

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800 hrs, 13/02/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Fires February 2014</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 6	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:

Situation Summary	<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>There are still some communities experiencing power outages as a result of the weekend's fires. DHS has received this information of customers without power from the distribution businesses and forwarded to the regions to plan the appropriate outreach activities.</p> <p>Recovery activities are ongoing in the Grampians region, and are being planned to commence in the recently affected communities across Victoria.</p>
Known impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • State wide 42 houses have been confirmed destroyed since Saturday. • Victoria Police convened a meeting at 3pm to provide an overview of the initial impact summary.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Health Command/Coordination	<p>A Health and Human Services Liaison Officer is working in the Hazelwood Incident Control Centre for the Hazelwood Mine Fire to support the Incident Management Team. Regional Health Coordinator is participating in planning and preparation for community meetings regarding the mine fires.</p> <p>Ambulance Victoria has stood down Orange Response, except in relation to the Morwell open cut mine.</p>
Health Protection	<p>The Chief Health Officer has issued a Health Alert for the high level smoke warning for the Latrobe Valley.</p> <p>A low level bushfire smoke advisory has also been issued by Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for the rest of the state except the Mallee and Wimmera districts.</p> <p>The EPA has installed a mobile air quality monitor at Morwell, and has sent down an expert air quality scientist to oversee the monitoring program. The related issue is the generation of carbon monoxide (CO) at the Hazelwood coal mine fire and accordingly, steps have been put in place to increase protection for the fire fighters. While CO is not expected to cause any issue within the broader community monitoring is being undertaken.</p> <p>Air monitoring in the mine and community is occurring and will be expanded to include carbon monoxide monitoring on the boundary of the mine and throughout the community.</p> <p>The Chief Health Officer has undertaken radio interviews with ABC Gippsland about the difference between the carbon monoxide at the mine fire and the bushfire smoke which may be causing concern for the community and to emphasise health messages.</p>
Human Services Command	<p>Financial assistance payments officers and liaison officers have been deployed into a number of relief centres, providing emergency relief and emergency re-establishment payments. A number of inquiries have been received by members of the community who have relocated to other areas of the state and arrangements have been made for DHS staff in these localities to assess and provide payments.</p> <p>Contingency planning has identified 14 housing properties across the Hume region for interim accommodation; however there is no demand on the services at this stage.</p>
Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p>Relief centres are currently open at Wallan, Seymour and Delegate.</p> <p>Relief partner agencies are providing food and water, material aid and personal support. They are also on standby to provide advice on appropriate arrangements for children in relief centres. Community meetings are occurring as needed.</p> <p>Red Cross are continuing to provide first aid, and food and water to emergency service at Hazelwood Staging Ground.</p>
Recovery	<p>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.</p> <p>Regional and Community Recovery Committees are occurring and being planned for in various communities.</p> <p>Nine recovery centres have been established, a number of community meetings have occurred and further meetings are planned.</p> <p>A number of impacted properties are requiring clean-up of water tanks. Households that rely on water tanks for</p>

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	drinking and sanitation are being referred to local government for assistance. Outreach programs and psychosocial support are being provided to affected individuals as required, in conjunction with local governments.
Communications / Public Information	A whole of Victorian Government communications plan for the Victorian Bushfires Recovery has been completed, as well as the revised Victorian Bushfires Recovery Guide to Services. 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. Input has been provided to a teleconference with DEPI to improve call taker scripts for Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line. Information has been provided to the Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee at a teleconference today at 4.30 pm, and a new monitoring program has commenced for social media and traditional media.
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.
Issue	Ongoing resources over the weekend and beyond for emergency work force
Actions taken	Workforce planning has identified they are able to continue with current commitment levels for the next 72 hours. Longer term work force planning has commenced.

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	Thursday 13 Feb 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Grampians Horsham Rural City Council	Grampians Community Centre, Stawell	Recovery	Open until the end of the week
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	8am – 11pm
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre, Chittick Park, Pollard Street, Seymour	Relief	8am – 11pm Registrations: nil additional
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Wallan Library, 12/81 High Street, Wellington Square, Wallan	Recovery	Friday 14 th 9am – 5pm
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Kilmore Library, 12 Sydney Street	Recovery	Friday 14 th 9am – 5pm
North East Region Moira Shire Council	Numurkah	Recovery	Open 10am - 5pm
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 – 12pm. Minimal attendees
Loddon Mallee Region Shire of Macedon Ranges	Romsey Community Hub, 96- 100 Main Road.	Recovery	Open 10am – 5pm Busy
Loddon Mallee Region Shire of Macedon Ranges	Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House. 59 Main Road.	Recovery	Open 10am – 5pm. Minimal attendees
Loddon Mallee Region	Darrawait Guim Community Memorial Hall	Recovery	Open 12.30 – 5pm Busy

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Region and LGA	Number Emergency Grants	Total \$240,750
Loddon Mallee – Macedon Ranges	25	\$27,750
Hume - Wallan	171	\$231,500
Hume - Seymour	46	\$48,500
Hume - Numurkah	33	\$27,250
Gippsland – Wellington	2	\$2,500
Gippsland – East Gippsland	4	\$5,500
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	9	\$9,250
Sum Total	296	\$240,750

Region and LGA	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total \$0
		\$0
Sum Total		\$0
	Grand Total	\$240,750

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Location	Date	Time
Mitchell Shire – Kilmore Trackside (DHS in attendance)	13/2/2014	7 pm
Gippsland - Goongerah Community Hall, Bonang Rd, Goongerah (residents only)	14/2/2014	12 pm
Gippsland - Glenaladale Hall	14/2/2014	7.30 pm
Club Terrace Primary School, Club Terrace (residents only)	15/2/2014	12 pm
Gippsland - Buchan Hall	15/2/2014	9 am

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued at 1800hrs, Thursday 14 February 2014

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn: State Recovery Coordination / Human Services Commander

Alison McMillan: State Health Coordinator

Authorised for release by:

Peter Higgins: HHSEM Operations Officer