

MEDIA RELEASE
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TAKE CARE WHEN RE-ENTERING FIRE ZONES

Over 50 Citywide arborists have joined the clean-up effort in fire ravaged areas outside Melbourne. The tree specialists, deployed across greater Melbourne's prominent gardens on weekdays, are contributing to VicRoads operations to secure roads and highways on weekends.

Hundreds of fallen and damaged trees are being removed alongside main roads in and around the fire affected areas of Whittlesea, Kinglake and St Andrews.

Citywide Managing Director, Kerry Osborne, says that although the fires have passed, the danger is very real of people being injured.

"Victoria's trees have been subject to years of drought, a recent extreme heat wave and now the worst fires on record. Some trees are dead; many are very brittle with branches scorched by 50 foot flames.

"We completely understand the very real need of families to return to their homes but people should exercise great caution."

Mr Osborne said people concerned about trees on their properties in fire affected areas should ring their local Council to seek assistance.

"Only a suitably qualified arborist should be engaged to perform tree assessments to determine the condition and structural integrity of trees," Mr Osborne said.

Military service personnel are now beginning to clear bushland in and around the most severely affected areas but it will take time to complete.

Citywide is a diverse company shaping and maintaining high performance assets. It delivers the full scope of environmental, waste and civil infrastructure services, supported with expert advice, to government and private enterprise.

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It is important to note that many remaining trees will have been compromised by the fire.