



Women's Health Victoria

# Women's Health Information Package

Victorian bushfires—disaster situations

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Written and compiled by Karolyne Quinn

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# Victorian bushfires—disaster situations

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Published by Women's Health Victoria  
Level 1, 123 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000, Australia  
(GPO Box 1160 Melbourne VIC 3001)  
Telephone: 03 9662 3755  
Facsimile 03 9663 7955  
Email [whv@whv.org.au](mailto:whv@whv.org.au)  
URL: <http://www.whv.org.au>

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## 1. FOREWORD

The idea for this document came from the Women's Health Association of Victoria (WHAV), which met on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009 to discuss the impact of the Victorian bushfires. The meeting was attended by women's health representatives from across the state and discussion was led by Linda Beilharz, the Executive Officer Women's Health Loddon Mallee. Linda shared her experience of disaster management and knowledge of emergency management resources, which provided the foundations for this document's format.

*Victorian bushfires—disaster situations* is an evolving resource. Information that has not been included in this first production and new and relevant information will be added as it comes to light. Given this, suggestions for material for inclusion are most welcome.

While it is not an all encompassing document, it is hoped that *Victorian bushfires—disaster situations* will assist in the initial and ongoing stages of recovery for those affected by the bushfires.

The document makes access to the information easy in order to assist individuals and services to build their own capacity and knowledge.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive approach to emergency management comprises: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. This document is largely a recovery document although it does provide some prevention resources, primarily under section six on women and gender inequality in disaster.

Emergency Management Australia<sup>1</sup> refers to recovery as 'the coordinated process of supporting disaster affected communities in the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical well-being'.

The document is divided into two recovery areas: Recovery and Reconstruction. Each of these sections has resources for individuals and communities. Resources for individuals under Recovery include emergency relief services and psychological and emotional support services. The Community category under Recovery includes information about how to donate and volunteer, who to contact regarding injured wildlife and stock, and resources for psychological services from the Emergency Management Australia website.

Under the Individual category for Reconstruction there is information about how to maintain personal safety when returning to properties and resources to assist landholders. Within the Community category there are prevention resources.

*Victorian bushfires—disaster situations* also contains a section specific to gender and disaster. Research shows that gender inequalities exist in disaster and emergency situations. Elaine Enarson, author of the book *The gendered terrain of disaster*, states that gender inequalities more than gender differences explain the disproportionate impacts of disasters on girls and women<sup>2</sup>. While there are significant differences between women in different social locations, women as a whole are more likely than men at the time of an extreme environmental event to:

- live below the poverty line
- rely upon state supported social services
- lack savings, credit, insurance

- lack inheritance rights, land rights, control
- be unemployed or work in the informal economy
- be self-employed, home-based, contingent workers
- reside alone, be rearing children alone
- depend on functioning caregiving systems
- depend on public transportation, travel with dependents
- reside in public housing, mobile homes, rental housing, informal settlements
- live at risk of assault and abuse, be displaced into domestic violence shelters
- be responsible for others (family, kin, neighbors) as paid and unpaid caregivers
- physically depend on others due to late pregnancy, recent childbirth, age, chronic illness
- be living with disabilities, chronic illness
- be subject to gender norms controlling mobility and use of public space
- be subject to male authority in the household regarding use of emergency assistance assets and key decisions about evacuation and relocation<sup>2</sup>.

This document provides resources on gender research as it applies to disasters and it also supplies resources and links to web pages for disaster prevention information that focuses on gender. The inclusion of this information is aimed at raising awareness about inequality and the gendered nature of disaster experience. It is hoped that this information will help to facilitate equality in the recovery and reconstruction process, and that it may be used and built upon for future learning and emergency management purposes.

The final section in *Victorian bushfires—disaster situations* is a list of relevant telephone numbers that may be useful for individuals in the immediate or longer-term recovery stage.

For comments and contributions please contact:

Marilyn Beaumont Executive Officer  
 Women's Health Victoria  
 Level 1, 123 Lonsdale Street  
 Melbourne Victoria 3000, Australia  
 (GPO Box 1160 Melbourne VIC 3001)  
 Telephone: 03 9662 3755  
 Facsimile 03 9663 7955  
 Email [whv@whv.org.au](mailto:whv@whv.org.au)

## **2. RECOVERY: Individuals**

### **2.1 GENERAL RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS**

#### **2.1.1 Emergency relief centres**

*Department of Human Services (Vic)—Emergency Management Branch (2009)*

Webpage available at:

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency/current-events/bushfire/recovery-centres>

This webpage provides details for all the emergency relief centres operating across Victoria for the bushfires. The relief or recovery centres provide emergency services and support information, including financial and housing services. Vic Roads have staff there offering advice on licensing. It was current as at 18 February 2009.

#### **2.1.2 Fire information services**

*Department of Sustainability and Environment*

Webpage available at:

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/DSE/nrenfoe.nsf/childdocs/5D409B0BFBBAD5BCA256DA600074990-B47776EEA328513CCA2573B400027E3B?open>

This webpage provides a range of links to information about radio updates, relief centres, bushfire survival plan, air quality, fire on private land, road and park closures, school closures, fire bans and health issues and advice.

#### **2.1.3 Finding friends and family**

*Department of Sustainability and Environment*

Webpage available at:

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/DSE/nrenfoe.nsf/LinkView/7297A2BFFCDF77ACCA257550008167D0C5537DFA0E26D9F7CA2573B40002AF9B>

This website provides Australian Red Cross numbers for national and international callers trying to locate friends and family affected by the bushfires.

#### **2.1.4 First Aid**

*St Johns Ambulance*

Webpage available at:

[http://www.stjohn.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=22&Itemid=34](http://www.stjohn.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22&Itemid=34)

This website provides fact sheets for basic first aid procedures.

#### **2.1.5 Emergency financial assistance**

*Department of Human Services (Vic)—Emergency Management Branch (2009)*

Webpage available at:

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency/current-events/bushfire/financial-assistance>

This webpage provides information for individuals and families about state and federal Government financial assistance that may be available to them. Among others, it includes the:

- Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment
- Bereavement Payments and Bereavement Allowance
- Centrelink Crisis Payment
- Emergency Grants for immediate and urgent need
- Home Dislocation Payment
- Temporary Living Expenses Grants among others.

It includes details about assistance with replacing documents such as birth and marriage certificates and drivers license. It also has information about legal assistance.

### **2.1.6 Public transport assistance**

*Department of Human Services (Vic)—Emergency Management Branch (2009)*

Webpage available at:

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency/current-events/bushfire/additional-assistance>

This website provides information on free public transport for individuals affected by the bushfires who are in receipt of one of the following Government grants:

- Emergency grant
- Temporary living grant
- Re-establishment grant

### **2.1.7 Financial assistance for transport accidents during bushfires**

*Transport Accident Commission*

Webpage available at:

<http://www.tac.vic.gov.au/jsp/corporate/homepage/home.jsp>

This webpage provides information on assistance with medical costs for those persons who were involved in a transport accident during the bushfires or compensation for lost a family member in a transport accident during this time.

### **2.1.8 Power outage information**

*Department of Primary Industries*

Webpage available at:

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/dpinenergy.nsf/LinkView/5498567EED4423A7CA2572B200023B8F844E6406280EB3D5CA25729D00101732>

This webpage provides information about power outage, emergency numbers and it contains a link to the resources: [Energy safety after fire and flood](#) and [Energy safety after bushfire](#).

### **2.1.9 Transmitter and frequency guide for Victoria**

*ABC reception advice website*

Webpage available at:

<http://www.abc.net.au/reception/freq/vic.htm>

This is a downloadable resource giving all the AM and FM transistor radio stations for the ABC.

### **2.1.10 Information about current fires and warnings**

*The Department of Sustainability and Environment*

Webpage located at:

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/DSE/nrenfoe.nsf/childdocs/05D409B0BFBBAD5BCA256DA600074990-DC25C965BDA0CAF5CA2573B400013504?open>

This webpage provides information about fire updates, maps of areas affected by fire, a statewide situation fire map and details about fire restrictions, health and safety and recovery from bushfires.

## **2.2 RESOURCES FOR COPING—General**

### **2.2.1 LifeLine**

Web page available at:

[http://www.lifeline.org.au/find\\_help/community\\_disaster\\_recovery](http://www.lifeline.org.au/find_help/community_disaster_recovery)

Lifeline offers 24 hour emotional support on telephone number 13 11 14. This webpage provides details about that support, about tips for dealing with trauma and a resource for helping children to cope with the bushfires.

### **2.2.2 Nurse-on-call**

*Department of Human Services*

Website available at:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nurseoncall/>

The NURSE-ON-CALL Bushfire Health and Counselling Line provides 24-hour support and counselling to anyone either directly, or indirectly, affected. This includes emergency workers, volunteers and service providers. Interpreters are available.

Toll Free - 1300 606 024

### **2.2.3 Coping with loss and grief**

*Department of Human Services (Vic)—Emergency Management Branch (2009)*

Webpage available at:

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency/current-events/bushfire/coping-with-grief-and-loss>

This webpage provides links to fact sheets hosted by the *Better Health Channel* website related to grief support services, different types of grief and funerals.

### **2.2.4 Emotional Support**

*Department of Human Services (Vic)—Emergency Management Branch (2009)*

Webpage available at:

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency/current-events/bushfire/emotional-assistance>

This webpage offers information about telephone counselling services and provides a range of fact sheets on topics including *Stress after emergencies*, *Family and crisis*, *Teenagers and children and crisis*, *a guide to responding to the media*.

### **2.2.5 WIRE—Women’s Information Service**

Website available at:

<http://www.wire.org.au/index.php>

WIRE services include a phone support service, a walk-in centre, and a comprehensive, searchable website for women. Ph 1300 134 130, 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday

## **2.3 RESOURCES FOR COPING—Children and Adolescents**

### **2.3.1 Kids Helpline**

Web page available at:

[http://www.kidshelp.com.au/home\\_KHL.aspx?s=6](http://www.kidshelp.com.au/home_KHL.aspx?s=6)

This is a free, confidential and anonymous, telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 25. Phone 1800 551 800

### **2.3.2 Headspace—National youth mental health foundation**

Web page available at:

<http://www.headspace.org.au/>

This website provides information about where to get support for young people, events and stories.

### **2.3.3 Helping children and adolescents cope with violence and disasters**

*National Institute of Mental Health*

Full text available at:

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/helping-children-and-adolescents-cope-with-violence-and-disasters-what-parents-can-do/helping-children-and-adolescents-cope-with-violence-and-disasters-what-parents-can-do.pdf>

This text discusses what trauma is, what reactions to trauma children might have and how parents can help their children in such situations. It covers ages from under five up to age seventeen.

### **2.3.4 Young adult health**

*Children, Youth and Women’s Health Service*

Website available at:

<http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetails.aspx?p=240&np=298&id=2065>

This website provides information about feelings to expect after a tragedy, coping with those feelings and it has a variety of resources about this.

## **2.4 RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

### **2.4.1 Bushfire information for the hearing impaired**

*Country Fire Association (CFA)*

Website available at:

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/incidents/vbil.htm>

This website provides information for callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech or communication impairment. It gives details for using TTY services and other website information.

### **2.4.2 Disability advocacy agencies**

*Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU)*

Full text available at:

[http://www.daru.org.au/news/detail.chtml?filename\\_num=261513](http://www.daru.org.au/news/detail.chtml?filename_num=261513)

This is a list of all disability advocacy agencies and their contact details.

## **2.5 LANGUAGE (NON-ENGLISH) RESOURCES & INTERPRETER SERVICES**

### **2.5.1 Country Fire Authority (CFA)**

Website available at:

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/>

This website has publications available in many languages. They are scrolling along the bottom of the website. Just click on the appropriate language and the link will lead to available resources.

### **2.5.2 Nurse-on-call**

*Department of Human Services*

Website available at:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/nurseoncall/>

The NURSE-ON-CALL Bushfire Health and Counselling Line provides 24-hour support and counselling to anyone either directly, or indirectly, affected. This includes emergency workers, volunteers and service providers. Interpreters are available.

Toll Free - 1300 606 024

### **2.5.3 Suicide Line**

Website available at:

<http://www.suicideline.org.au>

This is a 24 hour telephone service offering crisis intervention, counselling and support, as well as information and referrals to services across Victoria. Interpreters can be arranged for non-English speaking callers. Local call cost, phone - 1300 651 251.

#### **2.5.4 Bushfire smoke and your health**

*Department of Human Services (Vic): Environmental Health (2009)*

Full text available at:

[http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency\\_mgmt/bushfire\\_smoke.htm#download](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency_mgmt/bushfire_smoke.htm#download)

This downloadable fact sheet provides describes what bushfire smoke is, the risks to health, dangers of wearing facemasks and health precaution information. It is available in 15 languages.

#### **2.5.5 Food safety and power failure**

*Department of Human Services (Vic): Environmental Health (2009)*

Full text available at:

[http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency\\_mgmt/food\\_safety.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency_mgmt/food_safety.htm)

This downloadable resource is a checklist for keeping food safe when power is disrupted or unavailable. It also provides length of time food may be kept under such circumstances. It is available in 15 languages.

#### **2.5.6 Water tanks and bushfires**

*Department of Human Services (Vic): Environmental Health (2009)*

Full text available at:

[http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency\\_mgmt/water\\_tanks.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency_mgmt/water_tanks.htm)

This downloadable resource outlines how to identify rainwater tank contamination, what to do to reduce contamination and when water can be used to drink again. It is available in 15 languages.

### **3. RECOVERY: Community**

#### **3.1 VOLUNTEERING & DONATING**

##### **3.1.1 Donating to the relief fund**

*Department of Sustainability and Environment*

Information available at:

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/DSE/nrenfoe.nsf/LinkView/7297A2BFFCDF77ACCA257550008167D0C5537DFA0E26D9F7CA2573B40002AF9B>

This website provides contact details for relief funds accepting donations. It also provides the number for anyone donating accommodation.

##### **3.1.2 Victorian bushfire support**

*Volunteering Australia*

Webpage available at:

<http://www.govolunteer.com.au/volunteer/events.htm>

This website provides information for individuals and businesses wanting to contribute to the bushfire response.

#### **3.2 WILDLIFE RESCUE & RELIEF**

##### **3.2.1 Help for wildlife**

*Department of Primary Industries*

Webpage available at

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/nrenfa.nsf/childdocs/-180715ADC627966E4A256B750004BDD5-6166E48F26CF64DACA256EDD0082EDF1-8F28DD70CE9F3EA7CA25755A000E858D?open>

This website provides a list of wildlife services that accept donations for wildlife relief and rescue.

##### **3.2.2 Help for stock, pets and wildlife affected by the bushfires**

*Department of Primary Industries*

Webpage available at

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/nrenfa.nsf/childdocs/-180715ADC627966E4A256B750004BDD5-6166E48F26CF64DACA256EDD0082EDF1-8F28DD70CE9F3EA7CA25755A000E858D?open>

This webpage has extensive information about assessing and managing injured or deceased pets, and injured or deceased livestock. Information relates to sheep, cattle, horses, alpacas, wildlife and pets, providing veterinarian and shelter information among much else.

### **3.3 RESOURCES FOR COUNSELLING PRACTITIONERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS**

#### **3.3.1 Psychological services: mental health practitioners guide—Manual 26**

*Emergency Management Australia (2002)*

Full text available at:

<http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emainternet.nsf/AllDocs/2E6DD4ACF65D443CCA257156007ACEA0?OpenDocument#26>

These guidelines offer practitioners principles and strategies in key facets of assessment and delivery of psychological services in the disaster context.

#### **3.3.2 Guidelines for psychological services: emergency managers guide—Manual 25**

*Emergency Management Australia (2003)*

Full text available at:

<http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emainternet.nsf/AllDocs/2E6DD4ACF65D443CCA257156007ACEA0?OpenDocument#25>

This manual outlines the psychological effects caused by disasters, assessment of and collaboration between psychological service providers in the region, assessment of effects on family, community, adults and therapeutic interventions for these groups.

### **3.4 RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY RECOVERY**

#### **3.4.1 Recovery—Manual 10**

*Emergency Management Australia (2004)*

Full text available at:

<http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emainternet.nsf/AllDocs/2E6DD4ACF65D443CCA257156007ACEA0?OpenDocument>

This manual covers the impact of an emergency on individuals and communities, the post-impact effects, the stabilisation stage, personal longer-term responses, the dynamics of recovery, strategies for recovery and life after recovery.

#### **3.4.2 Recovering from the 2003 Canberra bushfire: a work in progress**

*Emergency Management Australia (2007)*

Full text available at: <http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/EMA/emaInternet.nsf/Page/Publications>

This report covers community recovery from bushfire as well as the effects on individual, family and community relationships, housing, finance and living situation, the health and wellbeing of people involved, what hindered and helped the recovery and the role the media played in this.

**3.4.3 Guidelines for emergency managers working with culturally and linguistically diverse [CALD] communities.**

*Emergency Management Australia (2002)*

Full text available at:

<http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/EMA/emaInternet.nsf/Page/RWP95670B6D96D7C5E1CA256F4D00042E6F>

These guidelines are targeted at emergency managers and service providers, community and private organisations, and government bodies. It is a guideline for emergency management of CALD communities that covers strategies for inclusiveness, partnerships and resource support.

## **4. RECONSTRUCTION: INDIVIDUALS**

### **4.1 PERSONAL SAFETY RESOURCES**

#### **4.1.1 Bushfire smoke and your health**

*Department of Human Services (Vic): Environmental Health (2009)*

Full text available at:

[http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency\\_mgmnt/bushfire\\_smoke.htm#download](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency_mgmnt/bushfire_smoke.htm#download)

This downloadable fact sheet provides describes what bushfire smoke is, the risks to health, dangers of wearing facemasks and health precaution information. It is available in 15 languages.

#### **4.1.2 Fire retardants and health**

*Department of Human Services (Vic): Environmental Health (2009)*

Full text available at:

[http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency\\_mgmnt/fire\\_retardants.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency_mgmnt/fire_retardants.htm)

This downloadable resource outlines what fire retardants are, how they are used by fire fighters and aerial fire services. It discusses the impact on the environment, plants and animals, the affect on rain tanks, vehicles and property, and potential health effects. It also provides information on how to clean up fire retardants.

#### **4.1.3 Food safety and power failure**

*Department of Human Services (Vic): Environmental Health (2009)*

Full text available at:

[http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency\\_mgmnt/food\\_safety.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency_mgmnt/food_safety.htm)

This downloadable resource is a checklist for keeping food safe when power is disrupted or unavailable. It also provides length of time food may be kept under such circumstances. It is available in 15 languages.

#### **4.1.4 Food safety**

*Department of Human Services (Vic): Environmental Health (2009)*

Full text available at:

[http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency\\_mgmnt/food\\_safety.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency_mgmnt/food_safety.htm)

This webpage provides downloadable checklists for [Emergency Catering Supervisors](#) and for [Emergency Catering Food Handlers](#) giving information on how to keep, prepare and deliver food safely.

#### **4.1.5 Returning to your property**

*Department of Human Services (Vic): Environmental Health (2009)*

Full text available at:

[http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency\\_mgmnt/bushfire\\_be\\_safe.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency_mgmnt/bushfire_be_safe.htm)

This downloadable resource is a guide for physical safety when returning to property. It also provides information about discarding food, examining water tanks for contamination and septic tanks for damage as well as instructions for handling waste.

#### **4.1.6 Hazards on your property after a bushfire**

*Department of Human Services: Environmental Health (2009)*

Full text available at:

[http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency\\_mgmt/cleaning\\_up.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency_mgmt/cleaning_up.htm)

This downloadable fact sheet provides raises precautions to consider when entering property after a bushfire. It includes information about debris, protective clothing, dangers of wearing face masks, handling waste and general clean-up and disposal.

#### **4.1.7 Water tanks and bushfires**

*Department of Human Services (Vic): Environmental Health (2009)*

Full text available at:

[http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency\\_mgmt/water\\_tanks.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/emergency_mgmt/water_tanks.htm)

This downloadable resource outlines how to identify rainwater tank contamination, what to do to reduce contamination and when water can be used to drink again. It is available in 15 languages.

## **4.2 RESOURCES FOR LANDHOLDERS**

### **4.2.1 Help for stock, pets and wildlife affected by the bushfires**

*Department of Primary Industries*

Webpage available at

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/nrenfa.nsf/childdocs/-180715ADC627966E4A256B750004BDD5-6166E48F26CF64DACA256EDD0082EDF1-8F28DD70CE9F3EA7CA25755A000E858D?open>

This webpage has extensive information about assessing and managing injured or deceased pets, and injured or deceased livestock. Information relates to sheep, cattle, horses, alpacas, wildlife and pets, providing veterinarian and shelter information among much else.

### **4.2.2 Recovery after fire: practical steps for landholders**

*Department of Primary Industries*

Full text available at:

<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/nrenfa.nsf/childdocs/-DA7B09A643F323EDCA256E7500202EB8-62F05E64904CE804CA256E75007FC223-48A62AD02C9BB5EACA257249001F46EF?open>

This resource helps primary producers and landholders get back to business after the emergency vehicles have pulled out.

## **5. RECONSTRUCTION: COMMUNITIES**

### **5.1 RISK AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **5.1.1 Living with bushfire risk: social and environmental influences on preparedness**

*Paton, Bürgelt and Prior—The Australian Journal of Emergency Management, Vol. 23 No. 3, August 2008.*

Full text available at:

<http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/EMA/emaInternet.nsf/Page/RWP568824B4434AF398CA25741E0006F32E>

This paper discusses the process of developing a model capable of informing the development of community outreach strategies to facilitate the sustained adoption of bushfire preparedness measures.

#### **5.1.2 Australian Emergency Management Series**

Website available at:

<http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/ema/emainternet.nsf/AllDocs/2E6DD4ACF65D443CCA257156007ACEA0?OpenDocument>

This webpage offers a choice of 44 manuals related to emergency management and delivery of support services in a disaster context. It comprises principles, strategies and actions for a range of topics from catering in disaster situations, psychological services, recovery, disaster medicine, community support and communications during and after disaster situations.

## **6. WOMEN: RECOVERY & RECONSTRUCTION**

### **6.1 RESEARCH: GENDER INEQUALITY IN DISASTER SITUATIONS**

#### **6.1.1 SWS fact sheet: women and disasters**

*Elaine Enarson – United Nations: UNJobs*

Full text available at:

<http://unjobs.org/authors/elaine-enarson>

This text and others on Elaine Enarson's United Nations authors' webpage discusses the gendered nature of disaster and disaster inequalities.

#### **6.1.2 Gender issues in natural disasters: talking points and research needs**

Elaine Enarson—ILO In Focus Programme on Crisis Response and Reconstruction Workshop Geneva May 3-5 2000

Full text available at:

<http://www.gdnonline.org/resources/ilo-talking.doc>

This article discusses gender consideration in disaster related research, planning and practice as well as the social impact on women of natural disasters and differences again within women, particularly for 'highly vulnerable women with specific needs'.

#### **6.1.3 Fire, families and decisions**

*Mae Proudley—The Australian Journal of Emergency Management, Vol. 23 No. 1, February 2008*

Full text available at:

<http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/EMA/emaInternet.nsf/Page/RWP568824B4434AF398CA25741E0006F32E>

Using the Wangary fire in South Australia (10-11 January 2005) as a case study, this article discusses the influence of family dynamics and gender difference on decision-making and conflict during fire and other emergency evacuation situations.

#### **6.1.4 Women in emergencies: community life and disaster reduction**

*Natalie DOMEISEN—DHA News: Women in Emergencies April/May 1997*

Full text available from:

[http://www.reliefweb.int/ocha\\_ol/pub/dhanews/issue22/communit.html](http://www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/pub/dhanews/issue22/communit.html)

This brief international article discusses the role of women in disaster communities. It advocates for more gender research about psycho-social gender difference relating to disasters.

#### **6.1.5 Gender and health in disasters**

*World Health Organization (WHO) 2002*

Full text available at:

[http://www.who.int/gender/other\\_health/en/genderdisasters.pdf](http://www.who.int/gender/other_health/en/genderdisasters.pdf)

This World Health Organisation (WHO) paper looks at the role gender plays in disasters. It covers risk, access to services, impact of disaster, including social, economic, psychological and the impact of domestic and sexual violence during and after disaster.

#### **6.1.6 Women, disaster reduction and sustainable development**

*United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), 2004*

Full text available at:

<http://www.eldis.org/go/display/?id=17949&type=Document>

This article reviews the role of women in the context of disaster relief and control, and how women cope in disasters.

#### **6.1.7 Gender considerations in disaster assessment**

*World Health Organisation (WHO), Gender Women Health, 2005.*

Full text (and others) available at:

<http://www.who.int/gender/gwhdisasterassessment2.pdf>

This text discusses key questions, women's needs, women as carers, access to aid, vulnerability to abuse and violence and principles of good practice.

#### **6.1.8 Violence and disaster fact sheet**

*World Health Organisation (WHO), Department of Injuries and Violence Prevention*

Full text available at:

[http://www.who.int/gender/other\\_health/disasters/en/](http://www.who.int/gender/other_health/disasters/en/)

This document discusses the types of violence women are vulnerable to during and after disaster, including domestic, sexual and child abuse. It also covers what can be done and the recovery stage.

### **6.2 PREVENTION: GENDER INEQUALITY IN DISASTER SITUATIONS**

#### **6.2.1 The gender and disaster sourcebook**

*Gender and Disaster Network (2005)*

Resource available at:

<http://www.gdnonline.org/sourcebook/>

This is an annotated bibliography with hundreds of international resources for various categories related to gender and disaster. Sections include:

- Gender equality and disaster risk reduction
- Planning and practice tools
- Good practices
- Communication
- Training and communication
- Case studies and analysis

### **6.2.2 Training materials for gender mainstreaming in disaster risk reduction**

*Gender and Disaster Network – designed by Maureen Fordham*

Resource available at:

[http://www.gdonline.org/wot\\_keyresources.php](http://www.gdonline.org/wot_keyresources.php)

This page contains key resources on gender and disaster risk reduction translated in several languages to benefit a wider audience.

### **6.2.3 Gender sensitive disaster management: a toolkit for practitioners**

*Chaman Pincha for Oxfam America (2008)*

Full text available at:

[http://www.gdonline.org/resources/Pincha\\_GenderSensitiveDisasterManagement\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://www.gdonline.org/resources/Pincha_GenderSensitiveDisasterManagement_Toolkit.pdf)

This Toolkit for Practitioners provides details for mainstreaming gender sensitive interventions in disaster management in all phases of disaster management, including preparedness, mitigation, response, rehabilitation and recovery phases. It has been sourced from the Gender and Disaster Network: <http://www.gdonline.org/>

## 7. TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### ***AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTRE***

[Australian Wildlife Health Centre](#) at the Sanctuary, Badger Creek Road, Healesville is accepting native wildlife for treatment.

**Phone 03 5957 2800**

### ***CANCER HELPLINE***

This is a phone line is staffed by cancer nurses who are experienced counselors in loss and grief to assist people with cancer who have been affected by bushfires.

**Phone 13 11 20**

### ***DONATE ACCOMMODATION***

Victorian Bushfire Public Accommodation Donation Line takes donations of accommodation.

**Phone 1800 006 468**

### ***FOOD RELIEF***

Corporate donations of food may be made to VicRelief Foodbank.

**Phone 03 9362 8300**

### ***GO VOLUNTEER***

Registrations and information about volunteering.

**Phone 1300 366 356**

### ***KIDS HELPLINE***

This is a free, confidential and anonymous, telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 25.

**Phone 1800 551 800.**

### ***LEGAL HELPLINE***

Legal advice will be available through a legal helpline and from lawyers at all operational Bushfire Relief Centres.

**Phone 1800 113 432**

### ***LIFELINE***

Lifeline offers 24 hour emotional support,

**Phone 13 11 14**

### ***LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE***

Farmers needing urgent assistance assessing burnt livestock should call the DPI Customer Service Centre.

**Phone 136 186**

### ***METLINK***

Once someone has received any DHS grant they should contact Metlink so that arrangements can be made for a free travel pass to be issued.

**Phone 131 638**

***NURSE-ON-CALL***

This is a toll free 24-hour support and counselling to anyone either directly, or indirectly, affected by the Victorian bushfires.

**Phone 1300 60 60 24**

***RSPCA***

Call the RSPCA for assistance with injured pets.

**Phone 9224 2222**

***SUICIDE LINE***

This is a 24 hour telephone service offering crisis intervention, counselling and support. Interpreters can be arranged for non-English speaking callers

**Phone (local call cost) 1300 651 251**

***TRANSPORT ACCIDENT COMMISSION***

The TAC encourages bushfire survivors to contact the TAC to lodge a claim.

**Phone 1800 332 556 (toll-free outside Melbourne) or 1300 654 329**

***TTY INFO LINE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED***

Victorian Bushfire Information Line during business hours for deaf and hearing impaired people.

**TTY 1800 122 969**

***VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE APPEAL FUND***

Call the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund to make a donation.

**Phone 1800 811 700**

***VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE INFORMATION LINE***

Victorian Bushfire Information Line has a range of support services information.

**Phone 1800 240 667**

***VICROADS***

Call VicRoads Call Centre for information about public transport fees and free transport.

**Phone 13 11 71**

***WILDLIFE SHELTERS***

Call the DSE Customer Service Centre for your nearest wildlife shelter and advice on fire affected or displaced wildlife.

**Phone 136 186**

***WIRE—WOMEN'S INFORMATION SERVICE***

WIRE services include a phone support service, a walk-in centre, and a comprehensive, searchable website for women.

**Phone 1300 134 130, 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday**

## 8. REFERENCES

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- <sup>1</sup> Emergency Management Australia (2004) *Recovery*. Commonwealth of Australia. Located at: [http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/EMA/rwpattach.nsf/VAP/\(383B7EDC29CDE21FBA276BBBCE12CDC0\)-Manual+10A.pdf/\\$file/Manual+10A.pdf](http://www.ema.gov.au/agd/EMA/rwpattach.nsf/VAP/(383B7EDC29CDE21FBA276BBBCE12CDC0)-Manual+10A.pdf/$file/Manual+10A.pdf) Accessed 23 February 2009. p3.
  - <sup>2</sup> Enarson, E. (2006) *SWS fact sheet: women and disaster*. Available at: <http://www.socwomen.org/socactivism/factdisaster.pdf> Accessed 23 February 2009.