BEECHWORTH **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Your guide for emergency planning and recovery

INDIGO SHIRE COUNCIL

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Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise their enduring connection to County and the ongoing custodianship and care for the lands and waterways.

Acknowledgements and strategic context

We would like to thank the various voices that came together to develop this plan throughout the community consultation process during mid 2025. This plan reflects the information available at the time. Any changes made after printing in July 2025, may not be captured in this booklet.

This plan is intended as a guide in conjunction with other state and agency emergency, health, and community plans. Those involved in the creation of this plan are not to be held responsible for any loss or damages suffered in connection with the use of this document. The work has been made possible through flood recovery funding from Emergency Recovery Victoria.

The development of this community document was proudly supported by:

INDIGO SHIRE COUNCIL

EMERGENCY RECOVERY VICTORIA

Introduction

A Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is a guide to plan for emergencies common to the locality. This document was created by the community and collated with the support of Council. It is a community owned resource that should serve as a dynamic document, updated based on community need in response to evolving climate conditions and the increasing severity of emergencies.

Every individual and family must make their own emergency plan - this document is not that. You must decide your own trigger points for action to ensure your survival. The plan provides references for emergency planning, which must be done prior to an event.

Using this plan will help you be informed of common hazards, emergencies and how you could respond to them. It provides a comprehensive recovery directory to advise you on the resources available after a single incident, or major event.

Council's commitment to climate action

In 2019 Indigo Shire Council became one of Australia's first councils to declare a Climate Emergency. Council has also committed to a Net Zero by 2035 target for its greenhouse gas emissions and developed an Emissions Reduction Plan (2021) which provides a roadmap of required actions to reduce our emissions, measured at 6,300 tonnes CO2-e in 2019/20. A major step was joining the Victorian Electricity Collaboration (VECO) in July 2021, switching Council's buildings to 100% renewable electricity – an action that reduced Council's emissions by 20%.

Indigo Shire Council is committed to mitigating and adapting to climate change when delivering local government services and maintaining Council assets into the future. Council recognises its important leadership and advocacy role in empowering staff and our communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Find out more: **climateaction.indigoshire.vic.gov.au**

Living in a climate emergency

In 2023 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported unequivocal evidence that Earth is warming at an unprecedented rate and that climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying, with more extremes on the rise, placing human ecosystem health at serious risk.[1] In addition to the need to take urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a bid to keep global warming to within 1.5°C, it is now widely accepted that the global community will be required to adapt to the consequences of a changing climate, with impacts varying depending on where you live.

Australia is already experiencing increases in temperature, frequency and intensity of heatwaves, flooding rains, hazardous fire weather and drought conditions.[2] The Hume Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2021)[3] acknowledges the need to ensure our communities are informed and empowered to make transformational change to be resilient in the face of climate change. This includes planning for the challenges and opportunities created by a changing climate, as outlined in the North East Regional Catchment Strategy.[4]

References

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2023). AR6 Synthesis Report - Climate Change 2023. Retrieved from: https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/

2. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. (2023). Annual Climate Change Statement 2023. Retrieved from: https://www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/strategies/annual-climate-change-statement-2023

3. The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. (2021). Hume Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. Retrieved from: https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au

4. North East Catchment Management Authority. (2024). North East Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27. Retrieved from: https://www.necma.vic.gov.au/

SECTION 1:
Understanding the risks in your community

Welcome to Beechworth!

Beechworth, a historic gold-mining town in North-East Victoria, has a population of 4,274 as of the 2021 census. Located in the Victorian Alps foothills, it experiences a cooler climate, with hot, dry summers and is classified as an extreme fire risk zone.

The community is accustomed to severe weather events, including storms and past emergencies like the 2009 Black Saturday fires and 2022 floods. Climate change has resulted in more intense and frequent weather events and emergencies. Rainfall is predicted to decline by 25%-45% by 2050, while heatwaves, storms, cyclones and floods are predicted to increase.

Knowing your neighbour can help identify opportunities for you to help your community, and where they can help you.

The 2021 census found Beechworth to have an **ageing population** and an **older than average median age**.

It also recognised that about a **quarter of all households are families**.

Nearly half of the population are affected by a **significant long-term health condition** that could make them more vulnerable in an emergency.

Emergency events in Beechworth

Bushfires

The community is regularly threatened by bushfires, with the last major events being the Black Saturday fires in 2009 and the 2019/20 bushfires.

High density forests are a direct risk to the town during a fire and increases risk of becoming isolated.

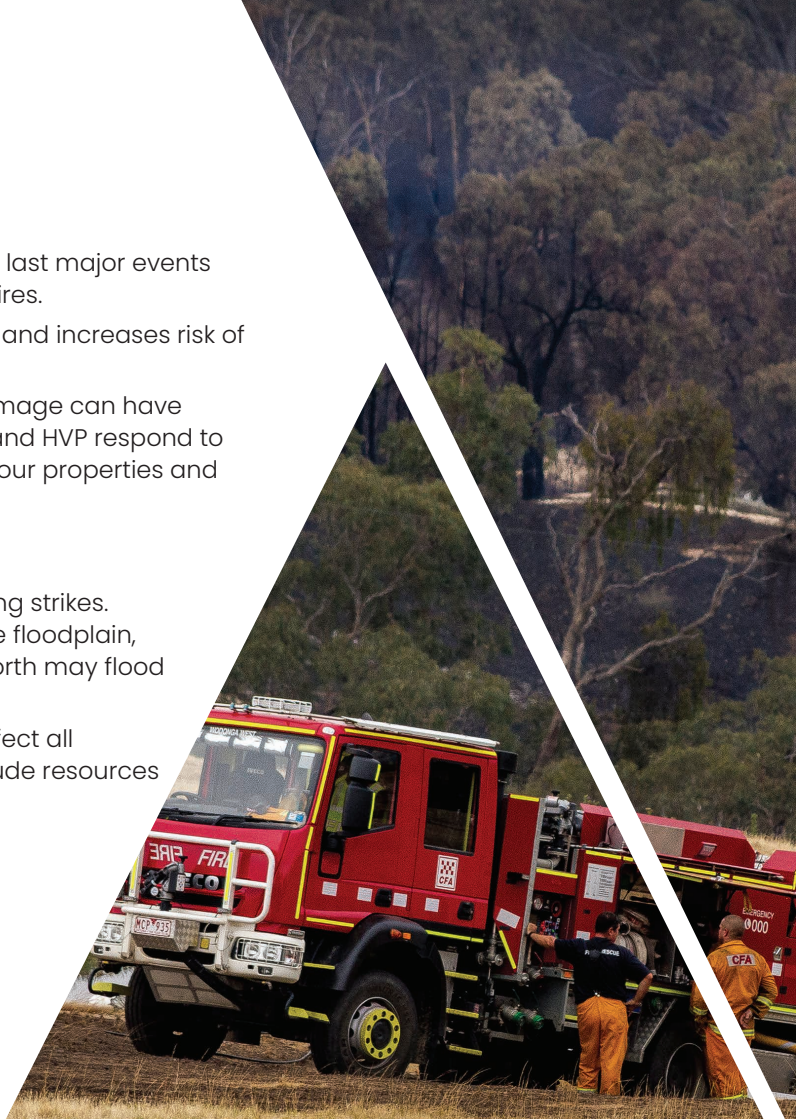
Flame presents more than a direct threat; smoke and its damage can have long-term economic and psychosocial impacts. CFA, FFMV and HVP respond to fires locally, however, we all have a responsibility to prepare our properties and ourselves.

Storms

Severe storms can include high wind, heavy rain, and lightning strikes. They are common for most of the year. While not in a riverine floodplain, any of the numerous creeks and tributaries around Beechworth may flood after a storm, impacting property and roads.

Power outages often occur due to storm activity and can affect all aspects of daily life. Your emergency planning needs to include resources for up to 72 hours without power or water.

Visit the Indigo Shire Council website for emergency planning resources. For further information contact: 1300 365 003 or info@indigoshire.vic.gov.au



Extreme Weather

Beechworth has a diverse climate of generally hot, dry summers and cold, wet winters. Extreme weather of any variety can affect both people and pets, with heat being the biggest killer of any emergency in Australia.

Many homes are not prepared for wide fluctuations in weather. Both high and low temperatures can cause power outages and problems with other infrastructure.
Council supports the provision of cool relief spaces for high heat relief, providing water, air conditioning and a place to rest.

Cool Relief spaces are identified by this logo

Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic underscored the significance of community connectivity. When access to broader communities is limited, towns may experience a sense of isolation. The enduring effects of health crises extend beyond physical health; mental well-being has emerged as a critical concern in these challenging times. Community has limited control in planning for the impacts of a pandemic, however we can continue to strengthen our connections to mitigate the impacts.

The Australian Warning System

The Australian Warning System is a national approach to information and warnings for hazards including bushfire, flood, storm, cyclone, extreme heat, and severe weather. It is accessed through VicEmergency and gives you advice on when to act.

Use multiple reputable sources of information to stay up to date on emergencies.

Local UHF Channels: Emergency only channels - **UHF 5** and **35**. Road safety channel - **UHF 40**.

Emergency Radio: ABC 106.5 FM and 675 AM or **abc.net.au/emergency**

VicEmergency: 1800 226 226 or **emergency.vic.gov.au**
App available for Android and Apple.

National Relay Service
1800 555 677 or **accesshub.gov.au**

Bureau of Meteorology (weather)
bom.gov.au

Transport Victoria
13 37 78 or **transport.vic.gov.au**

Emergency Alerts

Emergency Alerts tell you a fire/incident has already started and are:

- responsive to specific incidents
- location specific
- relevant for all emergencies

Your first 'alert' could be to evacuate.

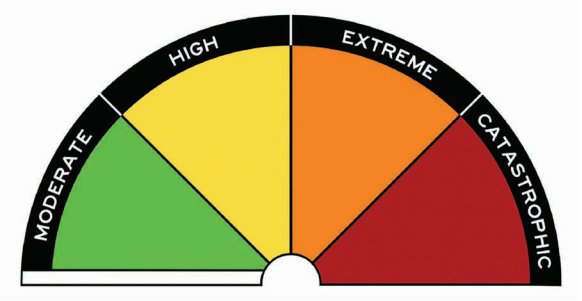
	Advice • An incident has started. • There is no immediate danger. • Stay up to date in case the situation changes.
	Watch and Act • There is a heightened level of threat. • Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family
	Emergency Warning • An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. • You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delays now puts your life at risk.

The Australian Fire Danger Rating

A national prediction of how dangerous a fire would be if one started. These warnings are only for bushfire events.

The daily rating is displayed on Beechworth-Wangaratta Road, Beechworth-Wodonga Road and at the Beechworth Transfer Station.

Moderate	Most fires can be controlled. Stay informed of updates. Plan and prepare.
High	Fires are an elevated risk. Be alert for fires in your area. Reconsider travel to high-risk areas. Be ready to act.
Extreme	Dangerous fire conditions. Activate your fire plan. Leave if you are unprepared. Travel through safe zones. Leave early.
Catastrophic	The most dangerous fire conditions. Help may not be able to reach you. Homes cannot endure these fires. Leave early for your survival.



To get warnings on your phone, download the VicEmergency App

Conversations about preparedness

Your personal risk depends on what the hazard is, how much you are affected by it and what your current vulnerability is. Our vulnerability changes depending on our situation, such as if we have people with high needs staying with us, or if we are experiencing a health issue. The following equation is a handy way to think about your present risk in any situation:

Risk =

Hazards x Exposure x Vulnerability

Hazards =

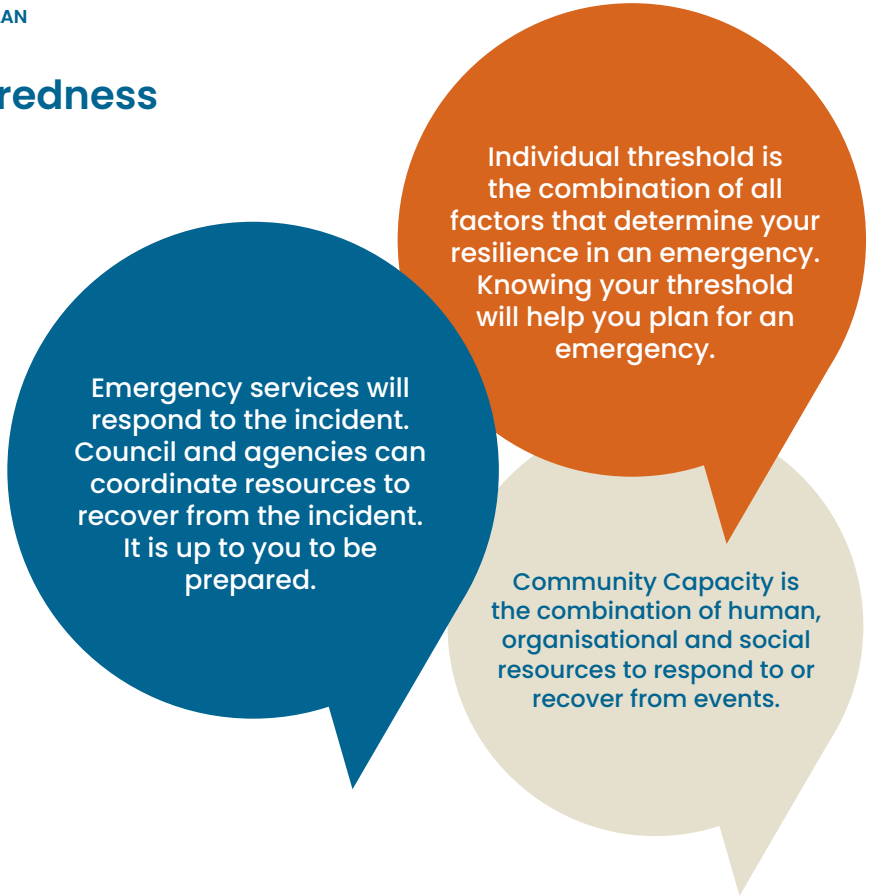
The danger i.e. Emergencies, accidents.

Exposure =

How much does the danger affect me? i.e. How far away from a flooding river am I?

Vulnerability =

How do I cope with/react/respond to the event? i.e. My asthma makes smoke more dangerous; I own another property I can evacuate to.



Questions to ask yourself

› What is my trigger to leave?

› What could protect my property from storm and flood?

› What do I need to protect in my home?

› Where could I stay for up to 3 days?

› Where would I go and how would I get there?

› What is my back-up plan if I can't get to my preferred place?

› What could change my trigger to leave?

› Can I enact my plan on my own?

› Am I prepared to be self-sufficient for 72 hours?

› What is my level of knowledge regarding emergency situations and preparedness?

› Do I have any people or pets to think about?

› Does my health, or my dependent's health impact my planning?

Questions to ask your family

› Do we have the same plans?

› What happens if we're separated?

› Do we have the same priorities?

› Are we dividing tasks or doing them together?

› Where are members of your family during the day?

The best way to decide your threshold is to have conversations with yourself, your family, and your community about emergencies.

Only you can decide your threshold.

SECTION 2:
Before an emergency

Being prepared for the first few days

Emergencies can be unexpected and unpredictable, which means that it can take emergency services several days to get supports in place for individuals and communities.

Relief and recovery needs look very different in each emergency, and some properties and communities are at risk of becoming cut off, possibly for long periods of time.

Within the first few days, it is essential... continue from there.

You may not receive a direct warning! You may not receive a direct warning! Know your triggers and enact your plan early.

Your emergency kit will be personal to you, but it must withstand several days of potential isolation.

Attend a **CFA local Fire Ready session** or **Red Cross EmergencyRedi Workshop** to complete your plan.

Assess your homes bushfire resilience rating
rating.rbcouncil.org

SECTION 3:
During an emergency

Evacuation considerations

It is your personal responsibility to know what your triggers are and to plan to leave early. You need to be aware of your surroundings and stay up to date on emergency warnings.

Follow all instructions and warnings while enacting your plan. Do not return until you are advised it is safe.

Emergency Contacts	
Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
State Emergency Service	132 500
International standard emergency number	112

Beware of hazards on all roads. Wildlife and fallen vegetation can be anywhere. Drive to the conditions.

Even if a road isn't closed, consider if it is safe to drive on. Are you familiar with it? Is anything affecting visibility like smoke, sun, or rain?

There is no one right place to evacuate to, rather it is best to have multiple options depending on the type of emergency, and your individual circumstances.

Distance isn't the only factor to consider when evacuating. Where will you feel safe and fulfill your needs during a highly stressful period?

Local knowledge for planning to leave

All roads in and out of Beechworth are heavily vegetated with extreme fire loads and many dead trees. There is often no shoulder, reducing options for evasion. Wildlife and fallen trees are often an issue and conditions can change rapidly. Emergency services recommend that people evacuate early to reduce risks on the roads.

Wodonga and Wangaratta are the closest major towns with multiple options for accommodation, food, healthcare, and other resources. It is a main road in either direction, and generally considered suitable for most vehicles – including larger vehicles and towing.

Additional exits comprise Chiltern Road, which provides access to the Hume Freeway; Buckland Gap Road, traversing the Murmungee Valley and connecting to the Great Alpine Road; and Beechworth-Stanley Road, which links to Myrtleford and Mudgegonga.

Indigo Shire Council has mutual aid agreements in place with neighbouring Councils to establish Emergency Recovery Centres away from danger.

What happens if I stay?

Bushfire

Following the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires, the advice has been to leave early, but some may still choose to stay. It's vital to consciously decide to remain instead of becoming trapped as conditions worsen, as such assistance is unlikely to materialise. Emergency services may be unable to reach you in time.

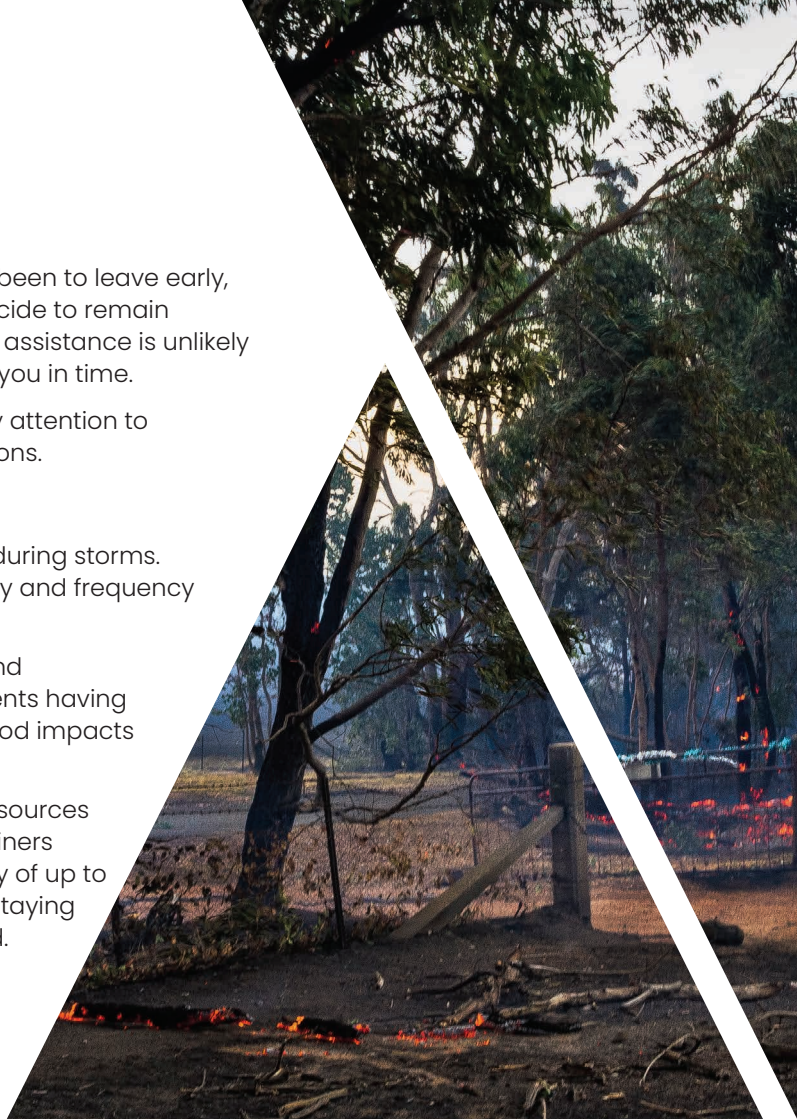
A well planned and rehearsed Emergency Plan is critical. Pay attention to warnings, as homes cannot endure catastrophic fire conditions.

Storm and flood

It is increasingly common for individuals to remain in place during storms. The effects of climate change contribute to the rising severity and frequency of such events, including tornadoes and flash flooding.

There can be extreme hardship in staying, both physically and psychologically. Properties can easily be isolated, with residents having to be self-rescuing in clearing fallen trees and managing flood impacts in the early days.

In the event of a power, water, or communication outage, resources such as batteries, satellite radios, and pre-filled water containers become essential. It is advisable to prepare for the possibility of up to 72 hours of isolation. A battery-operated radio is crucial for staying informed and maintaining a connection to the outside world.



Emergency Relief Centres

In the event of an emergency that significantly impacts the community, an Emergency Relief Centre (ERC) is often established.

An emergency relief centre is:

› opened and staffed by Council in conjunction with the Incident Controller.

› a place that provides information about the emergency and the support available.

› a place you can register your details on Register Find Reunite.

› busy, loud and emotional at times.

› promoted through the VicEmergency App and ABC radio 774AM, or 106.5FM.

› where you can access relief support services to assist with your immediate needs. You should plan to bring enough food, water and bedding for the first 3-5 days.

An emergency relief centre is not:

› an appropriate destination when leaving the area early, it should only be included on your plan as a place to go when no other options are available to you.

› promoted in advance as they may change. Don't ever assume you know where the emergency relief centre is as this can be dangerous.

› always able to accommodate pets or animals, you should check emergency information.

The ERC may be in another town, such as Wodonga, Wangaratta or Myrtleford

Register. Find. Reunite.

When relocating you should take the time to register you and your family's details on Australian Red Cross Register.Find.Reunite (RFR). By registering on RFR your family and close friends will be able to find out basic information about your safety and whereabouts if they cannot contact you directly.

redcross.org.au/emergencies/about-register-find-reunite/

Bushfire Place of Last Resort - Neighbourhood Safer Place

Beechworth's Bushfire Place of Last Resort -Neighbourhood Safer Place (BPLR-NSP) are located at the **Memorial Hall, 101 Ford Street** and the **Police Paddocks on High St**, behind the Police Station.

A place of last resort:

› should only be used when all plans have failed and you are under immediate threat of fire.

› is not an appropriate destination when leaving the area early.

› is relevant only to bushfire emergencies.

› is a preidentified area that may provide some protection from direct flame and heat from a fire, but they do not guarantee safety.

› has no staff or emergency services available.

It is important to note that travelling to and using a place of last resort is dangerous and can lead to mental trauma, serious injury or death. People sheltering at an BPLR-NSP are likely to experience extreme conditions such as heat, high winds, fire noise, and exposure to flying embers; and may experience breathing difficulties due to smoke and ash.

SECTION 4:
After an Event

Returning to property

Prioritising safety is essential when returning to a property. Emergency services may restrict access until both the roadways and the property are deemed safe for re-entry. Upon arrival, remain vigilant for potential hazards that could pose risks to you and any individuals accompanying you. If you decide to go alone, it is advisable to inform someone of your whereabouts.

Hazard examples:

- Trees
- Electricity and Gas
- Wildlife
- Contaminated/Flooding water
- Unstable ground and structures

Safety also means your wellbeing. It can be confronting returning home after an emergency.

- You may see or hear things that are very distressing
- Pets and children may be even more affected
- Consider leaving pets and children with friends or family on your first visit
- Consider asking someone to come with you or be available afterwards

The clean-up process can be complicated and drawn out, but there are resources to make it easier.

- Record the damage
- Talk to your insurance or rental provider
- Stay aware of any community clean-up efforts

Recovery Support Services & Contact Directory

Recovery Support Services & Contact Directory

Recovery following a crisis can be challenging; however, it is important to recognise that you do not have to navigate this process alone. Numerous resources are available through both community networks and various agencies, tailored to meet your specific needs. Communities that collaborate effectively position themselves optimally for recovery and can even influence agency responses by offering valuable local insights regarding resource allocation.

At the state level, Emergency Recovery Victoria oversees recovery efforts, while the Municipal Recovery Manager at the Council is tasked with coordinating local recovery activities. This individual can also provide guidance on available financial support and assistance. The following section outlines essential recovery services that can aid in this process.

Municipal Recovery Manager
p 1300 365 003
e mrm@indigoshire.vic.gov.au

Shared responsibility means that individuals and communities have responsibilities and can assist in recovery just as much as agencies can. Many hands make light work!

Emergency Accommodation

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION			
BeyondHousing	Support for emergency housing, including post emergency and crisis housing.	03 5722 8000 after hours 1800 825 955	beyondhousing.org.au/need-help/housing/crisis-accommodation
Salvation Army - Homelessness support and services	Provide a range of homelessness services specific to adults and families, including accompanying children.	0427 503 948	salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/homelessness-support-services
The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)	Crisis and emergency accommodation includes a range of specialist services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness or after an emergency.	1800 825 955 24 hours	services.dffh.vic.gov.au/crisis-accommodation
Indigo Shire Council – Municipal Recovery Manager	Short term emergency accommodation and service referral.	1300 365 003	mrm@indigoshire.vic.gov.au

Financial and Material Support

There are several types of financial support available after an emergency, which can also be dependent on the severity of the event - including single incident events like a house fire. A federally declared major disaster unlocks increased financial support.

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
FINANCIAL & MATERIAL SUPPORT			
Services Australia (Centrelink)	Natural disaster payment support may include: individual and business grants; loans for small businesses and non-profit organisations; help from a Community Recovery Officer. Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment is available to people who have been adversely affected by a major declared disaster.	180 22 66	servicesaustralia.gov.au/natural-disaster-support?context=60042 Register through your MyGov account
The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)	The Personal Hardship Assistance Program helps people experiencing financial hardship in emergencies. The program includes Emergency Relief Payments and Re-establishment Assistance.	Emergency Recovery Hotline 1800 560 760	services.dffh.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program
The Salvation Army - Beechworth	Provides financial hardship assistance in times of crisis, including after an emergency. They can provide emergency food relief and targeted financial support and advice. Mon-Fri at 10am-4pm.	0427 503 948	salvationarmy.org.au/need-help

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
FINANCIAL & MATERIAL SUPPORT			
Quercus Beechworth -Community Support	The Community Support program can help pay short-term rent costs, utilities or phone accounts and provide a fuel voucher or food cards. They can also provide links to financial counselling. Open Tue, Wed, Thu 10am-4pm.	0403 865 095	quercusbeechworth.org.au/community-support
Gateway Health - Community Recovery	After a declared disaster, Gateway can provide assistance, including – grants, mental health and general well-being, connections into community legal services and financial counselling services, basic emergency material needs, and advocacy support to your local government.	0487 374 686	gatewayhealth.org.au/services/community-recovery
Upper Murray Family Care	Specialist family services, including family violence support and financial counselling.	02 6055 8000	umfc.com.au

Financial and Material Support

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
FINANCIAL & MATERIAL SUPPORT			
Hume Riverina Community Legal Service – Bushfire Legal Help	Provides free information and advice about legal issues and options for ongoing assistance after a bushfire. have a disaster recovery service that can assist you with your legal questions, including insurance issues.	02 6055 8090 or 1800 918 377	hrcls.org.au/bushfire-legal-help
Disaster Legal Help Victoria	The Disaster Legal Help team is a joint initiative of the Law Institute of Victoria, Justice Connect, the Federation of Community Legal Centres and the Victorian Bar to provide free legal advice and referrals to disaster affected families.	1800 113 432	disasterlegalhelp.org.au

Donations

Donations are appreciated, however, please wait until directed before making any contributions. Opportunities and required support will be clearly communicated to the community. Be scam sensitive and only make donations through official channels. Asking your neighbor if they need a hand can be just as valuable as donating to a charity.

Recovery Response (for local support)

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
RECOVERY RESPONSE (FOR LOCAL SUPPORT)			
Emergency Recovery Victoria	Victorian recovery coordination agency for all emergencies. Available grants, recovery funding and opportunities are listed on their website.	Recovery Hotline 1800 560 760	vic.gov.au/emergency-recovery-victoria
BlazeAid	BlazeAid is volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires, cyclones, droughts, and floods.	0418 990 267	blazeaid.com.au
AgBiz Assist	Provides information on support packages available for flood-affected farmers, as well as financial counselling and assistance for small and rural businesses.	1300 834 775	agbizassist.org.au
Agriculture Victoria	Agriculture Victoria works in partnership with farmers, industries, communities and other government agencies to provide support post-emergency, including biosecurity risks.	1800 226 226	agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/floods

Recovery Response (for local support)

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
RECOVERY RESPONSE (FOR LOCAL SUPPORT)			
AGL	Support in emergencies, including bill relief business support for experiencing financial hardship due to extreme weather.	Message in My Account or the AGL app or 131 245	agl.com.au/help-support/emergencies-outages
Ausnet	Call to report faults and emergencies, including fallen powerlines and powerlines caught in trees.	13 17 99	ausnetservices.com.au/outages/storm-response
North East Catchment Management Authority	Water management, including drought management, Standpipes, blue-green algae management, potable water issues, bill relief in emergencies.	General enquiries: 1300 361 622 Emergencies: 1300 361 644	newater.com.au/what-we-do/water
North East Water	Water management including bushfire preparation, quality management after bushfire, flood impact management, including sewerage.	Emergencies: 1300 361 644	newater.com.au/help-advice/plan-for-natural-disasters

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
RECOVERY RESPONSE (FOR LOCAL SUPPORT)			
Environment Protection Authority Victoria	Monitoring of flood affected waterways and technical advice to emergency and recovery services. Air quality monitoring and pollution, including hazardous spills.	1300 372 842	epa.vic.gov.au
Albury Wodonga Ethnic Community Council	The peak multicultural organisation for the Border region of Albury, NSW and Wodonga, Victoria.	02 6024 6895 0417 582 664	awecc.org.au

Psychosocial & Health Supports

In the immediate aftermath of an emergency your community is in the best position to know what you are going through. Think about who is in your support network that you can reach out to and share some of your weight. You are just as likely to be able to help your neighbour as they can help you. The Red Cross and the Victorian Council of Churches Emergency Ministry provide non-denominational psychosocial relief in the community after an emergency.

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
LOCAL SERVICES			
Gateway Health Wodonga/ Wangaratta	Provides professional counselling, community mental health services, AoD treatment services, allied health, parenting programs, headspace and adolescent services, gender service, general practice, family violence counselling, carer support programs.	03 5723 2000	gatewayhealth.org.au/services
North East Health Wangaratta	Provides hospital and emergency services in Wangaratta.	03 5722 5111	northeasthealth.org.au/services
headspace Wangaratta /Albury Wodonga	headspace support young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and other drug services, as well as work and study support.	1300 322 022	gatewayhealth.org.au/services/counselling-mental-health/headspace headspace.org.au/explore-topics/for-young-people/mental-ill-health

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
	LOCAL SERVICES		
Orange Door	Intake and Referral service for Child Wellbeing and Family Services.	02 6055 8000	orangedoor.vic.gov.au
Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) - Mental Health Triage	Crisis information, assessment, and referral. In an emergency ring 000. AWH Provides specialist clinical assessment, treatment and on-going care to people who have, or who are at risk of serious mental illness or suicide.	1300 104 211 (24-hour)	awh.org.au/services-departments/mental-health
Wellways	Community mental health programs provide support for people living with mental health issues or who have mental health concerns to develop coping strategies and recover in their community.	1300 111 400	wellways.org/our-services/category/mental-health-wellbeing

Psychosocial & Health Supports

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
LOCAL SERVICES			
Beechworth Health	Provides urgent care, hospital and aged care services n Beechworth.	03 5728 0200	beechworthhealthservice.com.au
Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service	A community-controlled organisation, established to cater for the primary health care needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families, residing in Albury Wodonga and surrounds.	Wodonga Clinic 02 6067 2286	awahs.com.au/clinical-medical
Beechworth Surgery	General Practice services	03 5728 1566	beechworthsurgery.com.au
Beechworth RSL	Provides support for Veterans as required. Open Thursdays for camaraderie and fellowship and Fridays for Administration/ Veteran Welfare issues.	John Eldrid (President) 0417 054 553 05 5728 2756	victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/beechworth-rsl-sub-branch

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
	LOCAL SERVICES		
Centre Against Violence **The Orange Door** **Safe Steps (after hours)**	Family Violence support for families and children, including victim/survivor support and perpetrator intervention.	03 5722 2203 1800 271 157 1800 015 188	centreagainstviolence.org.au/how-we-help

Family Violence

Evidence shows that family violence increases significantly after an emergency, including intimate partner violence.

Emergencies do not cause family violence, but they do increase the pressures as people try to re-establish their lives. Homelessness, unemployment, and increased alcohol and drug-use are characteristic of the recovery period. Disasters are traumatic experiences with accompanying grief and loss along with the financial and bureaucratic demands of the recovery and reconstruction phase. There is often increased contact between family members in cramped or shared accommodation that can increase tension.

This is not something you have to go through alone – there is help available. Victorian legislation supports the victim/survivors to stay in their home, while the perpetrator of violence is required to leave. A perpetrator forfeits all rights to privacy when they commit violence, and anyone can lawfully provide Police with their details.

Psychosocial & Health Supports

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
NATIONAL or VICTORIAN MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINES			
Beyond Blue	Online and telephone helpline for people experiencing depression, anxiety, or other mental health issues.	1300 22 4636	Online chat at: beyondblue.org.au/support-service/chat Online Forums at: forums.beyondblue.org.au
Kids Helpline	24-hour telephone service that is available for young people (aged between 5 to 25) who need advice, counselling or just need to talk.	1800 55 1800	Online chat at: kidshelpline.com.au/get-help/webchat-counselling
MensLine	Confidential 24-hour crisis support line for people who are at risk of suicide, know someone at risk of suicide, or who have been affected by suicide.	1300 789 978	Online chat at: mensline.org.au/phone-and-online-counselling
Lifeline	An anonymous and confidential 24-hour crisis support line; provides support by phone, via online chat or face to face for people in suicidal crisis.	13 11 14	Online chat at: lifeline.org.au/crisis-chat

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
NATIONAL or VICTORIAN MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINES			
Victorian Virtual Emergency Department	Provides an online public health service to treat non-life-threatening emergencies.		vved.org.au
SuicideLine	Provides 24-hour phone or online counselling support for people who are at risk of suicide, know someone at risk of suicide, or who have been affected by suicide.	1300 651 251	Online chat at: suicideline.org.au/phone-and-online-counselling
Suicide Call Back Service	Phone and online counselling for those feeling suicidal or who are bereaved by suicide, anytime.	1300 659 467	Online chat at: suicidecallbackservice.org.au/phone-and-online-counselling
StandBy Support	StandBy is Australia's leading suicide postvention program dedicated to assisting people and communities bereaved or impacted by suicide.	1300 727 247	standbysupport.com.au/resources

Psychosocial & Health Supports

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
NATIONAL or VICTORIAN MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINES			
Thorne Harbour Health	Confidential, non-judgmental, counselling for members of the LGBTIQA+ community, including grief and loss.	03 9865 6700 or 1800 134 840	For more information about services at: thorneharbour.org/services/mental-health
QLife	Offers trained peer support workers to assist with suicidal thoughts, loss through suicide, or advice on how to help someone if there is concern that they need support.	1800 184 527 between 3pm – midnight everyday	Online chat at: qlife.org.au between 3pm – midnight everyday

Wildlife and Pets

ORGANISATION	SERVICES	PHONE	WEBSITE
WILDLIFE/PETS			
Wildlife Victoria - Australian Wildlife Emergency Response	Emergency response for wildlife and general advice.	03 8400 7300	wildlifevictoria.org.au
Beechworth Reptile Rescue - Wildlife Victoria/DEECA approved shelter	Rescuing injured and orphaned wildlife, specialising in reptiles.	03 5728 3353	beechworthwildlifestays.com.au/rescue
Kangaloola Wildlife Shelter 24hr	Rescuing sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife for release.	0407 412 750	kangaloolawildlifeshelter.org.au
Indigo Veterinary Services	Providing veterinary services to Beechworth, Yackandandah, Stanley, Chiltern, Indigo Valley, Wooragee and beyond.	03 5728 2410	indigovets.com.au

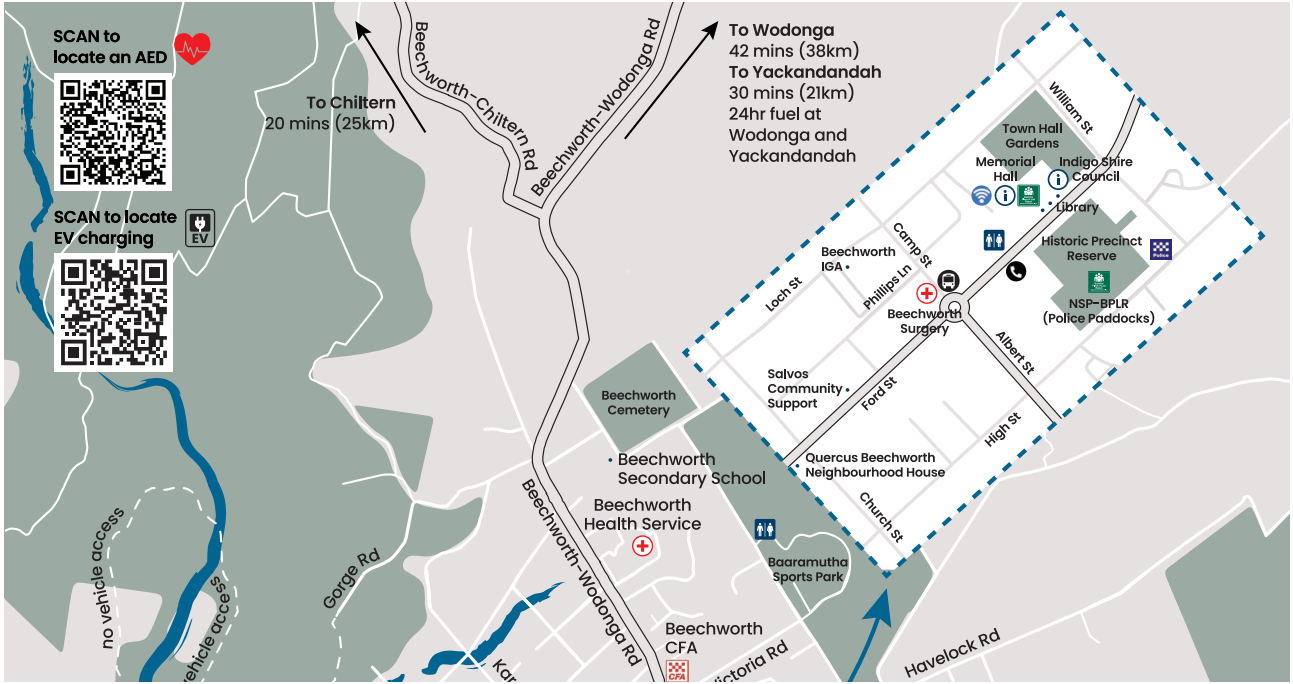
BEECHWORTH
EMERGENCY REFERENCE MAP

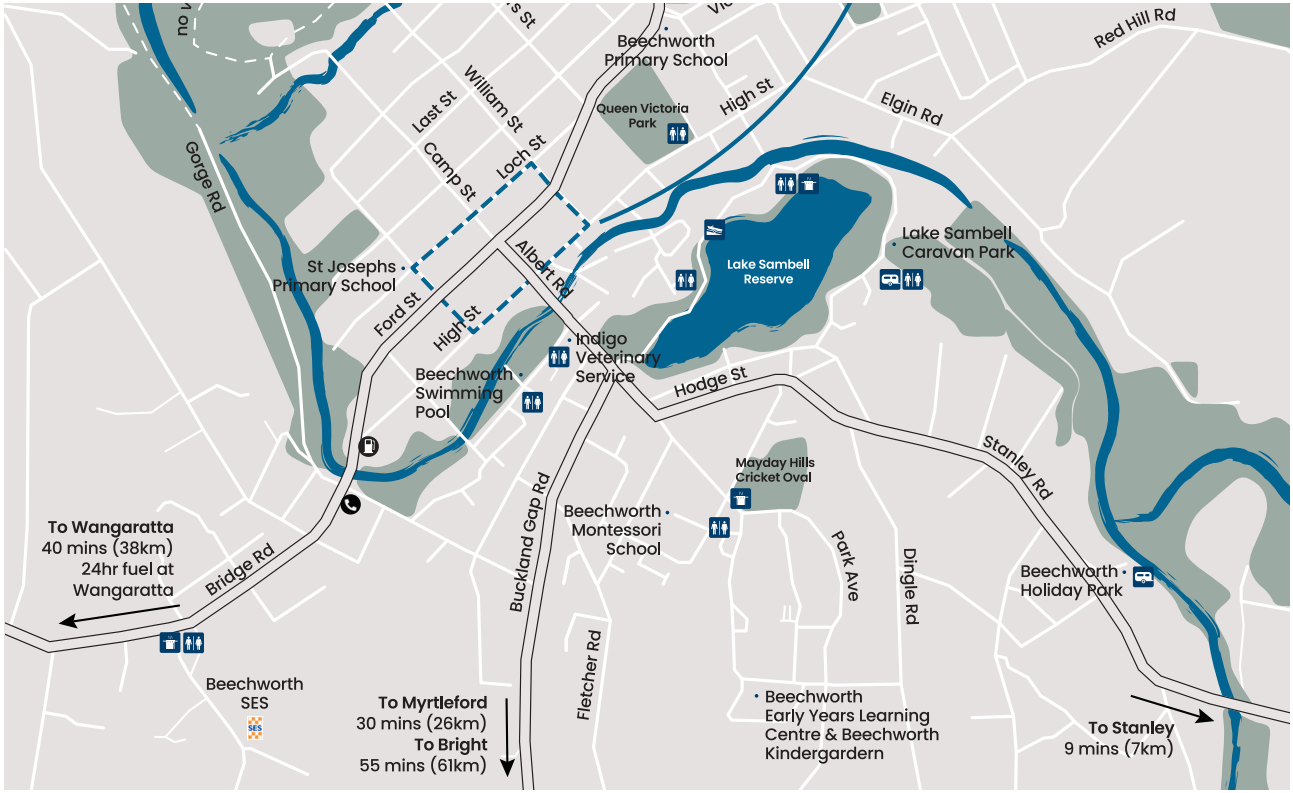
INDIGO SHIRE COUNCIL

Vic Emergency | BOM Weather | Get Prepared | Good Sam | Emergency Plus | First Aid - IFRC | ABC Listen

LISTEN to ABC Radio 106.5FM
Caution: Power outage may impact radio transmissions.

Install the above apps to your mobile device for reference in case of an emergency - For All EMERGENCIES – Call 000




Beechworth Primary School
Red Hill Rd
Queen Victoria Park
High St
Elgin Rd
William St
Last St
Camp St
Loch St
Gorge Rd
Lake Sambell Caravan Park
Lake Sambell Reserve
St Josephs Primary School
Albert Rd
Ford St
High St
Indigo Veterinary Service
Beechworth Swimming Pool
Hodge St
Stanley Rd
Mayday Hills Cricket Oval
To Wangaratta
40 mins (38km)
24hr fuel at
Wangaratta
Bridge Rd
Buckland Gap Rd
Beechworth Montessori School
Park Ave
Dingle Rd
Beechworth Holiday Park
Fletcher Rd
Beechworth SES
To Myrtleford
30 mins (26km)
To Bright
55 mins (61km)
Beechworth Early Years Learning Centre & Beechworth Kindergardern
To Stanley
9 mins (7km)
CFA
SES
Visitor Information Point
Police
Neighbourhood Safer Place - BPLR
Hospital/Medical Centre
Public Toilets
Fuel
Public Telephone
Public WiFi
Caravan Park
Barbecue
Boat Ramp
N

INDIGO
SHIRE
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