

**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800hrs, 26/03/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	Gippsland Fires – Hazelwood mine fire and East Gippsland fires		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 24	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:

Situation Summary	<p>On Tuesday 25 March the Hazelwood open cut mine fire was officially declared as 'safe'. The site has now been handed back to mine owner GDF Suez. The mine owners and workers will continue to monitor small hotspots in the mine.</p> <p>On Monday 17 March the Chief Health Officer (CHO) lifted the advice for temporary relocation of 'at risk' groups in the southern parts of Morwell, advising that they can now plan to return to their homes and workplaces.</p> <p>The Environment Protection Agency will continue to monitor the air quality in the Latrobe Valley for the next 12 months.</p>
Known impacts	Nil

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Health	<p>Numbers of people attending the Community Health Assessment Centre (CHAC) continue to be low. As at COB Tuesday 25 March 2014, there have been 2109 clients attend since the opening on 21 February 2014. The facility is planned to be closed at COB Sunday 30 March 2014. All local GPs and health facilities have been informed and the impact of the closure will be monitored until 4 April 2014.</p> <p>Health services, GP's and Nurse on Call continue to manage any demand within existing resources.</p> <p>Cleaning of the St Hilary's aged care service has commenced and a strategy developed for the staggered return of residents. The exact schedule for this is still unknown.</p>
Human Services Command	<p>The DHS Hotline 1800 number for respite and relocation assistance has now reverted to a recorded message providing information to callers. This occurred as of close of business Friday 21 March 2014.</p> <p>DHS implemented a fraud management process to review cases of possible inappropriate access to payments. Where identified these cases are being referred to Victoria Police for investigation.</p> <p>While respite and relocation assistance payments have closed, two special circumstances relocation payments were made today.</p>
Relief (including relief partner agencies)	Nil significant to report.
Recovery	<p>Recovery committees and sub-committees continue to meet to progress recovery for affected communities.</p> <p><u>Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A community engagement planning meeting was held on Monday 24 March. The Hazelwood Mine Fire Recovery Committee met on Tuesday 25 March. <p><u>Latrobe City Council Clean Up Program</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean-up assistance for affected residents is available through Latrobe City Council. Work has commenced to undertake assisted cleaning for the 650 Home and Community Care clients. <p>Since 20 March 2014, the following assistance has been provided (as of 1500 hours today):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 253 calls taken on 1800 clean up assistance line 9 assisted clean ups completed 235 self clean-up kits dispensed 249 laundry vouchers dispensed 361 car wash vouchers dispensed <p><u>Gippsland Bushfire Recovery</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Gippsland Municipal Recovery Community held on Tuesday 25 March – focus was on the East Gippsland Bushfires 2014 Recovery Plan.
Communications / Public Information	Public Information Unit continues to monitor and identify media recovery activities.
Business Continuity	Nil significant for this report.

ISSUES:

Issue Action Taken	Nil to report.
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OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RECOVERY CENTRES

LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees as at 1700
Latrobe City	Community Information and Recovery Centre 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell (Clean-up program operates from this location)	Community Information and Recovery Centre	9am – 6pm 55 people attended today The centre will be relocating to 20 Hazelwood Road Morwell – date to be confirmed.
Latrobe City	Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional Office, 2 Saskia Way, Morwell	Community Health Assessment Centre	10am – 6pm

RESPIRE AND RELOCATION FIGURES FOR THE HAZELWOOD MINEFIRE

	Total event activity	Cumulative Total
Respite Calls*	8,577	–
Relocation Calls*	1,813	–
Appointments Made*	6,363	–
Appointments Attended*	4,565	–
Personal Hardship Respite Payments (first payment)	2,910	\$1,455,000
Personal Hardship Respite Payments (second payment)	1,100	\$550,000
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments (first payment)	679	\$651,250
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments (second payment)	497	\$485,250
Personal Hardship Voluntary Relocation Payments (third payment)	9	\$8,750
Relocation – Special Circumstances**	6	\$1,500
Payments Rejected	95	–
Accommodation arranged by DHS	4	–
	Total	\$3,151,750

*Please note DHS hotline and appointment service closed at COB Friday 21 March 2014. These activity numbers are now final.

**A small number of residents are being referred to DHS for 'special circumstance' relocation payments.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

LGA	# Emergency Payments	Sub-total	# Re-establishment Payments	Sub-total	Grand Total
East Gippsland*	47	\$32,750	3		\$74,476
				Grand Total	\$105,976

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Friday 28 March 2014 at 1800hrs

Endorsed by:

Kim O'Shaughnessy, A/Director Health and Human Services Emergency Management

Alison McMillan, State Health Coordinator