

Hazelwood Mine Fire Community Information



Victorian Government and Latrobe City Council staff are working to provide information and support to people affected by smoke and ash.

CLEANING UP ASH

The materials in the ash from this fire are similar to what is in the soil in your garden and the ash you'd find in a fireplace.

Ash can be safely dug into your garden or added to compost. Ash can also be placed in a plastic bag or other container and then put in your household garbage bin.

Ash can irritate the skin, eyes and throat but this effect will pass once the dust is gone. Wear gloves, long sleeved shirts and long pants to stop ash sticking to your skin and wear glasses or goggles to stop ash getting into your eyes. If there is a lot of dust, wear a facemask.

If you have an existing heart or lung condition, such as asthma, breathing in dust during cleaning-up could make that condition worse, so it's best to get help to clean and avoid the ash.

Information and advice about cleaning up ash is available from:

Latrobe City Council Recovery Hotline:
1800 017 777.

Department of Health: health.vic.gov.au.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Latrobe City Council, supported by volunteers from other local councils, the Red Cross and the Victorian Council of Churches, has now visited every home in Morwell to answer questions, better understand community concerns and help connect residents with the support that is available. Did you miss our visit? Refer to the calling card we left for you and phone the Recovery Hotline on **1800 017 777** to connect with a member of our team.

The **Community Information and Recovery Centre** at 22 Hazelwood Road, Morwell is open from 9am until 6pm daily offering support and information from Latrobe City Council, the Department of Human Services and the CFA as well as other key agencies.

Morwell residents can still receive free entry at Zoos Victoria or Museum Victoria venues by showing address identification at the entry.

HEALTH INFORMATION

People aged 65 and over, children under school age (including infants and babies), pregnant women, and anyone with an existing heart or lung condition are advised to reduce exposure to smoke and ash as they can irritate these conditions. Keep taking medications and follow your asthma plan. Advice on cleaning up ash is available together with more information at health.vic.gov.au.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT CENTRE

The Community Health Assessment Centre at the Regional Office of Ambulance Victoria Gippsland at 2 Saskia Way, Morwell is open from 8am to 8pm. If you need medical care, you will be referred to your doctor or to the Latrobe Regional Hospital.

NURSE-ON-CALL

You can discuss any health related issues with a registered nurse, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the cost of a local call on **1300 60 60 24**.

AIR QUALITY

The EPA has doubled air quality monitoring in the Latrobe Valley and is issuing regular updates. The EPA will issue a smoke advisory notice if you need to take action. For air quality updates and forecasts, visit epa.vic.gov.au or call **1300 372 842**.

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Grants are available for Morwell businesses with fewer than 20 employees. Call the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry on **8662 5487** or visit vecci.org.au.

Individual business mentoring and Small Business Support Workshops are available for Morwell small business operators. Ongoing support is available through programs such as the Small Business Festival, Business Continuity Workshops.

Call Small Business Victoria on **13 22 15**, visit business.vic.gov.au or call Latrobe City Council on **1800 017 777**.

Low-interest concessional loans are available through the Rural Finance Corporation. Call **1800 260 425** or visit ruralfinance.com.au.

HEALTH ADVICE FOR WORKPLACES

For information and advice on workplace safety, phone the Victorian WorkCover Authority Advisory Service on **1800 136 089**.

CLEANING UP ASH

The Victorian WorkCover Authority has developed guidance material to assist businesses cleaning up ash. Visit worksafe.vic.gov.au/hazelwood.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

VBIL 1800 240 667 | NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE 1800 555 677 | #MINEFIRE
(FREECALL) (FOR PEOPLE WITH A HEARING IMPAIRMENT)