

ADVICE: Morwell, Hazelwood North, Morwell Bridge, Maryvale, Morwell North, Hazelwood, Driffield, Yallourn, Churchill, Yallourn Heights, Yallourn North, Hazelwood South, Hernes Oak, Newborough, Moe: HAZELWOOD MINE
CFA/DEPI/MFB Warnings & Advice Officer [k.hunter@cfa.vic.gov.au] on behalf of CFA/DEPI/MFB Warnings & Advice Officer [k.hunter.cfa.vic.gov.au@service.whispir.com]

Sent: Monday, 17 February 2014 5:46 PM

To: SCC-Vic (All Positions at SCC)

Advice

Issued For: Morwell, Hazelwood North, Morwell Bridge, Maryvale, Morwell North, Hazelwood, Driffield, Yallourn, Churchill, Yallourn Heights, Yallourn North, Hazelwood South, Hernes Oak, Newborough, Moe
Fire Origin: HAZELWOOD
Incident Name: HAZELWOOD MINE
Issued: 17/02/14 5:46 PM

This **Advice** message is being issued by Department of Health for Morwell, Hazelwood North, Morwell Bridge, Maryvale, Morwell North, Hazelwood, Driffield, Yallourn, Churchill, Yallourn Heights, Yallourn North, Hazelwood South, Hernes Oak, Newborough, Moe.

Key Messages

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a high level smoke alert for the Latrobe Valley and other areas of Gippsland for Monday 17 February. This smoke is resulting from bushfire activity.
- High Levels of smoke can aggravate existing heart or lung conditions and cause irritated eyes, coughing wheezing. Health professionals should note the predicted smoky conditions and the potential impact on their at risk patients
- These conditions are expected to continue in parts of the Latrobe Valley for at least the remainder of this week. The wind and weather will determine the areas to be effected
- Air quality forecasts are available on the EPA website at www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/monitoring-the-environment/air-quality-bulletins
- More information bushfire smoke and your health www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/bushfires

The next update is expected by 18/02/14 4:00 PM or as the situation changes.

Who is at risk:

Children, the elderly, pregnant women, smokers and people with pre-existing illness such as heart or lung conditions (including asthma) are more sensitive to the effects of breathing in fine particles. Symptoms may worsen and include wheezing, chest tightness and difficulty breathing.

Prevention:

Anyone with a heart or lung condition should follow the treatment plan advised by their doctor and keep at least 5 days supply of medication on hand. People with asthma should follow their personal asthma plan.

Everyone, but particularly those at high risk, should avoid prolonged or heavy physical activity outdoors and keep informed of fire and smoke activity in their immediate area.

Those with symptoms such as wheezing, chest tightness and difficulty breathing should seek medical advice promptly. Patients in at risk groups should be advised to consider a break away from areas with high smoke levels.

Contact for Media: DoH 1300 761 874

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