

## Outdoor Smoke – Health Impacts

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Smoke from fires (including building fires, woodfire heaters, bushfires and hazard reduction burns) is made up of small particles and may include carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds.

Smoke can be harmful to your health and especially harmful to people who already have breathing-related difficulties.

### ***What are the health effects of inhaling smoke?***

Common reactions that you may experience when there are high levels of smoke in the air include:

- Itchy or burning eyes
- Throat irritation
- Runny nose, and
- Coughing

These irritations can occur for several days after exposure.

Prolonged exposure to smoke particles can aggravate existing lung conditions, such as **chronic bronchitis**, **emphysema** and **asthma**. Prolonged exposure to smoke can also aggravate chronic **heart** conditions.

If you have a heart or lung condition, follow your treatment plan prescribed by your doctor.

### ***Who can be affected by inhaling smoke?***

Anyone can experience irritations from inhaling smoke. People who are especially sensitive to the effects of smoke include:

- People with heart or lung conditions (including asthma)
- Children aged less than 14 years
- Pregnant women, and
- People over 65 years of age.

## ***How will I know if smoke concentrations are dangerous?***

Usually smoke can be seen as a visible haze and can be detected by its distinctive smell. The more visible the smoke haze, and the stronger the odour, the more likely the smoke contains concentrations of gases and/or particles that can be hazardous to your health if you don't take precautions to reduce your exposure.

## ***What health precautions can I take?***

The following precautions can help you minimise health effects from exposure:

- Stay indoors, with windows and doors closed.
- Stay in air-conditioned premises and switch the air-conditioner to 'recycle' or 'recirculate' to reduce the amount of smoke entering the building.
- Only use an evaporative cooler if the system is filtered.

**Note:** some domestic evaporative coolers are less likely to filter fine particles such as smoke and may introduce smoke inside. If you have any questions about your evaporative cooler, please speak to the manufacturer or place of purchase as models may vary.

- Visit a local air-conditioned building such as a library, community centre or shopping centre.
- Avoid vigorous exercise, especially if you have asthma or other chronic respiratory and/or chronic cardiac disease.
- If you have asthma, continue taking your medication, follow your asthma plan, and consult with your general practitioner if required.
- If it is safe to do so, check on elderly neighbours or other people who you think might need extra help.

Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. **If you experience chest tightness, wheezing, or difficulty breathing, seek urgent medical assistance. In an emergency, call triple zero (000).**

## ***Can I use an air-purifier to reduce indoor smoke at home?***

If smoke is coming into rooms in your house, even with the doors and windows closed, you can consider using a portable air-purifier unit fitted with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter. These are available from home electrical stores.

For an indoor air purifier to work well, the purifier must be matched to the size of the room it is in and the room must be well sealed.

If you are using an air-purifier, it is important to be aware of the manufacturer's specifications to ensure it is appropriate for the size of the room you intend to use it in.

## ***Can I wear a mask to protect me from smoke?***

The best way to minimise your exposure to smoke is to avoid being outdoors where possible when there are high levels of smoke in the air.

Ordinary paper masks are not effective at filtering smoke, however do not cause any harm if people choose to wear them and they feel they get some benefit.

Evidence shows P2 and N95 masks do filter some smoke and are most commonly used in occupational settings where periods of exposure are well defined and cannot be avoided. These masks are not designed to be worn for long periods of time.

If you choose to wear a P2 or N95 mask to reduce your exposure, please note they cannot completely eliminate exposure to smoke or gases contained in smoke.

These masks are available from chemists/pharmacies, hardware retailers and other safety equipment suppliers. P2 and N95 masks sold in Australia are usually only available in adult sizes and will not fit most children aged less than 12 years.

If you choose to wear a P2 and N95 mask, it must be fitted properly. When purchasing P2 and N95 masks it is important to take time to correctly identify which size and style of mask is suitable for you.

**Note:** People with lung conditions, such as chronic obstructive airways disease, asthma or emphysema, and people with chronic heart conditions, should seek advice from their medical practitioner prior to using these masks, as they can cause some obstruction to airflow that could potentially exacerbate their condition.

## ***How do I fit a P2 mask correctly?***

To ensure a P2 or N95 mask is correctly fitted:

1. Remove glasses and hats. Tie back long hair so it does not become tangled in the straps of the mask.
2. Put the mask on your face, ensuring the nose piece is at the top of the mask.
3. Place the top strap or tie high on the back of your head. Move the bottom strap over your head and position it below your ears.

4. Compress the mask against the face to ensure a seal across the bridge of the nose. Then compress the mask to ensure a seal across the cheeks and the face.
5. Gently exhale and check air does not escape around the seal. Adjust if necessary.
6. Gently inhale and check the mask is drawn in towards the face and there are no air leaks around the face seal. Adjust is necessary.
7. If there are air leaks that can't be rectified by adjusting the mask, check the mask for defects or try another style of P2 and N95 mask.

Additional information on P2 and N95 masks:

- If you have a chronic lung or heart condition, seek advice from your medical practitioner before using a mask.
- People with facial hair (including a 1-2 day beard growth) may not be able to achieve an adequate seal between the mask and the wearer's face.
- Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for specific advice on checking the fit of the individual brands of masks.
- To remain effective masks must be changed regularly, in line with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Masks should be replaced when they become moist.

## ***Where can I find more information about smoke?***

ACT Health Directorate monitors air quality at several sites across Canberra. If the air quality in the ACT becomes a public health hazard, the Chief Health Officer will issue a public health alert.

You can also access further information on air quality on our website:

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air>

### Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

For further accessibility information, visit: [www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility](http://www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility)

[www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au) | Phone: 132281

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**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** PICC02  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 January 2020 9:05 PM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health); Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health)  
**Cc:** ACT Health, HPSOps; Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Stewart-Moore, Karen  
**Subject:** RE: For approval: Updated ACT Health factsheet on outdoor smoke

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Tracey,

The Commissioner has indicated that she is comfortable with this fact sheet, noting that it has been approved by the CHO.

Thanks  
 Vanessa

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**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 January 2020 7:21 PM  
**To:** PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>; Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.DalMolin@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** ACT Health, HPSOps <ACTHealthHPSOps@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>; Stewart-Moore, Karen <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** For approval: Updated ACT Health factsheet on outdoor smoke

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Vanessa

Please see attached the updated ACT Health factsheet on outdoor smoke. This has been updated with our new lines on P2 masks and to provide further information on fitting P2 masks given the significant community interest in using these. We have also included a new section on use of air purifiers following questions received on social media about these.

The attached has been cleared by the Chief Health Officer. Sending for clearance through the IC/EC. Once cleared, I will work to have this updated on the ACT Health website.

Can I also raise an issue that the webpage text on Air Quality on the ESA State of Alert page has not been updated with the text that I sent through earlier today and that was cleared through the IC. This means this advice is currently inconsistent with what is on the ACT Health website. Are you able to check where this webpage update is at? Attached is the email I sent through earlier...

Cheers  
 Tracey

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media  
 Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au)  
 Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate  
 Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** Stephen-Smith, Rachel  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 January 2020 12:20 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health); McDonald, Bernadette (Health); Pulli, Tracey (Health); Perkins, Anita  
**Cc:** Tomlinson, Benjamin  
**Subject:** Fwd:

Hi all.

Yvette sent this link to very interesting video from Charnwood chemist about not trying to fit P2 masks to children, especially infants. Might be worth including in our messaging or even sharing via CHS channels if the advice is all sound.

Thanks,  
Rachel

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA  
Member for Kurrajong  
ph: 02 6205 2661

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Berry, Yvette" <Yvette.Berry@act.gov.au>  
**Date:** 4 January 2020 at 11:34:27 am AEDT  
**To:** "Stephen-Smith, Rachel" <Rachel.Stephen-Smith@act.gov.au>

For your health people, just saw this from my local pharmacist.

<https://www.facebook.com/601563673201955/posts/3619072018117757/>

Yvette Berry MLA  
Deputy Chief Minister

## Pond, Aleks (Health)

**From:** ACT Health, HPSOps  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 January 2020 3:17 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health)  
**Cc:** ECC-HealthLO1  
**Subject:** Update - dot points  
**Attachments:** SITREP ONE 04 January 2020 signed by IC Flynn P (1).pdf

### 15:00hrs 04/01/20 – ACT Health (+CHHS) LO update

Please advise if any other information required at this time.

Includes last incident sitrep (approved and attached)

- Hospital bed availability as at 15:00, 04/01/20

<b>Canberra Health Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 beds currently available (4 ward beds, 7 Adult MH Rehab).</li> <li>Expected END OF DAY availability 40+ with expectant discharges</li> <li>Emergency Department managing as BAU with awareness and plans in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F</li> <li>*</li> </ul>
<b>Calvary Bruce Private</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 staffed beds</li> <li>65 unstaffed beds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F</li> </ul>
<b>Calvary John James Private</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17 staffed beds</li> <li>86 unstaffed beds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A</li> </ul>
<b>National Capital Private</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NCPH currently has reduced activity</li> <li>35 bed surgical ward and</li> <li>18 bed CCU is available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F</li> <li>A</li> </ul>
<b>Calvary Public (including Clare Holland)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently at capacity for staffed beds.</li> <li>Has one surgical ward still on Christmas shutdown</li> <li>Emergency Department managing as BAU with awareness and plans in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F</li> <li>*</li> </ul>

- All Walk In Centres are open and have increased staffing at **WEEKDAY** staffing levels.
  - Gungahlin
  - Belconnen
  - Weston Creek
  - Tuggeranong
- AIR Quality
  - Remains fluctuant based on wind direction and fire activity.
  - Will continue to impact the ACT for the coming weeks

### Air Quality Index status

AVG	Time (AEST)	Civic		Florey		Monash	
		PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>
1hr	11:00	153.49	<b>116.07</b>	133.7	<b>121.07</b>	124.24	<b>138.03</b>
24hr (rolling)	11:00	146.61	<b>113.21</b>	166.71	<b>140.18</b>	109.54	<b>109.97</b>

AVG	Time (AEST)	Civic		Florey		Monash	
		PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>



1hr	15:00	78.17	18.83	103.28	16.88	47.57	6.71
24hr (rolling)	15:00	146.43	107.77	165.22	130.36	100.5	97.06

- NSW Health
  - NSW Health HSFAC confirmed ACT Health have been added to distribution lists
    - 'Overview' document due after lunch today (provided and uploaded to EMOS)
    - Formal sitrep due Late this afternoon (one per day)
  
- National Incident Room (Department of Health)
  - Contact made with Lisa Petersen (Assistant Secretary DoH, NSW Liaison), managing Aus Gov Health liaison in NSW.
  - The NIR have been requested that any further information provided through their comms system that will impact the ACT (receiving coordinated evacuees, especially those with increased vulnerabilities), be notified directly to the ACT IMT via the Health Liaison Officer.
  - Next NIR Sitrep due for dissemination at approx. 17:00hrs (one per day)
  
- Other
  - Pharmacy Guild President contact provided to SES to support pharmacies to access Aus Post depots to receive expected deliveries of P2 masks. SES to report progress

Rhian

ACT Health Liaison Officer | ACT Emergency Coordination Centre  
 Ph: 02 6205 2384 | Email: [health1.ESA@act.gov.au](mailto:health1.ESA@act.gov.au)



 <b>ACT</b> Government 		<b>ACT Emergency Services Agency</b>  <b>SITUATION REPORT</b>	
<b>INCIDENT: ACT State of Alert</b>			
<b>PREPARED FOR OPERATIONAL PERIOD</b>		From: 08:00 04/04/20	To: 11:30 04/01/20
<b>SITUATION REPORT NUMBER</b>		ONE	
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>		ONE: CSD Bushfire/Smoke hazard response TWO: NSW Traffic Management Centre Updates	

### Status

**Lead Agency:** ACT Emergency Services Agency

### Current Impacts

Total Fire Ban is in place for the ACT.

Extreme weather Conditions are forecast for 4 January 2020.

There are currently several fires in New South Wales (NSW) creating large volumes of smoke which is affecting air quality in the ACT. This smoke is likely to affect the ACT Community for the foreseeable future.

### Community

	Members of the Community	Incident Personnel
Deaths	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Injuries	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Unaccounted	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Evacuees	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>

**Property:** N/A at this time

**Infrastructure:** N/A at this time

**Environment:** Air Quality across the ACT (see ACT Health update).

### Warnings and Public Information undertaken

Public information is being managed through the Public Information Coordination Centre (PICC) and relevant details are being posted to the ESA Website [www.esa.act.gov.au](http://www.esa.act.gov.au)

## PROGNOSIS

### Forecast Weather and Threat Analysis

The forecast for 4 December: Maximum temperature 42°C, Minimum 19°C. Fire Danger Rating (FDR) – Extreme with a Forest Fire Danger Index (FDI) of 98. Wind direction North-westerly (NW) of 40-50kmph, moving to an South-easterly in the late evening, which is expected to see a return to smoky conditions. Easterly winds are likely to dominate for the next day or two.

Tomorrows forecast: Maximum temperature 28°C

### Response Objectives and Tasking

No active incidents in the ACT.

## RESOURCES

### Response Agency

IMT Activated at: 09:00 at the ESA Headquarters, 9 Amberley Avenue, Fairbairn.

### Public Information

PICC Activated at: 08:00 at the ESA Headquarters, 9 Amberley Avenue, Fairbairn

### Supporting Agencies

ECC Activated at: 08:00 at the ESA Headquarters, 9 Amberley Avenue, Fairbairn.

## ACT GOVERNMENT LIAISON:

### ACT Policing

- Road closures as per Summernats.
- ACTP has been deploying resources where required to ease congestion.
- ACTP has been liaising with NSWPF on traffic congestion in the region.
- No change or update from last sit rep.
- Monaro Highway is clear north & south bound – no issues.
- No jobs of significance.
- Male charged with fire offences in Curtin will face ACT Magistrates Court this morning.

ACT Policing stood up the Police Operations Centre (POC) at 0800 today (Saturday, 4/1/2020)

### Traffic Management:

- High vis patrols being undertaken high risk areas
- Maintaining high vis patrol of Monaro highway into ACT and assisting with traffic management of interstate evacuees
- Maintaining Traffic response capability to any fire events / incidents
- ACTP planning is continuing to support ESA with their response

- One individual is in custody following four grass fires in Curtin (extinguished by ACTFB) and is expected to be charged

### ACT Health (HPS and CHS)

Summary of Activities today (as 11:00hrs 4 January 2020)

- Updating Health messaging
  - Public health advice being issued with ESA
- Updated outdoor smoke fact sheet
  - Information on masks – cleared information posted to ESA website
  - Treating symptoms of smoke
- ED presentations
  - Canberra Hospital – 13 smoke related presentations from yesterday to now. (50 from the 31<sup>st</sup> December) – Further update to be provided at 15:00
  - Calvary Hospital – 08:30 this morning, 7 respiratory related presentations in Emergency department. One transfer from Cooma enroute with exacerbation of respiratory condition.
- Established log for public enquiries received by Health Protection Service
  - Informs health messaging and fact sheet
- Scheduled roster for ACT Health ECC Liaison Officers
- NSW
  - The following services have relocated, however Tumut continues to provide ED services.
    - Tumbarumba MPS
    - Batlow Hospital
    - Pambula Hospital
    - Delegate MPS
    - Tumut District Hospital
- Pharmacy Guild Contact
  - SES is assisting with the delivery of P2 mask stockpile from AusPost to ACT Pharmacies.

### Air Quality Index status

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For further information go to: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air-0>

ACT Health ECC Coordinator has spoken to the National Incident Room (NIR), as referred by the ACT Chief Health Officer speaking with the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer re: Aged care transfers that occurred 3/1/20

The NIR Sitrep 17:30 03/01/20 noted the following information (those impacting us in RED).

Health has been advised of ten (10) aged care services currently evacuating or scheduled to evacuate residents:

- o Bupa Tumat – 80 residents
- o Bupa Edan NSW – 39 residents plus 3 evacuees with disabilities
- o Warringal Bundanoon – 77 residents
- o RSL Life Care Eden – 25 residents
- o RSL Life Care Tura Beach – 49 residents
- o ITR Lakeview Lodge Dalmeny – 23 residents
- o ITR Dalmeny – 27 residents
- o Delegate Multi-Purpose Service – 14 aged care beds
- o Catholic Healthcare Blakeney Lodge – 27 residents
- o Coastal Waters Aged Care – 12 residents relocated (precautionary), 106 to remain at facility

The NIR have been requested that any further information provided through their comms system that will impact the ACT (receiving coordinated evacuees, especially those with increased vulnerabilities), be notified directly to the ACT IMT via the Health Liaison Officer.

### **Community Services Directorate**

Dickson Respite Centre remains open providing support to people transiting through the ACT from NSW bushfire effected areas.

From the 2 January approximately 80 travellers have been assisted by the centre. CSD is currently considering utilising Dickson as an assistance/information point for the Canberra community to address community anxiety.

#### Relief Centre – Dickson College

Since the centre was opened approx. 80 travellers have used the service.

Services at the centre include:

- Canberra Health Services staff providing qualified counsellors trained in Psychological First Aid
- Australian Red Cross
- Communities@ Work
- Anglicare
- St John Ambulance ACT
- Salvation Army
- St Vincent de Paul
- ACT Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network
- GIVIT

The centre can provide interstate residents with advice and contact details for NSW recovery assistance.

This Centre is accessible for people with a disability. The centre is pet and assistance animal friendly

In the first instance we encourage all families distressed by the bushfires to access their usual supports in the community. Canberra Health Services, including Walk in Centres are operating as normal.

No further volunteers at Dickson College required at this point in time.

### Evacuation centres

No evacuation centres are open. CSD is well prepared and is currently setting up to open one or more evacuation centres when required and if public messaging is required as to location of centres.

### Housing ACT

- Since 18 December 2019, Housing ACT has performed 3 heatwave checks for public housing tenants. This process has included phone calls, home visits, contacting next of kin if tenant is unable to be contacted, and providing fans for those experiencing heat distress.
- On 2 and 3 January 2020, Housing ACT contacted 660 elderly and vulnerable clients as part of its heatwave/smoke health response.
- Housing ACT has contacted by phone all public housing tenants who are located in 9 tenancies located in Category 1 Fire Zones (rural etc).
- Housing ACT has a small team on standby to assist impacted tenants should conditions deteriorate over the weekend.
- Housing ACT has booked five hotel rooms as a pre-emptive measure in the event tenants at high risk need to be relocated.
- As part of the work undertaken by the ACT Government's Community Recovery Team, 'Grab n Go' information packs have been distributed to Housing ACT for distribution to public housing tenants. The packs contain helpful tips should they need to evacuate their properties, including about first aid, ways to combat heat stress and a key personal information template.
- Housing ACT will distribute Grab n Go packs to public housing tenants during routine property inspection.
- Housing ACT is collaborating closely with community recovery management team to stay informed and respond to events as they unfold. In addition to business as usual, our partners in the specialist homelessness services and community housing sectors are providing additional bushfire/smoke hazard response services are available.

### ACT Specialist Homelessness and Community Housing sectors

Attached (Attachment 1) is a list of bushfire/smoke hazard response services provided by the ACT Specialist Homelessness and Community Housing sectors.

### **Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (Public Sector Management)**

- Stromlo Forest Park is closed 04/01/2020
- National Arboretum Canberra is closed on Saturday 04/01/2020
- Strathnairn arts facility is closed 04/01/2020
- Dickson Pool, Manuka Pool and the outdoor pools at Canberra Olympic were closed on Friday 03/01/2020 due to air quality. Dickson Pool will re-open at 12pm on 04/01/2020 with advice on other pools still to be provided.

- The indoor pools at Gungahlin Leisure Centre, Lakeside Leisure Centre and Canberra Olympic Pool were open and the air quality will be closely monitored by the operators.
- Civic Merry-go-round (run by a contractor on behalf of ACTPG) is closed on Saturday 04/01/2020 with a risk assessment to be undertaken ongoing.
- Lanyon Homestead is closed until Tuesday 07/01/2020
- Calthorpes' House is closed until Saturday 11/01/2020
- Mugga Mugga is closed until a date (to be determined) later in January 2020
- Tidbinbilla will be closed for the duration of the Total Fire Ban period.
- Australian National Botanic Gardens is closed on 04/01/2020 (except for the on-site café).
- All AIS training facilities and all public attractions are closed on 4 and 5 January;
- The City Renewal Authority has advised that it has no events planned for 4 January.
- There are several exhibitions and events listed in the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) which are advertised on the VisitCanberra website. Events which may be in bushfire-prone areas include:
  - Events at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve – cancelled.
  - Events at the Australian National Botanic Gardens – cancelled for 04/01/2020, decision for Sunday 05/01/2020 pending.
  - Exhibitions at the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre – the venue is only open on 05/01/2020 between 12pm and 4pm.

### **Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (Access Canberra)**

Access Canberra Call Log: details for call topics relevant to the State of Alert as at approximately 10:30 04/01/2020

Air Quality - 1

Dickson Respite - 0

Bushfire Information - 15

SES - 1

Fire Brigade (Fire and Rescue, ACT Rural Fire Service) - 0

#### Call Logs - Total since start of event including today

Air Quality - 61

Dickson Respite - 6

Bushfire Information - 85

SES - 16

Fire Brigade (Fire and Rescue, ACT Rural Fire Service) - 14

### **Justice and Community Safety Directorate (SEMB)**

One SEMSOG and one SEMC meeting has been held today, with a second SEMSOG and SEMC meeting scheduled for this afternoon. One SEMSOG and SEMC is also scheduled for Sunday morning.

### **Justice and Community Safety Directorate (Corporate)**

Ops normal for JACS Directorate.

ACTCS have been in touch with JACS regarding the evacuation plans for AMC should this be required.

### **EPSDD**

#### **Resources**

- PCS had 6 trucks (15 staff) assisting NSW RFS on the Adaminaby Complex. They returned to ACT last night at the end of their shift (3/1/20).
- PCS has identified assets in southern Namadgi and is implementing mitigation operations. All fire trails and roads in southern Namadgi are in good condition and suitable as use for containment lines.
- All PCS units are fully crewed and available (6 heavy tankers, 3 mediums, 7 light units plus 4 divisional commanders).

#### **Operational Preparedness**

- PCS has identified assets in southern Namadgi and is implementing mitigation operations.
- Additional firefighting heavy plant including a D8 Dozer, 12H Grader and two water carts (total 26000 litre capacity) and one fuel truck have been engaged (all contracted via PCS Roding program).
- Water points have been pre-deployed at Brayshaws hut (46000 litres) for trucks and helicopters.
- Sprinkler protection systems have been setup at Pryors Hut and Gudgenby Homestead.
- A forward staging area is being set up at Glendale Depot by ACT SES.
- All fire trails and roads in southern Namadgi are in good condition and suitable as use for containment lines.

#### **Other Supporting activities**

- Parks and reserves closed as per arrangements for Total Fire Ban days.
- The Murrumbidgee Corridor has been closed for the duration of 4 January with the campground at Cotter closed from 10am, all information on the EPSDD website.
- Arrangements for relocating captive wildlife species at Tidd are being implemented.
- Arrangements for relocation of horses are also being put in place.
- We are developing plans for post fire livestock assessment and response.
- National biosecurity arrangements – meeting Monday 6<sup>th</sup> requesting vets for deployment into NSW for animal welfare purposes.

EPIC is hosting Summernats until Sunday 6 January. EPIC will be able to receive large animals to a limited capacity from 1830 on Sunday 6 January 2020. **(NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE)**.

### **Animal Management (Horse Relocation)**

Two (2) facilities have been organised for the relocation of horses on a short-term basis:

- Queanbeyan which has:
  - 18 yards
  - Running water
  - Capacity for more horses to be taken but they must be tied to their floats.
- Hall Polo-Cross ground which has:
  - 160 yards
  - Running water
  - Shower facilities.

### **Education Directorate**

- Pre-planning occurring in conjunction with CSD for possible evacuation sites at Lake Ginnderra College and Erindale College, in addition to current operation at Dickson College. Relevant school and Directorate staff contacted and availability for site activation has been confirmed.
- Requested Transport Canberra to transport CSD 'activation box' from Lake Tuggeranong College to Erindale College, in preparation for possible stand up of Erindale College.
- Commercial evaporative air conditions are now operational at Dickson College. EDU staff are on site monitoring their effectiveness.

### **Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS) – Security and Risk**

Continuing to Support the IMT and ECC.

#### **TCCS (Roads and ACTION Buses)**

An unmanned road closure in place for Corin Road at the Tidbinbilla Road intersection from 20:00 hours Friday to 09:00 Sunday.

The Sydney to Melbourne railway service will not be operating for the duration of Saturday 4 January.

Nil known impacts to the ACT transport network or roads.

The driver reviver at the SES has closed yesterday and the Good Shepherd Community Church in Chisholm have established their driver reviver with SES continuing to support this initiative.

The TCCS LO has received two reports that people transiting through the ACT and unfamiliar with the area have suggested that the Johnson Drive roundabout does not provide sufficient information – Town Centre, does not identify which town centre and City – the travellers were not clear if that was Canberra City.

Domestic Animal Services has representatives at the Dickson Relief Centre for community support.

Transport for NSW have provided information on road closures regionally, please see Attachment's Two (updates of 06:07am and 11:03am respectively)



**EXTERNAL LIAISON:****Home Affairs Crisis Coordination Centre**

Nothing to report, regular national bushfire updates are being provided to jurisdictions.

**Defence**

Business as usual, remains ready to assist - no formal requests for assistance from ACT ESA to ADF at this stage. Defence has submitted an RFI to Defence to scope availability of medic/counsellor staff to assist at Recovery Centres.

**ICON Water**

Business as usual, no issues.

**Zinfra (Gas)**

Business as usual, no issues.

**Telstra**

All Telstra ACT sites are currently operating as expected.


There are no at risk Telstra sites identified at this stage, this may change later in the day depending on changes of conditions.

**National Capital Authority (NCA)**

All operation as per normal weekend with contractors on standby for urgent safety issues. All National Estate land is open.

**FURTHER INFORMATION and EMERGING ISSUES**

*(Comments as appropriate)*

<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Ann-Marie Burgoyne		<b>POSITION:</b> ECC Manager	
<b>APPROVED BY:</b> Paul Flynn		<b>POSITION:</b> Incident Controller	
<b>ENDORSED BY:</b> Georgeina Whelan		<b>POSITION:</b> Emergency Controller	Approved
<b>TIME:</b> 11:50	<b>DATE:</b> 4 January 2020	<b>TIME:</b> 11:50	<b>DATE:</b> 4 January 2020

### Bushfire/smoke hazard response from the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector and Community Housing

**St Vincent De Paul's Street to Home** now has enough bottled water and masks to distribute.

Additionally, SVDP is:

- Supporting the Relief Centre at Dickson College
- Supplying masks to employees and volunteers to ensure the Night Patrol van and the Street to Home Program can continue. Distribute masks to rough sleepers visiting the van. It is important to note the masks only last up to 12 hours and only if they are looked after. They are being careful with distribution as Canberra has been selling out of them. The Director, has had to wait in line for up to 2 hours to purchase two packs of masks (12 in each pack), the shops are limiting on how much you can purchase to be fair to everyone.
- Street to Home have been undertaking daily walks through the city advising rough sleepers about the Van and Blue Door. The team has been giving out water and ice water on these walks.
- Night Patrol Van has been distributing sandwiches, bottled water and clothing.
- SVDP helpline for those effective down the coast and in Canberra
- Employment Assistance Program for volunteers and employees to deal with immediate crisis and longer term trauma response if needed.
- Financial support through SVDP conferences cards for the Vinnies shops and Cole Cards.

The **Australian Red Cross (Roadhouse)** has enough bottled water. The CEO is assisting at the Relief Centre in Dickson.

**CatholicCare** has ensured its Business Continuity Plan is current, with a focus on understanding the procedure to evacuate if necessary. The service has masks that are being distributed to those who are most vulnerable (Minosa House). Clients have been provided with information and helpful hints such as keeping windows closed. Emergency Service contacts and an on call system contacts have been provided to clients. Staff who are at the accommodation places such as Minosa House are ensuring clients remain hydrated.

**EveryMan Australia** is contacting clients by text, and placing information on its website. They are providing clients with Bushfire Survival Plan and other relevant info. While they have run out of p2 masks they are expecting a shipment from interstate early next week. They will be offering masks and bottled water to clients who attend their office and taking supplies to home visits.

**Toora Womens refuge** has a bush fire plan and a Crisis Management Team ready. Case coordinators have been working with their clients to identify their personal emergency plans – i.e. when to leave, where to go, how to get there etc. All shared houses have battery operated radios, additional water and emergency food supplies.

**Doris Womens refuge** has advised all their clients to keep inside, keep well hydrated and cool and to seek medical assistance if required. The majority of their units are equipped with air conditioning and those that aren't were provided with fans before Christmas. The Doris office fridge is well stocked with bottled water which clients can access and often utilise. Doris continue to provide a 24 hour on call service to all its clients, and are taking extra precautions and providing assistance as needed especially those who have children with additional needs.

**Beryl Womens Refuge** has advised that their properties have air conditioners, and that have contacted all clients to check in on them; reiterating what to do in an emergency, providing bush fire safety information, and encouraging them to listen to the radio. They have dropped off food and water, and in some cases (due to the scarcity of bottled water) distributing 3, 5 and 10 gallon water containers that clients can refill. Due to the shortage of masks, they are providing hints for clients -such as using wet towels. Beryl has built a good network with neighbours of their properties, so clients may be assisted that way, however, the Coordinator remains concerned for those who do not have a vehicle in the event of catastrophic conditions. It was agreed that they would be reliant on Emergency Services.

**Argyle Community Housing** report that masks are being distributed across their sites and they have erected signs to advise tenants to stay indoors. They are also calling vulnerable clients and walking through Ainslie Village every hour.

**Havelock Housing Association** has done a bulk SMS to all its clients across its portfolios, providing advice and support, with links to the ESA website and other information relating to keeping safe. It has also provided information on its website and Facebook pages.

**Uniting Care Canberra's Early morning Centre** has been provided with additional bottles of water and masks.

**Barnardos** advise it has sent several group text messages to clients with Extreme weather advice and links to the Fires near me App and the ABC radio 666 station. They are also bulk texting ACT Health advice and ACT Govt/RFS links as they are updated to all young people in accommodation. Young people in the program have access to our 24/7 on-call phone.

**Salvation Army- YEAN (including Oasis)** advised that they have ensured that their emergency procedures are up to date and staff and clients are aware of what to do in the event of danger and evacuation. One of the sites has masks for clients if required, and each will be stocking up on water and food.

**Woden Community Services' OneLink** reports that it will record number of requests from NSW residents who seek accommodation or support.

While Link2Home will be the key service for NSW residents, OneLink is applying the following considerations when assessing brokerage or support for NSW residents affected by the bushfires:

- person has family support in Canberra
- NSW resources stretched e.g. motels are full or inaccessible
- request has come from FACS, Link2Home or other services
- is Canberra the best place for the person to be given the poor air quality
- other compassionate grounds.

So far OneLink has had one request which came from a veteran who has lost his house in the Cobargo fire. OneLink are currently working on this and assessing appropriateness of support. OneLink will also err on the side of caution for any Canberra resident currently rough sleeping and approve brokerage for accommodation out of the smoke. WCS will hopefully have approximately 250 masks to distribute to vulnerable people tomorrow afternoon.

Onelink will keep SHSD posted on the demand on OneLink and Canberra services from NSW residents- it is difficult to anticipate but the team are ready for "out of the ordinary" requests.

#### **OneLink Weekend – 4 & 5 January**

- Experienced workers will be working on the weekend for OneLink, from 12.30pm -5pm on both Sat and Sun from Woden Community Service's Corinna St office.

- Senior Officers will both be available on mobiles and a Senior Officer has agreed to be a third worker back up if needed.
- The Corinna St office has held up pretty good re cooling and keeping the smoke out so they anticipate all will be well there.
- However if the Corinna St office becomes too hot or too smoky in the 42 degree heat, the workers will regroup at one of the homes. In this case OneLink will be a phone service only.
- Brokerage is becoming more and more difficult as motels are filling up with people coming from the South Coast and the Summer Nats. OneLink staff are staying across the community Facebook pages that are offering accommodation in people's homes and pet support.
- OneLink staff have kept up to date re the Emergency Relief centres and the support being offered at the Queanbeyan, Bungendore and Braidwood showgrounds.
- The staff are also staying tuned to the range of websites that are providing updates re the fires, evacuation plans and health matters so that they can provide accurate information to people presenting to OneLink.
- OneLink is as ready as it can be in regards to staff safety and potential client need.

NSW Transport Management Centre have provided the following two updates

**Update Two on roads as of Saturday, 4 January 2020 11:03am**

**Two sections of the Snowy Mountains Highway are now closed due to bushfires.**

The highway is closed between the Hume Highway at Mount Adrah and Adelong.

- Residents are still be able to leave the area but cannot enter the Snowy Mountains Highway from the Hume Highway.

The Snowy Mountains Highway is also closed between Tumut and Adaminaby.

Many other roads in the area remain closed In and around the Snowy Mountains including:

- Tumbarumba to Batlow and Gilmore - Batlow Road is closed
- Adelong to Rosewood – Wondalga Road
- Green Hills to Courabyra – Lower Bago Road/Taradale Road
- All roads in the Kosciuszko National Park are closed including
  - Jindabyne to Khancoban – Alpine Way
  - Jindabyne to Charlotte Pass – Kosciuszko Road
  - Paddys River to Khancoban – Swampy Plains Creek Road/Tooma Road/Snow Ridge Road/Goat Ridge Road/Elliott Way

At Holbrook:

- Holbrook to Jingelic - Jingelic Road is closed

**Motorists are advised to avoid all non-essential travel today in the State's South and Southern Highlands due to the dangerous bushfire conditions.**

Major roads through these areas, including the Princes Highway and Hume Highway, may close with little or no notice.

As well, Southern Highlands Line trains are not running between Campbelltown and Goulburn.

- Buses are replacing these services but anyone planning to travel is advised to delay non-essential trips.

Many roads remain closed due to the bushfires including:

South of Nowra:

- Jerrawangala to Tomerong - Turpentine Road is closed
- Wandandian - Wandean Road is closed
- Nowra Hill to Charleyong - Braidwood Road/Nerriga Road is closed

Around Braidwood:

- Braidwood to Nelligen - the Kings Highway is closed
- Braidwood to Moruya - Araluen Road is closed
- Braidwood to Cooma - Cooma Road is closed

On the Far South Coast:

- The Princes Highway remains closed between Narrabarba (south of Eden) and Cann River in Victoria.

A number of smaller local roads are also closed in the South Coast and Snowy Mountains areas, and many roads crossing the New South Wales-Victorian border are also closed, including the Monaro Highway between Rockton and Cann River (Victoria).

**Motorists are also advised to delay non-essential travel between Sydney and the State's Central West as sections of the Great Western Highway may close between Penrith and Bathurst.**

- Buses continue to replace Blue Mountains Line trains between Mount Victoria, Lithgow and Bathurst due to infrastructure damage caused by bushfires.

**Anyone who needs to travel is advised to take extreme care, be prepared for conditions to change quickly and follow the directions of emergency services personnel.**

**Update One on roads as of Saturday, 4 January 2020 06:07 AM**

Motorists are advised to avoid all non-essential travel in the State's South and Southern Highlands due to today's dangerous bushfire conditions.

Major roads through the South Coast, Snowy Mountains and Southern Highlands, including the Princes Highway, Snowy Mountains Highway and Hume Highway, may close with little or no notice.

- The Hume Highway is currently closed northbound at Coolac due to a truck crash near Spring Dam Road.
- Northbound motorists who need to travel can divert along Muttama Road to Cootamundra, the Olympic Highway to Wallendbeen, and Burley Griffin Way to Bowning to rejoin the Hume Highway.

From 8am, trains will not be running between Campbelltown and Goulburn on the Southern Highlands. Buses will be replacing these services but passengers are advised to delay non-essential travel.

Motorists are also advised to delay non-essential travel between Sydney and the State's Central West as sections of the Great Western Highway may close between Penrith and Bathurst.

As well, buses continue to replace Blue Mountains Line trains between Mount Victoria, Lithgow and Bathurst due to infrastructure damage caused by bushfires.

Anyone who needs to travel is advised to take extreme care, be prepared for conditions to change quickly and follow the directions of emergency services personnel.

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South of Nowra:

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Around Braidwood:

- Braidwood to Nelligen - the Kings Highway is closed
- Braidwood to Moruya - Araluen Road is closed
- Braidwood to Cooma - Cooma Road is closed

In and around the Snowy Mountains:

- Tumut to Adaminaby - the Snowy Mountains Highway is closed
- Tumbarumba to Batlow and Gilmore - Batlow Road is closed
- Adelong to Rosewood – Wondalga Road
- Green Hills to Courabyra – Lower Bago Road/Taradale Road
- All roads in the Kosciuszko National Park are closed including
  - Khancoban to Crackenback – Alpine Way
  - Thredbo River to Charlotte Pass – Kosciuszko Road
  - Paddys River to Khancoban – Swampy Plains Creek Road/Tooma Road/Snow Ridge Road/Goat Ridge Road/Elliott Way

On the Far South Coast:

- The Princes Highway remains closed between Narrabarba (south of Eden) and Cann River in Victoria.

A number of smaller local roads are also closed in the South Coast and Snowy Mountains areas, and many roads crossing the New South Wales-Victorian border are also closed, including the Monaro Highway between Rockton and Cann River (Victoria).

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** Doran, Karen  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 January 2020 6:05 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: CONFIDENTIAL: National update re assistance and support

Hi Kerry

I know discussions are playing out re commonwealth release of masks.

When you have a chance, no hurry and only when things have settled, appreciate if could keep us in the loop

Thanks again

Karen

---

**From:** Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 4, 2020 2:49:53 PM  
**To:** Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: CONFIDENTIAL: National update re assistance and support  
 Hi Karen

Latest is that there will be an announcement about release of stockpile masks later today.

Paul Kelly as acting DMO will make a media statement with Minister Hunt about air quality and the P2 stockpile.


Message will be that individual jurisdictions will determine the best use of any supplies and how/where they will be distributed, but that we all agree on the general principles as we have previously discussed...

I don't think we'll get any further info until it occurs - will leave whether briefing of minister's is required before SEMC...

K

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**From:** Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 4, 2020 1:58:14 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: CONFIDENTIAL: National update re assistance and support  
 Thanks Kerry 

---

**From:** Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 4, 2020 1:56:58 PM  
**To:** De'Ath, Michael (Health) <Michael.De'Ath@act.gov.au>; Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>; Perkins, Anita <Anita.Perkins@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: CONFIDENTIAL: National update re assistance and support  
 He was just on tele announcing a whole lot of military support, and didn't announce it... waiting to hear whether will go ahead or not?!?

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**From:** De'Ath, Michael (Health) <Michael.De'Ath@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 4, 2020 1:55:54 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>; Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>; Perkins,



Anita <Anita.Perkins@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** Re: CONFIDENTIAL: National update re assistance and support

Given PM will announce this afternoon, can we prepare a message to send to ACT Gov cabinet ASAP? Thoughts?

Michael De'Ath  
Director General  
ACT Health

---

**From:** Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>

**Sent:** Saturday, January 4, 2020 11:11:26 AM

**To:** Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>; Perkins, Anita <Anita.Perkins@act.gov.au>

**Cc:** De'Ath, Michael (Health) <Michael.De'Ath@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** CONFIDENTIAL: National update re assistance and support

Hi Karen (and please not for further distribution due to confidential information)

As discussed this morning, there is a fast moving discussion about access to the national pandemic influenza stockpile of masks today. Key points:

- the PM is likely to announce this afternoon the release of a number of masks for jurisdictions to access
- Victoria will be the first to receive a number
- CMO will be messaging: they don't work well, can be dangerous in some chronic conditions, best is to stay out of smoke,
- Access to masks will be determined by jurisdictions, however there is strong support from CHO's/CMO that the messaging is consistent and in line with above - my information is that Victoria is currently running with for those in high risk high exposures settings where temporarily relocation is impossible and no or limited shelter. They will be distributed at relief/evacuation centres so those particularly impacted by fire. (But moving fast).
- This messaging aligns with our current messaging - so this may be useful to us in messaging.

Secondly, it is likely that an announcement re jurisdictions being able to request assistance from the NCCTRC (National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre) - this is the AUSMAT system we all contribute to and which we offer internationally. This may be useful for small jurisdictions with limited surge as it includes health/medical support such as surge support, temporary primary care facility... one to keep in mind for worst case scenario.

Happy to discuss at any point, thanks

Kerry

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**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** ACT Health, HPSOps  
**Sent:** Saturday, 4 January 2020 8:07 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health)  
**Cc:** Doran, Karen; ACT Health, HPSOps; ECC-HealthLO1  
**Subject:** For approval - National Medical Stockpile P2 masks for ACT  
**Attachments:** Air Quality in Monash ACT - 1 December 2019-4 January 2020.PNG; Pm2.5 Chart Legend.PNG

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hi Kerryn,

I spoke with David Horner, ECC Coordinator, and Karen Doran, DDG JACS about the P2 mask offer. I have been advised that ACT Health can accept the offer of P2 masks on behalf of the ACT from the Commonwealth.

I have prepared the following for your consideration:

- Draft email for you to review (*italics below*) and send to [health.ops@health.gov.au](mailto:health.ops@health.gov.au) or (02) 6289 3030 (24 hours).
- Reviewed air quality monitoring from 1 December 2019-4 January 2020 (identifying Monash as the best site with the highest PM2.5 level recorded)
- Included ED presentation data (provided by CHS) and list of target groups, upon Karen's suggestion

I offer a thought – you may wish to speak further with Bernadette MacDonald (CHS) re how CHS will receive and distribute the masks.

*I write to you on the matter of the Commonwealth Minister for Health, Greg Hunt MP, offering to ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA, one hundred thousand (100,000) P2 masks from the National Medical Stockpile.*

*As the ACT Chief Health Officer, and on behalf of the ACT Government, I wish to accept the offer.*

*The offer comes at an appropriate time with the ACT air quality exceeding hazardous levels. The attached air quality monitoring demonstrates that concentrated Particulate Matter (PM2.5) exceeded hazardous levels on fourteen occasions since 1 December 2019. The highest PM2.5 rating in Monash was 1925 on New Year's Day at 0100hrs. Furthermore, there has been an increase in patients presenting at the Canberra Hospital with respiratory issues; from 0000hrs 1 January 2020 - 2000hrs 4 January 2020, there have been 69 patients.*

*These masks will be beneficial for the ACT community, including:*

- *Vulnerable groups (e.g. young, elderly, pregnant women, homeless persons)*
- *Healthcare facilities*
- *Aged care facilities*
- *Childcare centres*
- *Frontline Government workers (e.g. parking inspectors, transport officers etc).*

*The ACT Health Directorate will facilitate internal discussions to receive, store and distribute masks to the correct groups. This will include the Canberra Health Services and the Community Services Directorate.*

*Our main contact is...*

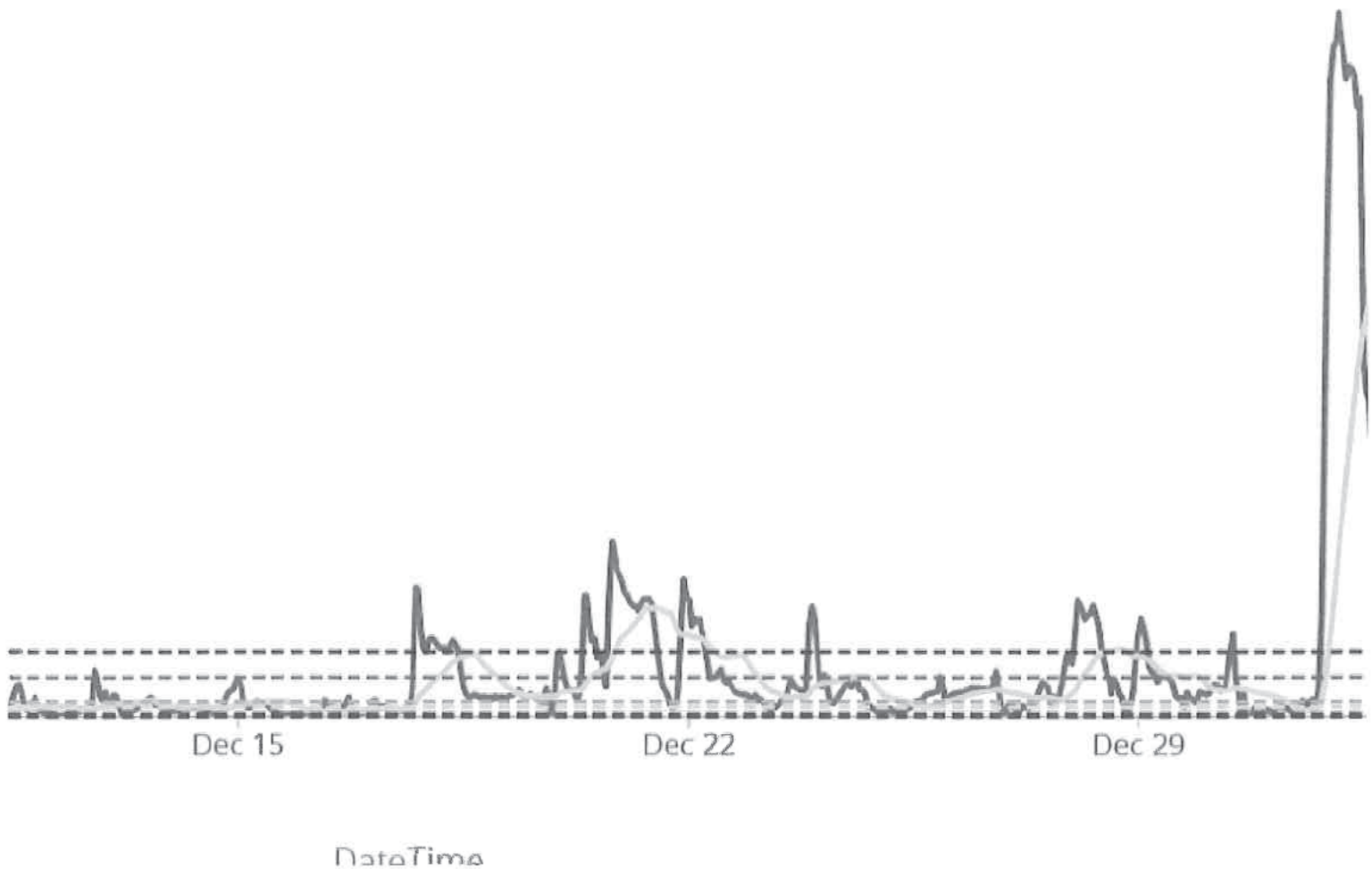
Yours sincerely,

# Environment Matter Standard Operating Procedure

Environment

## Standard Operating Procedure

Function to select/deselect stations.



- - Hazardous High
- - Very unhealthy all
- - Unhealthy sensitive groups
- - Moderate
- - Low
- PM2.5 1 hr
- PM2.5 24hr rolling

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** ECC-HealthLO1  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 10:24 AM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health)  
**Cc:** ACT Health, HPSOps; McKerlie, Donna (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: Hospital presentations  
**Attachments:** PATIENT FLOW bed numbers STATUS REPORT 2000HRS.docx

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Kerryn

Please see update below regarding smoke in Canberra Hospital.

I will include this information in the next ECC update.

Kirstie

ACT Health Liaison Officer | ACT Emergency Coordination Centre  
 Ph: 02 6205 2384 | Email: [health1.ESA@act.gov.au](mailto:health1.ESA@act.gov.au)

---

**From:** McKerlie, Donna (Health) <Donna.McKerlie@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 10:18 AM  
**To:** ECC-HealthLO1 <Health1.ESA@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Bower, Linda (Health) <Linda.Bower@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Hospital presentations

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Kirstie,

Sorry for the delay, they were having a large group meeting at the hospital this morning including the bed managers. Attached is current bed numbers at 1000 today (ignore the title), we don't have many.

I have spoken to the CHS Hospital Commander (Katrina Bracher). Smoke in hospital buildings continue to be an issue. The MRI machines are smoke sensitive and are up and down. The heat that affected both MRI and CT last night is resolving. The wards are still warmer than usual but cooling down. At this mornings staff info session, a Senior Respiratory Physician addressed the staff regarding masks. Reiterating Bernadette's message that unless you have an underlying respiratory issue, there is no need to wear them. The staff were pleased to hear this from him and so they are arranging for him to do a video for staff who couldn't make the meeting.

Immediate Plan – Divisional Reps are commencing a formal walkthrough of all Hospital buildings to determine air quality/presence of smoke. The hospital commander will be in touch with me once they have collated the data.

Kind Regards

**Donna McKerlie**

Director Emergency Management  
 Hospital Emergency Management Coordinator  
 Office of the Chief Operating Officer | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government  
 T: 02 5124 5324 | M: [REDACTED] E: [donna.mckerlie@act.gov.au](mailto:donna.mckerlie@act.gov.au)  
 Building 24, Level 1, Canberra Hospital, Yamba Drive, Garran ACT 2605  
**RELIABLE | PROGRESSIVE | RESPECTFUL | KIND**

**From:** ECC-HealthLO1 <[Health1.ESA@act.gov.au](mailto:Health1.ESA@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 9:13 AM  
**To:** McKerlie, Donna (Health) <[Donna.McKerlie@act.gov.au](mailto:Donna.McKerlie@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** ACT Health, HPSOps <[ACTHealthHPSOps@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthHPSOps@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Hospital presentations  
**Importance:** High

Hi Donna

I've just been advised that the focus today is likely to be the impact of smoke on the community.

Are you able to provide an update on hospital presentations?

Thanks  
Kirstie Allard

ACT Health Liaison Officer | ACT Emergency Coordination Centre  
Ph: 02 6205 2384 | Email: [health1.ESA@act.gov.au](mailto:health1.ESA@act.gov.au)



FLOW DELAYS
ON TRACK
MODERATE
MAJOR
EXTREME

**CURRENT:**

CH Occupancy

UCH Occupancy (excluding  
AMHRU)**TODAY:****Actual**

ED presentations

68

Surge beds in use

0

36 beds currently not open, due to summer  
realignment plan.

DIVISON	WARD	SITUATION REPORT	ANTICIPATED CAPACITY
Critical Care	<b>ED</b>	62 patients in department - 0 x Resus - 9 waiting to be seen - 4 x Bed booked pts	
	<b>EMU</b>	12 patients	0 beds
	<b>ICU</b>	ICU has 23 patients (13 ICU and 10 HDU)	Estimate 21 pts end of day (13 ICU and 8 HDU patients)
Medicine	<b>CCU/CPEU</b>	CCU has 11 beds open Chest Pain Unit has 3 beds open	6 beds end of day
	<b>Wards</b>	122 beds open (exclude CCU/CPEU)	3 beds end of day with 5 potentials
Surgery	<b>Wards</b>	169 beds open	15 beds end of day with 12 potentials
Mental Health	<b>AMHU/MHSSS</b>	45 Beds Open	0 beds end of day 2 potentials
	<b>UCH - AMHRU</b>	20 beds open	7 beds available
WY&C	<b>Paediatric</b>	32 beds open	9 beds end of day with 3 potentials
	<b>Neonatal</b>	At 27 – escalation level 3	Limited ability for emergency admissions
	<b>Maternity</b>	48 beds open	3 beds end of day with 11 potentials
RACS	<b>UCH</b>	75 beds open	No beds available
	<b>Wards</b>	46 beds open	0 beds end of day 2 potentials
CAS	<b>Wards</b>	46 beds open	0 beds available with no potentials

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** Leigh, Kathy  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 1:39 PM  
**To:** Glenn, Richard; Doran, Karen; Coleman, Kerryn (Health)  
**Subject:** 453,000 P2 face masks to help in bushfire communities | Health Portfolio Ministers

For info

<https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/453000-p2-face-masks-to-help-in-bushfire-communities>

Kathy Leigh | Head of Service and Director-General  
Phone: [02 6205 0246](tel:0262050246) | Email: [kathy.leigh@act.gov.au](mailto:kathy.leigh@act.gov.au)  
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government  
Level 5 Canberra Nara Centre | [GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601](mailto:GPO.Box.158.Canberra.ACT.2601) | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)



**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** Doran, Karen  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 6:12 PM  
**To:** PICC01; Pulli, Tracey (Health); Coleman, Kerryn (Health)  
**Cc:** PICC02; Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: Lines to clarify masks issue...

Thanks Karen

I agree with this approach  
 Karen D

Karen Doran

---

**From:** PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 5, 2020 5:55:47 PM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Lines to clarify masks issue...

UNCLASSIFIED

Hello all

Further to this – as discussed we agreed that we won't take any further action tonight. This is the post we put out earlier this afternoon just before press conference.

As we agreed – we will monitor tomorrow, messaging tomorrow will be clear about masks being available to *some* retail outlets.

We'll call Canberra FM just to talk them through the differences.

Thanks

Karen

<https://esa.act.gov.au/p2-mask-update>

While our advice to the community remains that the best way to avoid exposure to the smoke is by staying indoors (with windows and doors closed) we understand that many people in our community also have a preference to use P2 masks.

Information on P2 and N95 masks, and how to fit them properly is available from ACT Health at: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/heavy-smoke-and-extre...>

The ACT Government has been able to confirm the arrival of new stocks of P2 masks into Canberra retail markets which will be available through chemists and hardware stores later today or tomorrow. It is a good idea to call ahead to providers to check stock.

The ACT government has also accepted an offer from the Commonwealth of a stock of P2 masks which will be made available for vulnerable people as air quality conditions require. More information will come on how the masks will be made available as soon as possible. These are likely to be made available for people who are particularly sensitive to smoky conditions and those who are unable to avoid prolonged outdoor exposure.

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>

**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 5:47 PM

**To:** Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerry (Health) <Kerry.Coleman@act.gov.au>

**Cc:** PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>; Stewart-Moore, Karen <Karen.Stewart-Moore@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** Lines to clarify masks issue...

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Karen and Kerry

As per discussions with Karen Stewart-Moore. Lines to clarify masks for the back pocket:

- Following the announcement of a supply of P2 masks coming into the ACT from the Commonwealth in the coming days, we want to reiterate these masks will be made available for people who are particularly sensitive to smoky conditions and those who are unable to avoid prolonged outdoor exposure.
- At this time, the places where the masks will be available is yet to be determined. Further information will be provided to the community once these arrangements are in place.
- The Commonwealth supply of masks will not be provided to the general public, only vulnerable Canberrans who are sensitive. If you choose to still wear a mask, you will need to source this mask from the private sector (some chemists and hardware stores) with new stock of masks on their way to the ACT in the coming days.

Cheers

Tracey

**Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media**

Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au)

**Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate**

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)



**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 8:21 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerry (Health); PICC10  
**Subject:** RE: Request to approve updated talking points - Working outside in these conditions

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks Kerry – found them and have included below. These are now progressing.

- Employers have a responsibility to ensure all workers are provided with a safe work place.
- Employers should undertake a risk assessment of their work activity and revise the assessment as conditions change throughout the day and week.
- Due to the heavy smoke conditions impacting the ACT, WorkSafe is encouraging employers to look at mitigation strategies to eliminate or minimise the impact of the current heat and smoke conditions, particularly by eliminating strenuous or outdoor work where possible (including postponing or re-scheduling). Mitigation measures may include:
  - Avoid or reschedule the outdoor work if possible
  - Rotate workers to limit prolonged exposure
  - Provide P2 masks as part of pre-exposure prophylaxis for those who need to do prolonged outdoor activity or workers sensitive to smoke.
- To help with a Risk assessment:

**(a) Identify the outdoor air quality level (PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration) from the nearest air quality station (Monash, Florey or Civic) and compare with the relevant ACT Health advisory categories for smoky air**

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air-0>

**(b) Review the daily temperature and weather forecast via BOM site**

<http://www.bom.gov.au/act/forecasts/canberra.shtml>

- Employers can consider providing P2 masks as part of their mitigation in situations where prolonged outdoor activity cannot be avoided or postponed, making sure they are properly fitted and replaced if they become moist or after prolonged use. (Refer to manufacturer's instructions)
- Employees are encouraged to speak up if they are feeling the effects of smoke and to take regular breaks.
- For individuals who are particularly sensitive to smoke and those with pre-existing lung and heart conditions, if you are concerned, seek advice from a health professional and discuss your situation with your manager. P2 masks may be an option for workers who are sensitive to smoke working outside, and we recommend this option is discussed with your health professional.
- Additionally, alternative cooling arrangements should be used if evaporative air conditioning is currently being utilised.
- For event planners wishing to host activities outside, given the current weather and smoke in the air, only essential activity should be arranged. We suggest that you consider ways to best manage and reduce any risks to attendees and staff. Event organisers are encouraged to view the [ACT Emergency Services Agency](#)

website and the ACT Health website for advice in relation to air quality and smoky air review their safety, emergency response and WHS plans.

- For more information regarding outdoor smoke, please read ACT Health's Outdoor Smoke factsheet. To be kept up-to-date with the current State of Alert, please visit the ESA website at <https://esa.act.gov.au>.

Cheers

Tracey

**From:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>

**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 8:13 PM

**To:** PICC10 <PICC10@act.gov.au>

**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** Re: Request to approve updated talking points - Working outside in these conditions

Thanks Jeff

I have made some changes - apologies but i couldn't work out how to track or use colour on my iPad. The main changes are to refine the P2 mask option to make it part of the wider package, and only talk about this for non-sensitive individuals.

Then when talking about P2 masks for sensitive individuals, this is moved to the discussion about this group as a whole.

I'm sure the language is not exactly right, so happy to look at it again.

Tracey - there was a nice 3 pointer that Greg and i had going earlier on in this process which may be a useful sharp message - mitigation strategies for outdoor workers which included postpone or delay, frequent breaks, consider P2 masks... Greg should have it if you done...

K

---

**From:** PICC10 <PICC10@act.gov.au>

**Sent:** Sunday, January 5, 2020 7:23 pm

**To:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health)

**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)

**Subject:** Request to approve updated talking points - Working outside in these conditions

Hi Kerryn,

We have liaised with the WorkSafe Commissioner to approve the below points on working outdoors.

Could you also please approve?

Thank you,

Jeff Garner at the PICC.

- Employers have a responsibility to ensure all workers are provided with a safe work place.
- Employers should undertake a risk assessment of their work activity and revise the assessment as conditions change throughout the day and week.

- Due to the heavy smoke conditions impacting the ACT, WorkSafe is encouraging employers to look at mitigation strategies to eliminate or minimise the impact of the current heat and smoke conditions, particularly by eliminating strenuous or outdoor work where possible (including postponing or re-scheduling).
- To help with a Risk assessment:
  - (a) Identify the outdoor air quality level (PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration) from the nearest air quality station (Monash, Florey or Civic) and compare with the relevant ACT Health advisory categories for smoky air**  
<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air-0>
  - (b) Review the daily temperature and weather forecast via BOM site**  
<http://www.bom.gov.au/act/forecasts/canberra.shtml>
- Employers can consider providing P2 masks as part of their mitigation in situations where prolonged outdoor activity cannot be avoided or postponed, making sure they are properly fitted and replaced if they become moist or after prolonged use. (Refer to manufacturers instructions)
- Employees are encouraged to speak up if they are feeling the effects of smoke and to take regular breaks.
- For individuals who are particularly sensitive to smoke and those with pre-existing lung and heart conditions, if you are concerned, seek advice from a health professional and discuss your situation with your manager. P2 masks may be an option for workers who are sensitive to smoke working outside, and we recommend this option is discussed with your health professional.
- Additionally, alternative cooling arrangements should be used if evaporative air conditioning is currently being utilised.
- For event planners wishing to host activities outside, given the current weather and smoke in the air, only essential activity should be arranged. We suggest that you consider ways to best manage and reduce any risks to attendees and staff. Event organisers are encouraged to view the [ACT Emergency Services Agency website](#) and the ACT Health website for advice in relation to [air quality](#) and [smoky air](#) review their safety, emergency response and WHS plans.
- For more information regarding outdoor smoke, please read ACT Health's [Outdoor Smoke factsheet](#). To be kept up-to-date with the current State of Alert, please visit the ESA website at <https://esa.act.gov.au>.

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

---

**From:** De'Ath, Michael (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 9:07 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: Health ECC LO Update for 1300hrs

Thanks Kerryn. Good job!

Michael De'Ath  
 Director General  
 ACT Health

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**From:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 5, 2020 8:34:43 PM  
**To:** De'Ath, Michael (Health) <Michael.De'Ath@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Health ECC LO Update for 1300hrs  
 Michael most recent update from health sector.

The main outstanding issue, outside of the masks, is the request from Batemans Bay for additional nursing staff - we are still waiting for them to confirm details of what they are after.

I am on radio again in the morning re masks, will run a health IMT 9-10.30 to get moving on the mask distribution issue, and then head to the minister's office to deal with that group she emailed about this morning that i didn't get time to attend to this morning.

Thanks, Kerryn

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** ECC-HealthLO1 <Health1.ESA@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 5, 2020 7:02 pm  
**To:** ECC Manager  
**Cc:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health)  
**Subject:** Health ECC LO Update for 1300hrs  
**19:00hrs 05/01/20 – ACT Health (+CHHS) LO update**  
**ON CALL NUMBER FOR HEALTH – 0435 963 482**  
**Please advise if any other information required at this time.**

- Hospital bed availability as at 19:00, 05/01/20

<b>Canberra Health Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 beds currently available. (UCH – AMHRU)</li> <li>• Expected END OF DAY availability 34 with expectant discharges</li> <li>• Emergency Department managing as BAU with awareness and plans in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E</li> <li>• *</li> </ul>
<b>Calvary Bruce Private</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 staffed beds</li> <li>• 65 unstaffed beds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F</li> </ul>
<b>Calvary John James Private</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 staffed beds</li> <li>• 86 unstaffed beds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A</li> </ul>
<b>National Capital Private</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCPH currently has reduced activity</li> <li>• 35 bed surgical ward and</li> <li>• 18 bed CCU is available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F</li> <li>• A</li> </ul>
<b>Calvary Public (including Clare Holland)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently at capacity for staffed beds.</li> <li>• Has one surgical ward still on Christmas shutdown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F</li> <li>• *</li> </ul>

- Emergency Department managing as BAU with awareness and plans in place

- All Walk In Centres are open and have increased staffing at **WEEKDAY** staffing levels.
  - Gungahlin
  - Belconnen
  - Weston Creek
  - Tuggeranong
- **NSW**
  - Request for clinicians to support Batemans Bay Hospital in the coming week
  - Calvary Hospital providing 3 Emergency Consultants
  - NSW have also requested Nurses, however have not provided any further info as to specialty, numbers or alike.
- **AIR Quality**
  - Remains fluctuant based on wind direction and fire activity.
  - Will continue to impact the ACT for the coming weeks

#### Air Quality status

AVG	Time (AEST)	Civic		Floreay		Monash	
		PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>
1hr	12:00	841.29	830.84	774.12	916.6	716.18	462.39
24hr (rolling)	12:00	738.52	710.88	685.06	788.43	778.7	413.76

AVG	Time (AEST)	Civic		Floreay		Monash	
		PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>
1hr	18:00	678	257	790	771	872.29	927
24hr (rolling)	18:00	982	840	1085	959	627	596

#### Canberra Health Services advice 1800 hrs

CH ED respiratory related presentations have averaged around 15-20 per day for the past few days. Total overall ED presentations yesterday were lower than average at 239. Today they are currently sitting at 170 which is estimated to be around the same as yesterday. The vast majority of smoke related ED presentations are discharged, with the following admitted over the past few days:

Today – 2

Yesterday – 6

Friday – 3

Thursday – 0

There are currently 56 people in the CH ED which is average for this time on a Sunday.

**The CHS HEOC is stood down as at 1800 today.** New rosters for the next 24 hours in place. The HEOC will be stood up again tomorrow at 0830 post divisions reps doing a walk around of their areas to enable Bernadette [CEO] to be fully briefed prior to staff info session at 0930. Handover of current issues and operations has been given to the AHHM/ exec on call and Hospital Commander.

Donna McKerlie – Canberra Hospital EMC

Rhian Blackwell (HEMU)

ACT Health Liaison Officer | ACT Emergency Coordination Centre

Ph: 02 6205 2384 | Email: [health1.ESA@act.gov.au](mailto:health1.ESA@act.gov.au)

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

---

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 10:02 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Kerryn (Health)  
**Cc:** Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health); PICC01  
**Subject:** DRAFT Comms and media approach – Mask availability announcement  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Communications and media approach – Mask availability announcement.docx

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Kerryn

*CC: Vanessa and Karen (Stewart-Moore)*

Please see attached some initial comms thinking for tomorrow's announcement on mask availability. Thought this would be good to get a head start on for tomorrow so you can have something to speak about at SEMSOG at 11.30am.

I will be available first thing tomorrow morning to support the development of health messaging for this announcement. Karen Warner is rostered on as the health representative in the PICC tomorrow.

Talk more tomorrow.

Cheers

Trace

**Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media**

Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au)

**Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate**

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

[health.act.gov.au](http://health.act.gov.au)



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Respect



Collaboration



Integrity



Innovation



## Communications and media approach – Mask availability announcement

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Following the announcement that the ACT Government has accepted an offer from the Commonwealth of a stock of P2 masks, further information on where these will be made available for vulnerable people is required.

See below a summary of the proposed announcement strategy and other supporting external communication requirements

### Announcement strategy

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*Press conference at 3.45am at ESA Headquarters with Chief Minister (CM), Emergency Controller (EC) and Chief Health Officer (CHO). Facebook live through ACT ESA Facebook page.*

This announcement option makes use of existing daily media briefing that has been positively received by the local press. The Facebook live videos have also been an effective way in ensuring the community is updated.

#### Further detail:

<b>Support for announcement (internal)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking points to be developed for CM and CHO</li> <li>• Auslan interpreter? (ESA to organise)</li> </ul>
<b>Media statements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Minister media release – CMO to draft</li> <li>• Message via ESA Spot app and on ACT ESA social media channels (to be shared by ACT Govt, ACT Health and CSD channels) – Health/PICC to draft</li> </ul>
<b>Follow-up media</b>	<p>Manage follow-up media requests individually through established PICC process.</p> <p>Additional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following press conference, Chief Health Officer to do ABC Canberra (Drive program) interview at 5pm.</li> <li>• RiotACT video on using P2 masks and general health advice.</li> </ul>

### Supporting external communications

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- Update to ACT Health 'Heavy smoke and hot conditions in the ACT' webpage
- Update to ACT ESA State of Alert webpage
- Video on use of P2 masks – how to fit and myth busting with Auslan interpreter. Talent – Chief Health Officer and model to demonstrate how to fit the mask.
- Access Canberra Contact Centre information – information to manage community enquiries

#### Communication resources:

- Health factsheet on P2 masks to be provided to the community with mask they receive
- Factsheet for service providers distributing the masks

## DRAFT Key messaging

- We know there is a lot of concern about the availability and use of P2 masks with the smoky conditions returning today.
- Our advice continues to be to stay indoors and out of the smoke as much as possible, closing windows and doors and not using evaporative cooling.
- We know for some in our community, it's not possible to avoid the smoke and they would feel more comfortable with access to a P2 mask.
- The ACT government has accepted an offer from the Commonwealth of a stock of P2 masks which will be made available for vulnerable people as air quality conditions require.
- The masks will be made available to people who are particularly sensitive to smoky conditions and those who are unable to avoid prolonged outdoor exposure.
- The masks will be made available through (INSERT details).
- ....
- ....
- ....
- Further information on P2 and N95 masks, and how to fit them properly, is on the ACT Health website.

## Risks/Sensitivities

Risk	Mitigation
Canberrans who are not vulnerable wanting to access them	Clear messaging on who the masks are available for with further clarification on who is more sensitive to smoke
...	...
...	...

**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** Cannon, Craig (Health) on behalf of ACT Health, HPSOps  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 January 2020 11:15 AM  
**To:** Behm, Claire (Health); Johnston, Vanessa (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: P2 Mask Issue to Directorates for ACTPS Staff  
**Attachments:** DG Briefing Note - P2 Masks Issue 5 Jan 2pm.pdf

UNCLASSIFIED

FYI

---

**From:** ECC-HealthLO1 <Health1.ESA@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 2:43 PM  
**To:** McKerlie, Donna (Health) <Donna.McKerlie@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** ACT Health, HPSOps <ACTHealthHPSOps@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: P2 Mask Issue to Directorates for ACTPS Staff

Hi Donna

For you advice please including CHS contact for masks.

Thanks  
 Kirstie

ACT Health Liaison Officer | ACT Emergency Coordination Centre  
 Ph: 02 6205 2384 | Email: [health1.ESA@act.gov.au](mailto:health1.ESA@act.gov.au)

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**From:** ECC Coordinator <[ECCCoordinator@act.gov.au](mailto:ECCCoordinator@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 2:40 PM  
**To:** TCCS1 <[TCCS1@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS1@act.gov.au)>; TCCS2 <[TCCS2@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS2@act.gov.au)>; ECC-CSDLO2 <[CSD2.ESA@act.gov.au](mailto:CSD2.ESA@act.gov.au)>; ECC-HealthLO1 <[Health1.ESA@act.gov.au](mailto:Health1.ESA@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: P2 Mask Issue to Directorates for ACTPS Staff

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**From:** Burkevics, Bren  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 2:10 PM  
**To:** Glenn, Richard <[Richard.Glenn@act.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Glenn@act.gov.au)>; Mitcherson, Bernadette <[Bernadette.Mitcherson@act.gov.au](mailto:Bernadette.Mitcherson@act.gov.au)>; Cross, Rebecca <[Rebecca.Cross@act.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Cross@act.gov.au)>; De'Ath, Michael (Health) <[Michael.De'Ath@act.gov.au](mailto:Michael.De'Ath@act.gov.au)>; Hall, Damon <[Damon.Hall@act.gov.au](mailto:Damon.Hall@act.gov.au)>; Ponton, Ben <[Ben.Ponton@act.gov.au](mailto:Ben.Ponton@act.gov.au)>; Leigh, Kathy <[Kathy.Leigh@act.gov.au](mailto:Kathy.Leigh@act.gov.au)>; Haire, Katy <[Katy.Haire@act.gov.au](mailto:Katy.Haire@act.gov.au)>; McDonald, Bernadette (Health) <[Bernadette.McDonald@act.gov.au](mailto:Bernadette.McDonald@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Doran, Karen <[Karen.Doran@act.gov.au](mailto:Karen.Doran@act.gov.au)>; ECC Coordinator <[ECCCoordinator@act.gov.au](mailto:ECCCoordinator@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** P2 Mask Issue to Directorates for ACTPS Staff

UNCLASSIFIED

**Directors-General, CEO**

As discussed at SEMSOG, please find attached a DG briefing note on the sourcing and issue of P2 masks to ACT Public Servants.

Stock levels will be monitored by ESA but are being managed based on the consumption rates of P2 masks per day (worst case) by Directorates as outlined below. Please contact me if these need to be adjusted.

Directorate / Agency	Approx Requirements per Day
ESA	500 – 500
JACS	ACT Corrective Services TBA
CHS	-
TCCS	500 – 600 (bus, library, Yarralumla Nursery, capital linen, cemeteries, domestic animal services, libraries)
EPSDD	Sufficient stocks for Parks and Cons Staff

Thank you.

Bren Burkevics | Executive Branch Manager

Phone 02 6207 8628 | Mobile [REDACTED] | Secure Phone [REDACTED]

Executive Assistance: Julie Butt, [julie.butt@act.gov.au](mailto:julie.butt@act.gov.au), (02) 620 50553

Security and Emergency Management Branch (SEMB) | Justice and Community Safety Directorate | ACT Government

Level 9, 12 Moore St Canberra City ACT | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

[www.justice.act.gov.au](http://www.justice.act.gov.au)




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**ISSUE: P2 MASK ISSUE TO ACT GOVERNMENT PUBLIC SERVANTS**


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- Note: This briefing note only applies to the issue of P2 masks to ACT Public Servants. It does not apply to members of the community/vulnerable people. Separate arrangements are being finalised for this circumstance.
- Directorates must follow their internal WHS procedures for the management of staff who may be exposed to poor air quality.
  - Levels of prolonged or heavy physical activity outdoors should be avoided so far as possible. Where this is not possible for operational reasons, shifts should be rotated regularly.
  - Staff who are sensitive to smoke, especially those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions, should take extra care by staying indoors and taking medication as prescribed by their doctor.
  - Evidence shows P2 masks do filter some smoke and are most commonly used in occupational settings where exposure to airborne particles occurs on a regular basis.
  - Where staff elect to use a mask, it is important to ensure the mask is fitted properly for it to be effective. For further information on how to fit P2 masks visit the Health website ([www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)).
- The Emergency Services Agency (ESA) Resource Centre (Amberley Avenue Fairbairn) is now maintaining stocks of P2 masks that are available for issue to Directorates on the following conditions:
  - Directorates should initially draw down on their own stocks of P2 masks before seeking additional masks from ESA, including the use of existing procurement contracts.
  - Once exhausted, Directorates should source P2 masks from ESA who are coordinating a whole of government approach to the supply of masks.
  - Directors-General must nominate one or more executives to coordinate and approve an order for P2 masks to ESA.
  - Orders for P2 masks from directorates must be consistent with the expected daily consumption rate. It is recommended that directorates place orders that will sustain 2-3 days of mask requirements.

- Orders for P2 masks must be placed in writing (email) to:

**Jason Jones** | Executive Branch Manager, Communication Centre Reform

Phone p 02 62078437 m [REDACTED] | Email : [jason.jones@act.gov.au](mailto:jason.jones@act.gov.au)

**ACT Emergency Services Agency** | Justice & Community Safety Directorate

17 Amberley Avenue, Fairbairn Business Park Majura ACT 2609 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

- Please contact Mr Jones to confirm that the directorate is lodging an order.
- Directorates will be required to sign the receipt of orders.

- The Directorate coordinators/approving officers are as follows:

Directorate	Coordinating/Approving Executive
Canberra Health Services	
CMTEDD	
EDU	
EPSDD	
Health	
Major Project Canberra	
TCCS	Ben McHugh Executive Group Manager City Services
CSD	
JACS	Jon Peach Executive Group Manager Corrective Services

- Please contact EBM SEMB Bren Burkevics to add officers to the Coordinating/Approving Executive list.

## **P2 MASKS ARRANGEMENT FOR ACT COMMUNITY / VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

- Under development – Deputy Director-General Karen Doran.

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**Cleared by:** Karen Doran, Deputy Director-General Community Safety, JACS.

**Consultation:** Chief Health Officer, EBM Jason Jones.

**Action Officer:** Bren Burkevics, Executive Branch Manager, JACS SEMB.

**TRIM:**

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**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** McDonald, Bernadette (Health)  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 January 2020 11:25 AM  
**To:** PICC01; De'Ath, Michael (Health)  
**Cc:** Doran, Karen; Glenn, Richard; Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Canberra Health Services Communications; PICC02; Leigh, Kathy  
**Subject:** RE: PICC actions re calls to CHS

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks for the update. Have we considered providing an information line for people to call who rather than the hospital? Would this be useful when we decide on how masks will be distributed?

Bernadette

---

**From:** PICC01 <PICC01@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 January 2020 10:13 AM  
**To:** De'Ath, Michael (Health) <Michael.De'Ath@act.gov.au>; McDonald, Bernadette (Health) <Bernadette.McDonald@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Doran, Karen <Karen.Doran@act.gov.au>; Glenn, Richard <Richard.Glenn@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>; Canberra Health Services Communications <CHScomms@act.gov.au>; PICC02 <PICC02@act.gov.au>; Leigh, Kathy <Kathy.Leigh@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** PICC actions re calls to CHS

Dear Michael and Bernadette

As flagged on DG hook-up this morning, I just wanted to let you both know a message is about to be issued via ESA channels re calls to hospital as per below.

It's been approved by DDG Karen Doran and Emergency Controller Georgeina Whelan. Consultation occurred with CHO.

**P2 Mask Update**

We understand that many Canberrans are calling The Canberra Hospital and Walk-in-Centres seeking advice on where they can get P2/N95 masks.

Work is continuing on how the masks will be made available to the more vulnerable people in our community who are particularly sensitive to smoky conditions and those who are unable to avoid prolonged outdoor exposure. We will provide an update as soon as possible.

We understand that stock continues to be limited at hardware suppliers and/or chemists.

Our advice to the community remains that the best way to avoid exposure to the smoke is by staying indoors (with windows and doors closed).

For those choosing to wear P2 and N95 masks, advice on how to fit them properly is available from ACT Health at: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/.../heavy-smoke-and-extreme-hea...>

---

**We have also provided dot points via CHS comms to the hospital switchboard**

**CHS callers script – P2 masks**

**Our consistent advice to the community is:**

That the best way to avoid exposure to the smoke is by staying indoors (with windows and doors closed).

Tips on minimising smoke in the home is available on the ESA website – [www.esa.act.gov.au](http://www.esa.act.gov.au)

**Mask dissemination:**

Work is continuing on how the masks will be made available **to the more vulnerable people in our community** who are particularly sensitive to smoky conditions and those who are unable to avoid prolonged outdoor exposure. An update on this will be provided on the ESA website, ACT Health website and through media when available.

**General community:**

We are aware there is still limited supply in chemists and hardware stores, these are the best suppliers for the general community.

For those choosing to wear P2 and N95 masks, advice on how to fit them properly is available from ACT Health at: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/.../heavy-smoke-and-extreme-hea...>

**Where can I get more information about masks in general then?**

Best to go to the ESA website – [www.esa.gov.au](http://www.esa.gov.au), follow ESA on social media including Facebook and Twitter

I will do my best to keep you both updated on any comms. It may be by text at times.

Kind regards  
Karen Stewart-Moore  
PIC



**Pond, Aleks (Health)**

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**From:** Vane, Tony (Health)  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 January 2020 11:33 AM  
**To:** Mills, David (Health); Clarke, Hannah (Health); Drinkwater, Jason (Health); Froehlich, Markus (Health); Groeschel, Kate (Health); Huet, Jodie (Health); Jeevaranjan, Priya (Health); Brown, KellyM (Health); George, Jacinta (Health); Barr, Conrad (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: CMTEDD Quick Reference Guide: Daily Outdoor Air Quality Risk Assessment  
**Attachments:** QRG\_ Daily Outdoor Air Qual Risk Assessment\_Rev0.docx; B2A3\_4\_ToolMultipleHazardRiskAssessment (1).doc

**Importance:** High

UNCLASSIFIED Sensitive

Dear safety stakeholders

I have attached the relevant CMTEDD risk assessment templates, which are designed to assist with the management of the smoke exposure risk.

We should be continuing to follow the advice provided in the D-Gs e-mail of 20 December and the Outdoor Smoke Health Impacts Factsheet, in particular about managing the risk to vulnerable workers.

While we do have staff who do outdoor work, most of this work is by vehicle and involves limited time outdoors. I would recommend reminding staff to set the vehicle ventilation to recycling, if they have not already done so.

If staff have access to P2- N95 respirators, they can be worn outdoors as a personal choice. The supplier's instructions about correct fitting should be followed. The respirators should be discarded when they become wet (through respiration).

If you have any questions please give me a call or e-mail.

Regards

Tony

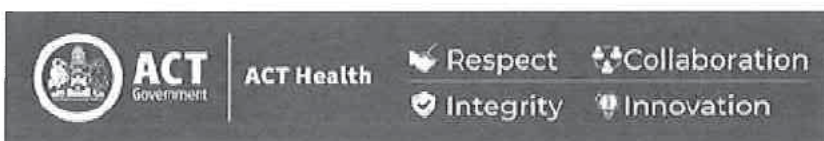
**Tony Vane | Assistant Director, Work Health and Safety**

Ph: 02 51249629 | Email: [tony.vane@act.gov.au](mailto:tony.vane@act.gov.au)

**People Strategy, Corporate and Governance | ACT Health Directorate**

Level 4, 2-6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

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**From:** Parton, Rebecca <Rebecca.Parton@act.gov.au>

**Sent:** Monday, 6 January 2020 10:43 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]  
 Caulfield, Michelle <Michelle.Caulfield@act.gov.au>; Dunn, Katie <Katie.Dunn@act.gov.au>; Flett, Kim <Kim.Flett@act.gov.au>; Geoghegan, Tim <Tim.Geoghegan@act.gov.au>; Guthrie, Daniel (Health) <Daniel.Guthrie@act.gov.au>; Higginbotham, Raphaela <Raphaela.Higginbotham@act.gov.au>; Kaye, Frances (Health) <Frances.Kaye@act.gov.au>; Martin, Rory <Rory.Martin@act.gov.au>; Mercieca Lima, Peta (Health) <Peta.MerciecaLima@act.gov.au>; Nolan, Julie (Health) <Julie.Nolan@act.gov.au>; Smith, Bec <Bec.Smith@act.gov.au>; Vane, Tony (Health) <Tony.Vane@act.gov.au>; [REDACTED]; Wickens, Anthony <Anthony.Wickens@act.gov.au>

**Cc:** Chesterfield, Bradley <Bradley.Chesterfield@act.gov.au>; Brooks, Cherie <Cherie.Brooks@act.gov.au>; Selfe, Sophie <Sophie.Selfe@act.gov.au>; Day, Amanda <Amanda.Day@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** CMTEDD Quick Reference Guide: Daily Outdoor Air Quality Risk Assessment

**Importance:** High

UNCLASSIFIED Sensitive

Hi All

Due to current environmental conditions, the CMTEDD team have developed a Quick Reference Guide (QRG) has been developed to assist with risk assessment of outdoor work activities in relation to air quality.

The intent of the QRG is to provide work groups within CMTEDD with a guidance framework to be able to risk assess and build on via the identification of real time hazard identification and mitigation controls daily, prior to commencing and for referencing during outdoor work activities.

The QRG is designed to provide guidance to existing tools within the ACT framework for reference, specifically the ACT Health advice table for smoky air and the Multiple Hazard Risk Assessment tool located within the ACTPS WHSMS framework of procedures, templates and tools.

CMTEDD are sharing these guides for your information and to assist in developing guides for your areas if you don't currently have information in place. Brad is more than willing to assist if people have any questions about this guide.

CMTEDD are also currently developing some information about determining what are essential services. Whilst this is peculiar to individual areas, this information may also be useful to you and we will share it once it is developed.

If other areas have information to share, please share with the group.

As this is an unprecedented amount of smoke impacting our environment, and will likely continue for some time, we will be looking at what WHOG approaches need to be developed / put in place. Please let me know if you have any thoughts about this.

In the short term - please don't hesitate to contact me or the team if you have any questions - we won't have all the answers but can hopefully assist in connecting you with the right people to assist.

Kind regards

Rebecca

**Rebecca Parton | Senior Director**

02 6205 9482 | [rebecca.parton@act.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.parton@act.gov.au)

**Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations**

**Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government**



## Quick Reference Guide (QRG)

### Daily Outdoor Air Quality Risk Assessment

Below is the proposed guidance framework to identify, mitigate and risk assess in conjunction with workers the hazard exposure associated with poor air quality and impacts inclusive of working in heat prior to commencing outdoor work activities.

**Guidance note:** Persons at potential risk due to poor air quality and working in heat include but are not limited to:

- People prone to respiratory conditions inclusive of eye and respiratory tract irritation to disorders such as breathing problems, bronchitis, increased severity of asthma
- pre-existing cardiovascular conditions
- pre-existing heart and lung problems
- People over 65, children 14 years and younger, pregnant women

Risk Assessment Guideline:

1. **(a) Identify the outdoor air quality level (PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration) from the nearest air quality station (Monash, Florey or Civic) and compare with the relevant ACT Health advisory categories for smoky air**  
<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air-0>  
**(b) Review the daily temperature forecast via BOM site** <http://www.bom.gov.au/act/forecasts/canberra.shtml>

Once air quality level has been established, temperature, wind and weather conditions identified:

2. **Complete the attached Multiple Hazard Risk Assessment tool daily in conjunction with the workgroup, consideration to be given to the following components:**
  - **Hazard identification**
    - Type of outdoor work activity (*essential/critical/non-essential etc.*)
    - Nature of outdoor work activity (*strenuous, low physical impact i.e. passive etc.*)
    - Hazard/s associated with specific outdoor work activity (*air quality, working in heat etc.*)
  - **Dose-response assessment**
    - Temperature forecast – working in heat controls to capture heightened risk of heat stress/stroke
    - Air quality - PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration to guide mitigation controls inclusive of levels of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as respiratory, eye etc.
    - Age (over 65) and health status of the outdoor work group (pre-existing health issues – respiratory, heart, lung, asthmatic, cardiovascular disease, pregnancy etc.)
  - **Exposure assessment**
    - time/duration of exposure (to be based on the above identified “type, nature, hazard/s” specific to the work activity)
  - **Risk estimation and characterisation**  
If the work is not essential then consider re-scheduling or postponing (i.e. eliminate the risk). If the work/activity is essential and must proceed, be specific and clarify identified controls required:
    - Specific type and level of identified Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
    - Defined heat/air quality exposure duration/s (time in field), job rotation timeframes etc.
    - Ongoing air quality monitoring plan for duration of work (*i.e. monitor and check website hourly*)
    - Specific controls (where identified) for scheduled activity breaks for workers, availability of rest areas, access to cool fresh water, increased First Aid, Medical equipment or resources and/or arrangements in addition to existing Emergency Management Plans
    - Protocols to cover further deterioration of conditions or introduction of new hazards (*dust, fire, low visibility, increase in wind etc.*) including monitoring methodology and supervision, review and communication with affected workers
    - Worker self-management protocols (*i.e. agreed processes for workers to cease work if uncomfortable or at onset of adverse symptoms*)
  - **Factor in uncertainty**
    - Alternative agreed work arrangements
    - Ensure work group give due consideration to any/all potential new hazards that can foreseeably be introduced from deteriorating or changing conditions impacted by heat and/or air quality.

ACT Health uses a system of seven health advisory categories for smoky air. The categories are based on the 24-hour rolling average concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the air. Each category has cautionary health advice that suggests practical ways to reduce exposure to smoke.

### Smoky air (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) health advisory categories

Air quality categories	PM <sub>2.5</sub> (24 hour) µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Potential health effects without following advice or actions	Cautionary health advice/actions**
Good	0-8.9	N/A – Below the relevant air quality standard	None
Meets air quality standard	9-25.9	N/A – Meets the relevant air quality standard	No tailored advice necessary
Unhealthy for sensitive groups	26-39.9	Symptoms may occur in sensitive groups	<b>Sensitive groups<sup>#</sup> should <u>reduce</u> prolonged or heavy physical activity. Where possible, these people in the community should also limit the time spent outdoors</b> Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan. Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical attention
Unhealthy for all	40-106.9	Increased likelihood of effects for sensitive groups Symptoms may occur in the general population	<b>Everyone should <u>reduce</u> prolonged or heavy physical activity</b> <b>Sensitive groups<sup>#</sup> should <u>avoid</u> prolonged or heavy physical activity altogether</b> Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan. Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical attention
Very unhealthy for all	107-177.9	Significant likelihood of effects for sensitive groups Symptoms among general population common	<b>Everyone should <u>avoid</u> prolonged or heavy physical activity</b> <b>Sensitive groups<sup>#</sup> should <u>avoid</u> all physical activity outdoors</b> Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan. Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek medical attention
Hazardous high	>177.9	Serious likelihood of effects for sensitive groups Symptoms among general population very common	<b>Everyone should <u>avoid</u> all physical activity outdoors</b> <b>Sensitive groups<sup>#</sup> should <u>temporarily relocate</u> to a friend or relative living outside the affected area. If this is not possible, <u>remain indoors and keep activity levels as low as possible</u></b> Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan. Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek medical attention Anyone experiencing symptoms which may be due to smoke exposure should consider taking a break away from the smoky conditions
Hazardous extreme	> 250	Serious likelihood of effects for sensitive groups Symptoms among general population very common	Cautionary health advice and actions are the same as for Hazardous high above

#People over 65, children 14 years and younger, pregnant women and those with existing heart or lung conditions.

Page last updated on: 20 Dec 2019



# Risk Management and Implementation

## Multiple Hazard Risk Assessment

<b>Agency/business unit:</b>		<b>Manager/supervisor:</b>	
<b>Employee representative/s</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Job description:</b>			

Identified hazard (Ref. No. from JSA)  (Examples can be found in the <a href="#">Hazard Identification Table</a> )	Risk factor(s) What can happen and how it can happen?  (Examples can be found in the <a href="#">Hazard Identification Table</a> )	Current controls used to reduce risks	RR with current controls in place			Accept risk with current controls in place? Yes/No	If No: Proposed control(s) to reduce risk	RR with new controls in place		
			C	L	RR			C	L	RR
1.										
2.										
3.										
4.										
5.										

**Note:** High and extreme risks must be reported to senior management. All risks are to be placed on the [WHS Risk Register](#).

**Instructions**

1. Complete a new line, in the above table, for each identified hazard and conduct a risk assessment (RA).
2. Use the risk matrix below to risk rate (RR) the level of risk posed by each hazard for the following scenarios, uncontrolled (i.e. the risk the hazard presents without any controls), controlled (i.e. the risk the current controls reduce the risk level to), proposed (i.e. for unacceptable risk, the risk the proposed new control will reduce the risk level to).
3. For each scenario, indicate whether the controlled risk is Acceptable/Not acceptable.