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## Planned Burns Continuing Over Easter

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) will monitor conditions over the Easter weekend and will conduct planned burning in some parts of the state, when conditions are suitable.

DSE State Duty Officer, Mark Woodman said that many areas of the state were still too wet to ignite burns, following this week's rain. But he said that light winds and moderate conditions would allow burning in some places.

"A window of opportunity for burning will open up over Easter, beginning in the west of the state and moving eastwards as the weekend progresses.

"We are planning to conduct some burns in the south west and Central Victoria, south Gippsland and possibly the Otways, although additional burns may occur in other parts of the State.

Mr Woodman said the burns would largely be in remote locations, but some small burns would occur near more populated areas and would be visible, including in the Dandenong Ranges and Yarra Valley.

Mr Woodman stressed that it was important to take every opportunity to get as much burning completed as possible and encouraged people to check the DSE website, check local media or phone the Victorian Bushfire Information Line over the weekend.

"In order to help prepare for next summer's fire season, and future seasons, we need to continue crucial planned burns, before more predicted rain early next week.

"We fully appreciate that some people may be inconvenienced by seeing smoke, but we believe this will not be widespread or long lasting.

"In order to provide the greatest possible protection to those same areas from potentially damaging bushfires, we need to progress our current program to safely reduce fuel loads during the cooler autumn months," Mr Woodman explained.

Road users are advised to take extra care as road travel may be hazardous due to low visibility from smoke.

If you are experiencing any symptoms that may be due to smoke exposure, the Department of Health advises people to seek medical advice or call Nurse on Call on 1300 60 60 24. For general information about how smoke from fires potentially affects health and precautions to take to reduce exposure, visit [www.health.vic.gov.au/bushfire](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/bushfire)

For information on fires or planned burns in Victoria and general fire safety, please contact the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on freecall 1800 240 667. Callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment may call textphone/telewriter (TTY) on 1800 122 969.

Information is also available at [www.dse.vic.gov.au/burns](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/burns) and for information about fire restrictions, fire bans and fires on private land at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)