

# Community information

## After the fires



After the fire threat posed by the Wodonga West fires in December last year, and in the face of a long, hot fire season, Wodonga Council would like to make residents aware of services available to them after an emergency situation.

### Emergency assistance

The Department of Human Services has recovery information on its website at

[dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency](http://dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency) or contact the State Recovery Hotline on 1300 799 323.

Community members may contact the council's emergency management team on (02) 6022 9300 for information on service providers able to support people affected by the fire.

### Concerns over health emotional well-being

- Department of Human Services offers a range of support services including personal, emotional, psychological and financial help. For information go to [dhs.vic.gov.au](http://dhs.vic.gov.au)
- People who are seeking emotional support can contact the Victorian Council of Churches Emergency Ministries on (03) 9650 4511, or Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636, Lifeline on 131 114 or MensLine on 1300 789 978.
- The Red Cross has online support available at [redcross.org.au](http://redcross.org.au)
- Nurse-on-Call on 1300 60 60 24 (this is a phone service that allows you to discuss any health related issue with a registered nurse, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the cost of a local call from anywhere in Victoria).
- Bushfire smoke can reduce air quality in rural and urban areas and may affect people's health. Bushfire smoke is a mixture of different-sized particles, water vapour and gases, including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides. For more information go here [health.vic.gov.au/environment/bushfires-smoke.htm](http://health.vic.gov.au/environment/bushfires-smoke.htm)

### Concerns over property

Further information about rainwater tank quality and septic tank systems following a fire can be found at [betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au) or call the council's environmental health team on (02) 6022 9300.

For fencing repair and replacement, please contact your insurance provider in the first instance to establish what your policy covers. Blaze Aid and local service groups can help co-ordinate assistance for fence replacement works. Please contact the council for more information.

### How can I stay informed?

Make sure you are connected to all emergency information sources:

- Tune in to ABC local radio (106.5FM), commercial and designated radio stations or Sky News TV.
- Download the revamped FireReady App – allow push notifications for warnings, Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans
- Add [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) to your favourites list on your internet browser
- Enter the Victorian Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667 into your phone contacts.
- Connect with the CFA Twitter and Facebook accounts.

The council has many communication channels available.

- [wodonga.vic.gov.au](http://wodonga.vic.gov.au)
- [facebook.com/wodongacouncil](https://www.facebook.com/wodongacouncil)
- [twitter.com/wodongacouncil](https://twitter.com/wodongacouncil)
- [bit.ly/wodenews](http://bit.ly/wodenews)

### Fire and weather information

To keep abreast of any fire situation and changing weather conditions people should have a current fire plan and should visit [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au), call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667, or follow @CFA\_updates on Twitter for more information.