



MONASH University

School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine



Planned burns and your health

School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

This research study has been approved by the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee CF12/3097-2012001570 and is being done in cooperation with DEPI.

1. About the study

The first study of its kind to be conducted during a planned burning season will examine the health impacts of smoke pollution in regional communities across Victoria. The study will be conducted during the autumn season in collaboration with the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries, the Bushfire CRC, the Victorian Department of Health, and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

2. Why get involved?

We know that healthy people tolerate brief episodes of smoke exposure quite well. Our study is looking for changes in symptoms, lung function and inflammation that could increase risk for people, particularly those with an underlying illness. For the first time, exposure to smoke both indoors and outdoors will be assessed and related to health impacts. The results will help public health managers and doctors know what sort of medical advice to give healthy people, older people, and people who might have chronic medical conditions.

3. Why we are in your area

Your area has been identified as an area that is prone to bushfires and as such the DEPI will start planned burns to reduce the fuel load this autumn.

4. Who we are collecting data from?

The research also seeks to identify those most vulnerable to smoke exposure, the elderly and people with existing health problems such as heart or lung conditions including asthma. Anyone over the age of 18 is invited to take part in the study.

5. How to get involved.

Please contact **David O'Keeffe** on **1800 200 262** or email bushfires@monash.edu

