

Media Release

29 March 2018 | Media contact: Hannah Porter | 0429 035 417

Easter planned burning program

This Easter long weekend, weather conditions in the Far South West, Otway, Latrobe, Snowy, Tambo, Midlands, Wimmera, Goulburn, Murrindindi, Upper Murray, Mallee, Metropolitan and Yarra districts are favourable for Forest Fire Management Victoria to conduct planned burning.

Forest Fire Management Victoria Chief Fire Officer Darrin McKenzie said “Forest Fire Management Victoria must take advantage of every safe opportunity to conduct planned burns to reduce bushfire risk for the community. These opportunities can occur during school holidays, public holidays and weekends, such as during this Easter period.

“Over the Easter long weekend, you may see and smell smoke from planned burns, and some roads and parks may close.

“We will be working closely with the Bureau of Meteorology to assess weather conditions, such as humidity, temperature and wind speed, and will only carry out burns when the conditions are suitable.

“Some parks, forests and roads may temporarily close because of planned burning – if you’re travelling this long weekend, find out where and when planned burning is being undertaken so your trip isn’t affected.

“Be sure to check traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au for road closure information before you head off.

“We understand that smoke from planned burns may cause concern for some people, but it’s important we take every opportunity while conditions are right to reduce bushfire risk.

“We aim to reduce the impact of smoke on communities from planned burning and continue to invest in new technologies and systems to help us better understand the dispersion of smoke.”

If you are experiencing any symptoms that may be due to smoke exposure, the Department of Health and Human Services advises people to seek medical advice or call Nurse-on-Call on 1300 60 60 24.

For the latest information about when planned burns are happening near you go to www.ffm.vic.gov.au/plannedburn, download the VicEmergency app or call the VicEmergency hotline on 1800 226 226.