

EPA Media Release



Immediate smoke impacts alert – EPA advice Tuesday 11 March 2014

EPA Victoria has warned of immediate high level smoke impacts on Morwell and Morwell South this morning as a result of the Hazelwood open cut mine fire.

Visibility will be dramatically reduced due to high particle concentrations in the air, and residents are warned to go indoors and close doors and windows.

The Chief Health Officer 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.

Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice or call NURSE-ON-CALL on [1300 60 60 24](tel:1300606024).

ENDS.

Media inquiries: Air quality 03 9695 2704, health 03 9096 8803

*EPA Victoria is responsible for monitoring and testing air quality across the state. The data is provided to the Department of Health to assess human health impacts due to changes in air quality. In response to the Hazelwood mine fire, EPA has doubled air quality monitoring in the Latrobe Valley region and sent in scientific experts to closely monitor the air quality data.

EPA is issuing air quality updates twice daily which include advice for the local community in line with the current air quality. The updates are available online at www.epa.vic.gov.au via EPA's Pollution Hotline 1300 EPA VIC (1300 327 842), or in person by speaking to an EPA ground staff member or public health officer in the Morwell area or at the Community Respite Centre.

For daily air quality forecasts:

- Visit www.epa.vic.gov.au
- Call: 1300 372 842