



## Community Information Newsletter Number 8

### Latrobe Valley Open Cut Mine Fire

#### **HAZELWOOD OPEN CUT MINE FIRE**

Firefighters continue to work around the clock, supported by aircraft; efforts will be focussed on continuing to reduce the fire and smoke within the coal mine in order to protect the community and infrastructure.

Since 17<sup>th</sup> February, community information teams have spoken to over 10,000 people face to face through over 120 different activities including train travel and walking the streets.

#### **EMERGENCY RELIEF INFORMATION** **COMMUNITY RESPITE CENTRE**

**Moe Town Hall,  
Albert Street, Moe  
9:00am to 6:00pm every day  
(pictured below)**

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.



#### **COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND RECOVERY CENTRE:**

A Community Information and Recovery Centre in Morwell has also been opened at 22 Hazelwood Road, Morwell.

Opening hours are 9am – 6pm daily.

#### **COMMUNITY INFORMATION POINT**

An information bus will be located outside the Community Information and Recovery Centre  
**22 Hazelwood Road, Morwell.**

A number of information points have also been established, for more information please contact the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL)** on **1800 240 667** or **Latrobe City Council** on **1300 376 700**.

#### **HEALTH ASSESSMENT CENTRE**

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

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

The centre has increased its numbers of staff to accommodate the community needs. Qualified nurses and paramedics will offer primary health assessments, including basic respiratory, blood pressure, heart rate and temperature checks. Should anyone require medical care they will be referred to either their own Doctor or to Latrobe Regional Hospital.



#### **RELOCATION ASSISTANCE**

Relocation assistance is available for Morwell South residents affected by the Hazelwood open cut mine fire.

The Department of Human Resources will arrange suitable accommodation for those identified as 'at risk' who can't find their own accommodation.

This will be found as close to Morwell as possible. Contact the Department of Human Services hotline on **1800 006 468** for more information.

**FREE VLINE TRANSPORT**

Morwell residents are able to get free transport on 18 return train services between Morwell and Melbourne each weekday.

If you are interested in taking up the offer, you can get a free ticket from the VLine staff at the Morwell Station. For further information, please contact **1800 800 007**.

**ANIMAL HEALTH**

The Department of Environment and Primary Industries website details lots of information that pet owners need to be aware of.

If you are considering relocating your pets, here's a quick reference guide:

- Food
- Water
- Medication
- Collars/Leads
- Bedding
- Transport cage for small animals
- Suitable housing for species (eg, reptiles, fish etc)
- Other essential equipment for care of the animal.



Animals being relocated, even with their family are under large amounts of stress. Make sure all your animals have some form of identification securely fastened to them (or their cage in the case of smaller caged pets).

Bring microchip details if possible.

To alleviate their stress, ensure they have constant access to food and water and keep them in a quiet area if possible.

**CARE OF PETS EXPOSED TO SMOKE AND ASH PARTICLES**

It is wise to minimise the likely exposure of pets through:

- Keeping pets confined inside when smoke is at its worst,
- Minimising the time pets spend outdoors,
- Exercising them in a location away from areas affected by smoke,
- Reducing ingestion through manual grooming or washing,
- When smoke is at its worst, cover outdoor fish ponds and bring caged birds indoors into cleaner air.

Animals with heart and breathing conditions will be at higher risk of being adversely affected by the smoke. If your pet has one of these complaints, see veterinary advice.

For more information, visit their website on

[www.depi.vic.gov.au](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au)

**FREE P2 MASKS**

Available at the following locations:

**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**

Respite Centre at the Moe Town Hall

...and at Community Information Points.

**P2 MASKS AND CHILDREN**

Please note that the P2 Masks that you are receiving are made especially for adults. These masks will not fit children and there is currently no manufacturer for children's masks.

**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 4 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – 11am
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – 11am
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – 11am
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	10am – 11am



Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

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

**VICTORIAN WORKCOVER AUTHORITY ADVISORY SERVICE**

The Victorian Work Cover Authority is advising workplaces to stay up to date with public health information and air quality alerts issued by the Department of Health and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

The Department of Health and the EPA are providing advice for the entire community, so employers can keep abreast of any developments that might affect their staff.

For information on workplace safety, please phone the VWA Advisory Service on **1800 136 089**.



**IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO REMEMBER****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](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)

**Asthma Foundation 1800 278 462.**

Visit: [www.asthma.org.au](http://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/>

**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](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/fires)

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

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

Twitter: **Twitter @ CFA\_Updates**

Local ABC radio **100.7 FM**

