

# PUBLIC HEALTH



This fact sheet contains information on suggested actions to perform before, during and after a public health incident. It also contains information about warnings, emergency contacts and general information to consider when writing your caravan park EMP.

## Public health warnings

Health Alerts are issued by the Department of Health and advise the Victorian community of an issue that poses an immediate threat to public health and requires an immediate response. These can be found on the website [www.health.vic.gov.au/](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/)

## Emergency contacts

Contact	Number
Life-threatening emergency (police, fire, ambulance)	000 (Triple Zero)
Department of Human Services (DHS)	1300 650 172
Department of Health	1300 253 942
Nurse on call	1300 60 60 24
Victorian Poisons Information Centre	13 11 26
Your local council health surveyor	<b>Ph:</b>

## Important information about public health

Public health hazards are events that could put caravan park residents at risk of illness, injury or disability. A public health hazard may include:

- Hazardous material spill and/or leak
- Medical emergency
- Food contamination
- Drinking water contamination
- Swimming pool contamination
- Wastewater system overflow or failure

# Action plan for a public health incident



Please note: these actions are general suggestions only, you will need to think of details and triggers that are specific to your park.

## Actions to take in the event of a hazardous material spill

### If the material is suspected to release toxic fumes:

- Evacuate the immediate area.
- Call the Fire Brigade on 000 (Triple Zero) and notify the caravan park manager if not present.
- Open caravan park boom gates and any emergency access gate.
- Provide as much information about the hazardous material as possible.
- If indoors ventilate to the open air if possible.
- Notify all persons in the area to evacuate to the emergency assembly area or evacuation point (only if it is upwind).

### If the spill is a suspected flammable material:

- Remove any ignition sources.
- Evacuate all persons in immediate danger (ensure emergency assembly area or evacuation point is 200 metres clear of spill and is upwind).
- Do not attempt to re-enter the affected area.
- Control the movement of occupants to the emergency assembly area (if required).
- Remain at the emergency assembly area or evacuation point until advised by emergency services.

## Actions to take in the event of a medical emergency

- Check for any threatening situation and remove or control it (if safe to do so).
- Remain with the casualty and provide appropriate support.
- Provide first aid if qualified personnel available.
- Notify the caravan park manager if not present.
- Notify the Ambulance service by dialling 000 (Triple Zero).
- Open caravan park boom gates and any emergency access gate.
- Designate someone to meet the ambulance at caravan park entrance and direct it to the location of the casualty.

## Actions to take in the event of food contamination

- Dispose of the contaminated food.
- Remain with the casualty and provide appropriate support.
- Clean the kitchen thoroughly.

- Provide first aid if qualified personnel available.
- Notify the caravan park manager if not present.
- Notify the Ambulance service by dialling 000 (Triple Zero).
- Open caravan park boom gates and any emergency access gate.

## Actions to take in the event of swimming pool contamination

- Evacuate patrons from the swimming pool.
- Close pool and put up warning signs to prevent further usage.
- Ensure pool treatment system is working effectively.
- Adjust pH level at 7.5 or below.
- Return chlorine level in pool to a safe level.
- Consult pool maintenance specialist for advice if necessary.

## Actions to take in the event of a wastewater system overflow or failure

- Depending upon the extent of the wastewater overflow, organise a professional cleaning contractor to undertake cleaning procedures.
- Ensure any cuts or scratches are properly covered before attempting any cleaning activities.
- Immediately wash and disinfect wounds that come in contact with wastewater.
- Clean-up procedures should involve:
  - pumping out wastewater (as appropriate).
  - cleaning the area thoroughly.
  - applying a chemical disinfectant over the affected area.
- Use natural ventilation and fans to assist in drying the area to prevent mould growth.
- Dispose of all items that are unable to be hygienically cleaned.

