



COUNCIL AND EMERGENCIES

What does **Council** do before, during and after an emergency?

Before ...

What does council do to mitigate the affects of, and prepare for an emergency?

- ⇒ **Risk management** – Council conducts risk assessments to understand the risks that we face.
- ⇒ Implements **risk reduction and prevention measures**, such as managing compliance with planning and building codes, private property fire prevention inspections and roadside fuel management.
- ⇒ Contribute to the preparation and maintenance of the **Municipal Emergency Management Plan** and associated sub-plans including the Relief and Recovery Plan, Municipal Fire Management Plan, Flood Emergency Plan, Heatwave Plan, Pandemic Plan and Animal and Stock Emergency Welfare Plan.
- ⇒ Appoint staff to required emergency management roles and ensure they receive appropriate training.
- ⇒ Contribute to **community education and awareness programs** to improve individuals preparedness and community resilience.
- ⇒ Identify and prepare facilities for Emergency Relief Centres, Places of Last Resort (Neighbourhood Safer Places) and recovery centres.

During...

Depending on the nature of the emergency, Council will:

- ⇒ Support response agencies eg **Victoria Police, CFA, SES** or **DELWP**, usually through providing resources such as local knowledge and information, plant and machinery, road management and environmental health and waste management services, etc. 24 hours, 7 days per week.
- ⇒ Open and operate **Emergency Relief Centres** - during a major emergency in the Shire or surrounding areas Council may be directed to open a relief centre in a council building or public hall. A range of services will be available to help people affected by the emergency and may include food and water, accommodation, support services, access to grants and financial aid and advice.

See over...

- ⇒ Activate internal processes to coordinate the provision of Council and community resources for the response, relief and recovery efforts.
- ⇒ Support the community through regularly communications, arranging and attending community meetings and providing information
- ⇒ Council may also be required to coordinate **spontaneous volunteers** and deal with material goods that are donated (the preference is to donate cash or respond to requests for specific donations e.g. hay).
- ⇒ Council may continue to provide assistance during recovery (e.g. road and tree clearing, animal welfare support etc.).

Services will also be provided after single incidents whenever needed e.g. supporting a family after fire or storm damages their home.

After...

This is where Council takes the lead role:

- ⇒ Conduct impact assessments and liaise with state and federal funding bodies
- ⇒ Coordinate recovery activities such as clean-up and manage environmental health issues such as food and sanitation safety and water supply replenishment.
- ⇒ Provide advice and referral of affected residents to community service organisations.
- ⇒ Support the establishment of a **community-led** recovery committee and development and delivery of a recovery plan.
- ⇒ Advocate on behalf of our communities.
- ⇒ Support ongoing recovery activities in conjunction with government agencies.
- ⇒ Support businesses to rebuild and recover.
- ⇒ Recoup costs through applying to state and federal funding programs.

Remember - emergency management is everyone's responsibility

everyone living in or visiting our area has a responsibility to themselves and their families to be prepared.