



Community Information Newsletter Number 7

Latrobe Valley Open Cut Mine Fire

As at 27th February 2014

HAZELWOOD OPEN CUT MINE FIRE

Firefighters, mine staff and incident management team personnel continue to put significant effort into trying to put the fire out. Personnel are working on this fire 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

EMERGENCY RELIEF INFORMATION

COMMUNITY RESPITE CENTRE

This Centre is for you to use if you would like temporary relief from the smoky conditions. The centre is air conditioned and we encourage residents to use it.

**Moe Town Hall,
Albert Street, Moe
9:00am to 7:00pm every day**

Come and see us for a tea / coffee and a biscuit. There are several agencies there to talk with you about your concerns and offer support.

- Latrobe City Council
- Red Cross
- Victorian Council of churches
- Ambulance Victoria
- Environment Protection Agency
- Victoria's Fire Services

HEALTH ASSESSMENT CENTRE

Visit this centre if you would like a free health assessment in relation to the effects of the mine fire and the smoky conditions.

**Regional Office Ambulance Victoria Gippsland
2 Saskia Way, Morwell
(Next to the Mid-Valley Shopping Centre)
8.00am to 8.00pm every day**

The centre has two nurses and two paramedics who offer primary health assessments such as :

- Blood pressure
- Heart rate
- Temperature
- Basic respiratory checks

Should anyone require medical care they will be referred to either their own Doctor or to Latrobe Regional Hospital.

WATER

Gippsland Water Authority has advised that there has been no effect to mains water supplies due to this fire. Main drinking water has not been effected in any way.

General advice from the Department of Health is that if your tank water supply tastes, looks or smells unusual do not use it for drinking, bathing or for pets.



PRINCES FREEWAY AT MORWELL

VicRoads advises that the fire has not caused any structural damage to the Princes Freeway and the Freeway is not expected to be closed. VicRoads has instrumentation installed in the freeway near Hazelwood open cut mine which continually monitors the condition of the road.

The system is continually monitored remotely and has not recorded any movement in the last few weeks. Visual inspections are also being undertaken daily and have confirmed that there has been no indications of movement of the Princes Freeway.

An 80km/h speed limit on the Princes Freeway near the Hazelwood open cut mine is being maintained because of smoke in the area.

STAY INFORMED

Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL)
Freecall **1800 240 667**.
National relay Service on **1800 555 677**.

Latest warnings and advice messages:

www.depi.vic.gov.au/fires

www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Facebook: [facebook.com/cfavvic](https://www.facebook.com/cfavvic)

Twitter: **Twitter @ CFA_Updates**

Local ABC radio **100.7 FM**



COMMUNITY INFORMATION POINT

An information bus will be outside Coles, Morwell (Elgin Street, between Tarwin St and Chapel St) 10:00am - 1:00pm and at the Mid Valley Shopping complex 2:00pm - 5:00pm.

A number of information points have also been established, for more information please contact

Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on 1800 240 667 or Latrobe City Council on 1300 376 700.

SUPPORT

Nurse-on-Call on 1300 60 60 24

This is a phone service that allows you to discuss any health related issue with a registered nurse, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the cost of a local call from anywhere in Victoria.

The Department of Human Services

A range of support services including personal, emotional, psychological and financial help.

Visit <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au>

EPA Victoria 1300 372 842 (24 hours)

Visit: www.epa.vic.gov.au

Asthma Foundation 1800 278 462.

Visit: www.asthma.org.au

Latrobe City Council 1300 367 700

Visit: <http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Home>

VicRoads 131170 or the VicRoads website:

<http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au/>

FREE P2 MASKS available at :

Morwell

St Vincent de Paul, Latrobe City Headquarters, Morwell Library, Morwell Leisure Centre, Morwell Neighbourhood House, Bendigo Bank, Morwell Bowling Club and other retail outlets.

Moe

Moe Service Centre, Respite Centre at the Moe Town Hall

Traralgon

Traralgon Service Centre

And at Community information points.

INFORMATION SESSIONS AT MORWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Weekly information sessions regarding the fire situation and the health implications. CFA Community Engagement team and a health professional will be there

Dates:

Tuesday 4th March 10am – 11am

Tuesday 11th March 10am – 11am

Tuesday 18th March 10am – 11am

Tuesday 25th March 10am – 11am

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

For further information contact the Morwell Neighbourhood House on **5134 5488**

CLEANING A SMOKE AND ASH AFFECTED HOME

- ✓ On days of less smoke open the house up to sunshine and fresh air to remove odour
- ✓ The use of a typical household vacuum is not recommended – A HEPA filter vacuum is best if available.
- ✓ Do not use leaf blowers that will blow the ash into the air
- ✓ Smoke odour can be removed from clothes by using 4-6 tsp of washing powder and one cup of household bleach added to 4 litres of water.
Care should be taken as this mix will bleach clothes.
- ✓ Wash indoor surfaces with mild soap or detergent and water
- ✓ Practice good hygiene. Wash ash off your hands, face and neck as needed.