



Local Flood Guide Seymour



Flood information for the Goulburn River, Sunday Creek and Whiteheads Creek at Seymour



Goulburn Park 2010

SEYMOUR



FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**

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

The Seymour local area

Seymour is located in north central Victoria in the Mitchell Shire. Situated on the Goulburn River floodplain, Seymour and its surrounding area has a long history of flooding, resulting in the town being moved to higher ground.

The Goulburn River catchment, which drains towards Seymour includes: Sunday Creek, Whiteheads Creek, King Parrot Creek, Yea River, Murrindindi River, Home Creek, Acheron River, Rubicon River and Lake Eildon. At Seymour, Whiteheads Creek joins the Goulburn River near Wallis Street. Sunday Creek joins the Goulburn River near Emily Street. Flood Watches or Flood Warnings for the Goulburn Broken Catchment apply to these areas.

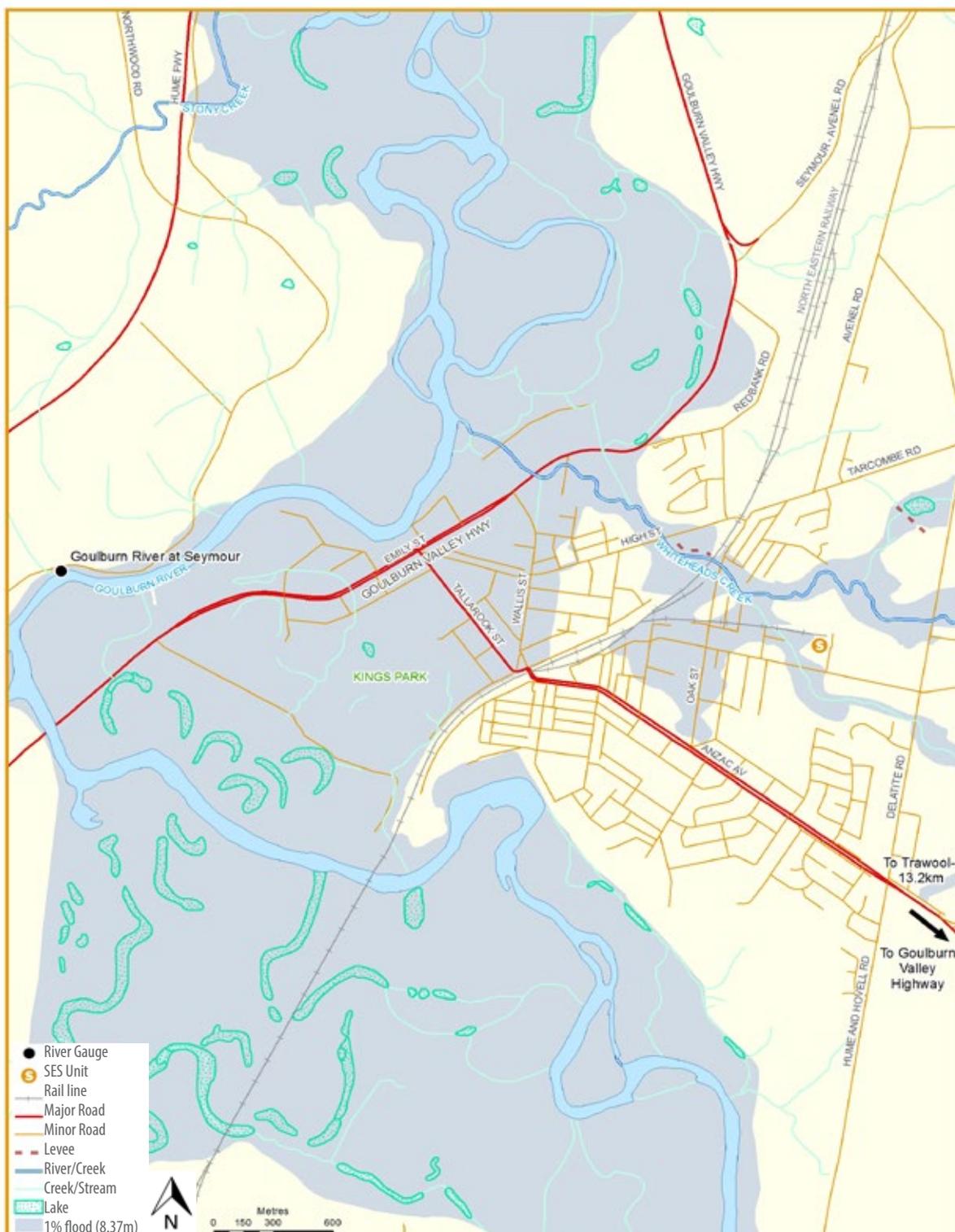
The map below shows a 1% flood in Seymour. A 1% flood means that there is a 1% chance of a flood this size happening in any given year. In Seymour, a 1% flood measures 8.37m on the Goulburn River Gauge.

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- ABC Radio 97.7 FM
- UGFM 88.9 FM
- 3SR 95.3 FM
- Star FM 96.9 FM
- SKY NEWS Television

Mitchell Shire Council:

Phone: 03 5734 6200
Email: mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au
Web: www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au



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Your Local Flood Information

Know your risk

Are you at risk of flood?

Floods in Seymour can be caused by flooding from the Goulburn River, Sunday Creek and Whiteheads Creek. Seymour can flood from one waterway at a time or they can all flood at the same time, making predicting exactly what will happen difficult.

Around Seymour, Goulburn River flooding usually lasts one to three days. When flooding occurs, areas affected include low-lying farms and parkland near the river, areas to the south and north of the town, Kings Park, Eliza Street, Station Street, Ekbergs Road, the Hume Freeway floodplain and Northwood Road.

Eildon Weir built in 1956 controls most of the water flow into the Goulburn River and although not designed for flood mitigation, it has reduced the impact and frequency of minor to moderate flooding in Seymour.

Heavy rain around Seymour often causes flash flooding along Whiteheads Creek and other low-lying areas. Flash flooding happen so quickly and can move so fast that there may no time to warn you. There is unlikely to be any information on when flash flooding will happen or how deep it will be. In the Seymour area, flash flooding may only last a few hours but can affect areas around Oak, Wimble and Delatite Streets and areas adjoining the Goulburn River. Delatite Road and Emily Street can remain impassable due to flooding for up to one day.

Goulburn River Flood Levels at the Seymour Gauge

There are five flood gauges spread around Seymour. Three are located on the Goulburn River including one downstream of Lake Eildon, one at Trawool and one at Seymour. In addition, there is one on Sunday Creek at Tallarook and one at Whiteheads Creek at Seymour. When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings, they can include a prediction of the flood height at a particular gauge.

While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you an indication of what might happen at certain gauge heights in Seymour, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected. The following information is a guide only.

8.9 m	1916 flood level (estimated) Largest flood known. At this height, floodwater may be greater than 2 metres deep over the Goulburn Valley Highway and at Kings Park. Properties are further affected and the town pool flooded.
8.37 m	Height shown on page 2. This flood is called a 1% flood, which means there is a 1% chance of a flood this size or larger occurring in any given year. At this height, 288 properties are affected with 263 flooded above floor level.
7.64 m	1974 flood level At this height, 187 homes and businesses are affected with over-floor flooding. 279 homes and businesses become isolated by flooding due to road and property flooding.
7.03 m	1975 flood level In parts, floodwater was up to 1 metre deep over the Goulburn Valley Highway and at Kings Park. The pool flooded. Anzac Avenue is cut off at the viaduct. At major flood level (7.0m), Kings Park flooded. Goulburn Valley Highway closed between Seymour Toyota and Redbank Road.
7.0 m	MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL
6.65 m	1993 flood level Widespread disruption to traffic. Over-floor flooding of at least five houses in Butler and Emily Streets. Properties in Edward, Emily, Hanna, Tierney, Alexander, High, Tallarook and Wallace Streets become isolated and surrounding areas are flooded.
6.2 m	September 2010 flood level
6.1 m	Floodplain from the Hume Freeway to the Goulburn Valley Highway at Emily Street floods. At moderate flood level (5.2m), Tierney, High and Wallis Streets start to flood. Emily Street stormwater backs up around roads and gardens. Goulburn River Caravan Park activates evacuation plan.
5.2 m	MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL At minor flood level (4.0m), Kings Park, three of the local caravan parks and farmland along the Old Hume Highway start to flood. Seymour stormwater drainage commences overflowing.
3.8 m	MINOR FLOOD LEVEL Below minor flood level, the Goulburn River breaks its banks causing flooding on low-lying farmland, parkland, low-lying roads and river crossings.

Did you know?

In 1916, Seymour experienced its largest ever flood, however since this flood, the area has experienced a significant amount of major flooding. Floods in 1847, 1870 and 1916 – 1917 caused the town's commercial centre to be moved three times. In addition:

- Records show that most flooding in Seymour has been caused by the Goulburn River, and in the 1870s the "Great Flood" submerged the entire town.
- In 1973, a flash flood from Whiteheads Creek killed one person and washed away a house.
- In 1974, the town suffered major flooding with nearly 200 buildings damaged from floodwater. Floods peaked at 7.64m, making it the largest since Eildon Weir was built, both Sunday Creek and the Goulburn River flooded after very heavy rain around the Seymour district.
- Flooding in 1993 resulted in localised flooding of low-lying areas.
- Today it is estimated that 400 buildings are vulnerable to flooding from a 1% flood on the Goulburn River (height shown on page 2).

While no two floods are the same, floods like these or worse could occur again. Even if you are not directly affected, you may still have to detour around flooded areas.



An example of a flood gauge

About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

Flood Watches and **Flood Warnings** are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to tell people about possible flooding.

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

Flood Warnings mean flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major Flood Warnings.

Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Reach the top of the river banks.
- Come up through drains in nearby streets.
- Cover low-lying areas including riverside camping areas.
- Affect some low-lying caravan parks.
- Cover minor roads, tracks and low level bridges.
- Spread across land or go into buildings on some properties and farms.

A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Spill over river banks and spread across low-lying areas.
- Start to threaten buildings, roads, rail, power and other developments.
- Require evacuation in some areas.
- Cover main roads.

A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Cause widespread flooding.
- Threaten more houses and businesses.
- Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water.
- Disrupt major roads and transport routes.
- Require many evacuations.

The Victoria 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.

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 happens quickly. There may be little or no warning. Neither the arrival time or depth of a flash flood can be predicted.

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 Seymour community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All emergency service providers can use 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.

Warnings for Seymour

For Seymour, Flood Warnings are issued by BoM. Flood Warnings provide predictions of flood size (minor, moderate or major), time and possible peaks of the:

- Goulburn River
- Sunday Creek

It is important to know how the predicted flood levels are likely to impact you as you may be affected before the peak.

See page 3: *Goulburn River Flood Levels at the Seymour Gauge table*, for an indication of how floods may impact you.

Flood levees

A levee is an embankment usually alongside a river or creek designed to protect property from floodwater.

Levees can reduce the frequency of flooding but no levee is guaranteed to be flood proof. A levee is designed to control a certain amount of floodwater. If larger floods occur, water will flow over the levee into low-lying areas. Floodwater may also damage the levee, allowing floodwater to flow through an opening or break.

Flood levees are to protect property, not people. If the levee is in danger of failing you will be advised to evacuate flood prone areas. It is important that you follow this advice.

Seymour's new levee is due for completion in 2015. For more information about the Seymour levee visit www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au.

NOW – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Mitchell 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 home and contents insurance. Many properties are not covered for flood damage.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit.

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.
- 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.

The time for me to evacuate is before:

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

Victoria Police is responsible for coordinating an evacuation in an emergency. 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. You should be ready to leave.
- **Evacuate immediately** – you must leave immediately as there is a risk to lives.

Remember you can leave at any time if you feel unsafe. 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 _____

During and After a Flood

Never
Drive, Ride or Walk
Through Floodwater

During a flood

When flooding has begun:

- **Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater.**
- **Floodwater can be deep and damage roads and bridges.**
- **Do not 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.
- In life-threatening emergencies, call Triple Zero (000).
- **For SES emergency assistance in floods and storms call 132 500.**
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen power lines – electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals, 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 leave early.

When you leave early or evacuate:

- Leaving early is always the safest option, leave well before roads are closed by floodwater.
- Take your emergency kit and three days supply of clothing with you.
- Turn off the electricity, gas and water as you leave.
- Take your pets with you. Do not leave them behind. Dogs should be muzzled.
- Go to a relief centre or to stay with friends or family in higher areas.

If activated, Relief Centres can help you with:

- Temporary accommodation
- Financial help
- Personal support
- Drinks and meals
- Basic clothing and personal needs
- Help to contact family and friends.

If you choose to shelter with a friend or relative, tell authorities where you are staying.

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 advised that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- 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.
- When entering the building, use a torch to light your way. Never use matches, cigarette lighters or any other flame as there may be gas inside.
- Keep the electricity and gas off until checked and tested by a professional.
- Take photographs of all damage for insurance.
- Clean your home straight away to stay healthy.

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. Therefore it is advisable for you to be prepared for emergencies so that you can share responsibility 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 flooding.
- 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.

When flooding may happen soon (a Flood Warning)

- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Be ready to evacuate. Act early, conditions change rapidly, roads and escape routes can be covered or blocked. Don't forget to take pets and 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. Raise chemicals and oils well above the predicted flood height.
- Move pumps, machinery, hay and livestock to high ground.

During the flood

- For SES emergency assistance, call 132 500.
- DO NOT drive, ride 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, water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, power lines and damaged buildings.

After the flood: recovery

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

For more information visit:

-  ses.vic.gov.au
-  [facebook.com/vicses](https://www.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 Information Line

Operates during major floods or storms

1300 842 737
1300 VIC SES

www.ses.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

Weather information, forecasts, warnings

1300 659 217

www.bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS)

www.relayservice.com.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

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

VicRoads

Road closures and hazard reporting service

13 11 70

www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Mitchell Shire Council

Phone:

03 5734 6200

Email:

mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Web:

www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Weather District:

North Central

Catchment:

Goulburn Broken

Emergency Broadcasters

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

- UGFM 88.9 FM
- ABC Radio 97.7 FM
- 3SR 95.3 FM
- Star FM 96.9 FM
- SKY NEWS Television

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: _____