

EPA Media Release



High level Hazelwood open cut mine fire smoke advisory

Sunday 23 February 2014

0900

EPA Victoria has issued a high level smoke alert for the Latrobe Valley for the rest of the day (Sunday) 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.”

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/

For fire information go to the Victorian Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667 or visit the VicEmergency website at www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Media inquiries:

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

