

## State Control Centre - Situation Report

### 1800 hours - Wednesday, February 12, 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.

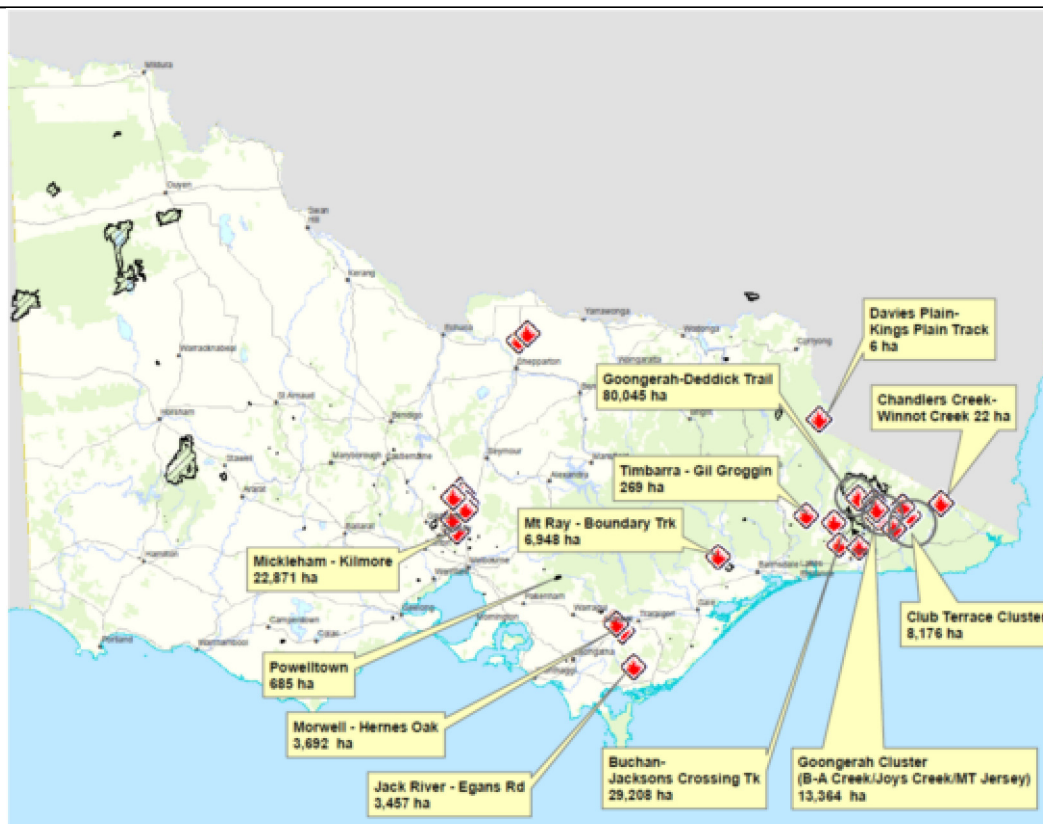
### State Overview

- 17 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

- Areas of smoke haze particularly over southern and eastern Victoria. Early morning fog patches over Gippsland. A mostly cloudy day with scattered showers developing over north-west, but only isolated showers elsewhere. Isolated thunderstorms possible over the far north-west during the evening. Mild near the coast, but warmer inland. Generally light winds in the east but moderate to locally fresh east to south-easterly winds developing across western Victoria.

### State Map



## Current Warnings and Community Information

<b>Calls to VBIL – 1700 hours to 1700hrs today</b>	3273	<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	28	Watch and Act messages	9
Emergency Warning messages	0	Emergency Alert messages	0
Recommendation to evacuate	0	SEWS	0
<b>Community Meetings from 0000 hours to 1700 hrs today</b>			
Planned	4	Conducted	4

## Significant Incidents

Fire sizes have been sourced from eMap and may have reduced or increased due to updated mapping data (observations are correct as at 1700hrs).

### **GIPPSLAND**

#### **ORBOST ICC**

##### **Orbost fires**

**127,746 ha**

- Observations indicate several fires in East Gippsland have joined.
- These fires are:
  - Buchan – Jacksons Crossing Track;
  - Goongerah – Deddick Trail;
  - Goongerah - Joys Creek; and
  - Goongerah – Mt Jersey.
- Goongerah – BA Creek has not yet joined but is being reported here with the joined fires.
- Work is being done to reflect this in reporting and public information sources.
- The focus across these fires today has been:
  - strengthening control lines in preparation for back-burning;
  - back-burning where possible;
  - dealing with spot fires outside control lines;
  - dealing with hazardous trees; and
  - working to reopen roads.

##### **Club Terrace Cluster**

- **8,176ha** combined **3 GOING** fires within this cluster: Goolengook River; Combienbar – Misery Spur; and Combienbar – Errinundra River.
- Fires have not moved much in past few days.
- Crews have been patrolling and blacking out where required.

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

- **22 ha GOING**- 10KM NNE of Chandlers Creek.
- No change to fire behaviour has been reported.

#### **BAIRNSDALE ICC**

**Mt Ray – Boundary Tk****6,948ha GOING – Stockdale**

- No significant change has been reported.
- Crews have been dealing with hazardous trees, patrolling and blacking out where required.
- Rapid impact assessment and animal health teams have been on ground.

**Timbarra – Gil Groggin****269ha GOING**

- No significant change has been reported.
- Crews are completing control lines and preparing to commence back-burning operations.

**TRARALGON ICC****Morwell - Hernes Oak****3,692ha GOING**

- No significant change in fire behaviour reported.
- Crews will continue to patrol and black out where required; the number of hotspots being treated is reducing.
- Crews are working to clear trees and re-open roads.
- A separate ICC (Hazelwood) has been set up to manage the Hazelwood and Yallourn Open Cut Mine fires.

**Jack River - Egans Road Madalya****2km north of Staceys Bridge****3,457ha – GOING**

- Fire has been active on the northern edge.
- Due to sea breezes, the area of concern was north-west edge.
- Crews continued to patrol and black out where required.
- Some very steep sections may make the final construction line difficult.

**HAZLEWOOD ICC****Latrobe Valley Coal Mine**

- A separate Incident Management Team has been set up at the Hazelwood Mine, which is managing the areas within the Hazelwood Mine site and the Yallourn Mine site.
- The fire in the Hazelwood coal mine fire will burn for up to a month, which has significant long-term implications for the community.
- Fire is burning within the Hazelwood mine site; operations are focussing on containment lines and asset protection. Multi agency response with support from aircraft.
- The first priority of the management of this incident is the health and welfare of agency personnel. A range of actions have been taken to manage the health of crews in the mine sites, including health monitoring and carbon dioxide monitoring. The second priority is the protection of critical assets within the mine sites that support the ongoing mining operations. The third priority is to protect the working face of the mine from further fire.
- Both mines are currently producing power at normal levels. At this stage, there are no reports of service outages that would indicate impact on significant infrastructure.

**HUME****SEYMOUR ICC****Mickleham – Kilmore**

**22,871ha – GOING**

- Fire activity varies across the fire ground, with isolated pockets still burning
- Northern Division: crews continue to conduct hazardous tree assessments and consolidate containment lines. The priority is to re-open the Lancefield-Kilmore Road later this evening
- Western Division: crews continue to consolidate containment lines, assess and treat hazardous trees and mop up and black out where required.
- Southern Division: fairly quiet, crews are continuing to patrol and black out where necessary. All roads in the vicinity have re-opened.
- Livestock assessments are underway through Southern Division and will move north as access becomes available. Culture heritage values are being assessed and mapped. Wildlife Rescue Crews are expected to work in the area tomorrow.

**EASTERN METRO**

**WOORI YALLOCK ICC**

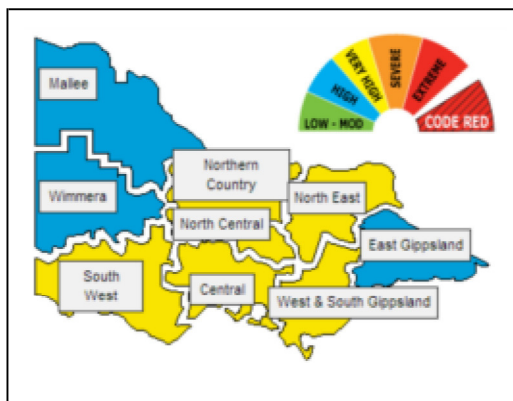
**Powelltown – Learmonth Creek Road**

**685ha – CONTAINED**

8km SE of Powelltown

- Fire has remained within containment lines and is now contained.
- Crews will continue to patrol and black out where required.
- Please note the increase in fire area is due to improved mapping data, not fire behaviour.

**Current Fire Danger Ratings**



**Fire Danger Rating and Weather Forecast**

<p><b>Thursday 13 February</b></p>	<p><b>Friday 14 February</b></p>	<p><b>Saturday 15 February</b></p>
<p>Cloud and humidity increasing. Max temps ranging from 32-38°C in the north and 27-31°C in the south.</p>	<p>Humid conditions with max temps ranging from 24-29°C and humidity typically between 50-80%. Generally</p>	<p>Max temps ranging from 25-30°C in the north and 20-25°C in the south. Afternoon humidity grading from 25-</p>

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.	light winds.	40% in the north to 40-60% in the south. Fresh south to south-westerly airflow.
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## 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.

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.

**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/h.**

**Potential for 'high-end' severe weather event associated with rainfall leading to moderate to major flooding and/or damaging wind gusts reaching 110 km/h+.**

**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.

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 Graystone
<b>State SES Controller</b>	Trevor White	<b>MFB Agency Commander</b>	Adam Dalrymple
<b>SCC Duty Manager</b>	Steve Riley	<b>SES Agency Commander</b>	Duncan Given

## Authorisation

State Control Centre - Situation Report

Signature:	Craig Lapsley, State Controller
Time:	

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