Fire Situation Update

Total Area of Upper Murray fire – 308,242ha

Conditions have been milder allowing crews to work on containment lines along the west side of the fire, as weather conditions permit.

Back-burning is occurring in the Wabba Wilderness, between Berringama and Dartmouth Dam along the Gibb Range Track and Glamour Hill Track to secure the western flank of the fire.

Smoke may be visible in the Pine Mountain area as heavy fuels continue to burn within the fire ground.

As a result of this and back-burning, increased smoke will be visible in nearby areas for some time.

There is currently no threat to the community.

Hazard tree assessment and treatment continues to be a priority across the fire affected area.

Fire Danger Ratings

Today – High
Fri 17th – High
Sat 18th – High
Sun 19th - High

Weather

Today
A trough contracts slowly to northeast Victoria by the afternoon with a milder south to south-westerly airflow. Storms contracting to the northeast (local flash flooding possible).

- Corryong – 29 C
- Tallangatta – 25 C
- Dartmouth – 24 C

Friday 17th January
The trough will stall and weaken over northeastern Victoria. Thunderstorms and showers.

- Corryong – 13 / 29 C
- Tallangatta – 15 / 26 C
- Dartmouth – 14 / 24 C

Stay Informed during emergencies

- www.emergency.vic.gov.au
- VicEmergency Hotline - freecall 1800 226 226
- VicEmergency app
- Facebook or Twitter #vicfires

Local radio
ABC Radio is the Emergency Broadcaster
- Albury-Wodonga & Wangaratta 106.5FM
- Bright 89.7FM
- Corryong 99.7FM
- Myrtleford 91.7FM
Roads and Access

Roads with Restricted Access

The Murray Valley Highway from Tallangatta to Corryong is now open with restricted access to residents and approved essential services 24 hours a day. No escorts are required.

Khancoban residents travelling to Corryong are able to return home through the Traffic Management Point (TMP) located at intersection of Murray Valley Hwy / Mongans Lane.

For access through Traffic Management Points:
- **Residents** should carry some proof of residency & Photo ID, such as a driver’s licence.
- **Essential services** are required to show some evidence of the service they are providing (such as an invoice).
  Police will then let you travel through.

Traffic Management Points as at 8.00am today

- **Tintaldra** – Murray River Rd / Cudgewa Rd
- **Corryong** – Murray Valley Hwy / Sugarloaf Rd
- **Corryong** – Murray Valley Hwy / Mongans Lane
- **Bullioh** – Murray Valley Hwy / Granya Rd
- **Mitta Mitta** – Omeo Hwy at Mitta Mitta Township
- **Shelley** – Murray Valley Hwy / Shelley Walwa Rd
- **Walwa** – Murray River Rd / Jingellic Rd
- **Walwa** – Murray River Rd / Harvey St
- **Colac Colac** – Benambra-Corryong Rd / Murray Valley Hwy
- **Burrowye** – Murray River Rd / Guys Forest Rd
- **Tintaldra** – Murray River Rd (200m west of rec reserve)

Other arterial roads in the fire area are progressively being opened as tree hazards are removed. If you require access onto roads that are closed to the general public, please contact the Traffic Management Desk on 02 6043 4674 so your case can be assessed, and your details recorded.

Please drive carefully and observe speed limits.

Current Information on road closures available 13 11 70 or the Vic Traffic website: traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Current Park Closures

As a result of the fire ALL Parks and State Forests are closed to the public until further notice.

For information on forest access and roads visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Relief Centres

- **Corryong** – P-12 College, Towong St, 8am-8pm (Ph: 0438 681829)
- **Tallangatta** – Relocated to Towong Shire Offices, 32 Towong St, 8.30am-5pm

Animal Welfare

Livestock

Farmers in need of fodder or agistment should call the VFF on 1300 882 833 to register for assistance.

For urgent animal welfare and needs for pets, horses and livestock including food and water contact 1800 226 226 or visit http://agriculture.vic.gov.au for more information.

Contact the Towong Shire for assistance with livestock disposal 02 6071 5100.

Need to talk fire recovery?
The Corryong Community Ag Recovery Drop-in centre is now open at the Corryong Neighbourhood Centre 42 Hanson Street Corryong.
The centre will be open Monday to Friday and all this weekend from 10.30 am until 3.30 pm.
You’ll find a vet and specialist agriculture recovery staff there with advice relating to land management, erosion control, animal welfare and feed budgeting.

For more information on bushfire recovery, please contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or see agriculture.vic.gov.au/animalemergencies

Wildlife

Report injured wildlife to the Wodonga Incident Control Centre 02 6043 4600 which will be redirected to the Wildlife Coordinator.
Community Support
Support is available through the Towong Shire Council hotline 02 6071 5180

Police Assistance Line on 131 444. Or you can make an online report at www.police.vic.gov.au. If you wish to report a scam or fraud, visit www.cyber.gov.au/

Report suspicious behaviour to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Bushfire Case Support Program
The Victorian Bushfires Case Support Program has been launched and is available for people affected by the bushfires in East Gippsland and North East Victoria, as a single point of contact linking local residents to vital support – such as information and advice, mental health support or financial counselling, and details of waste handling.

Residents can access service via 1800 560 760 or email bushfirerecovery@windermere.org.au

Financial Assistance
Thurs 16th Jan – Centrelink will be at the Corryong Relief Centre 10am-3pm

People seeking financial hardship assistance can call the DHHS hotline 1800 961 054 (9am-5pm)

Health Impacts
Corryong Health Services are available for health related concerns - 02 6076 3290

Call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 606 024 or see your doctor if you are unwell.
In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000)

Mental Health
It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions following a distressing event. There is always help available through your doctor and local mental health professionals. You can call the following for support at any time:
- Lifeline - 131 114
- Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636
- Mens Line - 1300 789 978
- Kid’s Help Line - 1800 55 1800
- Parent Line - 13 22 89
- Bushfire Counselling Line – 1300 514 811
- Mental Health Crisis Line – 1300 881 104

Family Violence
There is an increased risk of family violence after an emergency. Help is available. https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-support or call 1800 737732 (1800 RESPECT)

Essential Services Update
Communications
Information on NBN outages can be found at https://downdetector.com.au/status/nbnco/map/
Information on Telstra outages can be found at https://www.telstra.com.au/coverage-networks/our-coverage

Emergency Water Relief Program
Bushfire affected residents can seek emergency water. On behalf of North East Water, South East Water are facilitating this program for the North East fires.
Call 131851, and press 9.

For further details: https://mysupport.southeastwater.com.au/articles/FAQ/Emergency-water-relief-program-for-bushfire-affected-residents

Power supply
For details - www.energy.vic.gov.au
AusNet dedicated line for customers impacted by bushfires 1300 561171
If no fire damage is identified and you do not have power, please call Ausnet Services’ Faults Line on 131799.
NOTE TO RESIDENTS:

Safety on Returning to Home

Even though roads are opening and residents are returning home, there may be local risks and safety issues still present on your property.

Be aware of dangers associated with asbestos and chemicals, fallen powerlines, fallen or damaged trees, and unstable structures on fire-affected properties.

Power is being restored to the area in stages. Where identified, fire affected properties have been disconnected at the main service fuse. Property owners should be careful of the risk for electrical hazards eg solar equipment.

Safety hazards that may arise after fires include:

- LP gas tanks and cylinders that may have been damaged by fire and heat
- Decomposing livestock and wildlife that may present biohazards
- Unstable structures such as free-standing chimneys, fire damaged retaining walls or underground water tanks, concrete septic tanks and pits which may be at risk of collapse
- Asbestos which has crumbled due to exposure to extreme heat.

After a fire: Personal protective equipment (including how to put on & fit a P2 or N95 mask)
https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/Api/downloadmedia/%7BB198D95C-4961-4687-8549-3659F78CD5B9%7D

After a fire: Returning home safely
https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/Api/downloadmedia/%7BB2B8EE587-3F8F-4AC3-B915-31B5AE8D47F9%7D

After a fire: Drinking water
https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/Api/downloadmedia/%7BB41E763C8-AA20-4A9E-BAD1-5BE53BF88DB5%7D

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) webpage contains links to helpful bushfire related fact sheets, including:

- Smoke and portable indoor air cleaners
- Disposal of bushfire waste (including disposal of dead stock)
- Ash from copper chrome arsenate (CCA) treated timber
- Fire retardants and health
- Firewater run-off
- Fact sheet: ash

https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/emergency#factsheets