

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800 hrs, 15/02/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Fires February 2014</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 8	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:

Situation Summary	<p>There are currently three significant incidents going:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Morwell – Hernes Oak bushfire and Hazelwood Mine fire – involves complex resourcing, community, coalmine & power industry, with potential infrastructure impacts 2. East Gippsland bushfires – multiple complexes of large forest fires in difficult terrain that will take several weeks to contain without significant moderation in weather (rain). 3. Mickleham - Kilmore bushfire – Isolated pockets still burning, with emergency stabilization and community recovery commencing. <p>While there is some rain expected it is not expected to have a significant impact on current fires.</p> <p>The fires at Hazelwood and Yallourn open cut coal mines are producing smoke and also carbon monoxide due to the incomplete burning of the coal. There is a health management plan in place.</p> <p>Recovery activities are ongoing in the Grampians region and are now underway in the recently affected communities.</p>
Known impacts	<p>Smoke haze continues to be visible across many areas of the state.</p> <p>Approximately 45 houses have been confirmed destroyed since Saturday 8 February. It is believed hundreds of cattle and thousands of sheep, along with pasture and feed have been lost in these 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 through the weekend.</p> <p>Department of Health staff (included the Regional Health Coordinator) attended the Morwell community meeting on Friday 14/02/2014. The Latrobe Valley Mine Fire Community Information sheet was distributed at this meeting.</p>
Health Protection	<p>Department of Health representatives attended the community meeting in Morwell relating to the mine fires and provided information on health which was well received.</p> <p>Smoke persists in the atmosphere and is being monitored by Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria, bushfire smoke advisory will be issued as required. Air quality monitoring continues to be undertaken by the EPA near fire affected areas around the state. There is a particular focus with extra resources on the LaTrobe Valley. A watch and act was issued earlier today for Morwell following the detection of a spike in Carbon Monoxide levels. This was downgraded after 3 hours.</p> <p>Key messages relating to health and bushfires continue to be included in the whole of government media strategy which includes print media and radio. The Chief Health Officer has undertaken a number of interviews over the last few days with key media throughout metro and regional Victoria in relation to the health affects of bushfire smoke. The Department of Health is liaising with the regions to ensure that messages around bushfire smoke and health are being targeted appropriately.</p> <p>The Health Emergency Management Liaison Officer deployed for the Hazelwood Fire Incident will be replaced this weekend.</p> <p>There are no water quality or drinking water supply issues in fire affected areas except for Romsey where a restriction on use has been applied while repairs are effected. The Department of Health continues to liaise with water authorities.</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>All relief centres have now become recovery centres or have closed.</p> <p>Red Cross Volunteers continue to provide food and water to CFA personnel at the staging ground. Red Cross provided 400 meals for dinner, 315 meals at midnight and 400 at breakfast. Red Cross expects to continue to provide food and water at this site for a number of days. Ambulance Victoria is testing all volunteers for CO2 levels every shift.</p>
Recovery	<p>The State Crisis and Resilience '2014 Bushfires - State Recovery Coordination Team' met on Friday 14/2/14 and agreed to continue to meet weekly to coordinate the recovery for the January and February 2014 fires.</p> <p>DHS and partner agencies continue to support affected communities at recovery centres and community meetings, and through outreach programs. There are currently six recovery centres in operation. Outreach programs and</p>

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	<p>psychosocial support are being provided in conjunction with local governments.</p> <p>DHS staff are attending community meetings and monitoring social media so that priority issues raised by community are noted and responded to.</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 Recovery Information Line and social media messaging.</p> <p>Health and Human Services continues to monitor key issues health issues associated with the Hazelwood mine fires and collaborate with the Whole of Victorian Government Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee.</p>
Business Continuity	Health and Human Services State Operations has organised the deployment of staff from central officer and other areas to provide support to the Hume region.

ISSUES:

Issue	Nil to Report
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OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY CENTRES

Region and LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees
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 daily
Hume Moirra Shire Council	Numurkah	Recovery	Open Monday to Friday 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	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	138	\$150,500
Hume - Wallan	363	\$375,250
Hume - Kilmore	135	\$128,450
Hume - Seymour	46	\$49,000
Hume - Numurkah	46	\$37,850
Hume - Mitchell Shire	1	\$1,000
Gippsland – Wellington	4	\$4,250
Gippsland – East Gippsland	13	\$11,250
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	771	\$783,800

Region and LGA	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total \$0
Hume - Wallan	7	\$14,750
Sum Total	7	\$14,750
Grand Total		\$798,550



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COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Location	Date	Time
Gippsland - Buchan Hall	15/2/2014	9 am
Club Terrace Primary School, Club Terrace (residents only)	15/2/2014	1 pm
Glenaladale – Glenaladale Public Hall – TBC	17/2/2014	7.30pm - tbc
Malmsbury Public Hall, Macedon Shire	17/2/2014	7:30pm

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued at 1800hrs, Sunday 16 February 2014

Endorsed by:

Alan Hall: State Recovery Coordinator / Human Services Commander

Alison McMillan: State Health Coordinator