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## Smoke

Smoke may cause concern and inconvenience. It may also affect some people's health. People with asthma and other respiratory or heart conditions, older people and young children, are particularly at risk.

### In areas where smoke may affect you

Plan ahead to protect your health – be prepared for smoke:

- keep checking when and where planned burns are expected to happen in your region
- if you have a health condition, follow the treatment plan provided by your doctor
- if you are asthmatic, follow your asthma plan and carry reliever medication with you.

Burning plans can change at very short notice because of the weather.

### During smoky conditions

First check whether the cause of smoke is a bushfire or planned burn:

- check [planned burns now and next 10 days](#), and [warnings, bushfires and incidents](#)
- call the [Victorian Bushfire Information Line](#)
- follow any relevant advice messages.

To reduce the effects of smoke:

- avoid physical activity
- stay indoors
- close windows and doors
- switch your air conditioner to recycle or recirculate.

If you experience symptoms that may come from smoke, seek medical advice or call [NURSE-ON-CALL](#). Also see:

- the Department of Health – [bushfire smoke and your health](#)
- the Department of Health – [planned burns](#)
- the Asthma Foundation – [bushfires, planned burns and asthma](#)
- the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) – [bushfires and air quality](#).

### More about smoke

Smoke stays around:

- a few days – after a planned burn
- up to two weeks – if many planned burns across the state.


Planned burns create smoke:

- at any time of the year – whenever the weather and other conditions for planned burning are right
- mostly in autumn – when burning conditions tend to be most suitable, and smoke tends to stay around.

Smoke comes from:

- local councils – the CFA burns on council land and roadsides to reduce fuel and control pest plants
- farmers – they burn stubble in autumn, and reduce fuels in spring
- plantation companies – they burn leftover woody material after timber harvesting or before re-planting.
- rail, water and other authorities – they arrange burns along railway lines and other land.
- **interstate** – from New South Wales, South Australia or **even Tasmania.**

DEPI and the Bureau of Meteorology have developed a smoke forecasting service to help reduce the impact of smoke on nearby communities, where possible.

The health information on this webpage is also available as a [leaflet](#)  [PDF File - 46.6 KB].

For information about DEPI, Phone: [136 186](tel:136186)

Deaf, or hearing or speech impaired?

National Relay Service: [133 677](tel:133677)

or [www.relayservice.com.au](http://www.relayservice.com.au)

Victorian Bushfire Information Line: 1800 240 667

Following the State Election held on 29 November 2014, there has been a change of Government. The website will be updated accordingly.

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