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AAMI and Victoria SES join forces urging homeowners to prepare now for summer storms

- **AAMI data reveals three of Victoria's Top 10 Storm battered suburbs are in Shepparton**
- **VICSES volunteers had most requests for assistance in Benalla and Echuca in past financial year**

With storm season upon us, and the Bureau of Meteorology warning Australians they're in for a wild ride this summer with severe weather, including not only bushfires but also thunderstorms and flooding possible – national insurer AAMI and the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) have revealed the state's worst storm damaged hotspots this past financial year.

AAMI's data also found that three of Victoria's Top 10 storm battered suburbs were located in Shepparton. This was also one of the areas where VICSES had the most requests for assistance in the past financial year.

Comparing AAMI and VICSES data, we saw some similarities in the storm hotspots including Shepparton, Mornington, Croydon, Craigieburn, Mooroopna and Mount Martha.

AAMI analysed more than 14,887 weather-related home insurance claims across Victoria from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, to reveal the hardest hit suburbs.

AAMI's Top 10 storm hotspots in Victoria

	Hotspot Suburb	Region
1	Shepparton	Shepparton
2	Rochester	Shepparton
3	Craigieburn	Melbourne – North West
4	Mooroopna	Shepparton
5	Mornington	Mornington Peninsula
6	Caroline Springs	Melbourne - West
7	Croydon	Melbourne – Outer East
8	Mount Martha	Mornington Peninsula
9	Werribee	Melbourne - West
10	Hamlyn Heights	Geelong

Vic SES' Top 10 storm hotspots in Victoria

	Hotspot Suburb	Region
1	Benalla	Hume
2	Echuca	Shepparton
3	Lilydale	Melbourne – Outer East
4	Shepparton	Shepparton
5	Mildura	North West
6	Mornington	Mornington Peninsula
7	Croydon	Melbourne – Outer East
8	Craigieburn	Melbourne – North West
9	Mooroopna	Shepparton
10	Hamilton	Warrnambool – South West
11	Mount Martha	Mornington Peninsula

Quotes below attributable to AAMI Executive General Manager Home Claims Alli Smith:

"Our home claims data showed that rain, followed by hail and flood were the most common causes of damage to homes across Victoria.

"In October 2022, areas across Victoria including Rochester, Mooroopna and Shepparton were impacted by floods, which resulted in a large volume of claims.

"In November 2022 heavy rainfall and damaging winds continued, with flash flooding impacting the Mornington Peninsula, particularly Mornington and Mount Martha.



"In February this year, the state also experienced significant rain and hail, damaging homes in Melbourne and surrounding suburbs.

"As a result of these weather events, our customers experienced everything from water ingress, damaged roofs and flooding, and in some cases were displaced from their homes.

"Storms are a normal part of everyday life in Victoria, which means damage from them can catch people off guard. Aussies tend to have a 'laissez faire' attitude when it comes to preparing for summer storms. However, what Victorians don't realise is that storms can be a serious event and don't need to last long to cause severe damage to their homes.

"Although some areas of the state, particularly Shepparton, Mornington Peninsula and Melbourne's North and North-West copped a battering, storms by their nature are unpredictable and can happen anywhere and anytime, so it's vital to not be complacent and prepare your home now.

"Despite the heightened risk of bushfires from El Nino, we need to also be ready and prepare for wild weather brought by thunderstorms, flash flooding, damaging wind and hail."

According to VICSES data, over the past financial year (ending 22/23), VICSES volunteers received a total of 32,985 requests for assistance across the state. Benalla was the hardest hit suburb with 207 requests for assistance, followed by Echuca with 206, and Lilydale with 195.

Quotes below attributable to VICSES spokesperson Tim Wiebusch - Chief Officer, Operations:

"Looking at this data, we know flooding incidents for 2022 - 2023 increased by more than 130 per cent compared to the last financial year, that's why it's important for communities remain vigilant and prepared for all emergencies, particularly as we move into summer and especially if you live in a high-risk area," said Mr Wiebusch.

"We know that spring can often see East Coast Lows develop and thunderstorms throughout the summer months that can bring isolated heavy rainfall and damaging winds."

"Don't wait for the emergency to have a plan. It is vital to know your risk and to have a robust plan in place for storms, flash flooding along with potential bushfires."

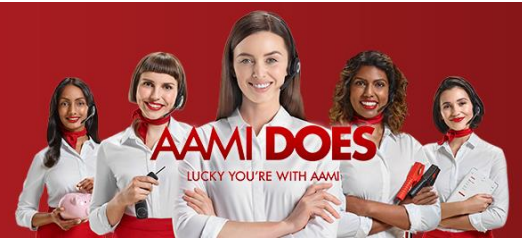
The severe flood impacts that devastated many parts of Victoria last year in October, was one of the most significant flood events in our state's history. As always, our members stepped up for their communities providing much-needed emergency assistance 24 hours a day, and as we move into the next high-risk season, our SES volunteers will continue to support their communities".

Top Tips to Prepare

"When times are tough, it can be hard to prioritise things like home maintenance, particularly spending money on improving the resilience of your home. However, many of these tasks don't cost or take long, and can be well worth the investment to strengthen the resilience of their biggest asset," Ms Smith said.

These include:

- Securing and putting away loose items around your backyard or balcony
- Trimming trees and branches that could fall onto your home or car
- Cleaning your gutters, downpipes and drains of leaves and debris
- Parking your vehicles under cover and away from trees or powerlines
- Inspecting retaining walls
- Ensuring there's no corrosion, loose fittings or rotting timber around your property
- Inspecting your roof for damaged or loose tiles.



To find out more about how to best prepare your home and family for storm season, visit [How To Prepare Your Home for Storms](#).

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Notes to Editor

Claims data collected from Suncorp Group's network of brands including AAMI, Suncorp Insurance, GIO, Apia and Bingle.

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