

**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800 hrs, 10/02/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Fires February 2014</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 3	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:

Situation Summary	<p>After a day of high fire danger with multiple fires in the landscape, the Fire Danger Rates have decreased across the state to very high and high. Although the week will be warm to hot, no spike in fire danger is expected this week.</p> <p>In Hume Region, fire is impacting the Wallan and Kilmore areas. A power outage was experienced in Numerkah this afternoon (Monday 10/02/14), however this outage has now been resolved. A number of fires are also active in the North and West Metro Region, with Emergency Warnings for some of these fires.</p>
Known impacts	There are varying reports of impacts from multiple fires. These impacts are to be confirmed through the initial impact assessment coordinated by Victoria Police.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Health Command/Coordination	<p>The Ambulance Emergency Operations Centre is active 24-hours until 7:00am 12/2/14, supplemented by a liaison officer in the State Control Centre for this period also. Health Commanders are in 11 Incident Control Centres, including Seymour, Traralgon and Bairnsdale and Field Health Commanders are at 2 locations. Extra resources are currently supporting the Mickleham-Kilmore fire, including an Incident Health Commander. A strike team has been deployed to Wallan.</p> <p>An Ambulance Victoria Level A personal protective equipment response has been requested by Traralgon ICC for the fire at Yallourn. The response has assembled and is mobile for Morwell – anticipated duration of 96 hours. Their task is to provide support for the fire response.</p> <p>The Numerkah Hospital and Yarrawonga Health Service were without power for a short period this afternoon. The Director Health and Aged Care was in contact with these Health Services throughout this time, both indicating that they had no issues.</p> <p>Health Services in the Gippsland and Hume Regions remain vigilant to fire threats in the area and continue to monitor staffing availability and access.</p>
Health Protection	Air quality monitoring is being undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) due to a number of fires near Traralgon which is likely to give rise to an extended period of significant smoke exposure in the Moe, Morwell and Traralgon areas. The Department of Health is working with Ambulance Victoria and the EPA to review and coordinate relevant public health messages. Key messages relating to Health and Bushfires are being included in the whole of government media strategy.
Human Services Command	Financial assistance payments officers and liaison officers have been deployed as required. Hume region are assessing the availability of public housing for any potential accommodation requirements. In Gippsland region, two disability group homes that had previously relocated have returned. The Child Youth Family residential care facility in Scrubby Lane will remain in the Traralgon centre until further notice. Child Protection clients who have been relocated are currently being followed up by divisional staff.
Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p>Red Cross has registered 1,475 people on Register.Find.Reunite via the internet, telephone and in Relief Centres (cumulative figures). Indicatively, 795 people stayed overnight in relief centres on Sunday night 09/02/14. The Salvation Army is providing bedding to the following councils: East Gippsland Shire, Wellington Shire, Latrobe City Council, Gisborne Shire, Mitchell Shire, Moira Shire/ Greater Shepparton and is on standby for Manningham City Council. Victorian Council of Churches is providing personal support at relief centres.</p> <p>Relief centres open and close as required. As at 6:00pm six relief centres were open.</p>
Recovery	<p>Recovery coordination for the Grampians Northern Complex fire is ongoing.</p> <p>In relation to the more recent fires, the Loddon Mallee Recovery Committee will meet on Tuesday 11/02/14. Manningham (Eastern Metro Region) is currently considering the need to establish a Recovery Committee. Doncare is providing debriefing for children living in the effected neighbourhood. A separate session is also being planned for adults. Health and recovery messages will be included in a community newsletter being developed for Glenaladale in Gippsland. The Regional Recovery Committee will meet in Traralgon on Friday 14/02/14.</p> <p>State recovery coordination will continue through the existing state recovery coordination team established through the January 2014 fires</p>
Communications / Public Information	<p>There are ongoing updates to www.recovery.vic.gov.au and the Victorian Emergency Relief Information Line regarding relief centre activity. Relief and recovery key messages also are being developed and distributed to the State Control Centre for media use.</p> <p>A Whole of Victorian Government public information campaign is being developed regarding available recovery supports. 'Top 10' Department of Health messages regarding safe return to fire-affected properties have been distributed.</p> <p>Information has been provided to the Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee (EMJPIC) teleconference at 8:30am and with an update provided at 5:30pm.</p>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Business Continuity	The Morwell Department of Human Services (DHS) office closed due to smoke and road closures in the area. Phone lines were diverted to Traralgon, with the Child Protection Intake line diverted to Dandenong DHS. The Disability Information and Triage line has been diverted to the DHS Cheltenham Office.
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ISSUES:

Issue	Multiple local councils and communities have been impacted by the fires yesterday.
Actions taken	Health and Human Services are maintaining regular contact with local councils.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY CENTRES

Region and LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees
Grampians Horsham Rural City Council	1574 Northern Grampians Road, Laharum	Recovery	Tuesday 11 Feb 1:00pm - 4:00pm Thursday 13 Feb 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Gippsland Wellington Shire Council	Yarram Secondary College, 86 James Street, Yarram	Relief	24 hours Attendees: 3 families
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	Moe Town Hall, Albert Street, Moe	Relief	Closing at 6:00pm Attendees: Nil
Gippsland Latrobe City Council	Traralgon Performing Arts Centre, Grey Street, Traralgon	Relief	24 Hours Attendees: 2
Gippsland East Gippsland Shire Council	Delegate Country Club, Bonang Road, Delegate, NSW	Relief	24 hours Attendees: 2
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Wallan Multipurpose Community Centre, 42 Bentick Street, Wallan	Relief	
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre, Chittick Park, Pollard Street, Seymour	Relief	
North and West Hume City Council	Broadmans Stadium, Cnr Mitchells Lane and Wilsons Lane, Sunbury	Recovery	Attendees: 1
Loddon Mallee Macedon Ranges Shire	Gisborne Community Centre Hamilton Street, Gisborne	Relief	Closed at 9:00am Attendees: approx. 100; 70 registered; 2 stayed overnight

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Region and LGA	Number Emergency Grants	Total \$4,000
Loddon Mallee – Macedon Ranges	1	\$1,000
North and West – Hume	1	\$500
Gippsland – Wellington	2	\$2,500
	Sum Total	\$4,000
Region and LGA	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total \$0
		\$0
	Sum Total	\$0
	Grand Total	\$4,000

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Location	Date	Time
Riddell Creek Community Centre, Macedon Ranges	10/02/14	2:00pm Approx. 250 attended
Riddell Creek Community Centre, Macedon Ranges	10/02/14	6:00pm
Gisborne Mechanics Hall, Macedon Shire	10/02/14	7:30pm
Wellington CFA briefing in the Yarram Relief Centre	10/02/14	5:00pm
East Gippsland – Gelantipy	This week – still unconfirmed	7:30pm

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued at 1700hrs, Tuesday 11 February 2014

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn: State Recovery Coordinator / Human Services Commander

Alison McMillan: State Health Coordinator

Authorised for release by:

Peter Higgins: HHSEM Operations Officer