



24 November 2015

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SEMT Member

Our ref: CD/15/532317*

Dear Colleague

Hazelwood mine fire – the dangers of carbon monoxide video

As we approach a long, hot and dry summer, it is timely to recognise the work undertaken by the emergency management sector around smoke management as a result of the original Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry and Government Response.

The Hazelwood recommendations and the subsequent work completed is relevant in consideration of the current fire at Somerton, which I am pleased to say is an example of a quality, integrated emergency management response.

The issue of managing significant and persistent smoke generation from a range of fires is a priority at the state, regional and incident level to ensure community and responder safety.

Significant progress has been made. Your organisation should be familiar with the documents developed to this point including the [Rapid Deployment of Air Quality Monitoring for Community Health](#), the [Community Smoke, Air Quality and Health Protocol](#), the [Standard for Managing Significant Carbon Monoxide Emissions](#), and the [State Smoke Framework](#).

The current focus is on the implementation of the policies among responder and support agencies through workshops, pre-season forums, presentations and the development of tailored reference material for use by incident controllers and emergency management personnel

Comprehensive training packages for responders are being finalised to roll out to response agencies across the state. The training has a particular emphasis on safe systems of work, scientific support, decision making and community safety.

A short rapid deployment training video has also been developed that provides fundamental information on CO and other aspects of smoke for use by emergency responders.

The video is designed to provide a quick overview of what responders need to be aware of when deployed to an incident – and it is important you make it available through your networks.

The video can be accessed via the following link: [Emergency Management Victoria – The dangers of Carbon Monoxide](#) I encourage you to make the video available to ensure your staff are aware of the content. Please let us know how this has been achieved by emailing Amy Caddick at Amy.Caddick@emv.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CLapsley'.

Craig Lapsley, PSM
Emergency Management Commissioner

