HEALTH EFFECTS ON PEOPLE FOLLOWING A SEVERE SMOKE EVENT

Gippsland Medicare Local extends an invitation to all general practitioners and other health professionals to attend a forum and panel discussion.

Workshop outline

The Hazelwood coalmine fire in February and March 2014 affected nearby Morwell and surrounding communities for six weeks with smoke, ash and raised carbon monoxide levels. Health professionals anecdotally reported that residents presented to them not only with respiratory effects but also more general health and wellbeing concerns related to the fire.

Presenters

Dr Fay Johnston
Dr Johnston is a Senior Research Fellow, Menzies Research Institute Tasmania; Specialist Medical Advisor, Public and Environmental Health Services and GP, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre.

Dr Johnston will discuss her preliminary findings on the research she is currently undertaking on behalf of NHMRC. In particular she will provide relevant information about potential short term and long term symptoms, treatment and management options, including the psychological impacts large fires and lingering smoke has on individuals.

Professor Sandy McFarlane AO, Director CTSS
Director of the University of Adelaide Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies, Professor McFarlane’s area of particular specialty has been the effects of traumatic stress and is an international expert in the field of the impact of disasters and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Associate Professor Darryl Maybery, Monash University Department of Rural and Indigenous Health (MUDRIH).
A mental health clinician in the areas of drug and alcohol counselling, prison psychology and employee assistance, A/Prof Maybery commenced his academic career in 1999 at La Trobe University in Wodonga after completing his PhD in the stress and wellbeing field from James Cook University.

A/Prof Maybery is a member of the Federation University Collaborative Research Network who are currently under-taking the Coalmine fire - initial impact on health and wellbeing project. A/Prof Maybery will discuss the initial perceived impact of the Hazelwood coalmine fire on health and wellbeing (concerns and responses) in Morwell and surrounding communities. The project being undertaken will precede and complement a separate 10-year study to be funded by the Victorian Department of Health to identify any long-term health impacts from the fire.

For more information, please contact
info@gml.org.au or 03 5126 2899

Register for this event

Click here to register online or complete below information and fax to 03 5126 2890.

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RACGP Activity Number pending: Category 2
QI&CPD points 2 per hour.

DATE
19 February 2015

TIME
6.30pm - 9.00pm

LOCATION
Gippsland Medicare Local
11 Williams Street, Inverloch

Gippsland Medicare Local
EDUCATION EVENT