

# Getting ready for an emergency

## Easy Read information for you



The Cardinia Shire wrote this booklet.  
When you see the word 'we', it means the  
Cardinia Shire.



We wrote this booklet in an easy to read way.  
We use pictures to explain some ideas.

**Bold**  
Not bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.  
This means the letters are thicker and darker.  
We explain what these words mean.



You can ask for help to read this checklist.  
A friend, family member or support person  
may be able to help you.

# What is an emergency?



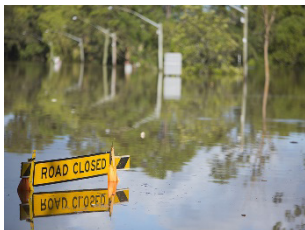
An **emergency** is a dangerous situation that we don't expect to happen.

An emergency can also put your health and safety at risk.

In Cardinia Shire, we might have:



- bushfires



- big storms and floods



- blackouts – when you lose electricity.



An emergency can happen at any time.

When an emergency happens, it's important you know how to:



- be ready for the emergency



- stay safe.



We have a checklist of things you can do to:

- be ready in an emergency
- stay safe in an emergency.

## How can you get ready for an emergency?



There are things you can do to get ready for an emergency.

You can:



- make an emergency plan – a plan of what to do in an emergency



- pack an emergency kit – a bag or box of items that will help you in an emergency.



You can also download the VicEmergency app on your phone or tablet.



And you can connect with people in your community. They might be able to support you in an emergency.

## What can you do now to get ready for an emergency?



We have a checklist of what you can do now.

This can help you get ready for an emergency.



You can tick the boxes below when you have done something that will help you get ready for an emergency.



☐ I made an emergency plan.

I will practice my emergency plan from time to time.



☐ I included my pets in my emergency plan.

I will think about where I will move them.



☐ I have made copies of important documents.

For example, my passport and medical documents.



- ☐ I got **insurance** that can help me in an emergency. And I checked what it includes.



Insurance is a service you pay for to protect you if something goes wrong.



If you have insurance and something goes wrong, your insurance company pays the cost to fix it.



- ☐ I packed an emergency kit.

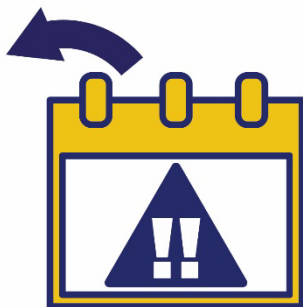
I made sure it's in a place that's easy to:

- find
- take with me.

## How can you stay updated in an emergency?



We have a checklist of how you can stay updated in an emergency.



There are some things you can do before an emergency happens.



You can tick the boxes below when you have done something that will help you stay updated in an emergency.



☐ I have downloaded the VicEmergency app on my phone or tablet.



- ☐ I have saved important contact numbers on my phone or tablet.

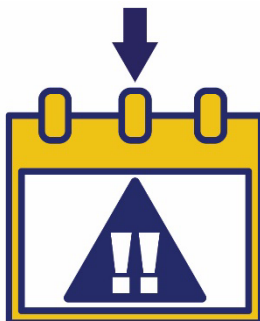
This includes:



- my family and friends



- the VicEmergency Hotline.  
**1800 226 226**



There are also some things you can do while an emergency is happening.





You can tick the boxes below when you have done something that will help you stay updated in an emergency.



- ☐ I will check VicEmergency for information about emergencies that are happening now.

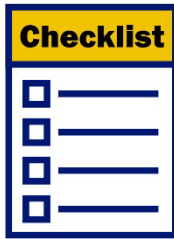


- ☐ I will check if it's a Total Fire Ban day.  
A Total Fire Ban means you can't light any fires in an open area, like a campfire.



- ☐ I will pay attention to emergency announcements.  
For example, on the radio or internet.

## How can you stay connected with your community?



We have a checklist of how you can connect with your community in an emergency.



You can tick the boxes below when you have done something to help you connect with your community.



☐ I have built relationships with people in my community.



☐ I talked to my neighbours about my emergency plan. I have worked out if we can help each other.



☐ I have looked at community groups I can take part in.

This includes being a **volunteer**.



Volunteers are people who work but don't get paid.

Volunteers usually do work that helps other people.



☐ My neighbours and I agreed on a place to meet if we are separated in an emergency.

## For more information



For more information about getting ready for an emergency, you can visit our website.

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



You can also visit the VicEmergency website for more information.

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



And you can visit the Emergency Prepare website.

[www.emergencyprepare.com.au](http://www.emergencyprepare.com.au)



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images. The images may not be reused without permission. For any enquiries about the images, please visit [www.informationaccessgroup.com](http://www.informationaccessgroup.com). Quote job number 4795-C.