BRUTHEN & DISTRICT

Local Incident Management Plan

Community Reference Guide
&
Information Booklet (produced A5 booklet size)

2017 – 2023

Bruthen & District Citizens Assoc.

contacts updated Nov 2019

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Disclaimer

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Acknowledgement

The BDCA acknowledges the assistance of Bruthen & MOSSI-TAMBO Fire Brigades, Bruthen SES, East Gippsland Shire Council, Dept of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (specifically Forest Fire Management) and individual community members in contributing to this booklet. This booklet will be reviewed in mid-2022.

Overview

The Bruthen Local Incident Management Plan (LIMP) was originally developed at a community meeting held at the Bruthen Hall in 2012. In 2016 local community members met at the Bruthen Fire Brigade and recognised a need for a mini version to be developed, to serve as a local community and visitor reference in times of emergency. This LIMP booklet therefore aims to provide local community, and visitors to the area, with information on what to expect and how you can best prepare for emergencies.

The booklet aims to provide an overview of the sort of preparation you can undertake to minimise the impacts of an emergency, as well as likely activities in the relief and recovery phases.

While all emergencies differ it is not the purpose of this LIMP booklet to provide detailed instructions for each scenario; rather it provides general guidance as well as some specific advice and resources that are already supplied by emergency response agencies.

The most severe threat for Bruthen and District is assessed as bushfire, hence why much of this plan looks at fire prevention and mitigation. Severe flood and storm events do also occur and it is for this reason that there is as a section dedicated to inundation.

This LIMP booklet forms part of the East Gippsland Shire Council's (EGSC) Emergency Response Plan, which in turn sits within State Government emergency response planning protocols. Group and agency emergency plans and protocols exist separately to this plan and are therefore not discussed here. It behoves all residents to accept responsibility for their own circumstances and prepare accordingly.

Introduction

The more prepared you are the greater your chance of survival when **any** type of emergency arises. For accurate updates on emergency situations you should monitor your local emergency information broadcasters (radio, internet). **Be mindful that verbal information may not be accurate.**

Assembly Area

The Assembly Area is the **Bruthen Mechanics Hall**. It is located at 49 Main Street, Bruthen. It is **not** a Neighbourhood Safe Place; it does, however, provide an effective assembly area and the ability to concentrate resources to aid disaster relief.

The Bruthen Mechanics Hall has parking at the rear and is in close proximity to key infrastructure that may be useful during relief and recovery. Alcohol at the Assembly Area is strictly forbidden.

Section One: The Overall Plan

Definition of Bruthen and District

For the purpose of this booklet, Bruthen and District includes the township of Bruthen bounded:

- to the north – Big Creek Rd (vicinity of Evans Track Ramrod on the Tambo River).
- to the south – bridge crossing Tambo River, vicinity of Tambo Upper Primary School.
- to the east – extending from the bridge at Tambo Upper Primary School along Stephenson Rd and then Duncan Rd.
- to the west – up to and including Dead Horse Creek Rd (vicinity of Whelan's Quarry).

The District includes Sarsfield, Mossiface, Tambo Upper, Wiseleigh, Ramrod and Kilmorie.

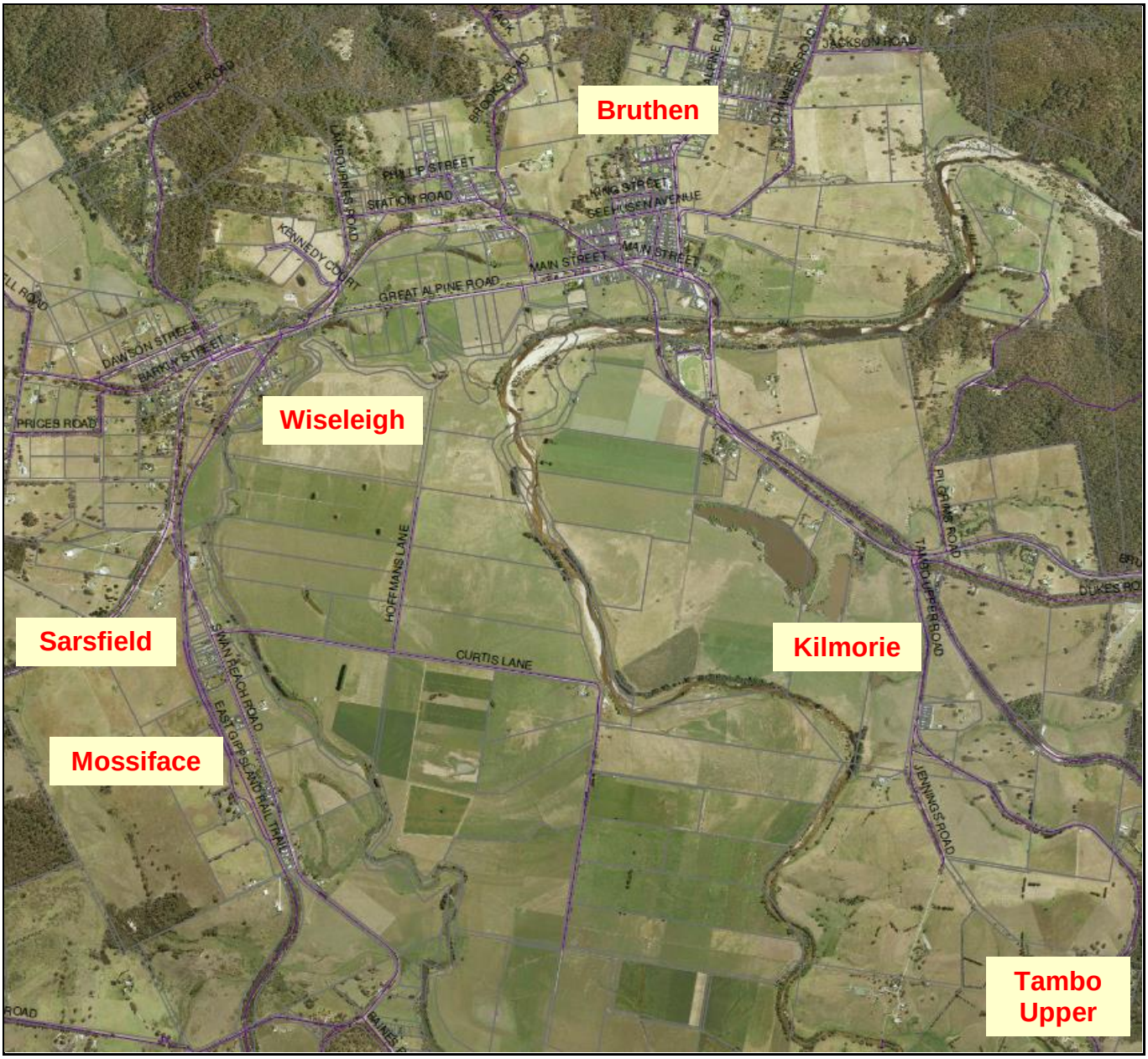


Figure 1: Aerial photograph of Bruthen District.

What to Expect

During a major emergency the decision to open the Assembly Area will be made by the Incident Management Team (IMT) operating from an Incident Control Centre (ICC), which will most likely be based in Bairnsdale.

If an Emergency Relief Centre (located also at the Bruthen Mechanics Hall) is required, either after an emergency involving Bruthen or in support of a neighbouring community, it is an EGSC responsibility to establish and coordinate that centre.

Outline

In the event of an **incident or emergency** requiring people to use the Assembly Area, this plan will take effect. Remember, the Assembly Area is the Bruthen Mechanics Hall.

Community members relocating to the Assembly Area who are from outside the Assembly Precinct (which is three to four blocks of the Hall), will park their vehicles (if driving) in the park located at the rear of the Hall (known as the Police Paddock). Community members that live within the Assembly precinct will, if capable, walk to the Assembly Area. This is to ensure that adequate parking is available for those who are required to travel greater distances or from outlying districts.

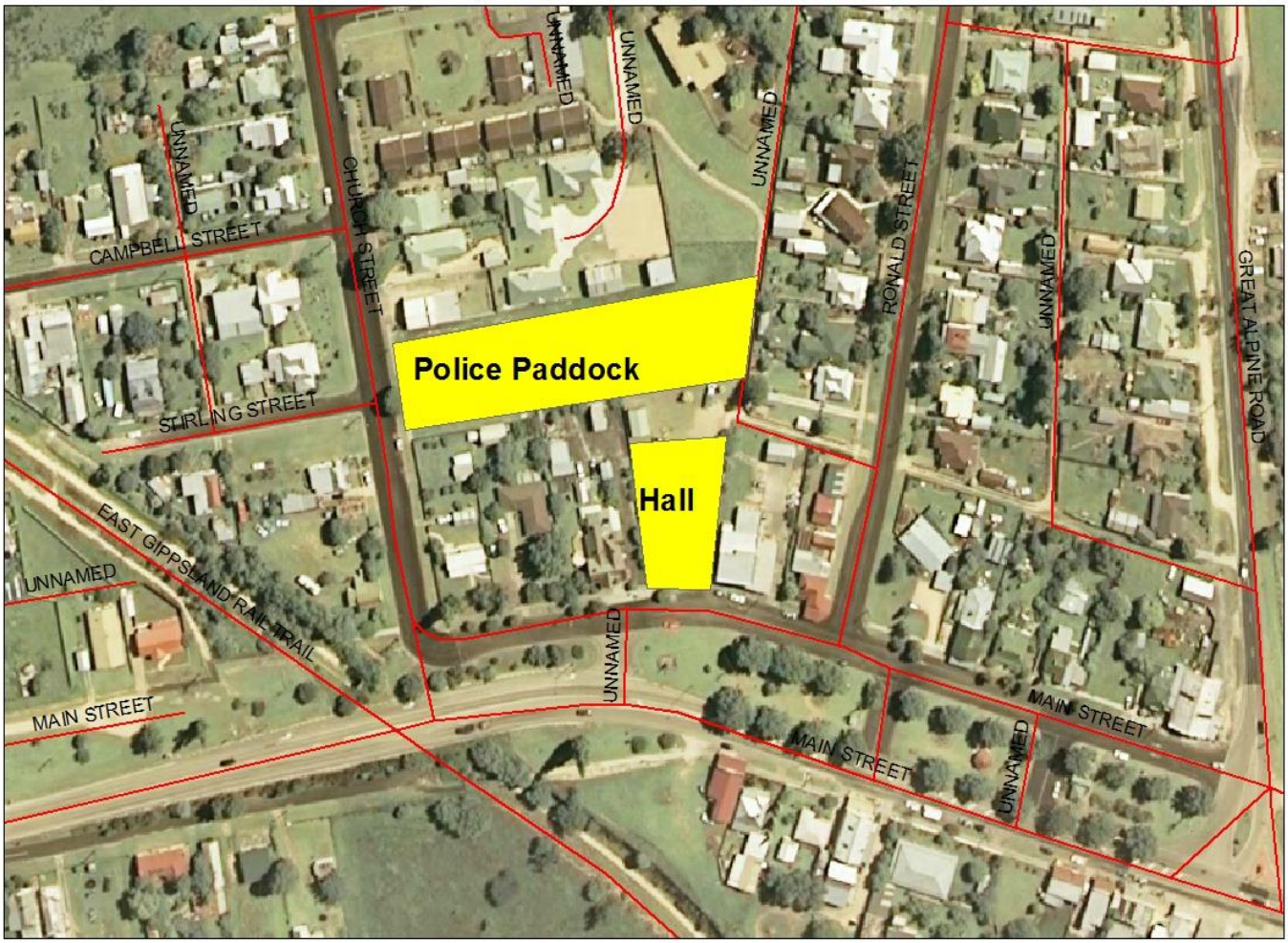


Figure 2: The Bruthen Hall is the Assembly Area and is located at 49 Main Street, Bruthen.

Notification of Activation of the Assembly Area

You may become aware that the Assembly Area has been activated through:

- ABC Radio announcements.
- Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) website.
- VicEmergency smart phone app.
- Community Emergency Display Television (located at the Bruthen General Store).
- Facebook.
- Bruthen phone tree/s.

Individual Personal Preparedness Plans (PPP)

Remember the more prepared you are the greater your chance of survival when an emergency situation arises.

Some of the things you can consider doing are:

- Developing your own plan.
- Assess what is the risk for you.
- Do you stay or go if there is a threat of fire or flood?
- Protection of your property and possessions.
- Essential equipment and/or supplies you will need.
- What your requirements after the emergency are – for a week duration at minimum.

In the event of a bushfire you need to decide whether you will stay and actively defend your home or whether you will leave before the fire threatens. If you decide to leave – **leave early**!

Special consideration should be given to evacuating anyone under 16 years or over 70 years and those who have a medical condition and require care. **Do not** leave evacuation to the last moment. Prior preparation and planning will deliver **positive** outcomes.

Resources

There are a number of resources available for your use and reference. If you require assistance with a fire plan contact your local CFA, or the VicEmergency Hotline. The CFA **Fire Ready Kit** booklet is an excellent source of information (and available from CFA online). Likewise, the SES has developed local **FloodSafe Guides** (available from SES online). This, in addition to advice on extreme heat, can be found on the EGSC and VicHealth websites. All documents are highly recommended and contain additional information for your consideration and planning.

Individual Plan Considerations

These considerations are regardless of whether the event is fire, flood, storm or a severe heat.

Drinking water and food

- Deliveries of fresh food may not occur – have supplies on hand for an emergency.
- Electricity may be cut during or after a major emergency – foods may well spoil.
- River water supply – may be contaminated; be prepared to boil water.
- Tank water supply – you may need to clean out your tanks before refilling them with clean water as the tank may be contaminated with ash after a fire.
- Town Water supply (reticulated water) – may fail due to either damage to the infrastructure (power to pumping stations), or the demands on it from firefighting activities. These interruptions are expected to be short term (less than 24-48 hrs).

Firefighting water

- In the event of a major fire, town water pressure is expected to drop. Do not rely solely on your hose (have buckets of water pre-filled and easily available), consider portable firefighting tanks (ute mounted/backpacks).
- For residents on tank water – please ensure you have a CFA compatible water coupling to your tank – this will enable the CFA to obtain water if fighting a fire on your property.

Note: **All water taken by the CFA or Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) will be replaced**. This will be done as a matter of priority.

First aid and medical considerations:

- Access to health services may not be possible. If there is advanced warning of a likely emergency, order medications ahead of time. Ensure you pack and have adequate supplies of medication.
- During an emergency Ambulance services may be delayed due to road blockages or excessive demand. While usual Ambulance service applies, consider alternate strategies for medical assistance. Considerations include:
    - Seeking assistance early and do not “wait and see” if a medical condition deteriorates and becomes an emergency.
    - If you have an existing condition:
        - make sure your family and friends are aware of your situation,
        - leave isolated areas for the duration of an emergency.
- For **mental health** please be aware of your own and your family’s mental health status. Contact appropriate health care providers such as Latrobe Valley Regional Health or Gippsland Lakes Community Health for assistance as required.

Staging areas

Staging areas are where emergency services assemble vehicles, crews and equipment and hold their briefings. It is possible that the staging area for Bruthen will be at the Bruthen Recreation Reserve. All members of the public (not involved in emergency services), should remain clear of staging areas. Bruthen Fire Station, SES Buildings and Police Station may also be in operational use and unless necessary, people should avoid these areas.

Road closures

If a Road is closed obey the directions provided. Check the VICROADS website or listen to local ABC Radio for closures. Depending on what has occurred, roads may be reopened for local access as soon as safe. **Carry a copy of identification or keep a copy of your rates notice in your glove box** which enables manned road blocks to assess your entry (if safe), into a restricted road that you live on or access to your property.

Electricity and fuel

Expect and plan for disruption. Grid connected solar systems may automatically disconnect. Consider generator (diesel preferred) power alternatives to run key home services (fridge) and water pumps if on tank water. Likewise a petrol/diesel driven water/firefighting pump may be a consideration for your property **if** you assess this as required. In a lead up to any event, try to ensure your vehicles are fully fuelled and you have adequate fuel for water pumps and generators if used.

Telephone

Plan for disruptions. Ensure your mobile phone is fully charged. Telstra or other service providers can assist with diversions. Diversion tips can be found in this booklet. When a phone service fails emergency calls can be made via trunk radio or satellite phones. Consider UHF radio application if this suits your personal circumstances. Keep a mobile phone charging kit in your vehicle.

Emergency kit

Have a carry bag packed: clothes, good footwear, medicines, wash kit, phone chargers, torch, batteries, portable radio, bottled water or bottles for water, key personal/family documents or scans of those documents on a memory stick. Plan for up to seven days. If with children, bring their favourite toy, comforter and book. Importantly – **do not take everything** – **key kit only** (see page 10).

Pets or animals

For domestic pets have their leads, travel cages, drinking/food bowls, small amount of dried food. For larger stock (e.g. horses), ensure livestock is able to roam across paddocks, that there is access to water and sufficient feed for 3-4 days. If you are concerned about the safety of livestock or smaller pets, move them to safe ground or a different property. The tip for this is to prepare **as early as possible**.

Preparation for an Emergency

Note: The "trigger point" expressed in hours is the time anticipated by the emergency incident managers *to the impact of the event*.

72 Hours – Trigger Point – Prior to an emergency

If you don't have an emergency plan there is still time to make one. If you do have one:

- Check your key equipment.
- Check other arrangements, such as:
  - Availability of alternate accommodation.
  - Supplies or alternate housing for pets or other animals.
- Purchase anything required, e.g. drinking water, non-perishable food, etc.
- Practise your plan.

48 Hours – Trigger Point – Prior to an emergency

The Bruthen Mechanics Hall Assembly Area is in preparation mode.

- The preparation required is the same as for the 72 hour trigger point.
- Also monitor weather conditions and warning updates.
- Be prepared to change you plan if conditions worsen.

Note: All preparatory work such as rubbish removal, grass cutting, gutter cleaning, firefighting pump serviceability, emergency kit boxes (the long term projects) – **should already be completed**. When you enact your plan it should be more about confirming that all of these preparatory jobs (including the little things) that you assessed needed to be done, **have been done**. Remember, **prior preparation and planning will give you the best possible outcomes**.

36 Hours and less – Trigger Point – ***Community members enact your plan now***

The Assembly Area is now operating and stood up for key community meetings.

- Listen to emergency broadcaster radio stations.
- Check the VicEmergency website.
- Attend any community information meetings at the Assembly Area.
- Check neighbours.
- Notify family or friends of your intentions.

8 Hours and less – Trigger Point – ***Snap short notice fire threat***

The Assembly Area may not have time to activate.

- Activate your emergency plan immediately.
- If safe to do so, check neighbours and notify family or friends of your intentions.
- Listen to emergency broadcaster radio stations and check the VicEmergency website.

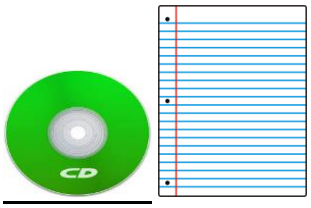
Resources You May Need

You can consider compiling an emergency kit, which may include some or all of the following items:

Phone (wall and car chargers)

Mobile phone / iPads

Portable radio (battery or windup)



Documents, thumb drives, photos, photo ID, notices & policies

… Your plan, that is ☺

Shower / shave / hygiene kits

Basic clothes for each member of the family

Safety gloves

Floods and Likely Road Impacts on Bruthen and District

Major flood

This is similar to the 1998 flood event.

- Great Alpine Rd in several locations between Wiseleigh and Bruthen.
- Swan Reach – Mossiface Rd, Mossiface between and including Curtis Lane through to Clancy's Corner (Mossiface Wharf Corner).
- Bruthen – Nowa Nowa Rd from the Rec Reserve to Tambo Upper Rd intersection.
- Tambo Upper Rd, Bruthen (the Swan Reach turn off in vicinity of mill houses).
- Tambo Upper Rd, Tambo Upper Primary School to the base of McMeekins Rd rise.
- Tambo Upper Rd, McMeekins Rd descent to Swan Reach Bridge at the Princes HWY.
- Stephenson Rd, east of the Tambo River (including the bridge).
- Swan Reach – Metung Rd, south of Swan Reach.
- Evans Track Bridge (commonly known as Ramrod).

Moderate flood

This is similar to the 2016 flood event.

- Swan Reach Mossiface Rd, Mossiface between and including Curtis Lane through to Clancy's Corner (Mossiface Wharf Corner).
- Tambo Upper Rd, Bruthen (the Swan Reach turn off in vicinity of mill houses).
- Tambo Upper Rd, Tambo Upper Primary School to the base of McMeekins Rd rise.
- Tambo Upper Rd, McMeekins Rd descent to Swan Reach Bridge at the Princes HWY
- Stephenson Rd, east of the Tambo River (including the bridge).
- Swan Reach – Metung Rd, south of Swan Reach.
- Evans Track Bridge (commonly known as Ramrod).

Minor flood

- Swan Reach Mossiface Rd, Mossiface specifically at Clancy's Corner (Mossiface Wharf Corner) (sporadic low level water runs across Rd, but this is still dangerous to traffic).
- Evans Track Bridge (commonly known as Ramrod).
- Curtis Lane, Mossiface.

Floods – Some Useful Information ☺

Prior to a flood event

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding .
- Stay alert for flood warnings.
- Develop an emergency plan and assemble an emergency kit.
- Know the safest way/s to go if you decide to leave your property.
- Check your insurance policies for appropriate cover.

When a flood event is likely

- Check your emergency broadcaster for information and advice.
- Check your neighbours are safe and know about the flood.
- Remove items from flood danger zone/levels.
- Anchor objects that are likely to float and cause damage.
- Move rubbish bins, chemicals and poisons to the highest place.
- Place important documents/photos in your emergency kit box.
- If you are likely to be isolated, have enough food, water, medicine, fuel etc., for at least three days.

During a flood event

- Never drive, ride, swim, walk through floodwater/play in drains or culverts etc.
- Check your emergency broadcasters.
- In life-threatening emergencies, call Triple Zero (000).
- Stay away from fallen power-lines as electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals such as snakes, rats, spiders etc. may be on the move.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to leave early to avoid dangers on roads/rising waters.
- Turn off the electricity, gas and water as you leave.
- Take your emergency kit with you.
- Take your pets with you: dogs should be muzzled and cats should be in cages.
- If you choose to shelter with a friend or relative, tell authorities where you are staying.

After a flood event

- Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to fall.
- To make sure you **stay safe**:
  - Keep listening to emergency broadcasters.
  - Do not return home until it is safe.
  - Once you return to your home:
    - Investigate the structural safety of your building.
    - Drink bottled water or boil all drinking water until advised 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 a building, use a torch to light your way. Never use matches or cigarette lighters 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 purposes.
- Clean your home straight away to prevent disease.

Section Two: Contact Lists

Local Community Infrastructure Contact List (as at 2019)

	Business	Phone	Email
Accommodation	❶Bruthen Inn Hotel ❷Bruthen Caravan Park	(03) 5157 5201 0437 787 248	BruthenInnHotel@gmail.com Caretaker.CaravanPark@gmail.com
Victuals	❶Bruthen Gen Store ❷Bruthen Bakery	(03) 5157 5415 0475 555 419	BruthenGeneralStore@gmail.com
Meals	❶Bruthen Inn Hotel ❷Blue Bee Café ❸Bullant Brewery	(03) 5157 5201 (03) 5157 5397 (03) 5157 5307	BruthenInnHotel@gmail.com BlueBeeCafe@outlook.com enquiries@bullantbrewery.com
Banking/cash	❶Bruthen Post Office ❷Bruthen Gen Store ❸Bruthen Inn Hotel	(03) 5157 5209 + cash withdrawal (03) 5157 5415 + ATM (03) 5157 5201 + ATM	bruthenlpo@wideband.net.au BruthenGeneralStore@gmail.com BruthenInnHotel@gmail.com
Community Space	❶Bruthen Hall ❷Bruthen Recreation Reserve		BruthenHall@gmail.com Committee.RecReserveBruthen@gmail.com

Emergency Information Contact List

Local Emergency Information Broadcasters	**ABC Local 828 FM; ABC Local 100.7 FM; Sport 927 87.6 FM; TRFM 99.9 FM**
Emergency Management Victoria (EMV)	**www.emv.vic.gov.au**
VicEmergency	**www.emergency.vic.gov.au**
VicEmergency Hotline	**1800 226 226**
CFA	**www.cfa.vic.gov.au**
SES	**www.ses.vic.gov.au**
East Gippsland Shire Council (EGSC)	**www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au**
Department of Human Services (DHS)	**www.dhs.vic.gov.au**
Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth)	**www.vichealth.vic.gov.au**

Local Community Contact List (as at 2019)

Name/organisation	Phone
Blue Bee Café	(03) 5157 5397
Bruthen Bakery	0475 555 419
Bruthen BP	(03) 5157 5262
Bruthen Caravan Park	0437 787 248
Bruthen Corner Garage	(03) 5157 5715
Bruthen Electrical **Spink Electrical**	(03) 5157 5554 0438 440 269
Bruthen General Store	(03) 5157 5415
Bruthen Info Centre	(03) 5157 5111
Bruthen Inn	(03) 5157 5201
Bruthen Kindergarten	(03) 5157 5455
Bruthen Men's Shed Via GLCH Bruthen Office	(03) 5157 5744
Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House	(03) 5157 5744
Bruthen Post Office	0497 544 490
Bruthen Primary School	(03) 5157 5445
Bruthen Plumbing	0418 516 745
Bullant Brewery	(03) 5157 5307
CFA: Bruthen Fire Bde	(03) 5157 5156 (03) 5157 5500
CFA: MOSSI-TAMBO Bde	(03) 5157 5615

Name/organisation	Phone
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) **Bairnsdale District Duty Officer** (NOTE: Fire Season manned/non-fire season diverts **Traralgon DDO** 24/7	(03) 5152 0495 (03) 5150 1320 (03) 5172 2160
East Gipps Shire Council Emerg Management Dep't	(03) 5153 9500
Gippsland Lakes Community Hlth (Bruthen) (Bruthen Nurse)	(03) 5157 5744 (03) 5157 5784
Gippsland Lakes Community Hlth (Lakes)	(03) 5155 8300
Matthews Garden (Tipper/bob cat/ water refill)	(03) 5157 5484 0429 944 297
Sarsfield Bob-Cat Hire & Slashing	(03) 5157 5756
See Change Slashing & Landscaping	0417 635 363
Red Cross Sale **Red Cross State** Registration until centre estab	(03) 5143 2639 1800 131 701 1300 885 556
SES Bairnsdale HQ	(03) 9256 4500
SES Bruthen	(03) 5157 5277
SES Report Line	132 500
St Matthew's Chaplain	(03) 5157 5463
Tambo Upper Primary	(03) 5156 4327
VICPOL Bairnsdale **VICPOL Lakes Entrance** **VICPOL Bruthen**	(03) 5150 2600 (03) 5155 1206 (03) 5157 5221
Emergency	**0 0 0**

* All phone contacts are publically listed and therefore do not constitute a breach of Australian Privacy Standards by inclusion in this document.
* Diversions: For residents to divert their house land line telephone number to a mobile contact:
  - On your land line push: # 21 (then the mobile number you want) then push #
  - To remove service (on the land line that you have diverted from) dial # 21 #