

Incident Control Centre Hazelwood

Media release

Tuesday, 4 March 2014

Hazelwood open cut mine fire - update

Fire update

Significant progress has been made to reduce the active fire in the batters over the past few days, due to favourable conditions and great work by crews ahead of the predicted increased fire activity tomorrow.

Incident Controller, Bob Barry, said fire services have brought in extra resources - including two strike teams and two water bombing helicopters.

"Crews have continued great work on the northern batters where there is significantly reduced fire activity," said Bob.

"The southern batters are still putting up a bit of smoke and crews are continuing to use foam and water with assistance from aircraft to continue to target hot spots.

"Geotechnical experts have advised the fire is burning on average only about half a metre below the surface, with a maximum depth of two metres."

Community information

Temporary relocation away from smoke is recommended for people aged over 65, pre-school aged children (under five, including babies and infants), pregnant women and anyone with a pre-existing heart or lung condition living or working in Morwell South, south of the railway line.

Advice and support regarding temporary relocation is available through Department of Human Services on **1800 006 468** or visit: www.dhs.vic.gov.au.

Morwell residents seeking respite from the smoke are being offered free train travel with V/Line. Eighteen return train services between Morwell and Melbourne each weekday will be free of charge.

The Moe Town Hall respite centre is open on Albert Street from 9am till 6pm and offers a relaxed air conditioned space to have a cuppa and take a break from the smoke.

The Community Health Assessment Centre is open from 8am till 8pm at the Ambulance Victoria Gippsland Regional Office, 2 Saskia Way Morwell, next to the Mid-Valley Shopping Centre.

The Community Information and Recovery Centre at 22 Hazelwood Rd, Morwell will be open from 9am till 6pm daily. The centre offers support and information from Latrobe Council, DHS, Red Cross, CFA, Victorian Council of Churches and other key agencies.

CFA information buses will be in various locations between the Mid-Valley shopping centre and Hazelwood South over the next few days.



Media contact: Traralgon Incident Control Centre media unit - 5177 3286

Information sources

- www.health.vic.gov.au (for smoke and health)
- NURSE-ON-CALL 1800 60 60 24 (for health)

- www.epa.vic.gov.au or 1300 372 842 or 1300 EPAVIC (for air quality)
- www.emergency.vic.gov.au (for fire information, warnings and advice)
- cfa.vic.gov.au and the Victorian Bushfire Information Line 1800 247 667 (for general information)

- National Relay Service 1800 555 677 (for callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment: general situation).

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