

Korumburra Community Resilience & Emergency Planning Information



Korumburra
Heart of the South Gippsland Hills

Korumburra Community Resilience & Emergency Planning Information

Local township and area information to help you get prepared for an emergency

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Introduction

About this document

This plan was developed as an outcome of work completed by the Korumburra Staying Strong group supported by FRRR to build community resilience and prepare for emergency events. This information can be used by the Korumburra community and visitors to help develop a personal or family emergency plan.

No single person or agency can know or be responsible for what happens or what may be required before, during and after an emergency. The planning process used to develop this document supports more integrated planning around emergency events and supports resilience building activities that will help our community prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Some of this information may be familiar to you but may not be obvious to others in the community. This plan is designed for a wide range of people including visitors and new community members, to ensure a shared understanding of risk across our community.

About emergency planning and management

Most emergencies in South Gippsland (such as fires in the home, road accidents and small storms and bushfires) are routinely controlled using local resources and without broader community consequences or communications needs.

The Victorian State Emergency Management Plan sets out the roles and responsibilities of various agencies in response to local emergencies. In South Gippsland, CFA respond to grass fires and bushfires, fires in homes, buildings and sheds and lead or support road accident rescues. VICSES respond to storms, floods, earthquakes and landslides throughout Victoria, and provide the largest road rescue network in the State.

Some emergencies like large destructive storms (for example, the February 2024 storm event) and bushfires have implications beyond the local level. They need more resources, have greater consequences for the community, economy or environment and need messages sent to broader groups of people. These emergencies may mean the community needs to be evacuated and access emergency shelter, food and water, material aid, psychosocial support and health and medical services. In these situations, emergency management arrangements may be enacted to support the response to an incident and coordinate community recovery services after the emergency.

South Gippsland Shire Council works with emergency services and agencies to develop and regularly review a Municipal Emergency Management Plan that outlines these arrangements. More information about how agencies plan for emergencies can be found online at South Gippsland Shire Council - Emergency Management Planning. At all times, information and warnings to the community about the response is provided through Victoria's integrated warning system. See Staying Updated – Victoria's Emergency Warning System below.

What you can do

Individuals, households and visitors can take action before, during and after an emergency.

Before an emergency

Find out about and stay aware of potential risks in your environment. Take protective measures including taking out insurance. Develop personal/family emergency plans to improve your safety and wellbeing during emergencies and keep them current and ready to implement - see the *Get Organised - Emergency Planning Resources* section. Consider where you may relocate during an emergency, you are encouraged to go to family and friends in a location well away from the emergency area.

During an emergency

In the event of an emergency, be as self-reliant as possible: in the first instance, agencies will prioritise those most vulnerable. Individuals and families should act on emergency information and warnings and implement plans as required to protect yourself and your family. Where possible and if safe to do so, consider how you might support your neighbours and your local community, in particular people who are most vulnerable.

After an emergency

Meet your own recovery needs wherever possible. Review and improve personal/family emergency plans after an event.

Get in the know

Understand Emergency Risks

What emergencies have impacted Korumburra in the past, and what are the types of emergencies most likely to impact us in the future?

Severe Weather – storm, high winds, heavy rain, hail and power outages

September 2024

Damaging winds led to significant power outages occurring throughout the Shire. Properties were off power for 3+ days. Telecommunications were impacted due to power outages. Several roads were closed by fallen trees, reducing the community's ability to effectively travel.

February 2024

Damaging winds associated with thunderstorm activity brought trees down across the area. Significant power outages occurred throughout Victoria. Properties were off power for 3+ days. Telecommunications were significantly impacted due to power outages and damage to infrastructure for several days. A large number of roads were closed by fallen trees across reducing the community's ability to effectively travel.

October 2021

Severe flooding and winds heavily impacted the Shire on 29 October 2021. Significant power outages occurred throughout the Shire. Isolated properties off power for 3+ days.

June 2021

A cold front crossing South East Victoria bringing damaging winds and heavy localised rainfall was forecast for Wednesday 9 June 2021. Severe flooding and winds impacted the Shire between 9-10 June 2021. Significant power outages occurred throughout the Shire with isolated properties off power for 3+ days. Over 641 roads (essential public assets) were impacted by trees down, flooding and landslips.

March 2018

South Gippsland experienced significant damage as a result of a wind event that occurred on Sunday 18 March 2018.

Water Restrictions

2015 – 2016

Water restrictions in place

2007 – 2010

Water restrictions in place

Bushfire/Grassfire

Victoria is one of the most fire-prone areas in the world. Understanding your level of risk is the first step in knowing what to do before and during a fire. Korumburra is in the South West Gippsland Fire District. Grassfires may impact on Korumburra and can be extremely dangerous - people can die in grassfires. Source - Am I at Risk? | CFA (Country Fire Authority)

Smoke can affect people's health. People with heart or lung conditions (including asthma), children, pregnant women and older people are more sensitive to the effects of breathing in smoke. For more information see www.epa.vic.gov.au

Fire history in Korumburra and South Gippsland

There is no major bushfire history for Korumburra and surrounds, however, there have been numerous fire ignitions in the last 5 years.

2024 - Gurdies Fire, smoke impacts

2012 - Hallston Fire

2009 - Delburn Fire - The Delburn Complex Fire was deliberately lit and directly impacted 128 properties in the Darlimurla, Mirboo North and Boolarra areas.

Extreme heat

Days of extreme heat and heatwaves are periods of unusually hot weather that can worsen medical conditions or cause potentially fatal health problems, like heatstroke. Extreme heat can affect everyone. Those more at risk are people over the age of 65, babies and young children, pregnant women, people with acute or chronic health problems, and people who are socially isolated.

Extreme heat can also affect community infrastructure (such as power supply and public transport) and other services. More information to help your planning can be found at betterhealth.vic.gov.au/extreme-heat

Biosecurity

Exotic pests and diseases can threaten the agricultural sector and animal industries which are important to Korumburra and South Gippsland. A farm biosecurity plan is a simple tool to help minimise the risks of diseases, pests and weeds on your property. Starting a farm biosecurity plan doesn't need to be complicated. If this is relevant to you, see www.agriculture.vic.gov.au for more information.

Earthquake

Victoria regularly experiences small earthquakes that are felt and reported, and on occasions has experienced moderate sized earthquakes that have caused minor damage, community concern, and short-term disruption.

Korumburra experienced two earthquakes within two weeks of each other in 2009, both recorded at magnitude 4.6 which resulted in no significant damage being recorded.

More information on what to do in an earthquake can be found here -

<https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe/emergencies/earthquake>

Other risks

Emergencies come in many forms and more information on general risks are included at -

<https://www.emergencyprepare.com.au/>

Get Connected

Get to know and grow your community. Identify support networks and those who might need your help.

About Korumburra

Name	Korumburra
Local Government Area	South Gippsland Shire Strzelecki Ward
State or Territory	Victoria
Fire District	South West Fire District
Location	120 km South East of Melbourne 15 km West of Leongatha
How many people live here?	4749 total population (2021 census)
Where do people stay here?	Coal Creek Motel Korumburra Tourist Park Korumburra Showgrounds – short term RV accommodation Short term accommodation providers (Stayz, Airbnb)
Peak tourism/visitor periods?	School holidays Weekends, public holidays and long weekends Major and community events - see below under <i>Tourism</i>

People

- Korumburra has a diverse population of residents from different socio-economic backgrounds.
- Seasonal workers (early Summer/late Spring) and holiday makers regularly stay or visit.
- In 2021, Korumburra had a total population of 4,749 people living in 2,210 dwellings.
- Most residents speak English as their first language.
- Korumburra's population is ageing, with increases in the number of people identifying as 'empty nesters and retirees' (60-69 years old) and 'seniors' (70-84 years old)
- In 2021, 408 people (or 8.6% of the population) in Korumburra reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability.

Tourism

Visitors are attracted to Korumburra for a variety of reasons – including to visit cafes, wineries and breweries, sports, entertainment, a monthly farmers market, music and special events, Coal Creek Community Park & Museum, and the Great Southern Rail Trail.

Weekends and long weekends can be busy as well as times when there are events on at Coal Creek (including Halloween, festivals and music performances), the Korumburra Show (February), and Annual Swap Meet (January).

Parkrun is a popular event on Saturday mornings on the Great Southern Rail Trail.

Employment

Main industries of employment include:

- Agriculture
- Health Care and Social Support
- Retail
- Construction/Trades

Transport

Public transport services

- VLine bus services (Yarram – Melbourne line)
- South Coast Taxis

Community Services

- Community Hub
 - Library (Myli)
 - Milpara Community House
 - Centrelink/Services Australia Agent
 - Emergency Food Bank
 - Defibrillator
 - Accessible shower, toilet and laundry facilities
 - Commercial kitchen
- Supermarket
 - Michaels IGA
- Pharmacy
 - Terry White Chemmart
 - Chemsave Pharmacy
- Medical
 - Korumburra Medical Centre
 - Korumburra Hospital (Gippsland Southern Health Service)
 - Allied and complementary health services – private, various
- Fuel Supplies
 - BP Service Station
 - Endeavour Service Station
- Emergency Services
 - Korumburra CFA
 - Victoria Police Station

- Aged care
 - Hillside Lodge (Gippsland Southern Health Service)
 - Alchera House (Gippsland Southern Health Service)
 - Carinya Aged Care
- Schools
 - Korumburra Primary School
 - Korumburra Secondary School
 - St Joseph's Primary School
- Kindergarten and childcare
 - Karmai Children's Centre

Community groups and networks

The economic / social / educational / sporting / community networks that connect this community.

For an up to date list visit - <https://www.korumburra3950.com.au/community-groups>

Communication Channels

Communication channels and mediums that are commonly used by the community to share news and updates include:

- The Burra Flyer
- Sentinel Times
- Facebook – [Korumburra Community Noticeboard](#) & [South Gippsland Shire Council](#)
<https://www.korumburra3950.com.au/> and Newsletter
- Physical community noticeboards located at The Middle Pub (external / street) and IGA (inside)
- Where possible, community emergency information is posted at Korumburra Community Hub

Get Organised

Emergency planning resources

The following links contain many helpful tools to assist you in creating an emergency plan:

- redcross.org.au/prepare
- cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-bushfire-plan
- emergencyprepare.com.au
- ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready/emergency-plans-and-kits

If you need help to get started or know someone who may need extra help:

- Contact Milpara Community House on 5654 2524
- If you live with disability or care for someone with disability, see <https://collaborating4inclusion.org/pcep-old/>
- Fire safety information in multiple formats and languages:
 - <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications/fire-safety-translations>

Additionally, an Emergency Information sheet has been prepared by Council to help with the development of your Emergency Plan in the 'before an emergency' section of Councils website - https://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/emergency_management.

Pets

Your pets are your responsibility. Failing to plan ahead for your pets' safety during an emergency puts everyone's lives at risk. Information relating to planning for your animals in emergencies can be found at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

Make a plan

Information about Korumburra to consider when making a plan

Access

- Access/egress in most instances is good from the centre of Korumburra.
- Korumburra has 3 primary access roads and 1 secondary access road
 - Primary Access/Egress Roads: South Gippsland Highway, Warragul Road, Wonthaggi (Inverloch/Jumbunna) Road
 - Secondary Access / Egress Road: Kardella Road
- There is very limited public transport and therefore very limited connectivity without access to a private vehicle.

- In significant storm events, it may take some time for roads to be cleared by services. Consider being prepared to assist yourself.

Communication

- Mobile phone communication around Korumburra is generally good but can be impacted by location and provider.
- Internet and phone coverage can be impacted by strong winds.
- There are some telecommunications black spots in the Korumburra area.
- Commercial and ABC radio reception in the area is good.
- Local community radio from South Coast FM is received into Korumburra (88.1MHz – Central: Korumburra, Leongatha, Wonthaggi, Inverloch).

Loss of power

- When significant widespread power outages occur, priority is given to getting power back to as many houses as possible. If you live at the end of a road or outside town, it may take longer for power to come back on.

Water

- Some outlying properties are on tank water (no reticulated/mains supply) and also have septic tanks.
- Emergencies involving power outages can mean water access and supply is disrupted. People should limit water usage to essentials such as toilet flushing and hand washing.
- Power outages can also impact on the pumping of water to water troughs for livestock.
- Outside of town: unless your tank is gravity fed, no power = no toilet flush. Be prepared.

Staying updated - Victoria's warning system

Victoria has an integrated warning system which provides information and warnings to communities through a range of channels and arrangements - the Vic Emergency App, Vic Emergency Website or Vic Emergency Hotline. Information is also provided to emergency broadcasters (this can take time), or in extreme situations through emergency alerts (a warning system that is used to send people a voice message to landline telephones and a text message to mobile phones).

During an emergency event, it is advisable to source information from credible sources. Using credible sources is very important because the accuracy and reliability of information can significantly impact decision-making, public safety, and the effectiveness of response efforts.

Accurate information saves lives

During a disaster, timely and accurate information can be a matter of life and death. Credible sources provide verified data on the magnitude, location, and potential impacts of the disaster, allowing authorities to make informed decisions and issue appropriate warnings and instructions to the public.

Prevent panic and misinformation

Reliable sources help prevent the spread of rumours and misinformation, which can lead to panic and chaos. Clear and consistent information from credible sources helps maintain calm and ensures that people receive accurate guidance on what actions to take during the emergency.

The Emergency Information sheet at the end of this document contains contact information and details of how to access emergency information and alerts.

What you can do now

- Download the VicEmergency App to your smart phone and electronic devices
- Save important contact numbers into your phone such as family and friends and the VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226
- Make sure your house number is clearly visible and your driveway is accessible for emergency service vehicles, and that your address can be communicated to Emergency Services by people in your house.
- Develop and practice your emergency plan with the whole family, pets included.
- Pack an emergency kit and keep it somewhere easily accessible. Have some non-perishable food at home and some cash if you can.
- Practice packing your car so you know how long it might take you in an actual emergency.
- Get insurance and review what it covers. Consider household, business and income protection insurance.
- Would you or your family need extra assistance/check in during an emergency event? Who will check in on you?
- Get to know your neighbours and build connections in your local community. Talk to your neighbours about your emergency plans and see if there are ways you can assist each other. Look for local volunteering opportunities or other community groups you can get involved in.
















Important Apps

Recommended Apps to download – Vic emergency, BoM, Emergency Plus, Get Prepared and ABC Listen via App Store or Google Play



Korumburra be prepared – Your Safety is Your Responsibility

Pack your emergency kit – have your own food, water, medication and other essential supplies to be able to look after yourself and your family for at least 72 Hours. An emergency kit must be prepared to suit your family's needs.

 WATER	 MEDICATION	 RADIO & BATTERIES	 TORCH	 DOCUMENTS
 FOOD	 FIRST AID	 CLOTHES	 TOILETRIES	 MONEY
 PHONE & CHARGER	 PET'S NEEDS	 CHILDREN'S NEEDS	 GLASSES	 WHAT ELSE?

In an emergency call





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