

# FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

NUMBER 5: FRIDAY 23 MARCH



## SMOKE FROM PEAT FIRES

A number of peat fires continue to smoulder in the Cobrico area, causing smoke / health issues for residents. The Relief Centre in Terang was opened last night to provide refuge for residents impacted by the smoke.

Peat fires smoulder for a long time and can be difficult to put out. Smoke contains fine particles, water vapour and gases including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides. Some peat fires may produce sulfur compounds which can be odourous.

People with a heart or lung condition, including asthma, children (up to 14 years), pregnant women and people over 65 years of age are more sensitive to the effects of breathing in smoke.

If you have a heart or lung condition, take your medication as prescribed. Asthmatics should follow their personal asthma action plan and keep reliever medication on hand.

If you or anyone in your care is experiencing symptoms that may be due to smoke exposure, call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24 or seek medical advice.

Anyone experiencing difficulty breathing, wheezing or tightness in the chest should seek urgent medical assistance – call 000.

## IF YOU NEED HELP

### RELIEF CENTRES OPEN

There are two relief centres operating in Corangamite Shire for people affected by the fires and severe weather. These centres are operating from 9 am-5 pm.

- **Cobden: Civic Hall, 53-55 Victoria Street**
- **Terang: Civic Hall, High Street**

### COMMUNITY MEETING TODAY - COBDEN

There will be a **community meeting at 4 pm, Cobden Civic Hall TODAY** to address impacts of peat fire smoke and what the community can expect.

### DHHS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Emergency Relief and Re-establishment Assistance is available to eligible fire-affected community members.

- **Personal Hardship Assistance Payments**, which provide payments of up to \$540 per adult and \$270 per child (up to a maximum of \$1890 per household) are available to

help meet immediate needs, including emergency food, shelter, clothing, and personal items.

- **Emergency Re-establishment Assistance** provides up to \$40,700 per eligible household that has been affected by fire at their primary place of residence. The grants are available for eligible clean-up, emergency accommodation, repairs, rebuilding (a principal place of residence), and replacing some damaged contents.

DHHS staff are available at the relief centres in Cobden or Terang or you can call call VicEmergency on 1800 226 226 for more information.

### EMERGENCY CASH GRANTS

The Salvation Army is able to assist with emergency cash grants to people who have lost or damaged property. Material aid, bedding, clothes, household goods and food assistance is available. Chaplaincy and pastoral support can also be provided.

**Phone Peter, Karina or Chris on 03 5561 6792 or 0458 600 242.** The office is on the Corner of Henna and Lava Streets, Warrnambool. Outreach services are also available.

### IF YOU NEED FOOD OR PERSONAL ITEMS

Food and personal items are available from Terang CWA, The Promenade, and Cobden Uniting Church 61 Curdie Street.

Your local charity can help:

#### **Terang Community Op Shop**

10 Shadforth Street, Terang, 5592 1723

#### **The Terang CWA branch**

The Promenade, Terang, 0439 943 922

#### **CDHS Charity Shop**

41 Curdie Street, Cobden, 5595 1162

#### **Uniting Church Op Shop**

50 Curdie Street, Cobden, 0475 699 483

#### **Lifeline South West Vic Inc.**

178 Manifold Street, Camperdown, 5593 1441

#### **St Vincent De Paul Society**

156 Manifold Street, Camperdown, 5593 1122

#### **Sunnyside Shop**

184 Manifold Street, Camperdown, 5593 1175

#### **TOPS Timboon**

17 Timboon-Curdievale Road, Timboon, 0455 183 761

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## IF YOU STILL DON'T HAVE POWER

If your property doesn't have power please call **Powercor on 13 24 12** and a technician will come out. It will be an issue from the road to the house.

## IF YOUR TANK WATER IS CONTAMINATED

Please contact **Vic Emergency on 1800 226 226** if you have contaminated water in your tanks.

## LIVESTOCK

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**.

## FENCING

There is a Blaze Aid meeting at Terang College, Strong St at 9 am Saturday, to begin coordinating fencing assistance.

If you need help, or want to volunteer, register with BlazeAid by **contacting Chris on 0418 745 994 [Cobden area] or Vicki on 0437 817 330 [Terang area]**.

## FREE WASTE DROP-OFF

Properties affected by the Terang, Gnotuk, and Garvoc fires can drop off waste for free at Corangamite Shire's waste management facilities.

Residents can also drop off scrap metal for free at Wheelie Waste's facility located on the Princes Highway at Boorcan.

Contact Council on 5593 7100 before you commence any clean up works if you suspect that there is asbestos or other toxic wastes present. Council cannot accept asbestos or asbestos contaminated waste at any of its waste facilities.

Council can provide free collection and disposal of waste and scrap metal from fire-affected properties. Please contact Council on 5593 7100 for assistance.

## DEAD LIVESTOCK & ANIMALS

For help disposing of dead livestock, contact Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100. Corangamite Regional Landfill can accept small animals and small numbers of dead livestock for free.

## COUNSELLING

If you or someone you know is in need of emotional and social wellbeing support, call one of the following numbers.

- **beyondblue – 24hrs, 7 days a week – 1300 224 636**
- **Lifeline – 24hrs a day, 7 days a week – 13 11 14**
- **Kids Helpline – 24hrs, 7 days a week – 1800 55 1800**

Please contact the **Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria on 1300 735 578** for access to business and emotional support.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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**.