

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800hrs, 07/03/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	Gippsland Fires – Hazelwood mine fire and East Gippsland fires		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 12	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 Thursday 06 March 2014, 91 clients attended the Community Health Assessment Centre.</p> <p>As at COB Thursday 06 March 2014, there have been 1747 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>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/chofficer/advisories.</p> <p>Work is being done on the trigger for issuing advice to the community on when it is safe to return to Morwell, south of Commercial Rd.</p> <p>Ambulance Victoria Whilst the AV strategic focus remains on Gippsland for the fire situation, activity levels have begun to decline, allowing a slight restructure of resources in line with State Health Command expectations. The Community Health assessment Centre in Morwell will revert to 2 Paramedics + 2 Registered Nurses and an AV Supervisor, from 8/3/14.</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 DHS for Friday 7 March 2014 are: - 92 DHS staff at regional level in Gippsland and 12 DHS staff at state level.</p> <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>																														
Human Services Command (continued)	<p>High Level Summary Report <i>The following table contains a list of today's respite and relocation figures as at 1630 hrs and cumulative figures for the event:</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><i>7/3/2014 as at 1630</i></th> <th><i>Total event activity number</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Respite Calls</td> <td>395</td> <td>5301</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Calls</td> <td>70</td> <td>1046</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Made</td> <td>200</td> <td>3702</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Attended</td> <td>182</td> <td>2389</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Respite Payments</td> <td>277</td> <td>2325</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Payments</td> <td>33</td> <td>612</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second relocation payment</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payments Rejected</td> <td>0</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation arranged by DHS</td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<i>7/3/2014 as at 1630</i>	<i>Total event activity number</i>	Respite Calls	395	5301	Relocation Calls	70	1046	Appointments Made	200	3702	Appointments Attended	182	2389	Respite Payments	277	2325	Relocation Payments	33	612	Second relocation payment	1	1	Payments Rejected	0	16	Accommodation arranged by DHS	0	4
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p><u>Moe Respite Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five 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 4740 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 in the process of being finalised.</p> <p>Development of the Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery plan February – March 2014 is progressing. The Hazelwood mine fire Recovery Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 March 2014.</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 shortly be distributed to the Gippsland Emergency Recovery Committee.</p>
Communications / Public Information	<p>Communications and Public Information activities today have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> finalisation 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 Bushfire Recovery Coordination Team meeting liaising with the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Health social media task team on communication issues 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	<p>Second relocation payments commenced today. Payments commenced for those individuals and households that received their initial payment one week ago on 28 February 2014.</p> <p>DHS has established respite and relocation assistance and has implemented a range of community supports. Active planning is underway to transition to recovery.</p>

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY/RESPITE CENTRES

LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees
Latrobe City	Moe Town Hall, Albert St, Moe	Community Respite Centre	9am – 6pm
Latrobe City	Community Information and Recovery Centre 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell	Community Information and Recovery Centre	9am – 6pm
Latrobe City	The Greek Hall 46 Elgin Street, Morwell	Respite and Relocation Assistance	9am – 6pm
Latrobe City	Senior Citizens Hall, Maryvale Crescent, Morwell	Respite and Relocation Assistance	9pm – 6pm
Latrobe City CLOSED	Commercial Road Primary School, Commercial Road, Morwell	Respite and Relocation Assistance	As of 1800hrs 6 March 2014, this centre is now CLOSED
Latrobe City	Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional Office, 2 Saskia Way, Morwell	Community Health Assessment Centre	8am – 8pm

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 (as at 1630 hrs)

	Today's Payments	Total Cumulative Payments	Cumulative Total
Personal Hardship Respite Payments	277	2325	\$1,162,500
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments	33	612	\$585,500
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – second round	1	1	\$750
		TOTAL	\$1,748,750

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Saturday 8 March 2014 at 1800hrs

Endorsed by:

Alan Hall: State Recovery Coordinator

Julian Meagher: State Health Coordinator