



FIRE EMERGENCY

NEW ZEALAND

VICTORIA DEPLOYMENT UPDATE #2



Taskforce 2

Our crews working on deployment in Victoria continue to operate in trying conditions. The fire danger for most of the state remains high to very high. A weather warning was in force on Monday for severe wind gusts.

Taskforce 1, led by Steve Bolton, has been relocated for their second work rotation and are based at Surveyors Creek. They will be working on the Macalister 91 - Licola - Mt Margaret Track Fire, in the Huggets Sector. Their main focus will be to continue black edging.

Taskforce 2, led by Lance Dixon, remain based in the school camp at Licola. They have resumed working on the Macalister 91 - Licola - Mt Margaret Track Fire, in the Tamboritha Sector. Their main focus will be on continuing to extinguish active fire on the edge.

Fire Focus

(as at 10am, March 25)

MACALISTER 91 - LICOLA - MT
MARGARET TRACK FIRE

This fire is classified as "going". It is 79,964 ha in size and has a 370km perimeter – that's the distance from Christchurch to Dunedin. The area is remote, with steep terrain. Crews continue to actively suppress fire as it approaches containment lines. There are 236 personnel, 22 appliances, 3 pieces of heavy machinery and 6 aircraft being used to combat the fire. The fire remains active in several sectors with aerial support mapping several kilometres of activity on the edge. Due to severe weather warnings all crews will be staged in safe areas around the fire ground waiting for the weather to settle as there has been a storm pass through bringing wind and rain.

Weather in the area has been partly cloudy, with winds gusting to 60-80km/h.

VICTORIA WILDFIRE STATS

[AS OF 26 MARCH 2019]

83

**WILDFIRES
BURNING**

6 GOING
8 CONTAINED
67 UNDER CONTROL
2 NEW STARTS

212,500

**HECTARES HAVE BEEN BURNT
[APPROXIMATELY]**

800

**PERSONNEL HAVE
BEEN DEPLOYED**

79

**FROM INTERSTATE
AND NEW ZEALAND**

**DROUGHT
FACTOR OF**

9

EXISTS ACROSS THE STATE

Gallery



Taking in the view



Crew dampening down a hot spot



Marko Mikulicic from Taskforce 1 shows his true colours



Marko and Tim Eden dig out hot ash and spread it out to cool down



Taskforce 1 briefing at Licola



Local statue donned with Forest Protection Services shirt



An FPS crew at work



Task force 1 field briefing



Country of origin labelling