

## State Control Centre - Situation Report

### 1800 hours - Tuesday, February 11, 2014



### Purpose

This document provides an overview of activity (readiness and response) for the Victorian Emergency Services. The significant incidents listed are those that have political, economic, social and environmental impacts for the community, agencies and / or the state.

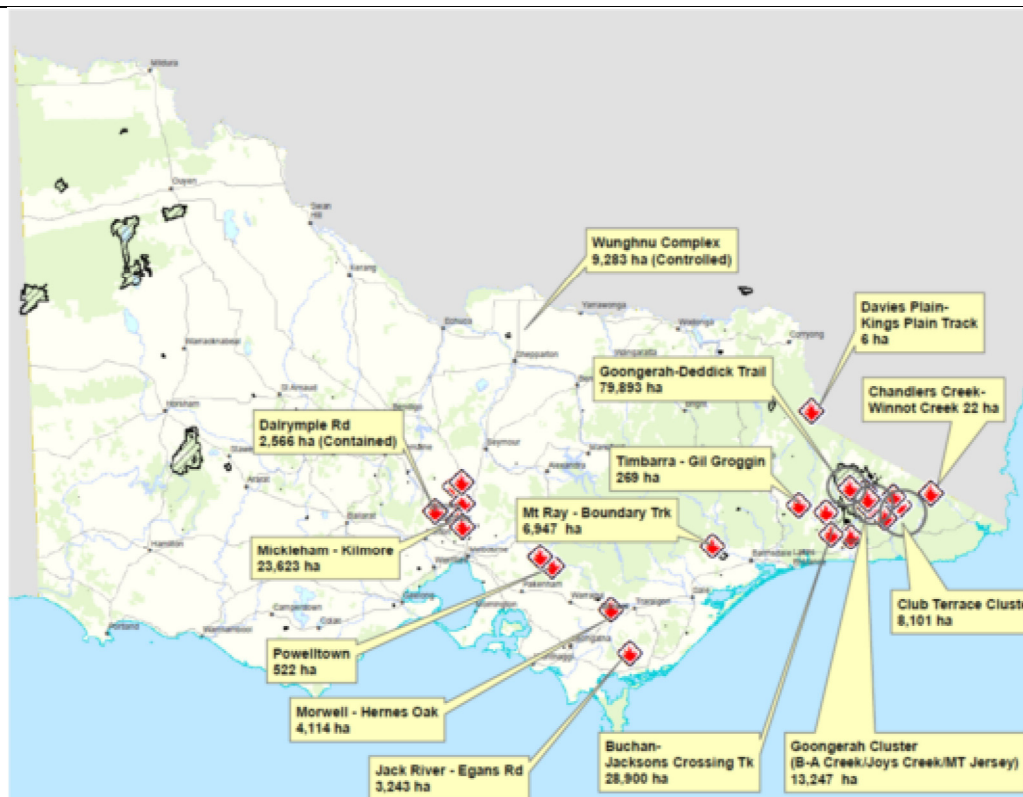
### State Overview

- 18 significant going bushfires and grass/scrub fires as at 1700 hours
- Initial impact assessment has confirmed 34 houses destroyed since Saturday, with assessments continuing when safe to access burnt areas
- Regional mutual support arrangements remain in place for IMTs, strike teams and task forces
- Personnel from New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand are continuing to assist Victorian fire services across the state in fire-fighting, operational support and liaison roles.
- Current road closures can be found on the following at <http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au/>
- Current relief centres open can be found at <http://www.recovery.vic.gov.au/victorian-bushfires-2014/people-and-community-support/recovery-centres>
- Current school closures and bus service cancellations/alterations can be found at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

### BoM

- Extensive areas of smoke haze over central and eastern districts.
- Very warm to hot inland with light winds.
- Milder near the coast with freshening afternoon southeast to east sea-breezes.

### State Map



### Current Warnings and Community Information

<b>Calls to VBIL – 1700 hours to 1700hrs today</b>	4,882
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<b>Notes:</b>	Nil
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<b>Current VICSES Warnings at 1700hrs</b>	0
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<b>Fire Agency Warnings from 1700 hrs yesterday to 1700 hrs today</b>			
Advice messages	42	Watch and Act messages	29
Emergency Warning messages	47	Emergency Alert messages	1
Recommendation to evacuate	0	SEWS	3
<b>Community Meetings from 0000 hours to 1700 hrs today</b>			
Planned	6	Conducted	1

## Significant Incidents

Fire sizes have been sourced from eMap and are correct as at 1700hrs.

### **GIPPSLAND**

#### **ORBOST ICC**

**Goongerah – Deddick Trail**  
**79,893ha - GOING**

- Back-burning operations have commenced along the northern end of the fire
- Crews are investigating and tracking spot-overs in the north east edge. Dozers are opening up tracks and dealing with hazardous trees to regain access to this area.
- The western edge has reported very active fire behaviour with flame heights of 1.5-3m; crews are experiencing difficulty tracking the fire and will continue to work on fall back lines
- This fire and the Buchan - Jacksons Crossing Track fire are very close to joining up on southern edge.

**Buchan-Jacksons Crossing Track**  
**28,900ha – GOING**

- No significant change in fire behaviour has been reported
- Crews are monitoring the fire east of the Snowy River on the southern end of the fire
- Preparation and construction of fall-back lines are commencing
- Crews will continue to track the fire and identify spot-overs and slop-overs
- Back-burning operations will commence when weather conditions allow and spot-overs have been tracked
- Strategic planning towards containment lines of numerous fires associated with the Orbost Complex.

**Goongerah Cluster**

**13,274ha** total of 3 separate **GOING** fires within this cluster: Joys Creek; Mt Jersey; and B A Creek

- Mt Jersey: Back-burning operations have commenced around private property to the east of Bonang Road. Crews are investigating hotspots and spot-fires.
- Joys Creek: is surrounded on two sides by active fires and will possibly be overrun in the weeks to come. Crews will continue to patrol and blackout.
- B A Creek: as at 1700hrs today no change in fire behaviour has been reported.

**Club Terrace Cluster**

**8,101ha** combined **3 GOING** fires within this cluster: Goolengook River; Combiobar – Misery Spur; and Combiobar – Errinundra River

- Latest reports believe fires have moved much in past few days

- Club Terrace – Goolengook River: Crews are currently tracking the north east fire edge and have commenced burning-out operations around on the south east fire edge.

#### **Chandlers Creek – Winnot Creek**

**22 ha - GOING**

10KM NNE of Chandlers Creek

- Inactive fire behaviour reported and crews are monitoring as required.

#### **Combiobar - Misery Spur**

**115ha – GOING**

3kms NW of Combiobar

- No significant change in fire behaviour reported.

#### **Combiobar - Errinundra River**

**143ha - GOING**

- No significant change in fire behaviour reported.

### **BAIRNSDALE ICC**

#### **Mt Ray – Boundary Tk**

**6,872 ha GOING – Stockdale**

- Fire size reduced due to updated mapping data
- Crews are currently completing tracking the northern edge of the fire, patrolling area, blacking out, assessing and treating hazardous trees as required.
- Animal health personnel are working with landholders to deal with any injured and deceased stock.
- Work is underway to open the roads to local residents.

#### **Timbarra – Gil Groggin**

**269ha GOING**

- Crews have reported active edge on fire with flame heights up to 1metre.
- Crews are currently brushing up tracks in preparation for potential back-burning opportunities in the next couple of days.
- A number of heritage trees have been identified in the area and protection works are to be carried out prior to any back-burning taking place.

### **TRARALGON ICC**

#### **Morwell - Hernes Oak**

**4,114ha GOING**

- Burnt fire area has been updated and reduced based on the current linescan data
- Some areas still smouldering along the Princes Highway; crews will continue to black out where needed and restrict the fire entering the Yallourn Open Cut Mine as a priority
- Dozers are constructing breaks in the grassland and forest areas
- Princes Highway has re-opened with a reduced speed of 60km/h
- VLine are assessing damage to railway track infrastructure at the Hernes Oak loop but the Melbourne –Bairnsdale railway line is now open
- A community meeting is planned for this evening at Yarram
- A separate ICC (Hazelwood) has been set up this morning to manage the Hazelwood Open Cut Mine fire.

#### **Jack River - Egans Road**

**3,243ha – GOING**

2km north of Staceys Bridge

- Fire size reduced due to updated mapping data
- Significant hotspots have been detected within the fire boundary and many spot fires that started yesterday have left an

unconsolidated edge

- Southerly sea-breeze is influencing fire behaviour and the terrain is making it difficult to control
- Crews are working on containment lines to on the north and north-west sides and when the weather permits aircraft will continue to attack the fire
- Many houses and dry grass to the north of the fire
- Roads are progressively being re-opened to local residents
- Community meeting will be held at Yarram this evening.

**HUME**

**SEYMOUR ICC**

**Mickleham – Kilmore  
23,623ha – GOING**

- Fire activity has increased this afternoon across all Divisions; ground crews and aircraft are being directed to areas of concern.
- Crews are continuing to black out where required
- Extensive work is being undertaken to construct containment lines on the eastern flank to protect the Kilmore township
- Roads and hazardous trees are being assessed and cleared.

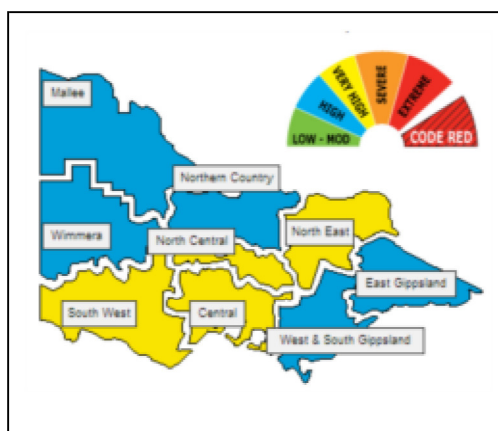
**EASTERN METRO**

**WOORI YALLOCK ICC**

**Powelltown – Learmonth Creek Road  
522ha – GOING  
8km SE of Powelltown**

- Fire behaviour is low and the fire has been tracked with 5.1kms of fall back lines to be completed
- Back-burning and burning out operations continuing as planned, with no containment issues due to favourable weather.

**Current Fire Danger Ratings**



**Fire Danger Rating and Weather Forecast**

<b>Wednesday 12 February</b>	<b>Thursday 13 February</b>	<b>Friday 14 February</b>
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<p>Max temps ranging from 37-42°C in the north and west to 28-35°C toward the coast and Gippsland. Afternoon humidity grading from 5-15% in the north and west to 25-40% near the coast and Gippsland. Light winds inland and afternoon coastal sea-breezes. C-Haines 10-13.</p>	<p>Cloud and humidity increasing. Max temps ranging from 32-38°C in the north and 27-31°C in the south. Afternoon humidity grading from 20-30% in the north to 30-50% in the south and west. Generally light winds inland and afternoon coastal sea-breezes.</p>	<p>Humid conditions with max temps ranging from 24-29°C and humidity typically between 50-80%. Generally light winds.</p>

## Severe Weather Outlook (Issued Tuesdays and Fridays)

### SEVERE WEATHER OUTLOOK

Issued Tuesday 11 February 2014



The purpose of the Severe Weather Outlook is to identify severe weather in the form of heavy rain leading to flooding and/or damaging wind gusts associated with low pressure systems. It is not intended to provide guidance on severe thunderstorms, which are best captured by the daily issued Severe Thunderstorm Chart.

	Potential for 'low-end' severe weather event associated with rainfall leading to minor to moderate flooding and/or damaging wind gusts reaching 80-100 km/hr.
	Potential for 'high-end' severe weather event associated with rainfall leading to moderate to major flooding and/or damaging wind gusts reaching 110 km/hr.
	Wind event
	Rain event (one drop = 20-50mm; two drops = 50-100mm; three drops = 100mm+)
	Riverine flooding event
	Thunderstorms forecast. Check the daily issued Thunderstorm Chart as to whether thunderstorms are likely to be severe.

DISTRICT	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Mallee					
Wimmera					
South West					
Northern Country					
North Central					
Central					
North East					
W & S Gippsland					
East Gippsland					
Alpine Region					

**Weather Situation**

- Hot and dry conditions inland to be replaced by cloud and a more humid airmass on Thursday.
- Showers are expected to develop across Victoria in a warm airmass on Thursday and possibly tend to rain in the west late in the day or at night.
- Tropical moisture in the mid-levels of the atmosphere, originating from a tropical depression over WA, is predicted to affect Victoria on Friday. The interaction between the tropical moisture and a trough moving over Victoria is predicted to result in rain, particularly across northern and mountain districts.
- Rainfall guidance from the global weather models for Friday still remains quite diverse, with one of the outcomes suggesting rainfall totals of 50mm+ over the Mallee and top end of the Wimmera districts. As embedded thunderstorms are a possibility over the northwest of Friday there is a risk that these rainfall totals, if occurring over a short period of time) could result in flash flooding.
- Rainfall is expected to contract north and east of Victoria early Saturday as the trough develops into a deeper low over the Tasman Sea. All models project the low to move rapidly toward New Zealand.
- Showers are likely to persist across Gippsland over the weekend

The Severe Weather Outlook is prepared Tuesday and Friday mornings based on the latest guidance from several global and local weather models. This information is prepared by the meteorologist in the State Control Centre to assist the State Emergency Service with preparedness and is not to be distributed without permission.



## Occupational Health and Safety Considerations

Workplace health and safety continues to be a priority and is reinforced with Incident and Regional Controllers and during daily briefings.

- Due to fire ground activity there is continued risk of trees and tree limbs falling on the fire ground.
- IMT's are to ensure that:
  - Hazardous tree stands are identified;

- Weather or wind changes are constantly and frequently communicated to the fire ground to enable fire fighters / personnel to access safe areas in time;
- Consideration is given to using air attack and heavy plant machinery which is fitted with 'fall on' and 'rollover' protection; and
- Safe fall back areas on the fire ground are identified.
- Fatigue and heat related illness and exhaustion.
- Working around transmission lines.
- Increased insect activity and risk of bee stings due to increasing temperature.
- Smouldering logs and checking for hotspots.
- Driving hazards.

### SCC Arrangements for today

SCC Activation Level Tier 3 (Red)			
<b>State Fire Controller</b>	Craig Lapsley	<b>CFA Agency Commander</b>	Alan Ellis
<b>Deputy State Controller</b>	Peter Rau	<b>DEPI Agency Commander</b>	Andrew Greystone
<b>State SES Controller</b>	Trevor White	<b>MFB Agency Commander</b>	David Youssef
<b>SCC Duty Manager</b>	Cain Trist	<b>SES Agency Commander</b>	Leanne Simpson

### Authorisation

Signature:	Craig Lapsley, State Controller
Time:	

**NOTE:** A signed copy of this document is retained at the State Control Centre.