



Department of
Environment and
Primary Industries



Media Release

Wednesday, 12 February 2014 5.00pm

Gippsland Fire Situation

There are 16 "going" fires across the Region this afternoon with the main focus in East Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley.

Hazelwood

Fire services and mine management are working together and have made significant progress this morning to contain the fire in the Hazelwood mine in Morwell.

The fire is burning on three levels of batter, is 30 metres high, and runs for an estimated three kilometres within non-working sections of the mine.

The fire is burning in non-working sections of the mine and is not currently impacting on the security of electricity supply for Victoria. The mine operating face is fully operational and coal is being delivered to the Power Station.

Morwell Hernes Oak

In the Morwell-Hernes Oak fire area, authorities are clearing roads and fallen trees. The public is reminded to beware of emergency vehicles and obstacles on the road. An Advice message is current for this fire.

Jack River – Egans Road

The Jack River-Egans Road fire may have increased fire activity later today as winds pick up. A Watch and Act message has been issued for residents in the Madalya and Hiawatha areas, especially around the Yarram-Morwell Road north of Fairview Road, Summerfields Road, Turpins Road and River Road. It has burned 3451 hectares.

There is significant smoke in the Latrobe Valley. Children, the elderly, smokers and those with respiratory illnesses are more likely to be affected by smoke. If experiencing smoke exposure, seek medical advice or call Nurse on Call on 1300 606 024.

Recovery agencies are available to support affected people with a range of issues including water shortages associated with fighting the fires. Rain is forecast for later in the week. To ensure that tank water is not contaminated with ash, avoid collecting the first run-off.

East Gippsland

The fires in Far East Gippsland between the Snowy River and the NSW border have burnt around 130,600 hectares.

The focus remains on fire fighter and community safety, therefore the roads in the affected fire areas will remain closed until such time as it is considered safe. Falling trees remain a hazard in these areas.

Following the dramatic spread of several fires under extreme weather conditions experienced on Sunday, initial asset loss assessments have been done and will continue in the affected areas.

For further information on fires or planned burns in Victoria and general fire safety, please contact the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on freecall 1800 240 667. Callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech / communication impairment may call textphone / telewriter (TTY) on 1800 122 969. Also tune into local ABC and commercial radio stations.

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