

V.O.T.V.

Affidavits gathered at a meeting

Kernot Hall,

Morwell.

23rd March 2014

– (56 respondents)

Ron Ipsen

The affidavit Set of questions.

About,

23rd march 2014

Introduction

Introduction

On February the ninth 2014 a bushfire sparked a fire in the Morwell Open Cut. It burned for 45 days before being declared safe. During this time a plume of toxic smoke covered the cities within the Latrobe Valley with Morwell less than 500 meters from the fire particularly affected. The fire is still officially burning.

During this time The Cities within the Latrobe Valley were subject to unprecedented levels of smoke and toxic ash, the volume and duration of which was dependent on the direction of the changeable winds.

People began to get sick, reporting via friend and relative networks, via social media and via normal social conversations to each other and comparing symptoms and severity.

People turned to the Mainstream media to see what was going on and what was happening to them but The Department of Health Spokesperson there was issuing statements like “There have only been 3 people present to the local hospital with any symptoms so there cannot be any problem.”

After 3 weeks the residents of the Valley held a protest meeting, the media described it as a cry for help and indeed it was.

At that meeting simple open ended questionnaires were handed out and collected. The results are in the first of these reports.

On the 23rd of March another meeting was called and participants asked to fill out affidavits to document their experiences with the minefire situation.

The questionnaire is enclosed in appendix 3-a

Methodology

The residents at the meeting were handed a questionnaire and encouraged to record their experiences.

The questions were varied, mostly a yes no, with a text box for further expansion of the answer.

Business operators were given an additional questionnaire to cover financial and business issues but only if their business had been affected.

The sheets then went to a Justice of the Peace for stamping and swearing to their validity.

Of these signed and sworn affidavits, 56 were gathered together and correlated for this study.

The information on the sheets was hand typed into a database by a team of operators and then the resultant data was analysed by *symptom reported* and *appropriate system*.

There was little need to analyse by location and symptoms because previous studies had already shown the correlation there.

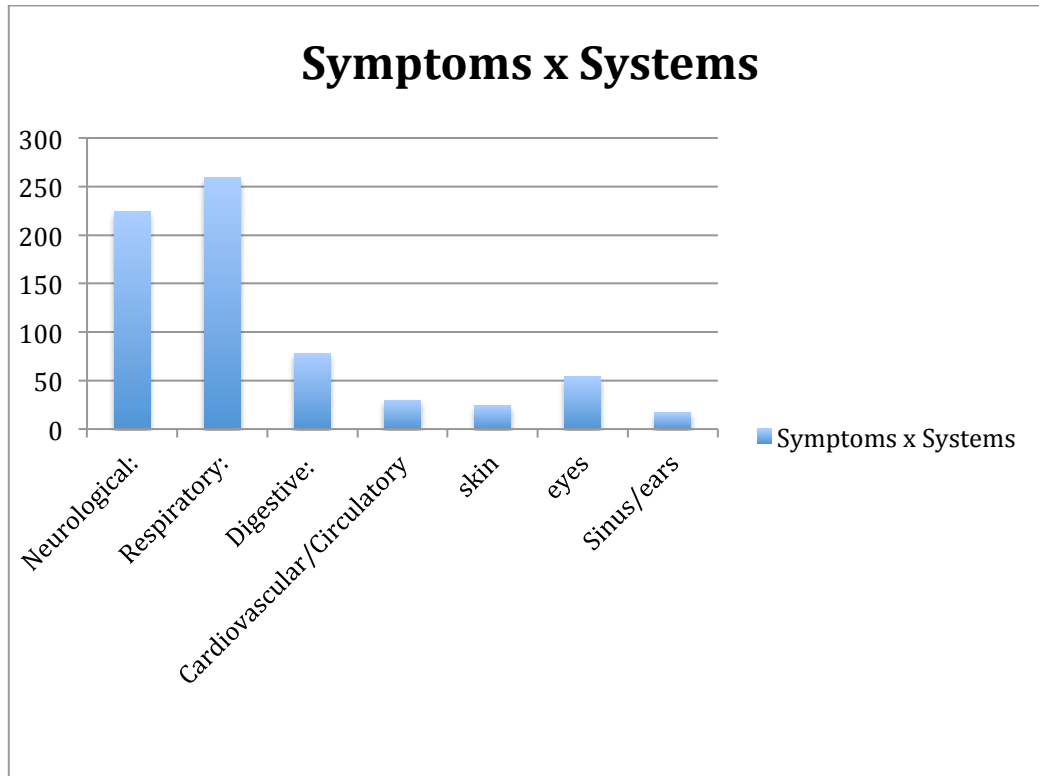
The individualized symptoms within a system are shown as percentage of respondents reporting that symptom.

Systemic totals were gathered by a simple addition of the percentages of individual reported symptoms within that system. The totals for systemic calculations can exceed 100% of respondents as many respondents had more than one symptom within a group, for example a respondent may have answered both *asthma flare up/start* and *difficulty breathing*

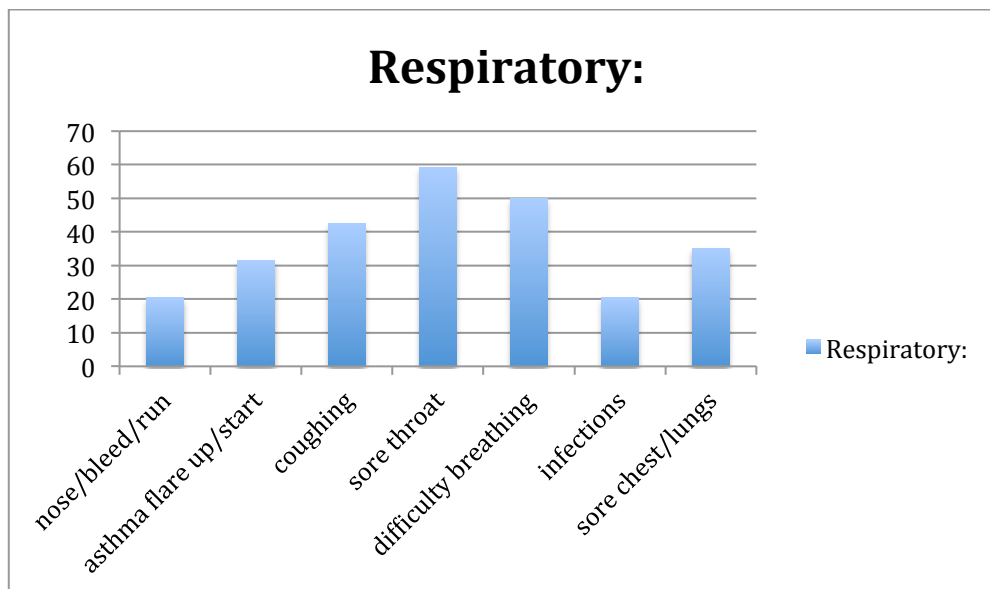
There has been little time given to the researcher to work on the fiscal calculations but they are clearly available in the raw data.

Results

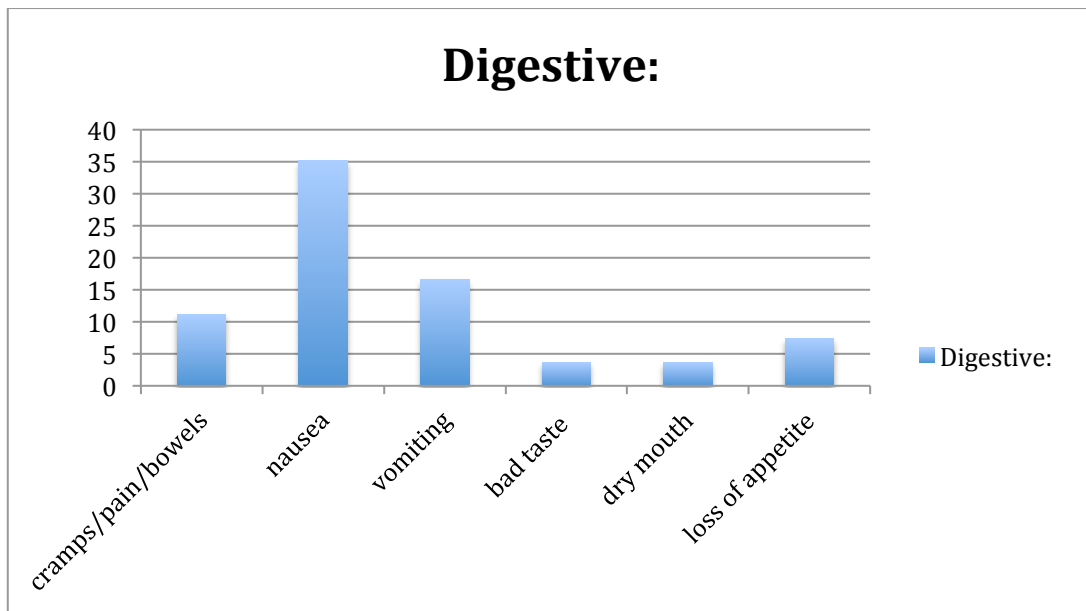
A general increase in symptoms with a few new ones appearing in the neurological category.



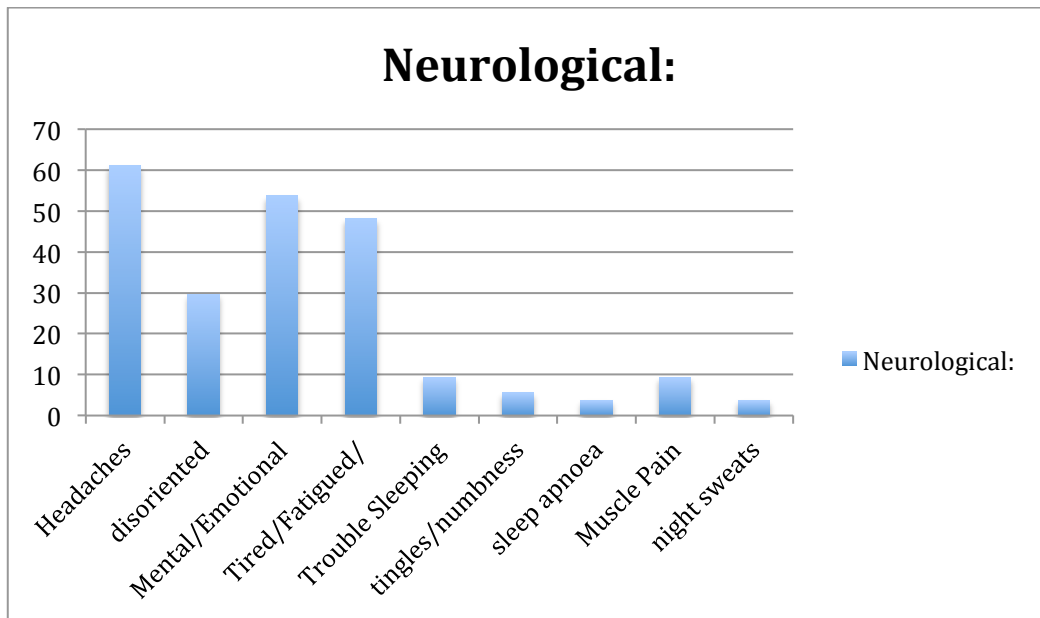
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Figures are expressed as percentage of respondents.



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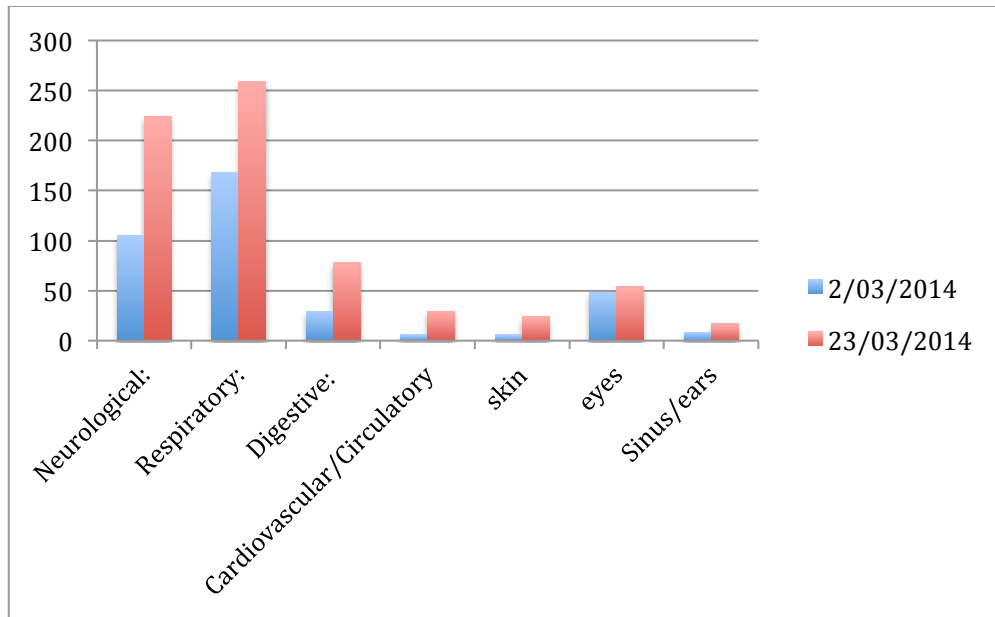


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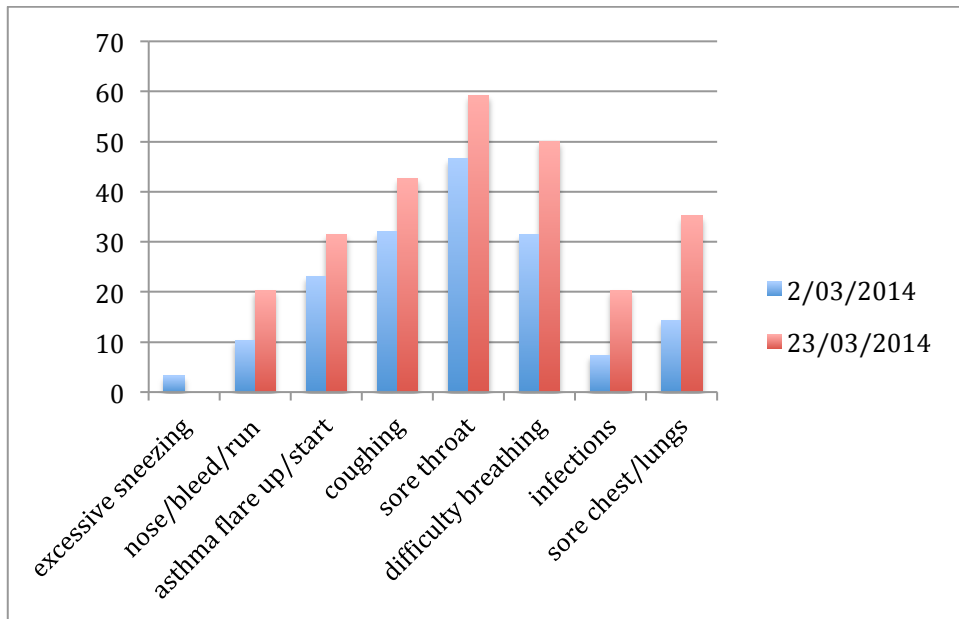
Comparing the 2 sets of data directly we get a marked increase in reported symptoms.

In fact the overall increase is 230% over the 3 weeks. (week 4 to week 7 of the fire)

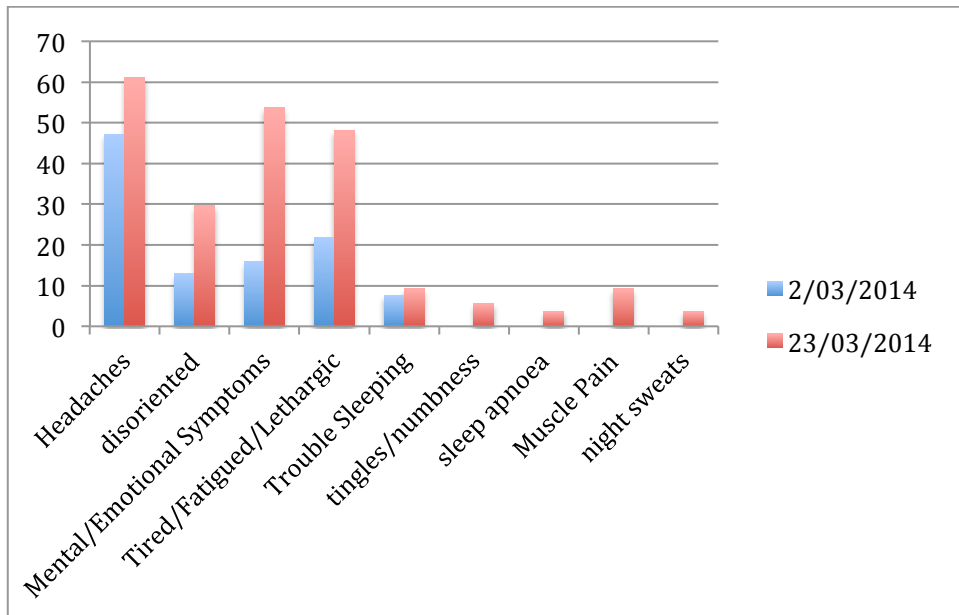
Symptoms x systems



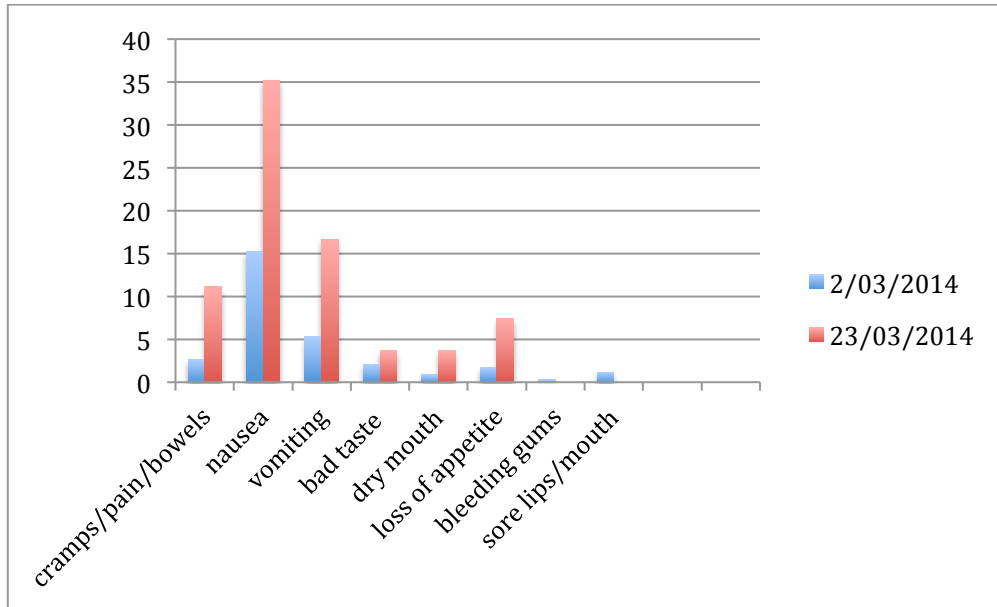
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The infections and chest problems are beginning to take hold.



New symptoms are beginning to be reported that mimic alarmingly the heavy metal poisoning. This would make sense at the metals take time to build in the systems and begin to have an effect on the nervous systems operation.



Initial symptoms of smoke are starting to decrease in reportage as the smoke declines but the toxins build up in the systems of the population.

Appendix 3-a

Affidavit Questionnaires

23 March 2014

1. Have you been affected by the fire with health problems?

Yes

No

What Effects have affected you

2. Have you been to see your doctor with these concerns?

Yes

No

Not Yet

What was the outcome from your doctor.

3. Has your house been affected by the fire?

Yes

No

Don't Know

Please list the problems with your house.

4. Have you had to increase your power usage during the fire for Washing, drying etc.?

Yes

No

Include details.

5. Has your emotional health been affected?

- Yes
- No

Please give details below.

6. Have you or your family had to relocate?

- Yes
- No

List below any financial outlay for your relocation.

7. Have you or any family members been unable to attend school work or other activities? (sports, Leisure etc.)

- Yes
- No

Please give details below.

8. Has there been a financial change since the fire

- Yes
- No

Unknown

Please let us know what losses you have incurred.

9. Do you have pets or animals that have been affected by the fire/smoke?

- Yes
- No

Please give details.

10. Do you have any of the following?

- Tank Water
- Swimming Pool
- Vegie Garden
- Farm
- Outdoor furniture and equipment

If you have ticked any of the following please leave details below.

11. Do you feel that the local and state governments have generally satisfied your needs in regards to the handling of the mine fire.

- Yes
- No

- 17-30
- 31-45

46-59

60+

B. Are you a business owner?

Yes

No

1. Has your business been affected

Yes

No

(If your business has been affected please fill out our pink business form)

Business Owners Details.

1. Do you own a business in the Valley?

Yes

No

If you have answered yes to this question please continue.

2. What area of the valley is your business?

3. Have you had extra expenses to pay out because of the Fire and its effects?

Yes

No

Please leave details below, if there is not enough room please use spare forms. And if you have any evidence to back this up.

4. Has your business lost revenue due to the fire and its effects?

5. Do you feel you have been looked after by the local and state governments in relation to compensation?

Yes

No

6. Has your Insurance company been helpful in this crisis?

Yes

No

BUSINESS

NAME: _____

BUSINESS

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT

NAME: _____

CONTACT

NUMBER: _____