Fire Situation Update

Total Area of Upper Murray fire – 294515ha

Mild conditions and rain have eased fire conditions across the fire affected area.

As weather conditions permit, back burning will occur east of Dartmouth Lake to support containment in that area.

The portion of the fire affected area east of Dartmouth Lake, across to Tom Groggin and south is now being managed by the Swifts Creek Incident Control Centre. The Wodonga Incident Control Centre continues to provide resources to help manage that section of the fire.

Smoke may 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Today</td>
<td>Low - Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 25th</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 26th</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 27th</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weather

Friday 24th January

A high pressure ridge extending across Victoria will bring settled conditions

- Corryong – 10 / 26 C
- Tallangatta – 13 / 25 C
- Dartmouth – 9 / 20 C

Saturday 25th January

The high pressure ridge will persist over Victoria. Settled conditions continue.

- Corryong – 9 / 31 C
- Tallangatta – 13 / 29 C
- Dartmouth – 10 / 25 C

Stay Informed during emergencies

- 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

The Murray Valley Highway, and the section of the Murray River Road between Corryong and the Jingellic Bridge past Walwa, are now open. Access is available to:

- Cudgewa (from the Murray Valley Highway)
- Corryong
- Towong
- Tintaldrad
- Walwa

Several roads are still fire affected and remain closed to the public. Residents will be allowed access between 7am and 8pm, and emergency vehicles only will be permitted outside these hours. The main roads affected are:

- The Murray River Road from the Jingellic Bridge to Guys Forest Road Burrowye
- Cudgewa Valley Road between Briggs Gap Road and the Murray River Road
- Shelley-Walwa Road between the Murray Valley Highway and Sandy Creek Road
- Guys Forest Road between the Murray River Road and the Shelley-Walwa Road
- The Benambra-Corryong Road will be closed at the Murray Valley Highway. South of Staceys Bridge it remains closed with access to emergency vehicles only.
- Thowgla Road will be closed at the Murray Valley Highway.

The Omeo Highway remains closed at Mitta Mitta for people travelling south.

Several other local roads are still fire affected and remain closed. Follow any directions or signage in the area. Further information is available on the VicTraffic app.

Please drive carefully and observe speed limits.

Current information on road closures is available at 13 11 70 or on the VicTraffic website: traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au

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 agriculture.vic.gov.au for more information.

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

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

Wildlife

The animal triage centre in Corryong is now closed. The need for this centre has decreased while the need elsewhere is increasing, so the veterinarians have been reassigned to areas where the need is great. Veterinarian services continue to be available by phone.

Please contact a Wildlife Coordinator at 1300 322 061 if you come across wildlife that appears caught, injured or distressed as a result of the fire. The Wildlife Coordinator will provide further advice about the assessment and appropriate treatment of affected wildlife.

Relief Centres

Towong Shire Council Offices 9am - 4.30pm
Corryong 76 Hanson Street Corryong
Ph. 02 6076 2160
Email. info@towong.vic.gov.au

Tallangatta 32 Towong Street Tallangatta
Ph. 02 6071 5100
Email. info@towong.vic.gov.au
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

Supporting Children

Like any of us, children can feel overwhelmed and devastated when directly affected by bushfires or from the scenes that emerge afterward. Sometimes, they don’t have ways of understanding what they see and can be particularly vulnerable to feelings of anxiety, stress and sadness.

At the same time, children can also have a natural ability to be resilient and adapt to challenging events.

Here are some signs to look out for:
- a child becoming more clingy towards a parent or carer – for example wanting to be held more than usual, wanting to be with parents or carers, asking about fire, seeking reassurance
- changes to sleeping or eating patterns, or both
- the emergence of new physical complaints – such as stomach ache or headache
- changes in mood – such as being more easily irritable, or shutting down
- changes in a child’s behaviour or learning at school
- appearing on edge and frightened – for example, being more easily startled, developing new fears, having nightmares or regression in behaviour.

If you (or one of your child’s carers) notice these or other changes then it is important to ask the child what they are worried about. Talk to them in a way that is open and appropriate to their age. Listen to their questions and fears and show them that you understand.

If you are concerned and need assistance you can get help from your doctor, local community health centre, psychologist, Beyond Blue Tel. 1300 224 636 Parentline Victoria Tel. 13 22 89, Kids Helpline Tel. 1800 551 800, Lifeline Tel.131 114, and NURSEON-CALL Tel. 1300 60 60 24 – for expert health information and advice (24 hours 7 days).

Family Violence

- There is an increased risk of family violence after an emergency. Help is available.

Essential Services Update

Changes in water quality

Water users in and downstream of fire-affected areas should be aware of potential changes in water quality in streams following storms or rainfall events.

Rainfall can wash ash, nutrients, organic matter, pathogens and sediment into streams and dams in and downstream of fire-affected areas, and can trigger a large flow of poor quality water into rivers or water storages.

If you’re drawing water directly from streams, monitor your supply source and make alternative arrangements if water quality deteriorates.

Information on water quality and health can be found on the state government’s Better Health channel.

If you have any questions or concerns, please phone us on 1800 013 357.

Remember, water supplied by Goulburn Murray Water is unfit for human consumption, directly or indirectly, without first being properly treated.
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

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

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.

Bushfire Clean-Up Program

Registration is now open for the 2020 Clean-Up Program, which is provided free of charge for eligible property owners. Please register using the online form www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-clean-up-program or by calling 1800 560 760.

The 2020 Clean-Up Program covers the demolition and disposal of all buildings destroyed or damaged beyond repair by this season’s bushfires (including residential homes and sheds, commercial and public buildings, and other outbuildings).

This may also include the removal of fencing, trees and vehicles but only where it is necessary for the safe clean-up of destroyed buildings.

Grocon has been contracted to conduct the clean-up on behalf of the Victorian Government. After you register, Grocon will be in contact to discuss arrangements for the clean-up process, which will require the signing of a consent form to proceed.

This is a voluntary program and is provided free of charge for property owners. You do not need to be insured to be eligible for this program.