

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800hrs, 11/03/2014

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|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME: | Gippsland Fires – Hazelwood mine fire and East Gippsland fires | | |
| SITUATION REPORT NUMBER: | # 16 | INCIDENT LEVEL: | 2 |

SITUATION SUMMARY:

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|-------------------|---|
| Situation Summary | <p>The following report is focussed on the Hazelwood open cut mine fire in the Latrobe Valley and the bushfires in East Gippsland.</p> <p>The Hazelwood open cut mine fire was declared CONTROLLED on Monday 10 March. Remaining hot spots are being monitored and extinguished. The smoke from the fire remains and EPA is continuing to monitor the air quality. The Chief Health Officer has maintained the current health advice for 'people at risk' to consider relocating from the affected area. This advice will remain in place as EPA continues to monitor air quality data for improvements.</p> <p>The East Gippsland, Goongerah-Deddick Trail fire was declared CONTAINED on Monday 10 March.</p> <p>Premier Denis Napthine and Deputy Premier Peter Ryan today announced the establishment of an independent Inquiry into the Hazelwood Mine Fire, the response to and support of the Morwell and affected communities and the emergency response.</p> |
| Known impacts | Smoke from the Hazelwood Mine fire continues to impact on Morwell and other communities in the area. |

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

| Health | <p>On Monday 10 March 2014, 20 clients attended the Community Health Assessment Centre. As at COB Monday 10 March 2014, there have been 1886 clients attend since the opening on 21 February 2014.</p> <p>Work continues to be done on the trigger for issuing advice to the community on when it is safe to return to Morwell, south of Commercial Rd. The basis for a recommendation by the Chief Health Officer (CHO) to lift the temporary relocation advice, for reasons of health protection, includes the analysis of data and criteria provided by the EPA, BoM and information from the State Controller as to the fire suppression status. Once all the criteria have been met, the CHO will issue an advisory that the conditions are now safe for sensitive groups to return. This will also be subject to ongoing monitoring and review while the fire continues to persist.</p> <p>A community fact sheet for health advice regarding the clean-up of properties is in final review. Revised content has been provided for the WoVG full page ad in the LaTrobe Valley Express this Thursday 13 March 2014. Feedback has been provided to CFA on their transition recovery communications strategy.</p> <p>GP practises have reported increased presentations of patients with respiratory conditions however the load is being managed. Overall presentations to Latrobe Regional Hospital are within normal range. Regional health staff will today make contact with the relocated Aged Care facility and Nurse on Call (NoC) service has noted a small increase in demand and continues to be actively promoted within the community.</p> <p>Two DH staff are deployed to the Gippsland region to work in the Regional Health IMT.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----|-------|-------------------------|-----|-------|--------------------------|-----|-------|------------------------------|-----|-------|-------------------------|----|-------|----------------------------|---|-----|----------------------------------|----|----|--------------------------|---|----|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Human Services Command | <p><u>Emergency management workforce</u> DHS staff continue to be deployed to Gippsland to assist with regional emergency management operations in response to the incident in Morwell. DHS staffing numbers for Tuesday, 11 March 2014 were eight at state level and 62 in the Gippsland region.</p> <p><u>Clients and services</u> Impacts on DHS funded services and DHS clients are being monitored and regular contact is being maintained as required.</p> <p><u>High level summary report</u> The DHS hotline (1800 006 468) continues to be busy taking calls from the public seeking respite or relocation assistance.</p> <p><i>The following table contains a list of today's respite and relocation figures for the event:</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>Past 24hr activity up until 1630hrs today</i></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><i>Total event activity</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Respite Calls</td> <td style="text-align: center;">516</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6,277</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Calls</td> <td style="text-align: center;">141</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1,353</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Made</td> <td style="text-align: center;">290</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4,499</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appointments Attended</td> <td style="text-align: center;">123</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2,907</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Respite Payments</td> <td style="text-align: center;">99</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2,619</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Relocation Payments</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">644</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second relocation payment</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17</td> <td style="text-align: center;">63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payments Rejected</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Accommodation arranged by DHS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | <i>Past 24hr activity up until 1630hrs today</i> | <i>Total event activity</i> | Respite Calls | 516 | 6,277 | Relocation Calls | 141 | 1,353 | Appointments Made | 290 | 4,499 | Appointments Attended | 123 | 2,907 | Respite Payments | 99 | 2,619 | Relocation Payments | 7 | 644 | Second relocation payment | 17 | 63 | Payments Rejected | - | 25 | Accommodation arranged by DHS | - | 4 |
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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| | DHS has a fraud management process in place to assist in the prevention of funds being obtained inappropriately. Six referrals regarding possible inappropriate access to payments have been referred to Victoria Police for investigation. |
| Relief (including relief partner agencies) | <p><u>Respite and Relocation Assistance Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Respite and Relocation Assistance Centre operated at the Greek Hall at 46 Elgin Street Morwell <p><u>Moe Respite Centre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 people attended today, 11 March 2014 (as at 1630hrs) Current staff resources include DHS, Council, Red Cross and personal support <p><u>Latrobe City Information and Recovery Centre</u> 22 Hazelwood Rd Morwell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34 people attended today, 11 March 2014 (as at 1630hrs) One Health check <p><u>Outreach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Victorian Council of Churches continues to support outreach activities. Support to Latrobe City council has been provided with the visitation of over 3,000 homes. Red Cross Register.Find.Reunite - 4,862 registrations of Morwell residents to date. Red Cross staff are also present at the DHS respite centre to provide Register.Find.Reunite services Telephone outreach commenced on Saturday 8 March 2014 with more than 800 individuals on the call list. As at 17:45hrs 10 March, 60% of this call list have received a welfare check phone call. These calls have been made to those over 70 years who registered with Register.Find.Reunite as well as those deemed vulnerable for other reasons (e.g. health conditions). A high level of satisfaction has been forthcoming from these calls. |
| Recovery | Recovery planning for the Morwell incident and other fires in the Gippsland region is well underway. |
| Communications / Public Information | Key communication activities today have included updating content of Emergency Relief and Recovery Victoria website; scripting for the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line (VERIL). Other activities have included review of social media services proposal and web analytics reports. |
| Business Continuity | Nil significant for this report. |

ISSUES:

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| Issue | The Morwell community is experiencing levels of stress in relation to the ongoing environmental conditions. |
| Action Taken | DHS continues to provide respite and relocation payments 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 | Moe Town Hall, Albert St, Moe | Community Respite Centre open for all | 9am – 6pm 15 people attended |
| Latrobe City | Community Information and Recovery Centre 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell | Community Information and Recovery Centre | 9am – 6pm 34 people attended |
| Latrobe City | The Greek Hall 46 Elgin Street, Morwell | Respite and Relocation Assistance | Appointments |
| Latrobe City | Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional Office, 2 Saskia Way, Morwell | Community Health Assessment Centre | 8am – 8pm |

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (FOR THE EAST GIPPSLAND FEBRUARY FIRE EVENT)

| Region and LGA | Number Emergency Grants | Total |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Gippsland – East Gippsland* | 45 | \$30,500 |

| Region and LGA | Number Re-establishment Grants | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| Gippsland – East Gippsland* | 0 | 0 |

*Note: Payment summaries for both Latrobe & Wellington Shires are no longer included as the focus of the Situation report is now on the East Gippsland fires only, as well as the Hazelwood mine fire. Variations from previous Situation Reports are due to excluding Latrobe & Wellington Shires payments.

GRAND TOTAL **\$30,500**



**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

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

| | Payments made today (as at 1630hrs) | Total Cumulative Payments | Cumulative Total |
|--|--|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Personal Hardship Respite Payments | 99 | 2,619 | \$1,309,500 |
| Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments | 7 | 644 | \$617,500 |
| Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments – second payment | 17 | 63 | \$54,750 |
| | | | \$1,981,750 |

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

| Location & LGA | DHS in attendance (Y/N) | Date | Time |
|----------------|-------------------------|------|------|
| Nil | | | |

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Wednesday, 12 March 2014 at 1800hrs

Endorsed by:

Alan Hall, State Recovery Coordinator

Alison McMillan, State Health Coordinator