

ADVICE

For emergencies where immediate police, fire or ambulance assistance is required, call Triple Zero (000).

Information, warnings: VicEmergency is Victoria's single source of emergency information and warnings—www.emergency.vic.gov.au.

Water: Residents in bushfire affected areas who are without drinking and domestic water supply due to tank contamination can contact South East Water who are providing bushfire aid to tank water users in the affected North East Victoria and East Gippsland regions. Anyone seeking emergency water assistance from the bushfire affected areas should contact South East Water on 131 851.

Returning home: Houses, sheds and other buildings or structures burnt in a bushfire can leave potential health hazards. These may include fallen or sharp objects, smouldering coals, damaged electrical wires, leaking gas and weakened walls.

Be aware that buildings and other structures (e.g. water tanks and stands) may be unstable and in danger of collapse following bushfires. If you are unsure, seek advice from your local council's municipal building surveyor before attempting to recover items or enter your property.

Wear protective clothing before entering your property after a bushfire. Personal Protective Equipment kits can be collected from local recovery centres & councils. Where possible, try to avoid taking children onto fire-damaged properties. If you do, make sure they remain protected at all times.

Hazardous wastes, such as asbestos materials and burnt CCA-treated timber, need special care during handling and disposal. It is recommended that you use a licensed removalist.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Households and businesses may be eligible to apply for the following payments. The programs listed below address different needs. Eligibility criteria apply for all.

This is not a full list of assistance available. For more information on eligibility and how to apply, contact Bushfire Recovery Victoria on **1800 560 760** or visit www.br.vic.gov.au.

Emergency Relief Assistance Payments to help eligible Victorians cover costs of emergency food, accommodation,

clothing, personal items: Payments of up to \$560 per adult and \$280 per child.

Emergency Re-establishment Payments to help eligible Victorians with clean-up, emergency accommodation and rebuilding. Payments of up to \$42,250 per eligible household experiencing financial hardship.

Disaster Recovery Payment for eligible Victorians who have been seriously injured or whose homes have been lost or damaged. Payments of up to \$1,000 per adult and \$400 per child, plus an additional one-off payment of \$400 per child.

Disaster Recovery Allowance providing up to 13 weeks income support to eligible Victorians who have lost income as a direct result of the bushfires.

Red Cross Emergency Grants providing emergency payments of up to \$20,000.

Emergency Bushfire Response in Primary Industries Grants of up to \$75,000 per farm business to assist eligible primary producers.

Victorian Bushfire Emergency Transport Support Program offering support of up to \$15,000 for emergency farm transport.

Farm Household Allowance offering various payments and services for eligible farming families experiencing financial hardship.

Small Business Bushfire Recovery Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to eligible Victorian small businesses directly affected by the bushfires.

Concessional Loans of up to \$500,000 to support small business, primary producers and non-profit organisations that have suffered significant asset damage or income loss.

Grants provided through the **Victorian Bushfire Appeal** can cover accommodation costs for eligible residents whose primary residence is lost or damaged.

Support for school children will be available for eligible families with students in government and non-government schools from the impacted local government areas. Support will cover school items including books, shoes and stationery.

For more information about grants, clean-up, fencing, your community's recovery and other issues, visit br.vic.gov.au or call 1800 560 760



For advice on emergency warnings, preparedness and relief, visit emergency.vic.gov.au



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WELLBEING

The Victorian Bushfires Case Support Program is available free-of-charge for people in fire-affected areas in Gippsland and North East Victoria.

Contact **1800 560 760** to access the Victorian Bushfires Case Support Program.

Case support coordinators will be a single point of contact, working with local residents to link them directly with vital support, such as information and advice, mental health support or financial counselling.

People in fire-affected areas in East Gippsland and North East Victoria are eligible. The program also includes support for people who may have been impacted by the bushfires in these areas but live in other parts of Victoria.

Other wellbeing support services can be viewed at emergency.vic.gov.au and brv.vic.gov.au. This includes LifeLine (131 114), which is a 24-hour telephone service that offers confidential support and advice. Call Triple Zero (000) if you or someone you know is in immediate danger.

FENCING

The Victorian Government will pay half the cost of materials to repair or upgrade bushfire-damaged fencing that borders National Parks, State Parks and State Forests. The Government will fund half the cost of materials to provide an upgrade for fire-resistant and pest-resistant fencing to a maximum of \$5,000 per kilometre.

Landholders can contact Bushfire Recovery Victoria on **1800 560 760**. We can connect landholders with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to initiate the application process.

DELWP will conduct field inspection and data collection, when it is safe to do so, determine eligibility and assistance level and assist the landholder in determining fence type. Once parties formally agree with a signed agreement, a claim is processed, and monies are paid to the landholder.

Where fences have been cut or damaged by fire suppression operations, the Government will fully cover the repair or replacement of the damaged section of fence to the pre-existing standard. This includes internal and boundary fences.

Grants of up to \$75,000 are also available to primary producers through Rural Finance to help with the costs of rebuilding, including fences.

CLEAN-UP

The 2020 Clean-Up Program covers 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 out-buildings).

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

The program is government funded and is free of charge for all property owners, regardless of whether you are insured.

To apply for the Clean-Up Program, visit brv.vic.gov.au or contact Bushfire Recovery Victoria at **1800 560 760**.

The best way to ensure a quick clean up is to register quickly. Registration for the clean-up program is open, and once you are registered, Grocon will be in touch to discuss the clean-up program process and site clean up works.

LIVESTOCK

Agriculture Victoria is providing animal welfare assessments and referring urgent cases of personal need to appropriate agencies. For more information, contact Agriculture Victoria's Customer Service Centre line on 136 186.

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