

FACT SHEET

Emergency services and volunteers fund

As floods, fires and storms become more frequent and severe, they place greater pressure on our emergency services. The Victorian Government is ensuring our dedicated emergency services and volunteers have the resources they need to protect communities and support recovery.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

From 1 July 2025, the emergency services and volunteers fund will appear on your council rates notice. It replaces the fire services property levy and will now support the vital services that respond to fires, floods, storms and other emergencies.

Vacant land will also now be classified according to its intended land use.

From 1 July 2026, a new property classification will be introduced for residential principal places of residence (PPR), and non-PPR residential properties will be charged the non-residential fixed rate.

WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY SERVICES AND VOLUNTEERS FUND?

The fund will help support a broader range of emergency services and for the first time include Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), Triple Zero Victoria, Emergency Management Victoria, the State Control Centre, Forest Fire Management Victoria and Emergency Recovery Victoria, as well as the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria.

HOW IS IT CALCULATED?

The ESVF includes 2 components:

1. A fixed charge – based on the property's classification (e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, primary production, and public benefit).
2. A variable charge – based on the property's classification and capital improved value (CIV), which includes land and buildings. The CIV is listed on your council rates notice.

WHAT REBATES AND CONCESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

Existing concessions continue to apply.

A \$50 concession applies if you hold a Pensioner Concession Card or an eligible Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card. Some farmers may be eligible for a single farm enterprise exemption from multiple fixed charges.

In recognition of their significant contribution, active volunteers and life members from the CFA and VICSES will be eligible for a rebate.