



# Media Release

## Victoria State Emergency Service

Victorian Headquarters • 168 Sturt Street, Southbank Victoria 3006

# Damaging winds sweep through Melbourne

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**From:** Victorian Headquarters

**Date:** 28 March 2013

**Time:** 6pm

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Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) has received more than 404 Requests for Assistance this afternoon after damaging winds swept through bayside suburbs and the CBD.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issued warnings for wind squalls for Port Phillip Bay at 2.38pm followed by a Severe Weather Warning for damaging winds at 2.53pm for Melbourne bayside suburbs, with peak gusts of 90-100km/h expected.

Wind gusts of 115km/h were recorded at Fawkner Beacon at 2.50pm and 102km/h at St Kilda at 2.59pm.

BoM has confirmed that the wind squall line has since passed through the metro area and that strong winds are likely to continue until mid-evening today.

Between 3pm and 4pm this afternoon, SES received 167 Requests For Assistance (RFAs) - a rate of almost 3 per minute. The busiest areas have been around Frankston (37), Moorabbin (41), Chelsea (29), Nunawading (23) and Narre Warren (20). Of the calls received, 200 related to trees blown down and 95 to reports of building damage, mostly minor in nature such as loose sheeting iron and tiles missing.

SES activated an Incident Control Centre (ICC) at Mulgrave at 3.45pm to manage response in CBD and bayside Melbourne.

Victoria Police have confirmed that two people have been killed when a brick wall collapsed at a construction site near the corner of Swanston St and Cornell Place. A third person has been transported to Hospital. MFB and Footscray SES crews remain on-scene, with Victoria Police in control.

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