

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800 hrs, 12/02/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Fires February 2014</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 5	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:

Situation Summary	<p>Smoke haze is persisting across central and eastern Victoria today and is a concern.</p> <p>There are still several ongoing fires across the state including the Mickleham Kilmore bushfire, Hazelwood – Morwell fire and East Gippsland bushfires. The fire in Hazelwood coal mine is expected to continue burning for some time.</p> <p>Fire Danger Ratings across the state remained high to very high today and are forecast to remain high to very high until Friday. Rain is expected to provide some relief by Friday, with milder conditions over the weekend.</p> <p>There are no current Emergency Warnings in Victoria.</p> <p>Recovery planning is under way for fire affected communities.</p>
Known impacts	<p>Health impacts of smoke are affecting a number of areas across the state. Regions have also raised concerns about the psychosocial impacts of the fires, particularly in areas previously affected.</p> <p>Statewide 34 houses have been confirmed destroyed since Saturday.</p> <p>Further impacts are being confirmed through initial impact assessments coordinated by Victoria Police.</p>

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Health Command/Coordination	<p>Ambulance Victoria (AV) Health Commanders were in two Incident Control Centres (ICC) today (Hazelwood and Seymour) and are maintaining remote contact with other ICCs.</p> <p>Additional ambulance resources were in place today and tonight, and two first aid teams are currently deployed.</p> <p>Kilmore and District Hospital reports minor interruption to external clients. Road closures causing some issues in staffing.</p> <p>Special arrangements are being put in place around the Hazelwood mine fire. The Gippsland Regional Health Commander (AV) and Regional Health Coordinator (DH) have been actively engaged.</p> <p>AV has an Incident Health Commander embedded in the leadership control function of the ICC. AV also have a Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) team in place to support CFA rescue teams.</p> <p>A Health and Human Services Emergency Management Liaison Officer will be deployed to the ICC for the Hazelwood Fire Incident to support regional arrangements to ensure flow of information and consistency in community messaging. This will be a three day deployment and subject to review.</p>
Health Protection	<p>The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria has issued an additional low level bushfire smoke advisory for the Melbourne, Geelong, Gippsland, North Central and Northern Country Victoria today as a result of bushfires.</p> <p>Key messages relating to health and smoke should be included in the whole of government media strategy which includes print media and radio.</p> <p>The Chief Health Officer continues to undertake a number of interviews with media throughout metro and regional Victoria in relation to the health effects of bushfire smoke.</p> <p>Air quality monitoring continues to be undertaken by the EPA near fire affected areas around the state. Mobile air monitoring capability deployed to Morwell today.</p> <p>The Department of Health is liaising with the regions to ensure that messages around bushfire smoke and public health are being targeted appropriately.</p>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Human Services Command	Financial assistance payments officers and liaison officers have been deployed as required. Planning and resourcing for ongoing relief needs is being undertaken.
Relief (inc Red Cross)	Relief centres are currently open at Wallan, Seymour and Delegate. Relief partner agencies are providing food and water, material aid and personal support. Community meetings are occurring as needed. Red Cross are providing first aid, and food and water to emergency service at Hazelwood Staging Ground. The Australian Government Department of Human Services is providing support and assistance as required and will continue to monitor and respond as needed.
Recovery	The State Crisis and Resilience '2014 Bushfires - State Recovery Coordination Team' will meet on Friday 14 February to discuss the January and February 2014 fires, including the current situation and recovery activities. Six recovery centres have been established, a number of community meetings have occurred and further meetings are planned. A number of impacted properties are requiring clean-up of water tanks. Households that rely on water tanks for drinking and sanitation are being referred to local government for assistance.
Communications / Public Information	Preparation is underway for a whole of Victorian Government communications plan for the Victorian fires recovery. There are ongoing updates to relief and recovery content on www.recovery.vic.gov.au , the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line and social media messaging. Information has been provided to the Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee at teleconference today at 4.30 pm.
Business Continuity	Nil to report

ISSUES:

Issue	Relief agencies have identified a high level of distress from residents, the psychosocial impact and re-traumatising of the recent bushfires from those recovering from the 2009 bushfires.
Actions taken	Relief agencies are providing psychosocial support.
Issues:	High demand at Wallan Relief Centre.
Actions taken	Director of Health and Human Services Emergency Management deployed to assess the situation. Additional staff member deployed mid-afternoon. Senior staff and increased numbers of staff to be deployed to relief centre tomorrow to meet demand.

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
Grampians Horsham Rural City Council	Grampians Community Centre, Stawell	Recovery	Open until the end of the week but not staffed by local council.
Gippsland East Gippsland Shire Council	Delegate Country Club, Bonang Road, Delegate, NSW	Relief	Open 24 hours registrations: nil additional Attendees: 8 overnight last night
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Wallan Multipurpose Community Centre, 42 Bentick Street, Wallan	Relief	24 Hours Registrations: 191 Attendees: 70 overnight
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre, Chittick Park, Pollard Street, Seymour	Relief	24 hours Registrations: 19 Attendees: 35 overnight
North East Region Moirra Shire Council	Numurkah	Recovery	Open 10:00am-5:00pm Attendees: N/A
North-West Metro City of Hume	Craigieburn Leisure Centre, 127 Craigieburn Road, Craigieburn	Not a Relief Centre but Personal Hardship Assistance Payment officers on site.	Open: 1:00pm-4:00pm
Loddon Mallee Region Shire of Macedon Ranges	Gisborne Community Centre, Hamilton Street	Recovery	Open 10am – 5pm. Minimal attendees
Loddon Mallee Region Shire of Macedon Ranges	Romsey Community Hub, 96-100 Main Road.	Recovery	Open 10am – 5pm Minimal attendees
Loddon Mallee Region Shire of Macedon Ranges	Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House. 59 Main Road.	Recovery	Open 10am – 5pm. Numerous attendees

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

Region and LGA	Number Emergency Grants	Total \$4,000
Loddon Mallee – Macedon Ranges	1	\$1,000
Hume - Wallan	58	\$54,500
Hume - Seymour	34	\$35,500
Hume - Numurkah	26	\$21,500
Gippsland – Wellington	2	\$2,500
Gippsland – East Gippsland	4	\$4,000
Gippsland – Baw Baw	1	\$500
Gippsland – Latrobe	1	\$500
EMR - Manningham	3	\$3,500
North West Metro – Mitchell Shire	1	\$1,000
North West Metro – Hume	5	\$5,750
	Sum Total	\$130,250

Region and LGA	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total \$0
		\$0
	Sum Total	\$0
	Grand Total	\$130,250

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Location	Date	Time
Kilmore, Assumption College	12/2/2014	3 pm
Gippsland - Goongerah Community Hall, Bonang Rd, Goongerah	14/2/2014	12 pm
Club Terrace Primary School, Club Terrace.	15/2/2014	12 pm
Darrewit Guim Macedon Ranges	12/2/1014	5:30 pm
Highgate Recreational Reserve Pavillion, Grand Boulevard Craig	12/2/2014	7 pm,

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued at 1800hrs, Thursday 13 February 2014

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn: State Recovery Coordinator / Human Services Commander

Justin Dunlop: State Health Coordinator

Authorised for release by:

George Tsaikos: HHSEM Operations Officer