

EPA Media Release



High level Hazelwood open cut mine fire smoke advisory

0845 Wednesday 12 March 2014

EPA Victoria has issued a high level smoke alert for the Latrobe Valley today (Wednesday) as a result of the Hazelwood open cut mine fire.

A high level alert means that it is likely residents will see ongoing smoke impacts today, with visibility less than 10 kilometres due to high particle concentrations in the air.

The Victorian Chief Health Officer Dr Rosemary Lester has advised people aged over 65, preschool aged children, pregnant women or anyone with a pre-existing heart and lung condition living or working in the southern part of Morwell to consider temporary relocation because of the Hazelwood mine fire.

“As a sensible precaution the best way for vulnerable people in the southern part of Morwell to avoid the continuing smoke and manage their health would be to temporarily relocate,” Dr Lester said.

“Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor.

“People with asthma should follow their asthma management plan.

“Everyone should keep informed about fire activity in their immediate area. Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice or call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24.

“People in these more vulnerable groups should call 1800 006 468 to seek advice and make arrangements for temporary relocation.”

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 1300 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:** www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Media inquiries:

- **Air quality** 03 9695 2704
- **Health** 03 9096 8803

