

FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

NUMBER 10: MONDAY 9 APRIL



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

WIND TO BRING RISK AND RELIEF

Strong northerly winds forecast for the region in the middle of the week could be a double-edged sword. While wind may dissipate smoke and gas emissions from the peat fires, they can also increase the threat of fire. Forecast showers and lower temperatures will alleviate some risk but residents are encouraged to follow usual precautions as the fire danger period continues. For a list of what you can and can't do during the fire danger period, go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can.

FIREFIGHTING CONTINUES

A four-kilometre pipeline from the Ewen Hill Reservoir to the Cobrico peat fire has been completed. It will operate 24 hours a day and provide substantially more water which crews will be able to pump water directly onto the peat fire.

PEAT SMOKE INHALATION

Community members are encouraged to stay away from areas heavily affected by the smoke from the peat fires and to monitor air quality by visiting www.epa.vic.gov.au.

If you are within 1-6 km of the peat smoke plume, avoid outdoor physical activity. Community members within 1 km of the fire are encouraged to get their carbon monoxide levels tested regularly at the Terang Relief Centre or Camperdown Hospital.

Those with symptoms that may be due to smoke exposure can visit the Community Health Assessment Centre between 8am and 8pm at the Terang Relief Centre, 129 High Street, Terang.

If community members have concerns about their carbon monoxide levels overnight, they can visit the Terang Hospital.

For further information, check the VicEmergency app or website (www.emergency.vic.gov.au), call the VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226 or visit the relief centre at Terang.

If you are leaving smoke-affected areas for longer periods, please fill in an Absence of Residence form at the Terang Relief Centre.

VicEmergency issues air quality warnings and advice via www.emergency.vic.gov.au, the VicEmergency App or the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

COMMUNITY MEETING

A public meeting will be held at the Terang Recreation Reserve from 7 pm-10 pm on Wednesday 11 April. Formalities will run from 8 pm-8:30 pm followed by the opportunity to ask questions of Victoria Police, the Environment Protection Authority, BlazeAid, the Department of Health and Human Services, Victorian Farmers Federation, Victorian Council of Churches, Wannon Water, Agriculture Victoria and WestVic Dairy. Ambulance Victoria will conduct health assessments.

IF YOU NEED HELP

TERANG RELIEF CENTRE

CIVIC HALL, HIGH STREET

OPENING HOURS: 8 AM-8 PM DAILY FOR HEALTH CHECKS

10 AM-4 PM DAILY FOR SUPPORT SERVICES

Services available: Department Health and Human Services [DHHS], Red Cross, Victorian Council of Churches and Rural Financial Counselling Service. Carbon monoxide testing and health checks are available at Terang.

COBDEN COMMUNITY INFORMATION POINT

CIVIC HALL, 53-55 VICTORIA STREET

The Community Information Point now operates weekdays from 10 am-4 pm.

FOOD, WATER & PERSONAL ITEMS

If you have been impacted by the fires - food, water and personal items are available at Cobden Uniting Church [61 Curdie Street]. We encourage you to call in and grab some supplies that have been kindly donated by the community. Please call 0427 954 216 for more details.

PASTURE RECOVERY

One-on-one pasture recovery advice is now available to assist landholders affected by the fires.

Through this new service, extension officers from Agriculture Victoria and WestVic Dairy will provide tailored information about:

- The impact of fire on your pasture
- How your pasture might respond to an autumn break
- Planning for getting pastures back into production

To speak to an extension officer about your situation and or to organise a free visit please contact:

Agriculture Victoria

Michele Jolliffe on 0428 581 883

WestVic Dairy

Helen Chenoweth on 5557 1000

If you need fodder for your livestock, please contact the VFF on 1300 882 833.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service is also available to farmers, offering free and independent financial support to primary producers and non-agriculture related small businesses. **The service can be contacted on 1300 735 578.**

Detailed information about recovering from fire, including a pasture recovery quick reference guide, is also available at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/firerecovery

FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

NUMBER 10: MONDAY 9 APRIL



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

LIVESTOCK

Landholders with animals in the vicinity of the ongoing peat fires should take every effort to minimise exposure to smoke.

Animals generally tolerate smoke well, but some may exhibit minor respiratory problems or eye irritation.

Veterinary advice should be sought if animal owners are concerned their animals are being affected by smoke or ash.

Further information on the management of livestock following an emergency and pets and smoke go to agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/recovery/bushfires-in-south-west-victoria/.

Farmers with affected livestock can contact **Agriculture Victoria on 5336 6721**. An Animal Health Team will visit properties to assess damage and provide advice.

If you have stock in need of transport, we can house them for free at Camperdown Saleyards. Contact **Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100**.

If you need fodder for your livestock, contact **Victorian Farmers Federation on 1300 882 833**.

For help disposing of dead livestock, contact **Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100**.

IF YOUR TANK WATER IS CONTAMINATED

If you live in a bushfire-affected area your drinking water tank could have become contaminated from debris, ash, dead animals or aerial fire retardants.

If the water tastes, looks or smells unusual, do not drink it or give it to animals.

Use bottled water for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth et cetera until tanks can be cleaned and refilled.

Contact **Wannon Water on 1300 926 666** to flush clean and refill your tanks.

Wannon Water will arrange for a water carter to refill the tanks with potable water.

This will be one 14,000L load per household, unless specific circumstances require more.

Town water is not affected.

Contact Council if your stock water has been used for firefighting and needs replacement.

FENCING

To enquire about assistance with rebuilding your fences, call Blaze Aid camp leaders directly.

- **Cobden:** <http://blazeaid.com.au/cobden-2018/> **Chris and John Male, 0418 745 994, blazeaid.cobden@gmail.com**
- **Terang:** <http://blazeaid.com.au/laang-2018/>, **Vicki and Malcolm McIntosh, 0437 817 330, blazeaid.terang@gmail.com**

IF YOU WANT TO HELP

PLEASE NO MORE FOOD OR WATER DONATIONS - WE ARE AT FULL CAPACITY.

IF YOU WISH TO HELP IN OTHER WAYS - PLEASE SEE BELOW.

CASH DONATIONS

SOUTH WEST VICTORIAN COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

Funds raised will be distributed to charitable organisations working with communities that are directly impacted by recent fires or subsequent aftermath of the disaster.

Donate at your nearest Bendigo Bank branch or online at bendigobank.com.au/southwestvicbushfire

SALVATION ARMY GRANTS 5561 6792

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Account: Rotary International District 9780 – Bushfire Appeal
BSB: 035 070

Account: 179149

BLAZE AID

Online at www.blazeaid.com.au

FEED AND FODDER FOR LIVESTOCK

Contact the Victorian Farmers Federation on **1300 882 833** or visit www.vff.org.au/support

IF YOU WANT TO DONATE LABOUR

BLAZE AID

For anyone wishing to donate time and skills with fencing please contact **Chris on 0418 745 994 (Cobden) or Vicki on 0437 817 330 (Terang)**.

If you want to donate labour or services, **contact Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100 or AceRadio on 5564 3888**.