

EPA Media Release



Fine particle PM2.5 streams to web

Tuesday 25 February 2014

EPA Victoria has delivered more information to the community on the Hazelwood open cut mine fire website, now streaming data on the small particle of primary concern PM2.5.

EPA CEO John Merritt said that while the data was new to the web, monitoring results and forecasts had been given to Department of Health for analysis and health base decision making since the start of the incident.

“We’ve monitored both PM 10 and the very fine PM2.5 from monitors fanned across the Latrobe Valley since this incident began,” Mr Merritt said. “This has allowed us to both accurately measure and forecast smoke plume behaviour.”

“These data are delivered to the Department of Health which undertakes health risk assessments to determine what level of alerts and associated health advice should be issued to the community.”

Our work over the early stages of the incident has been to increase the spread of monitoring and to provide this information to the Department of Health and Country Fire Authority as a priority.

“While we understand the community frustration in the past week, we have redeveloped our website in response to this incident and made this information available to the public,” Mr Merritt said.

“Over coming days we will continue to further develop our web site to make more information available and easier to understand.”

At the moment the data is a mix of raw numbers and indexes, so some of the numbers can appear to be alarming.

“That said PM 2.5 levels are at high levels and remain the primary risk, so it is important the community heed the advice issued by the Chief Health Officer each day during this incident,” Mr Merritt said.

For more information on the Hazelwood open cut mine fire:

- **Smoke and health:** www.health.vic.gov.au
- **Health and medical advice:** NURSE-ON-CALL 1800 60 60 24
- **Air quality:** www.epa.vic.gov.au or 1300 372 842 (1300 EPAVIC)
- **Fire warnings and advice:** www.emergency.vic.gov.au
- **Hazelwood fire information:** cfa.vic.gov.au

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