

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1830 hrs, 14/02/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Fires February 2014</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 7	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:

Situation Summary	<p>There are currently ten significant fires across the state, including the Latrobe Valley mine fires. Several road closures still remain in place.</p> <p>Recovery activities are ongoing in the Grampians region and have commenced in the recently affected communities across Victoria.</p>
Known impacts	<p>Health impacts of smoke are affecting a number of areas across the state. Approximately 45 houses have been confirmed destroyed since Saturday 8 Feb. It is believed hundreds of cattle and thousands of sheep, along with pasture and feed have been lost in the fires.</p>

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. This will continue over the weekend.</p> <p>Department of Health staff (included the Regional Health Coordinator) are attending and will speak at the Morwell community meeting on Friday 14/02/2014. The Latrobe Valley Mine Fire Community Information sheet will be distributed at this meeting.</p>
Health Protection	<p>The Chief Health Officer Health Alert for the high level smoke warning for the Latrobe Valley remains active.</p> <p>A community fact sheet has been developed and approved by the Chief Health Officer in response to community questions and concerns about smoke from the Hazelwood Mine Fire.</p> <p>The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is continuing their air monitoring program around the mine. Carbon monoxide levels have been measured in the Morwell township and around the perimeter of the mine. To date, levels of carbon monoxide are not a health concern for people who are away from the actual coal fires (i.e. outside the boundary of the mines). This includes people living, working in or visiting the local area.</p> <p>The Department of Health will be represented at the public meeting in Morwell this evening to provide information to the community about the health impacts of smoke from the mine fires and surrounding bushfires.</p> <p>WIN TV News will run a 'preview' of the Morwell public meeting tonight following an earlier news conference with CFA, EPA and other agencies involved in the mine fires.</p> <p>Chief Health Officer Dr Rosemary Lester undertook ABC metropolitan radio interviews today in relation to bushfire smoke continuing to linger across Melbourne and other parts of the State.</p> <p>There are no reports from water businesses of water quality incidents relating to fire affected areas.</p>
Human Services Command	<p>Financial assistance payments officers and liaison officers are present at recovery centres, providing emergency relief and emergency re-establishment payments, as required.</p>
Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p>One relief centre is open at Delegate. Relief partner agencies are providing food and water, material aid and personal support.</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' met today and agreed to continue to meet weekly to coordinate the recovery for the January and February 2014 fires.</p> <p>Regional committees are meeting in Gippsland, Hume, Loddon Mallee and Grampians regions and municipal meetings are occurring in the North West Metro region.</p> <p>Seven recovery centres are established, a number of community recovery meetings have occurred and further meetings are planned, as listed at the end of this Sitrep. Senior DHS staff attend community meetings, and social media following meetings are monitored by the department. Priority issues that are raised in community meetings are noted and responded to.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Outreach programs and psychosocial support are being provided to affected individuals as required, in conjunction with local governments.</p>
Communications / Public Information	<p>A whole of Victorian Government communications plan for the Victorian Bushfires Recovery has been completed, and the 2014 Victorian Bushfires Recovery Guide to Services has been launched.</p> <p>There are ongoing updates to relief and recovery content on www.recovery.vic.gov.au, the Victorian Emergency</p>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

	<p>Recovery Information Line and social media messaging.</p> <p>Key messages regarding water safety, smoke, donated goods and volunteers has been disseminated to appropriate audiences and social media and traditional media has been monitored.</p> <p>Health and Human Services continues to collaborate with the Whole of Victorian Government Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee.</p>
Business Continuity	Eastern Metro emergency management staff are being used to supplement Hume region's emergency management capacity. Health and Human Services State Operations has organised deployment of staff from other regions to provide support to Hume region.

ISSUES:

Issue	Nil to Report
Actions taken	

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY CENTRES

Region and LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees
Gippsland East Gippsland Shire Council	Delegate Country Club, Bonang Road, Delegate, NSW	Relief	Open 24 hours Attendees: 4 overnight last night
Grampians Horsham Rural City Council	Grampians Community Centre, Stawell	Recovery	Open Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Wallan Library, 12/81 High Street, Wellington Square, Wallan	Recovery	9am – 5pm daily
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Kilmore Library, 12 Sydney Street	Recovery	9am – 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
North East Region Moira Shire Council	Numurkah	Recovery	Open Monday to Friday 10am - 5pm
Loddon Mallee Region Shire of Macedon Ranges	Romsey Community Hub, 96-100 Main Road.	Recovery	Open Friday 10am – 5pm
Loddon Mallee Region Shire of Macedon Ranges	Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House. 59 Main Road.	Recovery	Open Friday 10am – 5pm Saturday 9am – 1 pm
Loddon Mallee Region	Darraweit Guim Town Hall Bolinda Darraweit Road	Recovery	Open Friday 10am – 5 pm Saturday 10am – 5 pm Sunday 10am – 1pm

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (FOR THE FEBRUARY FIRE EVENT)

Region and LGA	Number Emergency Grants	Total \$240,750
Loddon Mallee – Macedon Ranges	107	\$117,750
Hume - Wallan	293	\$298,250
Hume - Kilmore	54	\$50,950
Hume - Seymour	46	\$49,000
Hume - Numurkah	46	\$37,850
Hume Mitchell Shire	1	\$1,000
Gippsland – Wellington	4	\$4,250
Gippsland – East Gippsland	10	\$9,250
Gippsland – Baw Baw	1	\$500
Gippsland – Latrobe	1	\$500
EMR - Manningham	4	\$4,500
North West Metro - Whittlesea	1	\$1,000
North West Metro – Hume City Council	18	\$19,750
Sum Total	586	\$594,550

Region and LGA	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total \$0
Hume - Wallan	4	\$9,000
Sum Total	4	\$9,000
Grand Total		\$603,550



**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Location	Date	Time
Hazelwood Mine Meeting, Kernott Hall, Princes Highway, Morwell	14/2/2014	6 pm
Glenaladale	14/2/2014	7.30pm
Club Terrace Primary School, Club Terrace (residents only)	15/2/2014	1 pm
Gippsland - Buchan Hall	15/2/2014	9 am
Malmsbury Public Hall, Macedon Shire	17/2/2014	7:30pm

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued at 1800hrs, Saturday 15 February 2014

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn: State Recovery Coordination / Human Services Commander

Alison McMillan: State Health Coordinator

Authorised for release by:

George Tsaikos: HHSEM Operations Officer