

# 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.**

## COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

The Victorian Government is providing a \$2 million community assistance package to help Morwell residents begin their clean-up of ash left by the Hazelwood mine fire.

The package includes vouchers for laundry and car cleaning, access to special cleaning equipment and support for residents who need help to clean up.

For more information on the clean-up package, contact Latrobe City Council on **1800 017 777** or visit [latrobe.vic.gov.au](http://latrobe.vic.gov.au).

## 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 while 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](http://health.vic.gov.au).

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

The **Community Information and Recovery Centre** at 22 Hazelwood Road, Morwell is open from 9am until 5.30pm daily offering support and information from Latrobe City Council, the Department of Human Services and the CFA as well as other key agencies.

## HEALTH INFORMATION

The Chief Health Officer has lifted the temporary relocation advice, and people can now return to their homes and workplaces.

People aged 65 and over, children under school age, pregnant women, and anyone with an existing heart or lung condition should avoid cleaning up ash. The ash isn't toxic, but breathing in fine particles can aggravate heart or lung conditions.

For health information visit [health.vic.gov.au](http://health.vic.gov.au).

For cleanup information, contact Latrobe City Council on **1800 017 777**.

## 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](http://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](http://vecci.org.au).

Vital information, support and free mentoring are available for Morwell small business operators, including:

- Specialised coaching and advice at the Mobile Business Centre on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 March 2014 from 10am to 4pm opposite Stockdale and Leggo, 210 Commercial Road Morwell
- Tailored support for Morwell businesses at the Small Business Support Breakfast Workshop on Monday 24 March 2014 at 7.15am at the Morwell Bowling Club, Hazelwood Road Morwell.

For more information and to make a booking for the Mobile Business Centre and the Small Business Support Breakfast Workshop, visit [business.vic.gov.au](http://business.vic.gov.au) or call Small Business Victoria on **13 22 15**.

Low-interest concessional loans are available through the Rural Finance Corporation. Call **1800 260 425** or visit [ruralfinance.com.au](http://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](http://worksafe.vic.gov.au/hazelwood).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**LATROBE CITY COUNCIL RECOVERY HOTLINE 1800 017 777**