

FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

NUMBER 9: FRIDAY 6 APRIL



TAKE CARE THIS WEEKEND

Weather forecasts for this weekend are predicting increased smoke impacts on nearby communities – particularly Cobden. Other communities at risk include Cobrico, Elingamite, Elingamite North and Camperdown.

Residents are strongly encouraged to stay away from areas affected by the smoke on Saturday and Sunday. If you are within 1-6 kms of the peat smoke plume, it's recommended you avoid outdoor physical activity.

Community members within 1 km of the fire are encouraged to get their carbon monoxide levels tested regularly. Carbon monoxide testing is available at the Terang Relief Centre or Camperdown Hospital.

If you or anyone in your care is experiencing symptoms that may be due to smoke exposure, please get a health check at the Terang Relief Centre.

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

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

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.

KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR PETS

While livestock are resilient to peat fire impacts, dogs, cats and horses are more sensitive. Watch out for eye irritation and respiratory problems, and if concerned, contact your local vet.

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
- How you can best plan for getting pastures back into production

Fires can have a drastic effect on a pasture. It can change the composition of the pastures and lead to a reduction in the growth and carrying capacity of the pasture in the following season.

Fire changes pastures in different ways depending on the intensity of the fire, the pasture species present, the fertility of the soil, the time of the autumn break and follow up rains.

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