

Community Newsletter

Ovens Fire Complex Community

Saturday 25 January 2020

Fire Situation Update

Total Area of Ovens Fire Complex - 102213ha
approx.

Rain over the last few days has reduced fire activity on the Ovens Fire Complex.

Crews are responding to hot-spots on the fire, conducting hazardous tree assessments and clearing debris and trees from key access tracks.

Crews continue to observe the fire from the ground and air to action hot-spots within the fireground.

The Ovens Fire Complex is being managed by an Incident Management Team out of the Ovens Incident Control Centre.

Community Meetings

There are currently no community meetings planned following the decrease in fire behaviour. Regular updates are being published on the DELWP Hume Facebook page to keep residents informed.

For the most up to date fire information visit www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Weather

Sunny. Patchy fog in the south in the early morning. Areas of smoke haze near the New South Wales border. Light winds out of west and southwest at 15-20 km/h becoming light in the late evening. Daytime temperatures reaching 27 to 33.

Current Park Closures

Parks Victoria has recently re-opened some park areas in the Ovens area.

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

Road Closures

The Great Alpine Road has re-opened.

For information about road closures phone 13 11 70 or visit the VicTraffic website traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Animal Welfare

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>

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Emergency Bushfire Response in Primary Industries \$75,000 Grants

This program helps pay for the costs of clean-up and other emergency measures including:

- repairing or replacing fencing and horticultural netting
- disposing of dead stock
- rebuilding or replacing damaged or destroyed on-farm infrastructure
- additional labour costs and more.

Claims can be made for activities/costs incurred since the date of the event.

For more information call 136 186 or visit: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery>

Transport subsidy:

This program covers 50 per cent of the total freight costs to a maximum of \$15,000 (excluding GST) per farm business. Applicants can apply for a combination of the following transport activities:

- transport of emergency fodder for stock to fire-affected properties
- transport of stock to agistment, including returning stock
- transport of stock to sale or slaughter
- transport of emergency stock drinking water.

Claims can be made for activities/cost incurred since the date of the event. A maximum distance of 1,500 km applies per movement of stock and fodder and 500 km per movement of water. A minimum load of 20 dry sheep equivalents applies for movements of stock (loads of less than this will be assessed on a case by case basis). The minimum load for water and fodder is 500 kg.

Both programs are being delivered by Rural Finance. For further information, and to apply, contact Rural Finance on 1800 260 425, visit ruralfinance.com.au or email governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au

Wildlife

For general enquiries & wildlife emergencies please contact 136 186.

Emergency Water Relief Program

If you have water contamination due to bushfire. Eligible residents will be provided a tank water flush and 5000 litres of water. South East Water are facilitating this program for the north east fires. Call 131 851 for further information.

Flying drones near emergencies

Emergency situations can be dangerous for people, property and the environment. Flying your drone near emergencies can cause major safety risks to response teams both in the air and on the ground. While it might be tempting to take footage, doing so could break the drone safety rules and affect rescue efforts. If you fly –they can't. Someone's life could be on the line. To protect yourself and the safety of others, unless you have specific permission, never fly your drone in or near natural disasters such as bushfires.

Mental Health

It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions following a distressing event. There is always help available through:

Your doctor
Local mental health professionals
Lifeline - 131 114
Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636
MensLine - 1300 789 978
Kid's Help Line - 1800 55 1800
Parent Line - 13 22 89

Family Violence

There is an increased risk of family violence after an emergency. Help is available. Visit www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence or call 1800 737 732 (1800RESPECT).

Other Information

A range of information regarding the current emergency and support services is available on the Alpine Shire Council website.

Visit www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/emergency

