

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800hrs, 06/03/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Gippsland Fires – Hazelwood mine fire and East Gippsland fires</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 11	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:	
Situation Summary	The following report is focussed on the Hazelwood open cut mine fire in the Latrobe Valley and the bushfires in East Gippsland.
Known impacts	Smoke from the Hazelwood Mine fire continues to impact on Morwell and other communities in the area.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Health	<p>Department of Health: On Wednesday 05 March 2014, 103 clients attended the Community Health Assessment Centre.</p> <p>As at COB Wednesday 05 March 2014, there have been 1656 clients attend since the opening on 21 February 2014.</p> <p>GP practises have reported increased presentations of patients with respiratory conditions, however the load is being managed.</p> <p>Overall presentations to Latrobe Regional Hospital are slightly above usual numbers, but the hospital reports these presentations are not related to the Latrobe Valley Mine fire.</p> <p>The Nurse on Call (NoC) service has noted a small increase in demand and continues to be actively promoted within the community.</p> <p>Advice on the use of air purifiers is "Insufficient evidence exists to promote air cleaners as an effective way of removing all hazards from indoor air pollution. Furthermore the use of these devices may conflict with current health advice and messaging". A community information sheet regarding the use of air purifiers is in the process of being developed.</p> <p>A Chief Health Officer (CHO) Advisory has been updated to incorporate all key messages and current health advice. This is available on the CHO website: www.health.vic.gov.au/chiefhealthofficer/advisories.</p> <p>The CHO, Fire Services Commissioner and the EPA attended a media conference today at Traralgon ICC discussing health messages for the public, temporary relocation advice, the latest status of the fire and the air quality monitoring conducted by the EPA.</p> <p>Work is being done on the trigger for reissuing the advice to the community on when it is safe to return to Morwell South.</p> <p>Ambulance Victoria Demand on Ambulance Victoria's transport role has diminished. There were no personnel assessed by Ambulance Victoria at the mine site, indicating that the reduction in carbon monoxide levels is positively impacting on personnel.</p> <p>Ambulance Victoria, after consultation with the State Health Commander and the State Health Coordinator has determined that the resource levels at the Community Health Assessment Centre may be reduced. As of Saturday 8 March 2014, staff numbers will reduce from 3 paramedics to 2 paramedics per 12 hours. The Ambulance Supervisor role will remain.</p> <p>It is anticipated that all the above resources will remain until at least until Friday 14 March 2014.</p>
Human Services Command	<p>EM Workforce A number of DHS staff continue to be deployed to Gippsland to assist with regional emergency management operations in Morwell.</p> <p>Staffing numbers deployed for DH and DHS for Thursday 6 March 2014 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 DH staff at regional level in Gippsland and 20 DH staff at state level - 106 DHS staff at regional level in Gippsland and 13 DHS staff at state level. <p>Impacts on DHS funded services and DHS clients are being monitored and regular contact is being maintained as required.</p> <p>The DHS hotline (1800 006 468) continues to be busy taking calls from the public seeking respite or relocation assistance.</p>

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Human Services Command (continued)	<p>High Level Summary Report The following table contains a list of today's respite and relocation figures as at 1630 hrs and cumulative figures for the event:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="391 344 1348 642"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>6/3/2014</th> <th>Total event activity number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Respite Calls</td> <td>471</td> <td>4,902</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Calls</td> <td>91</td> <td>976</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Made</td> <td>325</td> <td>3,599</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Attended</td> <td>175</td> <td>2,207</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Respite Payments</td> <td>356</td> <td>2,048</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Payments</td> <td>45</td> <td>579</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payments Rejected</td> <td>5</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation arranged by DHS</td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		6/3/2014	Total event activity number	Respite Calls	471	4,902	Relocation Calls	91	976	Appointments Made	325	3,599	Appointments Attended	175	2,207	Respite Payments	356	2,048	Relocation Payments	45	579	Payments Rejected	5	16	Accommodation arranged by DHS	0	4
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Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p><u>Moe Respite Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 people attended throughout the day (as at 1630 hrs). Current staff resources include DHS, Council, Red Cross and personal support. <p><u>Register.Find.Reunite.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Cross have registered 3756 Morwell residents to date. Red Cross staff are present at the three DHS Respite and Relocation Centres to provide Register.Find.Reunite. services. 																											
Recovery	<p>A draft Recovery Transition Plan for the Hazelwood mine fire is currently being finalised.</p> <p>Development of the Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery plan February – March 2014 has progressed.</p> <p>A 'Gippsland Bushfire Recovery Plan - 2014 Bushfires', which addresses recovery planning for other significant fires in Gippsland during January and February is being finalised and will be distributed to the Gippsland Emergency Recovery Committee on Friday 7 March 2014.</p>																											
Communications / Public Information	<p>Communications and Public Information activities today have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review of the Regional Relief Plan preparation of case studies for internal communications updating of relief and recovery centre information on Emergency Relief and Recovery Victoria website, updating scripts for the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line participation in the Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee teleconference and the Gippsland Emergency Management Team teleconference liaising with the Department of Premier and Cabinet social media task team on communication issues requested in-depth Google analytics customised report on recovery site participation monitoring of social media and traditional media 																											
Business Continuity	Nil significant for this report.																											

ISSUES:

Issue	The Morwell community is experiencing levels of stress in relation to the ongoing environmental conditions.
Action Taken	DHS has established respite and relocation assistance and has implemented a range of community supports. Active planning is underway to transition to recovery.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY/RESPITE CENTRES			
LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees
Latrobe City Council	Moe Town Hall, Albert St, Moe	Community Respite Centre	9am – 6pm 14 people attended today as at 1630 hrs
Latrobe City Council	Community Information and Recovery Centre 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell	Community Information and Recovery Centre	9am – 6pm
Latrobe City Council	The Greek Hall 46 Elgin Street, Morwell	Respite and Relocation Assistance	9am – 6pm
Latrobe City Council	Commercial Road Primary School, Commercial Road, Morwell	Respite and Relocation Assistance	9am – 6pm
Latrobe City Council	Senior Citizens Hall, Maryvale Crescent, Morwell	Respite and Relocation Assistance	9pm – 6pm
Latrobe City Council	Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional Office, 2 Saskia Way, Morwell	Community Health Assessment Centre	8am – 8pm



**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (FOR THE FEBRUARY FIRE EVENT)

Region and LGA*	Number Emergency Grants	Total
Gippsland – East Gippsland	45	\$37,500

Region and LGA*	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total
Gippsland – East Gippsland	1	\$3,000

GRAND TOTAL **\$40,500**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE – Latrobe City Council (as at 1630 hrs)

	Today's Payments	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Personal Hardship Respite Payments	356	2,048	\$1,024,000
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments	45	579	\$551,750
		TOTAL	\$1,575,750

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Friday 7 March 2014 at 1800hrs

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn: State Recovery Coordinator

Julian Meagher: State Health Coordinator