

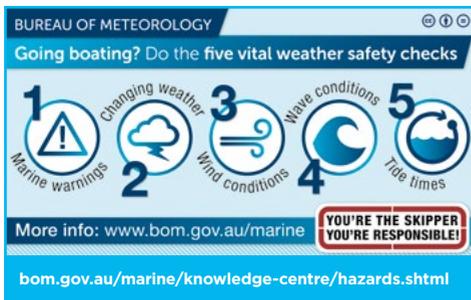
STUDY THE WEATHER

Base your decision to go out on the water on the knowledge of what weather conditions you, others on board and your boat can handle.

Weather forecasts and warnings produced by the Bureau of Meteorology are available on all media. It is vitally important to be aware of the current weather conditions in the area you plan to boat in, and also how conditions will develop over the course of your trip – and a bit longer, just in case.

Internet

Visit bom.gov.au/marine for the latest weather charts, satellite and radar images as well as warnings and forecasts for the next four days. This site also provides links to tidal information, sunset and sunrise times as well as full schedules for all radio and phone services. Before heading out, run through the five vital weather safety checks to be prepared.



BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

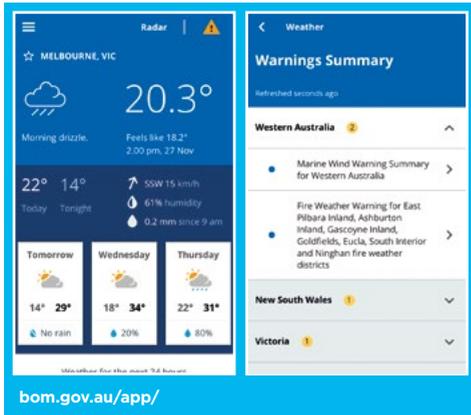
Going boating? Do the five vital weather safety checks

- 1 Marine warnings
- 2 Changing weather
- 3 Wind conditions
- 4 Wave conditions
- 5 Tide times

More info: www.bom.gov.au/marine

YOU'RE THE SKIPPER YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE!

bom.gov.au/marine/knowledge-centre/hazards.shtml



MELBOURNE, VIC

20.3°

Morning drizzle. Feels like 18.2° 2:00 pm, 27 Nov

22° 14° SSW 15 km/h 61% humidity 0.2 mm since 9 am

Tomorrow	Wednesday	Thursday
14° 29°	18° 34°	22° 31°
No rain	20%	80%

Weather Warnings Summary

Western Australia

- Marine Wind Warning Summary for Western Australia
- Fire Weather Warning for East Pilbara Inland, Ashburton Inland, Gascoyne Inland, Goldfields, Eucla, South Interior and Ninghan fire weather districts

New South Wales

Victoria

bom.gov.au/app/

MetEye

MetEye shows the official forecasts produced by the Bureau of Meteorology in an interactive map. Forecasts are available for wind, waves, weather and much more in three hourly increments for up to seven days ahead.

Marine Lite

For boaters in areas of marginal mobile phone coverage, or whose offshore access is limited to satellite internet communication channels, text only webpages of the Bureau's Marine forecasts and warnings are provided at bom.gov.au/marine/lite.

VHF Radio weather services

Marine Radio Victoria (MRV) provides twice daily local weather forecasts on VHF radio, with instructions and broadcast times announced regularly on Channel 16. MRV also broadcast current weather warnings at 00:47, 02:48, 04:48, 06:48, 08:48, 10:48, 12:48, 14:48, 16:48, 18:48, 20:48 and 22:48 eastern standard time (EST) on VHF channel 67 following the initial broadcast until notice of the cancellation is received by the Bureau of Meteorology.

The Bureau of Meteorology broadcasts weather forecasts to eastern Australia from Charleville on:

8176 and 12365kHz – all hours, 4426 and 16546kHz – all day (7am–6pm) and 2201, HF 6507kHz – by night (6pm–7am)

Scheduled broadcast times for Victorian coastal waters are: 0130, 0530, 0930, 1330, 1730 and 2130 EST (add one hour for EDST).

Warnings are broadcast every hour starting 0000 EST.

Please refer to transportsafety.vic.gov.au/msv/radio for more information on Marine Radio Victoria.

WEATHER HAZARDS AND CONDITIONS

Check the weather forecasts and warnings, which are regularly updated and give warnings of strong winds and gales. Sudden squalls are not easy to predict in Victoria, so keep a sharp lookout and regularly check the horizon for tell-tale clouds or whitecap waves.

If caught out in bad weather head for sheltered water, for example, the shore or the protected side of an island.

If possible, head into the wind and waves at a steady speed.

Squalls usually last only for a short period. It is often best to ride them out, keeping your bow into the wind and maintaining a speed sufficient to give you steering. Don't let the vessel drift side on to the wind and waves, your vessel may take on water or capsize.

BE PREPARED

Weather conditions on Victorian waters can change very quickly and a hot day can deteriorate into a cold and windy one.

Be prepared by:

- taking warm clothing
- knowing what to do in reduced visibility
- understanding what the clouds tell you about wind direction and strength
- having a global positioning system (GPS), charts and maps to help you navigate
- recognising that weather changes can create a situation of heightened risk.



If your vessel does not have power or anchor, drag a sea anchor from the bow, keeping the bow into the wind and waves. A sturdy bucket or oar on a rope may make an adequate sea anchor.

KNOW WHAT THE FORECAST IS TELLING YOU

Wind can change direction and strength very quickly. It is important to understand the key terms when reading a weather report.

- Wind speed over the water is given in knots. Wind mentioned in forecasts refers to the average wind over a 10 minute period at a height of 10 m.
- Gusts are increases in wind speed lasting for just a few seconds. They typically range 30-40 per cent greater than the average wind speed.
- Squalls are a sudden large increase in wind speed (usually accompanied by a change in wind direction) that lasts several minutes and then suddenly dies.

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a:

Strong wind warning

For winds averaging more than 25 knots and up to 33 knots

Gale warning

For winds averaging 34 knots and up to 47 knots

Storm warning

For winds averaging 48 knots or more



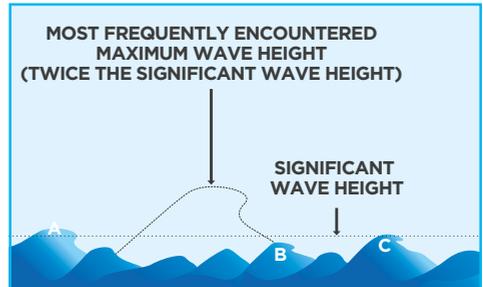
Maritime Safety Victoria strongly advises operators of small craft not to go boating when one of the above weather warnings has been issued.

The Bureau of Meteorology's marine forecasts describe mean conditions over reasonably large areas such as Northern Bass Strait or Port Phillip. Reference to squalls and thunderstorms alert vessel operators to adverse weather conditions

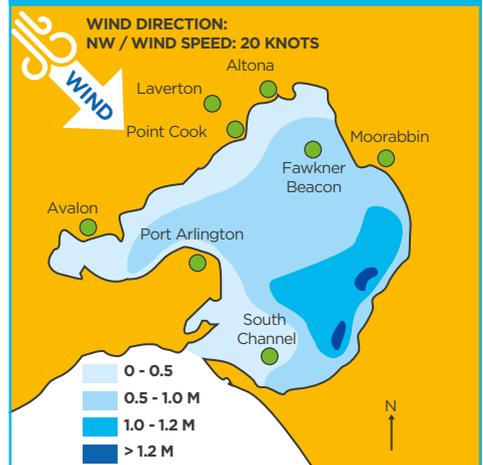
expected for short periods of time within the forecast period. Forecasts may not reflect local conditions where topographic influences might channel or block wind and affect wave development. Vessel operators should be familiar with local variations in certain wind streams before venturing out – ask the locals for advice.

WAVES

Wave heights mentioned in forecasts refer to significant wave height – being the average of the highest one third of waves. Larger waves do occur, especially in regions where tides and currents oppose wind-driven wave direction. Be aware of offshore winds and changes in wave height as you get further offshore i.e. Altona below.

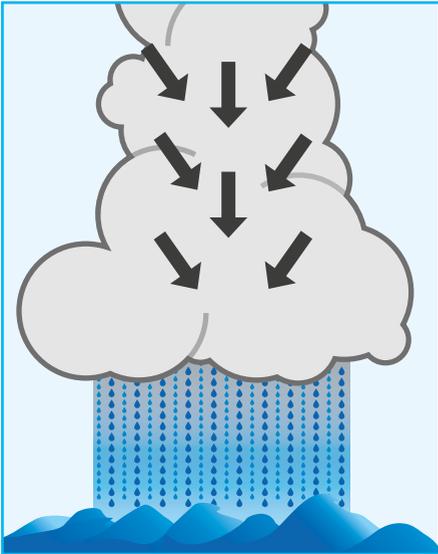


EXAMPLE OF WAVE HEIGHTS ON PORT PHILLIP



THUNDERSTORMS

Thunderstorms are a serious hazard for boats. Cumulonimbus or thunderstorm clouds (see diagram) produce strong, gusty winds that blow out from the front of the storm. If you see this type of cloud, you should watch which way it is moving – clouds often move in different directions from the wind at the surface. If it looks like it will pass over or within a few kilometres of you, head for shore immediately.



Safety hints

- Ensure you are carrying the prescribed safety equipment.
- Ensure you wear a lifejacket where required and consider wearing a lifejacket at all times while operating a vessel.
- Know the local factors that influence sea conditions and know where shelter can be reached quickly.
- Learn how to read the weather map.
- Be aware that the weather map in the morning newspaper was drawn the day before.
- Always check the latest forecast and warnings before going to sea and know what conditions exceed your safety limits.
- Beware of rapidly darkening and lowering cloud – squalls may be imminent.
- When at sea, listen to the weather reports on public or marine radio.
- Be flexible – change your plans if necessary.
- Be prepared to head back to shore regardless of how far you have travelled.
- Be prepared for changes in conditions and take warm clothing.