

# EPA Media Release



## High level bushfire smoke alert

Friday 21 February 2014

1515hrs

EPA Victoria has issued a high level smoke alert for Morwell South and Morwell East as a result of bushfires.

A high level alert means that it is likely residents will see ongoing smoke impacts 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.”

Check EPA’s air quality forecasts at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/monitoring-the-environment/air-quality-bulletins>

For further information about bushfire smoke and health go to [www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/bushfires/](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/bushfires/)

For fire information go to the Victorian Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667 or visit the Country Fire Authority Victoria website at [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)

### Media inquiries:

- **Air quality 03 9695 2704**
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