

Preparing for the 2009-10 summer season—clients and services

The Department of Human Services and the Department of Health are preparing for potential emergency situations in the next summer season. These may occur as a result of bushfires and/or extreme weather events.

Both departments are keen to work closely with our partners in the community sector to prepare for the next fire season and potential impacts on our services, clients and staff.

Emergency preparedness is important for all our services and clients, but particularly for those who are most vulnerable, including children, older people, and people with a disability.

There is increased attention being focused on emergency preparedness for the forthcoming summer months. There are predictions of high temperatures and fire risk potential in Victoria.

There are 52 areas in Victoria that have been specifically identified as high risk for bushfires, but other areas may be equally affected. This means that all organisations need to be prepared.

It will be particularly important to be prepared well in advance when days with a fire danger rating of 'catastrophic/code red' are forecast, but your bushfire preparedness planning should cover the whole fire season.

In preparing advice and resource materials for our own services and sector organisations, both departments are considering carefully the nature of the facilities, the clients and the services provided, and the links to broader state-wide and local emergency planning arrangements.

Specific materials are being prepared for each service type and client group, to feed into emergency planning being undertaken at a regional, municipal and individual organisational level.

- Some information, prepared for residential aged care providers, HACC providers, community disability service providers and people with a disability, is included in this kit. More materials relating to these services and clients will be provided in coming weeks.
- Materials will also be available in coming weeks relating to public and community housing, homelessness support services, out of home care services for children and young people, youth justice custodial facilities, mental health and drug services, community health services and hospitals.

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format please email preparedness@dhs.vic.gov.au

This document is also available in pdf format at www.health.vic.gov.au/bushfire