

State Fire Control Objectives

- Safety of personnel tasked to the incident
- Protection of members of the community, including keeping the community informed
- Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets
- Aggressive first attack on new outbreaks
- Protection of conservation and environmental values

Incident Overview

- There is no Total Fire Ban today.
- Containment lines are being consolidated and crews rested ahead of more extreme fire weather on Friday.

Agency	Going	Contained
DSE	2	6
CFA*	10	1
Joint CFA/DSE	5	1
Total	17	8

* Figure includes fires and incidents that CFA are currently attending separately to DSE, including small fires.

- **Total area burnt by going forest fires is currently 291,858 hectares.**

Current Significant Fire Details

Note: The following comments are the best available information and only provide a snapshot of current events.

GOING FIRES

Kilmore East-Murrindindi Complex North – 158,545 ha

- Blacking out continuing in Rubicon sector.
- Backburning occurring along Dray Track to consolidate fire area with spot over. Crews patrolling and blacking out along backburn.
- Asset protection along the forest interface and patrolling and blacking continued in Thornton, Alexandra and Narbethong sectors.

Kilmore East-Murrindindi Complex South – 80,129 ha

- Fire activity has been quiet across all divisions and sectors.
- Blackout and patrolling continuing.

Wilson's Promontory National Park – Cathedral – 22,500 ha

- Back burning from the Mt. Oberon Road completed. This produced a number of active spot overs into the 2005 burn area. These are presently being patrolled and blacked out.
- A spot fire in Squeaky gully to the northwest of Tidal River is being aggressively attacked.
- Fire continued to burn on the ranges above Tidal River and towards Sealers Swamp in the east.
- Fire activity in the Yanakie division continues but is not presenting an immediate threat to Yanakie.
- The Wilderness zone of Wilson's Prom continued to burn north to the tip of the Promontory.
- The Promontory Road remains open to management vehicle traffic.

Bunyip State Park – Bunyip Ridge Track – 26,200 ha

- Crews are continuing to patrol, blackout and consolidate control lines ahead of forecast warmer weather later in the week.
- Burning root mat in pasture continues to prove difficult. CFA crews continuing to patrol and extinguish hot spots.

Won Wron – Napier Road – 1,300 ha

- Fire remains inside control lines.
- Crew continues to blackout and consolidate.

Muskvale – Hogans Road – 2,702 ha

- Control lines progressing well with less than 1 km remaining to be built.
- Crews are patrolling and blacking out. Continue to monitor for spot overs and treat as they arise.

Upwey – Nixon Road – 354 ha

- Patrolling and blacking out to continue.
- Burning out of a 1ha area in the west sector has commenced to strengthening control lines before the predicted increased fire danger on Friday.

Resources Committed to Going and Contained Fires

AGENCY	Personnel	Equipment
DSE & Networked Emergency Organisations (NEO)	1229	187 tankers and slip-on units 55 bulldozers 39 aircraft
Country Fire Authority (CFA)	840	210 appliances
Interstate	791	251 appliances
International Contingent (USA, Canada & NZ)	100	
Other	286	
Total Fire Personnel	3246	

Source: IRIS as at 1300 hrs, 25 February

Breakdown of Interstate and International Support

New South Wales	523	95 appliances
Tasmania Agencies	144	44 appliances
Western Australia		
Northern Territory	4	
ACT	90	17 appliances
USA	43	
Canada	5	
New Zealand	52	

Tasmanian agencies include Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Tasmania and Tasmanian Fire Service.
NSW agencies include Rural Fire Service, Fire Brigade, National Parks, Forests and Ambulance Service.

Source: IRIS as at 1300 hrs, 25 February

Losses (For a full loss report see the daily report from the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner)

Fatalities	210
State / Community Infrastructure	31
Commercial	59
Private Dwellings	2,029
Agricultural Buildings/Facilities	2,385
Stock	11,210
Timber plantations	7,051 ha

Weather Situation

A low pressure system just east Tasmania will move slowly eastwards today as a high pressure system drifts to the south of Tasmania. The high pressure system will reach the Tasman Sea on Thursday then a low pressure trough will cross Victoria on Friday. A high pressure ridge will develop south of the Bight on Saturday.

Forecast for the rest of Wednesday

Scattered light showers in the south, contracting to Gippsland by the afternoon and becoming isolated. Fine and sunny in the north apart from areas of smoke haze. Warm inland, milder near the coast. Light to moderate southerly winds, locally fresh about the coast and ranges.

Maximum Fire Danger: High to very high in the north. Moderate to high in the south.

Forecast for Thursday

Fine apart from isolated early morning showers in Gippsland. A mostly sunny day. Warm to hot inland with light winds. Milder near the coasts with afternoon seabreezes. Very high fire danger inland and moderate on the coast.

Forecast for Friday

Generally hot with moderate to fresh north to northwesterly winds ahead of a cooler, gusty southwesterly change extending from the west during the afternoon and evening. Isolated showers and thunderstorms developing near the change. Generally, Fire danger very high to extreme in all districts.

Forecast for Saturday

Isolated showers and thunderstorms in the east gradually clearing. Early drizzle in the south. Mild in the south but warm to very warm over the north. Moderate to fresh southerly winds. Very high fire danger, inland north of the Dividing range.

Communications

The Victorian Bushfire Information Line (1800 240 667) received 648 calls between 6am and 2pm today. Preparations are being made to operate on a 24hr basis on Friday & Saturday. Both DSE and CFA continue to provide information updates to local communities.

Message

- Victoria's fire agencies, with the valued assistance of interstate and international crews, continue to work hard building fire control lines and undertaking back-burning activities.

Community Meetings re: the Fire Situation

- **Warburton – Thursday 26 & Saturday 28 February at 6:00 pm** Mechanics Hall
- **Healesville – Queens Park** Thursday 26th & Saturday 28th February at 6pm
- **Trentham:** Thursday 26 February, 5pm, Mechanics Institute, 66 High /St, Trentham
- **Daylesford:** Thursday 26 February, 7pm, The ARC, Smith Street Daylesford

Daily meetings

Flowerdale – Flowerdale Hotel 9am daily

Buxton – Buxton Reserve Community Services Hub 5pm daily

Kinglake - Municipal Office 12:00pm and 4:00pm daily

Kinglake West - Kinglake West Fire Station 2:00pm daily

Resources

Additional fire fighters are scheduled to arrive in Victoria on Thursday ahead of Friday's extreme fire danger weather.



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