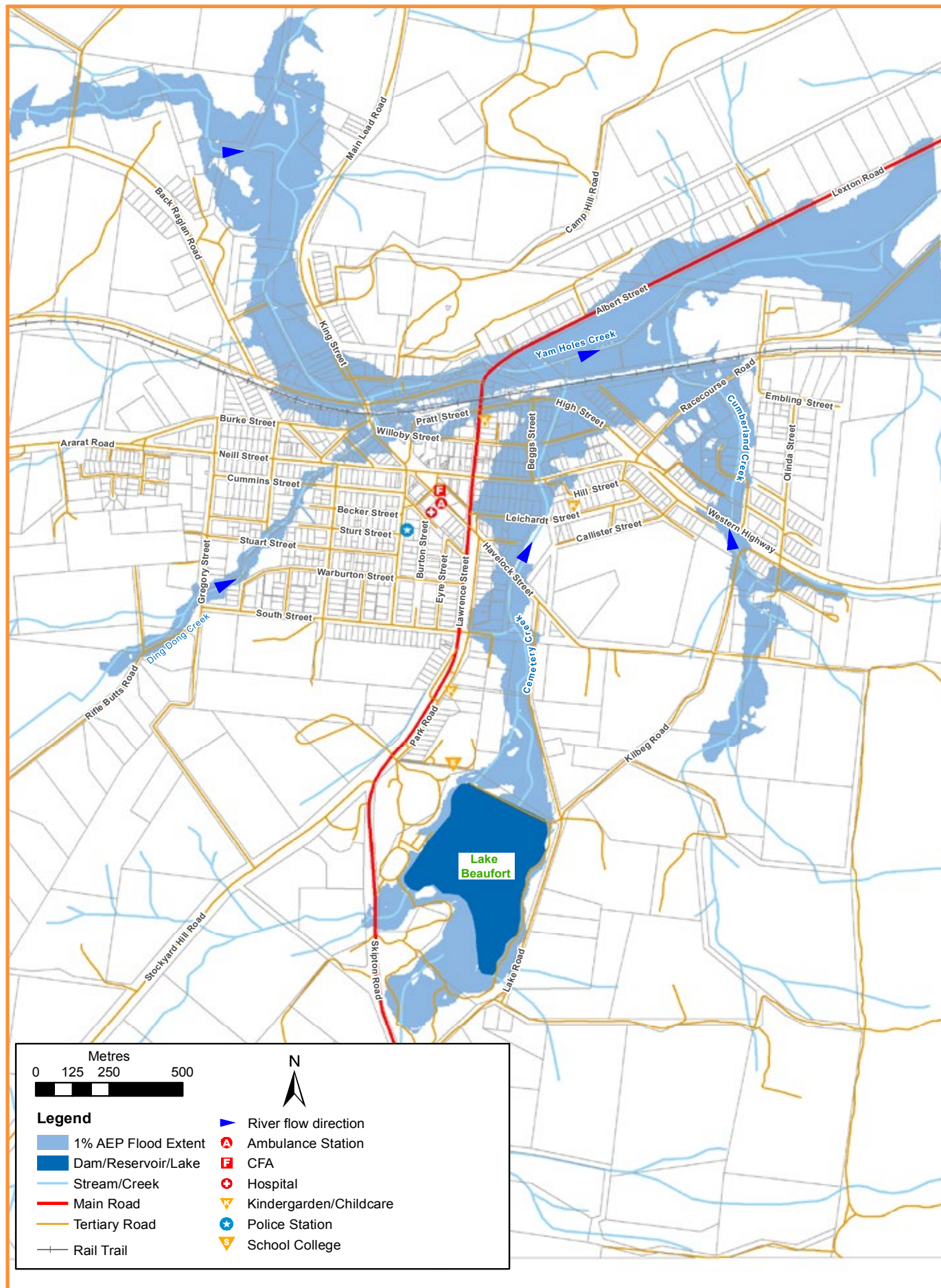
Protecting our future - Naturally



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**



For more information visit
www.ses.vic.gov.au



Disclaimer

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The Beaufort local area

Beaufort is situated on the Western Highway, midway between Ballarat and Ararat in the Pyrenees Shire. Flooding in Beaufort can occur after heavy storms or during prolonged rainfall events as Beaufort sits on the junction of four creeks.

Yam Holes Creek is the main waterway running through Beaufort, with three smaller creeks feeding into the Yam Holes Creek within the township itself. The smaller creeks can flood independently of each other or at the same time, depending on where rain falls within the catchment. Yam Holes Creek runs into Mount Emu Creek approximately 10 kilometres downstream of Beaufort.

The map on page 2 shows a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood and takes into account town drainage improvements completed following the 2011 floods. The January 2011 flood was approximately a 1% AEP flood in size. A 1% AEP flood means that there is a 1% chance of a flood this size occurring each year.

Are you at risk of flooding?

Low-lying areas bordering creeks in Beaufort are at risk of flash flooding. Flash flooding occurs in Beaufort when one or more of the four creeks in town overflow following heavy rainfall. The catchments that contribute to flooding in Beaufort are small and lie within a 5 kilometre radius of the town.

The smaller creeks in Beaufort; Ding Dong, Cemetery/Garibaldi and Cumberland, can flood independently of Yam Holes Creek. Large floods occur when more than one of the creeks overflow at the same time. The Cemetery/Garibaldi Creek has a higher risk of flooding when Lake Beaufort is full.

Flash flooding happens quickly and results in fast moving floodwater. Flooding of roads can quickly cut off access within Beaufort.

Beaufort rainfall levels

There are no automated flood warnings systems covering Beaufort, however, the table below shows how much rain over different periods of time may cause flooding in and around Beaufort.

The rainfall levels and duration times below could cause a 1% AEP flood in Beaufort, as shown on the map on page 2. You can use this table as a guide to possible flooding in Beaufort to help you prepare.

Guidance for the likelihood of flooding at Beaufort based on rainfall:

Beaufort rainfall predictions for a 1% AEP flood event	
Duration	Rainfall (millimetres)
1 hour	44.4 mm
3 hours	58.8 mm
6 hours	71.6 mm
12 hours	90.0 mm
24 hours	116.2 mm
48 hours	149.4 mm
72 hours	168.9 mm

Source: Bureau of Meteorology website: www.bom.gov.au

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- WIN News
- ABC Radio 774 AM
- ABC 107.9 FM
- Mixx 101.3FM
- ABC 594 AM
- 3BA 102.3 FM
- Power FM 103.1 FM
- SKY NEWS Television

Pyrenees Shire Contact details

Phone: (03) 5349 1100
 After hours emergency: (03) 5349 2039
 Email: pyrenees@pyrenees.vic.gov.au
 Web: www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Did you know?

Beaufort has a history of flooding with anecdotal evidence suggesting the area has flooded 15 times since 1900. The January 2011 flood is the largest flood on record in the town. During this flood, record rainfall of 96.8 millimetres of rain fell on the town in less than 12 hours, causing:

- The Western Highway to close in four sections.
- 23 buildings to flood over their floor levels.
- Evacuations in the town.
- Roads to flood including Pratt Street, Willoby Street, Beggs Street and Albert Street.
- Many local facilities were flooded including Bicentennial Park, the former Beaufort Primary School oval, the former Ambulance Station and the Shire offices.

While no two floods are the same, floods like this or worse could occur again.

If you live close to a creek, river or in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding. Even if you are not directly affected, you may still need to detour around flooded roads.

Preparing for a flood and knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property.



Western Highway, January 2011

About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to inform people about the possibility of flooding.

A **Flood Watch** means there is a developing weather pattern that might cause floods in one or two days.

The Victorian State Emergency Service (SES) will give information about how the floodwater might affect people and properties. This includes safety messages to remind you what to do.

As Beaufort is prone to flash flooding, Severe Weather Warnings and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are your earliest triggers to activate your Home Emergency Plan.

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe, due to their potential to cause significant localised damage through wind gusts, large hail, tornadoes or flash flooding. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued to the community by BoM.

Severe Weather Warnings

These warnings are issued to the community by BoM when severe weather is expected that is not directly related to severe thunderstorms or bushfires. Examples of severe weather include damaging winds and flash flooding.

Flash flooding results in water rising rapidly and flowing powerfully and quickly. Beaufort residents should listen out for warnings with flash flooding and remember that flash flooding:

- Occurs so fast that it is difficult to provide a detailed warning. Often it arrives without any warning.
- Usually results from heavy rainfall falling during short severe storms.

Listen to Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and Severe Weather Warnings for your area. If you hear a warning, check the BoM and SES websites for information and advice. You can monitor river and rainfall conditions on the BoM website at **bom.gov.au**.

Know your local environment

If you live in the Beaufort area, keep an eye on the weather, especially heavy rainfall or sustained rainfall over a number of days. In Beaufort, rainfall of 20-40mm on already wet land can cause flash flooding. If 20-40mm of rainfall or more is predicted for the South West weather district, Beaufort residents should plan for flash flooding.

Residents should be aware that it may take anywhere from 1 to 5 hours from the peak of rainfall to when flash flooding starts in Beaufort.

Knowing your local area and making your own observations is a great way to help you prepare for future floods.

Remember, you may not receive any official warning.

Emergency assistance may not be immediately available.

Be aware of what is happening around you to stay safe.

Never wait for a warning to act.

Emergency Alert

SES may provide alerts to the Beaufort community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All emergency service providers can use an Emergency Alert to warn communities about dangerous situations by voice message to landline telephones or text message to mobile phones.

If you receive a warning, make sure that all family members, people at work and your neighbours are aware of the situation.

If you receive an Emergency Alert you should pay attention and act. It could mean life or death.

If you need help to understand a warning, ask a friend, neighbour or family member.

During flash flooding

When flash flooding is likely, if you decide to leave, do so well before flooding occurs. Leaving early before flooding occurs is always the safest option. You may decide to shelter with neighbours, family or friends in a safer area.

Evacuating through floodwater is very dangerous and you may be swept away. NEVER drive, ride or walk through floodwater.

If you do not leave early enough and become trapped by rising floodwater inside your home or business, stay inside your building and seek the highest part.

Stay there and call Triple Zero (000) if your emergency is life-threatening.

If you are staying in a caravan or temporary dwelling, move to higher ground before flooding begins.

Safety in flash flooding

Driving through floodwater is the number one cause of adult deaths during floods. Never walk, ride, swim or drive through floodwater.

Playing in floodwater is the number one cause of death during floods for children and teenagers. Floodwater is filled with unseen dangers, harbouring hidden debris such as broken glass, shattered timbers and twisted metals as well as sewage, putrid food waste and toxic chemicals.

Floodwater is toxic never allow your children to play or swim in floodwater.

NOW – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Pyrenees Shire Council.
- 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.

Your emergency plan

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

Taking the time to think about emergencies and make your own plan helps you think clearly, have more control and 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 service providers, 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, CFA 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:


Copy of your emergency plan




Radio




Torch



Spare batteries




Copy of documents & records




Long life food


3 days supply




Safe drinking water

3 days supply






First aid kit



Gloves



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:

Mobile phone and charger



Prescriptions & medicines

3 days supply



Pet needs



Strong shoes



Clothes for your family

3 days supply



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

During and After a Flood

Never
Drive, Ride or Walk
Through Floodwater

During a flood

When flooding has begun:

- **Never drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater.**
- Remember that floodwater can be deeper than you think and can hide damaged roads and bridges.
- Never let your children play or swim in floodwater. It is dirty, dangerous and deadly.
- Tune in to your emergency broadcasters: ABC Local Radio, Commercial Radio, designated Community Radio Stations and SKY NEWS Television. eaudot.com.au
- In life-threatening emergencies, call Triple Zero (000).
- For SES emergency assistance during floods and storms call 132 500.
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen powerlines as electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals such as snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood. These animals can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to act quickly.

After a flood

Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to fall. To make sure you stay safe:

- Keep listening to local emergency broadcasters.
- Do not return home until you are sure that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- Investigate the structural safety of your building.
- Keep the electricity and gas off until checked and tested by a professional.
- When entering a building, use a torch to light your way. Never use matches or cigarette lighters as there may be gas inside.
- Take photographs of all damage for insurance.
- Drink bottled water or boil all drinking water until advised that the water supply is safe.
- Throw away any food or medicines that may have been in contact with floodwater or affected by power outages.
- Clean your home straight away to prevent disease.

How SES helps the community

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service. Although SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible, especially during flash flooding which occurs so quickly. Therefore it is advisable for you to be prepared for emergencies so that you can be responsible for your own wellbeing during those times.

In a flood, SES assistance may include:

- Giving flood advice
- Protecting essential services
- Helping to protect infrastructure
- Rescuing people from floodwater
- Advising of an evacuation

To assist your preparation, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of the SES Home Emergency Plan by visiting ses.vic.gov.au.



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

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

For more information visit:

-  **ses.vic.gov.au**
-  **facebook.com/vicses**
-  **twitter.com/vicseswarnings**

Emergency Contacts

Life-threatening emergency
Police Fire Ambulance

000 Triple Zero
TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)
For SES emergency assistance

132 500
ses.vic.gov.au

SES information line
Operates during major floods or storms

1300 842 737
1300 VIC SES

VicEmergency
Victorian emergency warnings

emergency.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
Weather information, forecasts, warnings

1300 659 217
bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS)
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

www.iprelay.com.au/call/
then enter: **132 500 or 000**

VicRoads
Road closures and hazard reporting service

13 11 70
vicroads.vic.gov.au

Pyrenees Contact Details

Phone: (03) 5349 1100
After hours emergency: (03)5349 2039
Email: pyrenees@pyrenees.vic.gov.au
Web: www.pyrenees.vic.gov.au

Weather District: South West

Catchment Management Authority: Glenelg Hopkins
www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

Emergency Broadcasters

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

-  WIN News Television
-  ABC Radio 774 AM
-  ABC 107.9 FM
-  More on page 3

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: _____