Prepare, Respond and Recover

To ensure your business is prepared for unexpected events and is more resilient after emergencies, we have put together useful information and resources. We encourage you to keep this fact sheet in an easy-to-find place and share it with your professional contacts.

**ASSISTANCE IF YOU HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY DECEMBER 2024 BUSHFIRES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Australian Government Disaster Recovery Allowance | Income support payments for employees, primary producers and sole traders who can demonstrate they have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of bushfire. | [servicesaustralia.gov.au/bushfires-western-vic-dec-2024-disaster-recovery-allowance](https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/bushfires-western-vic-dec-2024-disaster-recovery-allowance) |
| Australian and Victorian GovernmentsPersonal Hardship Assistance Program | Assistance for people experiencing financial hardship in emergencies. The program includes Emergency Relief Payments and Re-establishment Assistance. | 1800 226 226[services.dffh.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program](https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program) |
| VicEmergency | Up-to-date bushfire and emergency information and useful resources on emergency relief and recovery.  | 1800 226 226[emergency.vic.gov.au/relief](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief) |
| Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) | Flood, storm, emergency first responders and flood preparedness.  | 13 25 00[ses.vic.gov.au](https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/) |
| Australian Red Cross | Help to cope with a crisis and manage what you or others might experience after a natural disaster. | [redcross.org.au/emergencies/coping-after-a-crisis](https://www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/coping-after-a-crisis/) |
| Lifeline  | 13 HELP is Lifeline's 24/7 dedicated support line for people living through bushfire recovery or struggling to cope with an extreme weather-related event.  | 13 HELP (13 43 57)13 11 14[lifeline.org.au/get-help/information-and-support/bushfire](https://www.lifeline.org.au/get-help/information-and-support/bushfire/) |

**ASSISTANCE FROM BUSINESS VICTORIA**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Disaster resilience resources | Tailored resources and information to help you plan, respond and recover in the event of an emergency. | [business.vic.gov.au/business-information/disaster-resilience](https://business.vic.gov.au/business-information/disaster-resilience) |
| Disaster Resilience for Business Toolkit | Framework to assess, prepare and recover effectively from disasters. | [business.vic.gov.au/resilience-toolkit](https://business.vic.gov.au/resilience-toolkit) |
| Small Business Bus  | The Small Business Bus provides a concierge service and expert advisers (virtual and face to face) to support businesses with general assistance, business planning and referrals to other services and resources. | [business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/small-business-bus](https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/small-business-bus)  |
| Partners in Wellbeing Helpline  | Resources and referrals for business supports including trained financial counselling, business advise and wellbeing coaching. Check the website to see if you meet the eligibility criteria.  | 1300 375 330 [business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/partners-in-wellbeing-helpline](https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/partners-in-wellbeing-helpline)  |
| Workplace Wellbeing Hub | Practical resources for managing stress and building resilience all in one place. | [business.vic.gov.au/wellbeing](https://business.vic.gov.au/wellbeing) |

ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER AGENCIES

Organisations outlined below can also help with your recovery process.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rural Financial Counselling Service – Victoria West | Help to develop strategies and business plans, and financial counselling for small business owners.  | 1300 735 578 <https://wswrcs.com.au/disaster-recovery#disaster-recovery>  |
| Small Business Mentoring Service | One-on-one business relief advice for small business. | 1300 032 332[sbms.org.au](https://www.sbms.org.au/) |
| Small Business Debt Helpline  | Financial counsellors for assistance and referral for ongoing support.  | 1800 413 828[sbdh.org.au](https://sbdh.org.au/) |
| Insurance Council of Australia  | Advice on when to contact your insurance company and how to document damage.  | [insurancecouncil.com.au/resource/what-to-do-after-a-bushfire](https://insurancecouncil.com.au/resource/what-to-do-after-a-bushfire/) |
| CPA Australia | Advice, resources and strategies for small businesses recovering after a disaster.  | 1300 73 73 73[cpaaustralia.com.au](https://www.cpaaustralia.com.au/tools-and-resources/disaster-recovery) |
| Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) | Advice on employment conditions and leave arrangements. | 13 13 94[fairwork.gov.au](https://www.fairwork.gov.au/) |
| Australian Taxation Office (ATO) | Managing tax obligations following a disaster. | 13 72 26[ato.gov.au](https://www.ato.gov.au/) |
| Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) | Fee relief including review of late lodgement and payment. | 1300 300 630[asic.gov.au](https://asic.gov.au/) |
| MoneySmart (ASIC) | Free, independent help to make the most of your money. | [moneysmart.gov.au](https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/) |
| Tourism industry resources | Crisis resources to help business in the tourism industry. | [tourism.vic.gov.au/business-information/crisis-management-guide](https://tourism.vic.gov.au/business-information/crisis-management-guide) |
| Victorian Small Business Commission | Impartial dispute resolution services for small businesses, farmers and retail tenants and landlords. | 1800 878 964[vsbc.vic.gov.au](https://www.vsbc.vic.gov.au/) |

HOW TO SEEK THE HELP YOU NEED, FAST

If you are in a life-threatening situation or emergency, please call Triple Zero (000) for police, fire or ambulance.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED

* VicEmergency *–* download the VicEmergency App, visit [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) or call the hotline on 1800 226 226.
* Local ABC radio station – tune in for updates and announcements.
* Business Victoria newsletter – subscribe to receive essential updates, advice and services specifically for businesses. [business.vic.gov.au/subscribe](https://www.business.vic.gov.au/subscribe)