

**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

STATE SITUATION REPORT

1800 hrs, 11/02/2014

INCIDENT / EMERGENCY NAME:	<i>Fires February 2014</i>		
SITUATION REPORT NUMBER:	# 4	INCIDENT LEVEL:	2

SITUATION SUMMARY:

Situation Summary	<p>Fire Danger Ratings across the state remained high to very high today and are forecasted to remain high to very high up until Friday, when they are currently predicted to be low-moderate across the state. Rain is expected to provide some relief by Friday.</p> <p>There are still several ongoing fires across the state including the Mickleham Kilmore bushfire (imminent danger to communities), Hazelwood – Morewell fire, and East Gippsland bushfires. There are currently no Emergency Warnings, and 5 Watch and Acts, but the situation remains fluid.</p> <p>Recovery planning is under way in relation to the Warrandyte and Gisborne fires, and ongoing in the Grampians.</p>
Known impacts	<p>Health impacts of smoke are impacting a number of areas across the state. Regions have also raised concerns about the psychosocial impacts of the fires, particularly in areas previously affected.</p> <p>21 houses have been confirmed destroyed across the state since Saturday. The fire in the Hazelwood coal mine is likely to reduce electricity production and is expected to burn for up to a month. The direct and indirect impacts and loss of production at the Maryvale paper mill is regionally significant.</p> <p>Further impacts are being confirmed through initial impact assessments coordinated by Victoria Police.</p>

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Health Command/Coordination	<p>The Ambulance Emergency Operations Centre is active through to midnight each day with ongoing contact available, supplemented by a liaison officer in the State Control Centre. Liaison unlikely to continue for 24 hours with a stand down at midnight tonight until 7:00am tomorrow.</p> <p>Health Commanders are in or available to five Incident Control Centres including Seymour, Traralgon, Bairnsdale, Traralgon Regional Control Centre, and Orbost. Strike teams deployed to Mickleham - Kilmore complex and Morwell open cut mine fire. The strike team for Kilmore is deployed until 1:00am each day until further notice.</p> <p>The strike team for Morwell consists of a Health Commander and Response crew. Ambulance Victoria has received a request for a two week deployment of this configuration 24/7. The task is to support the fire response.</p> <p>First aid support continues at Kilmore and Wallan 24/7. Today first aid support also provided at Romsey. The need for ongoing first aid support will be reassessed at 6:00pm each day.</p> <p>Health and Aged Care services in Wallan and Kilmore have both been under threat from fire in the past 24 hours. Both Regional Health Commander and Coordinator have confirmed that all of these facilities have plans in place and are well prepared to shelter in place with support from CFA.</p>
Health Protection	<p>The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria has issued a low level bushfire smoke advisory for the west of the Latrobe Valley and in the Geelong area as a result of bushfires. Air quality monitoring continues to be undertaken by the EPA near fire affected areas around the state. The Department of Health is liaising with the regions to ensure that messages around bushfire smoke and health are being targeted appropriately.</p> <p>Key messages relating to Health and Bushfires are being included in the whole of government media strategy which includes print media and radio. The Chief Health Officer has undertaken a number of interviews today with key media throughout metro and regional Victoria in relation to the health effects of bushfire smoke.</p> <p>There are no water quality or drinking water supply issues in fire affected areas. The Department of Health continues to liaise with water authorities.</p>
Human Services Command	<p>Financial assistance payments officers and liaison officers have been deployed as required.</p> <p>Gippsland – due to smoke haze and general atmospheric conditions a DHS service agency sent staff home at 1:00pm today. All clients affected by this were notified and it is expected that the facility will reopen tomorrow (Wednesday 12 February). All DHS facilities that relocated during the fires have now returned. Two child protection clients have been affected by a house loss. Follow-up is occurring.</p> <p>Disability Accommodation service in Nurmurkah was suspended and resumption of services is being reconsidered this afternoon.</p>
Relief (inc Red Cross)	<p>As at 1500hrs relief centres are currently open at Wallan, Seymour and Delegate. Relief partner agencies are providing food and water, material aid and personal support. Community meetings are occurring as needed. Red Cross providing 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>There are several Local or Regional Recovery Committee meetings scheduled across the state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hume Regional recovery meeting was scheduled for Thursday 13 February, due to ongoing fire activity this

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	<p>has been rescheduled .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manningham is currently considering setting up a Recovery Committee. • Gippsland Regional Recovery Committee meeting is planned for Friday 14 February. • The Gisborne Recovery Committee met today. Planning is underway with the transition to recovery planned for the Malmsbury and Dalrymple Rd fires first, and the Mickleham Rd fire at a later stage.
Communications / Public Information	<p>There are ongoing updates to www.recovery.vic.gov.au and the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line content. Key priority has been the drafting and distribution of new media lines regarding relief counselling services to the Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee and State Control Centre for media use, as well as the distribution of relief and recovery social media messaging.</p> <p>Input has been provided for the Whole of Victorian Government public information campaign (Week 1).</p> <p>Information has been provided to the Emergency Management Joint Public Information Committee Teleconference at 4:30pm. Continuing to respond to various media inquiries and liaise with DHS regions regarding media/communications issues.</p>
Business Continuity	<p>Emergency Management resourcing is at capacity in the Hume region and additional support is being supplied from the Eastern Metropolitan region. The Eastern Metropolitan region is consequently experiencing impacts to the Corporate Services, Client Outcome and Service Improvement portfolios.</p> <p>Morwell DHS office has reopened.</p>

ISSUES:

Issue	Eastern Metropolitan Region – Lack of impact assessment information in Manningham and Yarra Ranges, but are working with LGAs and DEPI to obtain this information. Recovery Planning (Manningham).
Actions taken	

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	Tuesday 11 Feb 1:00pm - 4:00pm Thursday 13 Feb 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Grampians Horsham Rural City Council	Grampians Community Centre, Stawell	Recovery	Open until the end of the week but not staffed by local council.
Gippsland East Gippsland Shire Council	Delegate Country Club, Bonang Road, Delegate, NSW	Relief	Overnight (Monday) 9 adults and 5 children (in centre) 3 adults (outside in caravan) 7 adults (in cars outside with pets) Cumulative registrations: 59 Attendees: 24 over night
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Wallan Multipurpose Community Centre, 42 Bentick Street, Wallan	Relief	24 hours Cumulative registrations: 406 Attendees: 60 over night
Hume Mitchell Shire Council	Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre, Chittick Park, Pollard Street, Seymour	Relief	24 hours Cumulative registrations: 104 Attendees: 219 over night
North and West Moirra Shire Council	Numurkah	Recovery	Open 10:00am-5:00pm Attendees: steady stream of people
Loddon Mallee Macedon Ranges Shire	Gisborne Community Centre Hamilton Street, Gisborne	Relief	Considering opening Attendees: nil
North-West Metro	Craigieburn Leisure Centre, 127 Craigieburn Road, Craigieburn	Not a Relief Centre but Personal Hardship Assistance Payment officers on site.	Open: 1:00pm-4:00pm Attendees: 3

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Region and LGA	Number Emergency Grants	Total \$4,000
Loddon Mallee – Macedon Ranges	1	\$1,000
Hume - Wallan	TBC	TBC
Hume - Seymour	21	\$24,000
Hume - Numurkah	12	\$10,800
Gippsland – Wellington	2	\$2,500
Gippsland – East Gippsland	3	\$3,500
Gippsland – Baw Baw	1	\$500
EMR - Manningham	2	\$2,250
North West Metro – N/A	1	\$1,000
North West Metro – Mitchell Shire resident	1	\$1,000
North West Metro – Hume	2	\$2,500
	Sum Total	\$49050
Region and LGA	Number Re-establishment Grants	Total \$0
		\$0
	Sum Total	\$0
	Grand Total	\$49,050



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**COMMUNIT
Y
MEETINGS**

Location	Date	Time
Hume - TBC	12/2/2014	TBC
Loddon Mallee Region, Romsey Leisure centre, Macedon Ranges	11/2/2014	6:00pm
Eastern Metropolitan Region	Further meeting under consideration	
Gippsland - Yarram	11/02/2014	7:00pm
Gippsland - Gelantipy	11/02/2014	7:30pm
Gippsland - Delegate	12/02/2014	1:00pm
Gippsland - Goongerah locals only	15/02/2014	TBC
Wallan - TBC	11/02/2014	6:00pm
Seymour - TBC	11/02/2014	11:00am
Seymour - TBC	11/02/2014	8:00pm

Next Sit Rep: The next situation report will be issued at 1800hrs, Wednesday 12 February 2014

Endorsed by:

Carmel Flynn: State Recovery Coordinator / Human Services Commander

Justin Dunlop: State Health Coordinator

Authorised for release by:

Peter Higgins: HHSEM Operations Officer