

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800 hrs, 24/02/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Latrobe Valley/Hazardous Material and Other Incidents</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 1	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:	
Situation Summary	<p>The Latrobe Valley/Hazardous Material incident remains a key priority. The fire is complex and is expected to continue to burn for some weeks. The fire is impacting on the community of Morwell with smoke and ash.</p> <p>Three bushfires in East Gippsland (Goongerah-Deddick Trail, Club Terrace Cluster, Timbarra – Gil Groggin) continue to burn and will do so into the coming days and weeks.</p> <p>Tomorrow is expected to be an elevated fire risk day, with the Fire Danger Ratings Very High across the state.</p> <p>Recovery planning is now underway in both the Grampians and Hume regions for fires that occurred in January and February 2014.</p>
Known impacts	<p>The smoke issues associated with the Hazelwood Mine fire continue to be problematic for the Morwell community.</p> <p>Forty-nine (49) houses have been confirmed destroyed since Sunday 9 February 2014 resulting from fire. It is believed hundreds of cattle and thousands of sheep, along with pasture, feed and fencing have also been lost.</p>

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:	
Health Command/Coordination	<p>The Community Health Assessment Centre opened at 0800hrs today at the Ambulance Victoria Regional office at 2 Saskia Way, Morwell. The centre has been operational since Friday 21 February. Paramedics and nurses are providing health information and advice as well as an assessment service for people concerned about their health. Those requiring medical attention are being referred to doctors or other health professionals if appropriate.</p> <p>As of 1300hr 24 February approximately 185 residents have presented to the Health Assessment Centre. The Department of Health are working with Ambulance Victoria to provide a comprehensive report on actual numbers of presentations and carbon monoxide testing levels and outcomes. This report will be available from Tuesday 25 February.</p> <p>Today the Health Monitoring Team has monitored 810 personnel, until 15:00hrs. 5 personnel had CO levels 5% or greater on the first reading. 1 person was stood down for 24 hours. 1 symptomatic personnel sent to Ambulance Victoria for assessment, with no personnel transferred to hospital</p> <p>The Nurse on Call (NOC) service is being actively promoted within the community, through health centres, General Practitioners and at the Community Health Assessment Centre. To date a small increase in demand to the NOC has been noted. February 2014 data to Sunday 23/2 shows that 30 calls to the NOC were made from people living in the LaTrobe Valley with respiratory related concerns, compared with 14 calls in February 2013. Main concerns related to breathing problems (13), cough - paediatric (4), asthma attack (3) and asthma attack paediatric (3).</p> <p>General practices in Morwell, Moe, Churchill and Traralgon are experiencing moderate/significant increase demand on services for respiratory related illness, but are coping at present. Appointments are available for patients that require urgent assessment/treatment, at this time. Practices have been provided information sheets from the Department of Health. Gippsland Medicare Local will be maintaining contact to monitor the situation and have been advised to contact the Department if in need of support</p> <p>Since 18 February there have been a total of 537 presentations to Latrobe Regional Health emergency department. 117 were Morwell Residents, including 35 presentations for respiratory related conditions and 28 for cardiac conditions.</p>
Health Protection	<p>A fact sheet on the use of P2 Face Masks has been developed and is available on the Chief Health Officer's website.</p> <p>A Hazelwood Mine Fire Q&A information document has also been developed and will be made available on the Chief Health Officer's website.</p> <p>A Carbon Monoxide Response Protocol is being developed to guide the assessment and decision making for elevated CO in the environment. An independent peer review on the Protocol will be conducted.</p> <p>The Chief Health Officer attended a media conference at Traralgon Incident Control Centre today discussing health messages, evacuation considerations and the smoke and ash level monitoring.</p> <p>The Environment Protection Agency is being consulted on conducting PM2.5 particulate measurements.</p>
Human Services Command	<p>Funded services and clients are being provided with information on the current situation from the Morwell office. There are no significant matters to report today.</p>
Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p>All relief centres have now transitioned to recovery centres and financial assistance payments are being assessed on a case by case basis. Full operation of recovery centres at Wallan and Kilmore concluded on Sunday 23 February, however the community will still be able to access information, support and advice from council staff at the same locations. Outreach processes will now commence.</p> <p>The Community Respite Centre in Moe remains open. Approximately 80 people have accessed the facility for relief</p>

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

	<p>and information (29 today). Services on offer include psychosocial support (from Red Cross and Victorian Council of Churches), fire information (from CFA and Victoria Police), health information (from Ambulance Victoria and EPA), child friendly spaces, food and fluids (tea, coffee and snacks). Arrangements are in place for the next seven days.</p> <p>A Call Centre is in operation in Moe to manage the making of appointments for Personal Hardship Respite Payments. There was a significant increase in calls and payments today. As at 1800hrs 79 calls had been received, and 23 appointments made for Tuesday 25 February.</p>
Recovery	<p>The State Crisis and Resilience '2014 Bushfires - State Recovery Coordination Team' met on Friday to discuss state-wide recovery issues. A state-wide psychosocial recovery sub-committee was formed to focus on emerging psychosocial issues and to identify emerging priorities, current supports, agency capacity and ongoing coordination of psychosocial support. The next State Crisis and Resilience Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 February.</p> <p>A DHS Recovery Manager has been appointed in Hume region for a period of six months and a Regional Recovery Plan is being developed. Regional and local government recovery committees have also met. DHS and partner agencies continue to support affected communities at recovery centres, community meetings, and through outreach programs in conjunction with local governments. Psycho-social issues are being identified and monitored.</p> <p>A Recovery Planning Officer has been deployed to Morwell to assist with preparation of a Regional Recovery Plan.</p>
Communications / Public Information	<p>Key activities today have included updating Emergency Relief and Recovery Victoria website and the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line.</p> <p>Currently liaising with the Gippsland Regional Emergency Operations Centre in regards to communications officer deployment, and with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries regarding natural environment recovery communications activities.</p> <p>Other activities have included sharing information with the Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee, participation in the State Health Incident Management Team daily meeting/briefing, and drafting updated media lines regarding the respite centre, payments and transport.</p>
Business Continuity	Nil significant for this report.

ISSUES:

Issue	Nil significant for this report.
-------	----------------------------------

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS:

RELIEF/ RECOVERY/RESPITE CENTRE

Region and LGA	Location	Type of Centre	Hours/Attendees
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Wallan Library, 12/81 High Street, Wellington Square, Wallan	Information and referral service	9.30am – 5pm (Mon – Fri)
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Kilmore Library, 12 Sydney Street, Kilmore	Information and referral service	9.30am – 5pm (Mon – Fri)
Grampians Northern Grampians Shire Council	Grampians Community Health Centre (Shack) Patrick Street, Stawell	Recovery	9am – 5pm
Gippsland LaTrobe City Council	Moe Town Hall, Albert St, Moe	Respite	9am – 7pm
Gippsland LaTrobe City Council	Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional Office, 2 Saskia Way, Morwell	Community Health Assessment	8am – 8pm
			Aggregate total of attendees: 81

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (FOR THE FEBRUARY FIRE EVENT)

Region and LGA	Number Emergency Grants	Total
Loddon Mallee – Macedon Ranges	186	\$199,500
Hume - Wallan	491	\$507,500
Hume - Kilmore	265	\$261,750
Hume - Seymour	46	\$49,000
Hume - Numurkah	57	\$46,600
Gippsland – Wellington	6	\$5,750
Gippsland – East Gippsland	34	\$26,000
Gippsland – Baw Baw	1	\$500
Gippsland – Latrobe	3	\$2,250
Eastern Metro - Manningham	5	\$5,750
North West Metro – Hume City Council	21	\$24,000
Sum Total	1,115	\$1,128,600

**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

Region and LGA	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total
Hume - Wallan	10	\$23,750
Hume - Kilmore	9	\$27,000
Hume – Numurkah	1	\$2,530
Gippsland – Wellington	1	\$3,000
North West Metro – City of Hume	1	\$3,000
Sum Total	22	\$59,280
GRAND TOTAL		\$1,187,880

Personal Hardship Respite Payments

Region and LGA	Number Payments	Total
Gippsland - Latrobe	32	\$17,250
GRAND TOTAL		\$17,250

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Location	Date	Time
Manningham – The Pines Activity Centre, Doncaster East	24 February 2014	5.00pm
Goongerah – Goongerah Hall, East Gippsland Shire	26 February 2014	12.30pm
Bonang – Bonang Hall, East Gippsland Shire	2 March 2014	12.30pm
Morwell – Maryvale Crescent Public Housing Morwell. Residents meeting (DHS clients only)	26 February 2014	2.00pm

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued on Tuesday 25 February 2014 at 6.00pm

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn: Director Health and Human Services Emergency Management