

**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800 hrs, 16/02/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Fires February 2014</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 9	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:

Situation Summary	<p>There are currently two significant incidents GOING:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Morwell – Hernes Oak bushfire and the Hazelwood and Yallourn Mines fire – The fire has a number of complexities that are being dealt with, being fire response issues, airquality issues, Health impacts and information messaging to the community. 2. East Gippsland bushfires – Multiple fires continue to burn and will continue into the coming days and weeks. Four large fires are yet to be controlled in East Gippsland with the Bonang Highway likely to be closed for several weeks. <p>Mickleham - Kilmore bushfire fire is now under control with community recovery commenced.</p> <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>The smoke issues associated with the Hazelwood Mine fire continue to be problematic for Morwell.</p> <p>Forty-five (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 as required.</p> <p>In relation to the Hazelwood mine fire, Ambulance Victoria assessed and provided advice to five fire fighters with Carbon Monoxide exceedance and other symptoms, as well as transported a mine worker with higher levels of Carbon Monoxide exceedance and other symptoms.</p> <p>SHERP has been activated by the FSC.</p>
Health Protection	<p>Over the weekend, Department of Health and Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria have continued to contribute to the State Strategic Support Group to provide decision support on increasing and fluctuating smoke impacts on the Latrobe Valley community.</p> <p>Two Health Protection staff being part of a state team are visiting the mines, and Regional and Area of Operations Incident Control teams today and tomorrow.</p>
Human Services Command	<p>Financial assistance payments officers and liaison officers have been present at recovery centres over the weekend, providing emergency relief and emergency re-establishment payments, as required.</p>
Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p>No relief centres remain open.</p> <p>Red Cross Volunteers continue to provide food and water at Hazelwood staging ground. Red Cross is provided 630 meals per sitting. 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 CO 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 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>

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	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.
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
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
Loddon Mallee – Macedon Ranges	146	\$161,500
Hume - Wallan	415	\$429,000
Hume - Kilmore	196	\$191,750
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	892	\$911,850

Region and LGA	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total
Hume - Wallan	9	\$20,650
Hume - Kilmore	3	\$9,000
Sum Total	12	\$29,650
Grand Total		\$941,500

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Location	Date	Time
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

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*Alison
McMillan:
State
Health
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