

EPA Media Release



High level Hazelwood open cut mine fire smoke advisory

1745 Tuesday 11 March 2014

EPA Victoria has issued a high level smoke alert for the Latrobe Valley tonight (Tuesday) and tomorrow (Wednesday) as a result of the Hazelwood open cut mine fire.

A high level alert means that it is likely residents will see ongoing smoke impacts today, with visibility less than 10 kilometres due to high particle concentrations in the air.

The Victorian Chief Health Officer Dr Rosemary Lester advises that excessive smoke levels can not only aggravate existing heart or lung conditions, but may also cause members of the community to experience irritated eyes, coughing or wheezing.

“Everyone should avoid prolonged or heavy physical activity and keep informed about fire activity in their immediate area,” Dr Lester said.

“Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor.

“People with asthma should follow their asthma management plan.

“Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice or call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24.”

For more information on the Hazelwood open cut mine fire:

- **Smoke and health:** www.health.vic.gov.au
- **Health and medical advice:** NURSE-ON-CALL 1300 60 60 24
- **Air quality:** www.epa.vic.gov.au or 1300 372 842 (1300 EPAVIC)
- **Fire warnings and advice:** www.emergency.vic.gov.au
- **Hazelwood fire information:** cfa.vic.gov.au

Media inquiries:

- **Air quality** 03 9695 2704
- **Health** 03 9096 8803

