FIMS Report - 495857.pdf



Fire Investigation Management System - Bushfire Report Fire & Incident Reporting System (FIRS) Number: 495857

Address:	MARRETTS ROAD, HERNES OAK 3825		
Date of Fire / Incident::	07/02/2014 15:18:11		

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Fire / Incident D	Fire / Incident Details				
Fire Investigation Repo	ort Status: SFIC SIGNOFF				
Fire & Incident Report	System (FIRS) Status: In Progress				
Incident Status: In Prog	ress				
District: 09					
Date / Time:	07/02/2014 15:18:11				
Address:	MARRETTS ROAD, HERNES OAK 3825				
Type of Call:	Type of incident undetermined				
TFB Status:	There was no Total Fire Ban declared in the state of Victoria on the day of this incident.				
Incident Controller:	CAPTAIN PHILLIP KENTER, NEWBOROUGH				
Rostered Duty Officer:	OPS OFFICER (R), MICHAEL CHERRY				

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Fire Investigator - RAY ARGENTO								
Rank Location Team Report KMS Travelled Comments								
CAPTAIN	CAPTAIN TOORA Yes Yes 220							

Fire Investig	gation Log		
Activity	Start	End	Comments
COMPILE	16/04/2014 00:00:00	16/04/2014 04:50:00	
ADVISED	07/02/2014 18:45:00	07/02/2014 18:45:00	
ENROUTE	07/02/2014 18:47:00	07/02/2014 18:50:00	
ONSCENE	07/02/2014 18:50:00	07/02/2014 21:30:00	
DEPARTED	07/02/2014 21:30:00	07/02/2014 21:30:00	
INSTATION	08/02/2014 02:30:00	08/02/2014 02:30:00	
ENROUTE	24/02/2014 13:30:00	24/02/2014 14:01:00	Attend scene with Victoria Police
ONSCENE	24/02/2014 14:01:00	24/02/2014 15:50:00	
DEPARTED	24/02/2014 15:50:00	24/02/2014 15:50:00	
INSTATION	24/02/2014 16:50:00	24/02/2014 16:50:00	
ENROUTE	11/03/2014 10:00:00	11/03/2014 11:00:00	Attend scene with Victoria Police Arson Squad
ONSCENE	11/03/2014 11:00:00	11/03/2014 12:15:00	
DEPARTED	11/03/2014 12:15:00	11/03/2014 12:15:00	
INSTATION	11/03/2014 15:45:00	11/03/2014 15:45:00	
Time on Scene: 5.73	Time to Compile Report: 4.83	Accum. Time: 10	.57



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Fire Investigator - DAVID CHUGG							
Rank Location Team Report KMS Travelled Comments							
OPS OFFICER	09	No	No	400			

Activity	Start	End	Comments		
ADVISED	24/02/2014 14:00:00	24/02/2014 14:00:00			
ENROUTE	24/02/2014 14:01:00	24/02/2014 14:33:00			
ONSCENE	24/02/2014 14:33:00	24/02/2014 15:45:00			
DEPARTED	24/02/2014 15:45:00	24/02/2014 15:45:00			
INSTATION	24/02/2014 16:45:00	24/02/2014 16:45:00			
ENROUTE	11/03/2014 07:00:00	11/03/2014 11:00:00	Attend scene with Victoria Police		
ONSCENE	11/03/2014 11:00:00	11/03/2014 12:15:00			
DEPARTED	11/03/2014 12:15:00	11/03/2014 12:15:00	Attend scene with Victoria Police		
INSTATION	11/03/2014 18:45:00	11/03/2014 18:45:00			
ENROUTE	22/04/2014 00:00:00	22/04/2014 00:00:00			
ONSCENE	22/04/2014 00:00:00	22/04/2014 00:00:00			
DEPARTED	22/04/2014 00:00:00	22/04/2014 00:00:00			
INSTATION	22/04/2014 00:00:00	22/04/2014 00:00:00			
Time on Scene: 2.45 Time to Compile Report: 0.0 Accum. Time: 2.45					

Accumulated Total Time - All Investigators: 13.02

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Bushfire Owner / Occupier Details							
Day of this Incide	Day of this Incident: TFB Status: There was a TFB declared in						
Туре:	OWNER/OCCUPIE	ER					
Address:	McDonalds ROAD	, MORWELL 3840					
Home Phone:	0351282233	0351282233 Business Phone: 0351282233					
Mobile:			-				
Insurance Details							
Bushfire							
Company:		Amount:	0.00				
Other							
Company:		Туре:					
		Amount:	0.00				
		Total Amount Insured:	0.00				
Comments:	-						



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Attended Agencies

Primary Brigade: BRIGADE: NEWBOROUGH UFB

Agency Name

Agency Name: Arson & Explosives Squad Attendance: Notified and attended

Name: Brigette De Chirico

Rank: Detective Leading Senior Constable

Station: Arson Squad Contact No.: 03 9611 8560

Agency Name: CFA

Attendance: Notified and attended Name: Andrew Payne - Croston

Rank:

Station: North East CFA Contact No.: 0438 673 124

Agency Name: Police Uniform/CIU Attendance: Notified and attended

Name: Smart Rank: Snr Constable Station: Latrobe

Contact No.: 0351315000

Agency Name: Police Uniform/CIU Attendance: Notified and attended

Name: Jason Benbow Rank: Detective Station: Latrobe CIU Contact No.: 0351317026

Agency Name: Police Uniform/CIU Attendance: Notified and attended

Name: Ashley Bell Rank: Detective Station: Latrobe CIU Contact No.: 0351315000

Agency Name: Police Uniform/CIU Attendance: Notified and attended

Name: Rob Kovacs

Rank:

Station: Latrobe CIU Contact No.: 0428 108 262

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Weather Firefighting Details								
Did the weather conditions contribute to the fire spread / behaviour? Yes								
Temperature:	36.9°C		Wind Spee		oderate winds (11 ms/hrkms/hr	-16 k	nots) - 21-30	
Humidity:	21.0% Wind Direction:			n: N	orth-West			
Source:	PERM A	WS						
Comments:								
Weather sourced by	Latrobe	Valle	y Aerodrome We	eather	Station and the B	OM.		
Site Details:								
Territory:		CFA						
Fire Restri	ctions:	Fire restrictions in force but no total fire ban						
Fire D	anger:	Very	/ High					
Permit to Burn S	Status:	Perr	nit not applicable	e				
Site Description								
/\	Open isible:	No	Remote / Secluded:	Yes	Road / Track Edge:	No	Property Boundary:	No
Access								
Walking Track:			4x4 Vehicle Only:	No	Conventional Vehicle:	No	No Road or Track:	Yes
Topography								
G	Flat No Down Slope: Yes Up Slope: No							
Firefighting Strategies								
Overhaul & Salvag	e: Mod	Moderate overhaul procedures conducted; moderate scene disruption						
Scene Securit	y: No	: No						



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Investigation Details

INCIDENT SCENE AND LOCATION OVERVIEW

After initially being deployed as a fire-fighter to the Hernes Oak fire, I was redirected to undertake an investigation into the origin and cause of the fire which had previously been reported after the CFA 000 call centre had received a call at 15.18 hrs on Friday 07 February 2014 (07/02/2014). The location being the intersection of McDonalds Track and McGraths Track, Hernes Oak. (Map ref E 439 N 576)

Arriving on scene at approximately 18.50 hrs I was met by Snr Constable Smart from Latrobe Police. Constable Smart was assigned to traffic duties. I then requested CIU Detectives be called.

The area of origin was determined to be an undulating paddock with dry pasture south east of McDonalds Track. Signage on a gate referred to property being owned by Energy Australia Yallourn, gate number 115. (refer photo)

Given multiple wheel tracks this was also the main access for fire trucks initially combating the fire. (refer photo)

After I ensured the area of origin was secured with scene tape, I requested assistance from Traralgon Ground Observer crew member Brad Harker to take photographs of the area and also taking my own photographs with my personnel mobile phone.

Commencing the investigation, I first viewed the burnt area south of McGraths Track along the roadside noting the fire to be backing against a North Westerly wind. This was confirmed by observing char and burn patterns on the boundary fence posts.

Upon entering the paddock the chain at the gate was cut and the padlock was not in the locked position. This was later confirmed to have been cut by first responding fire crews from Newborough Brigade. A member reported they were un aware the padlock was not locked.

Progressing further down the paddock multiple vehicle tyre marks made fire direction difficult to determine. Although the location of an unburnt tussock (refer photo) 20 metres South East of the entry gate (115), showed a slow progressing fire travelling up hill in this area.

I was then joined by Victoria Police CIU Detectives Jason Benbow and Ashley Bell from Latrobe Crime Investigation Unit.

After exchanging details I continued tracking the fire run to what appeared to be the remains of a campfire on the bank of a dry dam bed approximately 100 metres South East of Gate number 115. (refer to Photos 4,5,6)

This fire measured approximately 500mm x 500mm. The area appeared to have considerable ash content, possibly indicating the fire was ignited some time prior to the main fire. Viewing burning char marks on remaining grass stubble, direction of fire travel seemed to be expanding from this location.

Further enquiries from a bystander at the initial time the fire was reported, believed the fire had started in the paddock and progressed uphill to McDonalds Track before being carried by prevailing winds in a South Easterly direction.

Other items located within the paddock was what appeared to be the burnt remains of a chewing gum wrapper. (refer photo)

No electrical assets such as power lines, SWER lines were located within this area.

Nor was there any evidence of mechanical works such as cutting, grinding, welding, etc \dots being carried out at the time of the fire.

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No lightning strikes had been reported in this area. (Information supplied BOM.)

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Origin & Cause					
Cause of Fire:	SUSPICIOU	IS			
Area of Origin:	Lawn, field,	, open area			
Area of Origin Detail:	AREA OF ORIGIN Was determined to be in a paddock with dry pasture South of intersection of McDonalds and McGraths Track (gate 115).				
Point(s) of Origin Detail:	POINT OF ORIGIN The point of origin was determined to be what appears to be remains of a campfire or similar located on the North side of a dry dam bank.				
Occupant of Ignition Area:	Trespasser, included are fires in stolen vehicles				
Activity in Ignition Area:	Camping, picnicking (include home barbecues)				
	·				
Heat of Ignition:	Camp fires				
Ignition Factor:	Inadequate	control of op	en fire		
Type Ignited First:	Grass, leav	es, hay, strav	V		
Form Ignited First:	Grass, bush	n and forests,	whether growin	g or dead	
Appliance / Equipment Inve	olved				
Equipment involved in ignition:					
Equipment Power					
Brand	Make	Model	Serial No.	Voltage	Year
Comments:					



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Interviews

No. 1

Date: 07/02/2014 21:15:00 **Name:** Alister Smith-Stevens **Address:** Newborough Fire Brigade

Contact No.: 0466183522

 $\textbf{Interview Details:} \ Officer \ on \ first \ responding \ crews \ reported \ fire \ was \ well \ alight \ in \ the \ paddock.$ Brigade members had cut the chain on gate number 115 to gain access and proceeded to

extguiish flames on the southern flank.

No. 2

Date: 06/03/2014 16:14:00 Name: Richard Sawyer Address: McGraths Trk Contact No.: 0407 865 290

Interview Details: Richard reported he was one of three first on scene and reported fire was in the paddock before backing up to the road side. He then went home to get his tractor to assist

with the fire fighting effort.

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Supplements								
No.	Item	Supplement	Comments					
495857S01	OTHER	FIMS_SUPP_495857S01.pdf	Lightning strike data					
495857S02	OTHER	FIMS_SUPP_495857S02.pdf	Weather details					
495857S03	OTHER	FIMS_SUPP_495857S03.txt	Latrobe airfield weather					
495857S04	EVENT CHRONOLOGY	FIMS_SUPP_495857S04.pdf	CAD Browser Event Details					

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Evidence Collected								
Evidence No.	Item	Location Found	Storage Location					
There was no evidence collected.								

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Recommendations / Outcomes

There were no recommendations / outcomes from this report.

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Photograph No 1						
Photos Stored / Held:	Toora					
Туре	Taken By ASA Digital Image No. Direction Description					
Digital	R Argento	100	001	SOUTH-EAST	Location sign	



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Photograph No 2							
Photos Stored / Held:	Toora	Toora					
Туре	Taken By	ASA	Digital Image No.	Direction	Description		
Digital	R Argento	100	002	NORTH-WEST	Road edge		



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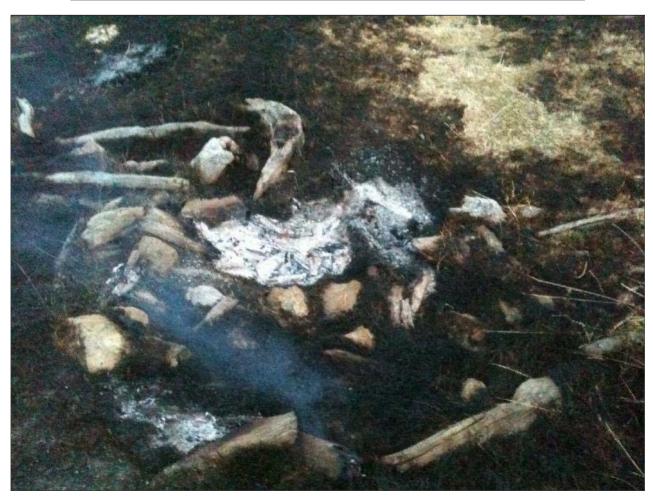
Photograph No 3						
Photos Stored / Held:	Toora	Toora				
Туре	Taken By	ASA	Digital Image No.	Direction	Description	
Digital	R Argento	100	003	NORTH-EAST	Remaining tussic	



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Photograph No 4							
Photos Stored / Held:	Toora	Toora					
Туре	Taken By	ASA	Digital Image No.	Direction	Description		
Digital	R Argento	100	004	EAST	Campfire		



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Photograph No 5							
Photos Stored / Held:	Toora	Гоога					
Туре	Taken By	ASA	Digital Image No.	Direction	Description		
Digital	R Argento	100	005	EAST	Campfire remains		



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Photograph No 6							
Photos Stored / Held:	Toora	Toora					
Туре	Taken By	ASA	Digital Image No.	Direction	Description		
Digital	R Argento	100	006	SOUTH- EAST	Dam and campfire		



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Photograph No 7								
Photos Stored / Held:	Toora							
Туре	Taken By	ASA	Digital Image No.	Direction	Description			
Digital	Ray Argento	100	007	AERIAL	Burnt remains of chewing gum wrapper			



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Photograph No 8							
Photos Stored / Held:	Toora						
			Digital Image				
Туре	Taken By	ASA	No.	Direction	Description		



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Photograph No 9							
Photos Stored / Held:	Toora	Toora					
Туре	Taken By	ASA	Digital Image No.	Direction	Description		
Digital	Brad Harker	100	009	SOUTH- EAST	Gate 115 Access		



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Photograph No 10							
Photos Stored / Held:	Toora	Toora					
Туре	Taken By	ASA	Digital Image No.	Direction	Description		
Digital	Brad Harker	100	010	NORTH-WEST	Wheel Tracks		



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Photograph No 11							
Photos Stored / Held:	Toora	「oora					
Туре	Taken By	ASA	Digital Image No.	Direction	Description		
Digital	Birddog 396	100	011	AERIAL	Overview Aerial Photo		



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Photograph No 12							
Photos Stored / Held:	Toora	Toora					
Туре	Taken By	ASA	Digital Image No.	Direction	Description		
Digital	Birddog 396	100	012	AERIAL	Aerial Photo		



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FIMS Report Signoff History									
Name	Role	Action	Date / Time	Comments					
RAY ARGENTO	Fire Investigation	START REPORT	06/03/2014 14:31:19						
RAY ARGENTO	Fire Investigation	SUBMIT FOR REVIEW	16/04/2014 12:54:01						
DAVID CHUGG	Fire Investigation Coordinator	SUBMIT FOR REVIEW	16/04/2014 16:54:24						
NICOLE HARVEY	State Fire Investigation	REJECT REPORT	16/04/2014 17:10:21	Please included the supplementary documentation (e.g. weather details, etc) onto the FIMS report.					
DAVID CHUGG	Fire Investigation Coordinator	REJECT REPORT	16/04/2014 17:19:08	Please included the supplementary documentation (e.g. weather details, etc) onto the FIMS report.					
RAY ARGENTO	Fire Investigation	SUBMIT FOR REVIEW	19/04/2014 19:50:34						
DAVID CHUGG	Fire Investigation Coordinator	SUBMIT FOR REVIEW	22/04/2014 13:35:23						
NICOLE HARVEY	State Fire Investigation	COMPLETE REPORT	22/04/2014 14:30:14						