



Hazelwood Mine Fire – Emergency Services post incident health check

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) have been working with Emergency Management Victoria to ensure the health and safety of all personnel post the Hazelwood Mine Fire of February 2014 in Morwell.

During the incident an extensive health monitoring plan was implemented. On the basis of all information gathered to date, the outcome, from an acute health effect and risk prevention point of view, was extremely successful. During the operation there were no cases of serious Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning reported. In the first 48 hours of the firefight, one firefighter was monitored overnight in hospital with signs and symptoms consistent with mild CO poisoning. Subsequently, 15 firefighters presented to hospital with symptoms that may have been related to CO exposure.

As a precautionary measure, the CFA and MFB have agreed the following health monitoring process in relation to health check-ups post the Hazelwood Mine Fire. This has been developed on the advice of medical professionals from CFA and MFB Brigade Medical Services (BMS) Public Health Management.

Any CFA or MFB member who attended the mine fire site and who may have any health concerns that they think might be related to the fire, should follow this process:

- MFB employees and CFA members (includes staff and volunteers) to contact Brigade Medical Services on (03) 9869 2000, and advise that they wish to arrange a health consultation in relation to deployment at Hazelwood;
- due to the geographically dispersed nature of CFA members, the Brigade Medical Services representative may refer members to a suitable doctor as close as practical to the member's work or home location;
- all medical information will remain confidential in line with government health standards and agency policies;
- the cost of this consultation and the cost of travel to the medical officer will be paid by the agency.

This approach ensures that all employees/members are provided with the opportunity to seek health advice and management.

Signed by

Mick Bourke
CFA CEO

Signed by

Jim Higgins ASM
MFB CEO