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Department of
Sustainability and
Environment

Media Release

Southern 80 Visitors Urged to Play it Safe While Having Fun

With thousands of people expected to flock to the Southern 80 in Echuca this weekend, Parks Victoria, The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and the CFA are asking visitors to play it safe while having fun on the Murray.

Parks Victoria's Ranger in Charge at Echuca, Kane Weeks, said rangers and Victoria Police will be patrolling the river between Echuca and Torrumbarry Weir, offering advice and assistance to campers.

"It should be a great weekend to enjoy the river so we'll be talking to people and giving them information about safe and sustainable camping," Mr Weeks said.

"We are fortunate to have access to many beautiful beaches along the length of the river – as well as campsites and picnic areas. By looking after these areas we ensure they are protected for everyone to enjoy in the future," he said.

Parks Victoria has a 'carry in carry out' approach to litter so campers must take their rubbish to either a local waste disposal location or home with them.

When camping, all toilets must be set up at least 100 metres from the river. All toilet waste, including toilet paper, must be buried.

DSE North West Land and Fire Area Manager, Rob Price, said people must be aware of the potential fire risk while camping in the bush.

"Small portable gas bbqs are encouraged but if you do need a small fire for cooking or warmth use a constructed fireplace where provided," Mr Price said.

"Otherwise, you must build a trench 30 centimetres deep, make sure there is no flammable material like grass or leaves within three metres and never leave a campfire unattended," he said.

CFA North West Area Region 20 Operations Manager, Stuart Broad, said people should also monitor the weather conditions and keep informed about fire danger ratings during the event.

"CFA and DSE will have fire fighting resources on stand-by but we'd prefer to not have to use them," Mr Broad said.

“Remember, too, that a car in long grass can start a fire quite easily so please be careful while you’re camping this weekend,” he said.

For information about camping along the Murray River, go to www.parks.vic.gov.au

For information about fire danger ratings and total fire bans, go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au

For information about campfire regulations and campfire safety, go to www.dse.vic.gov.au

