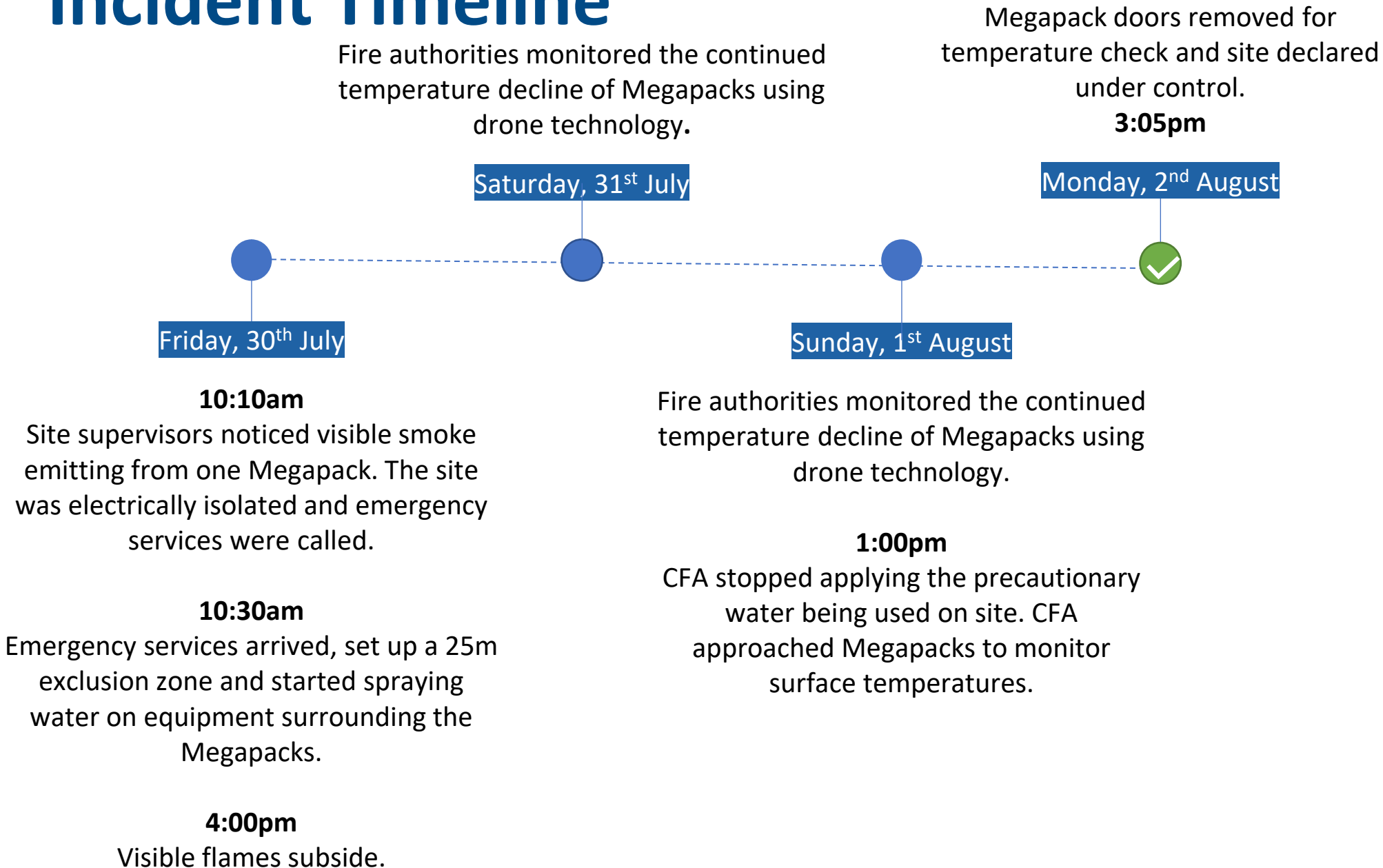


Case Study: Victorian Big Battery

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Editor | pv magazine



Incident Timeline



Incident Timeline | 1

Friday, 30th July

- A fire involving **two Tesla Megapacks** occurred at the Victorian Big Battery (VBB) during commissioning.
- **150** firefighters responded to the incident.
- Authorities issue **Watch and Act Warning** for **toxic smoke** in the nearby areas of Batesford, Bell Post Hill, Lovely Banks and Moorabool.



Unlike at the Vatican, white smoke is not a good sign.

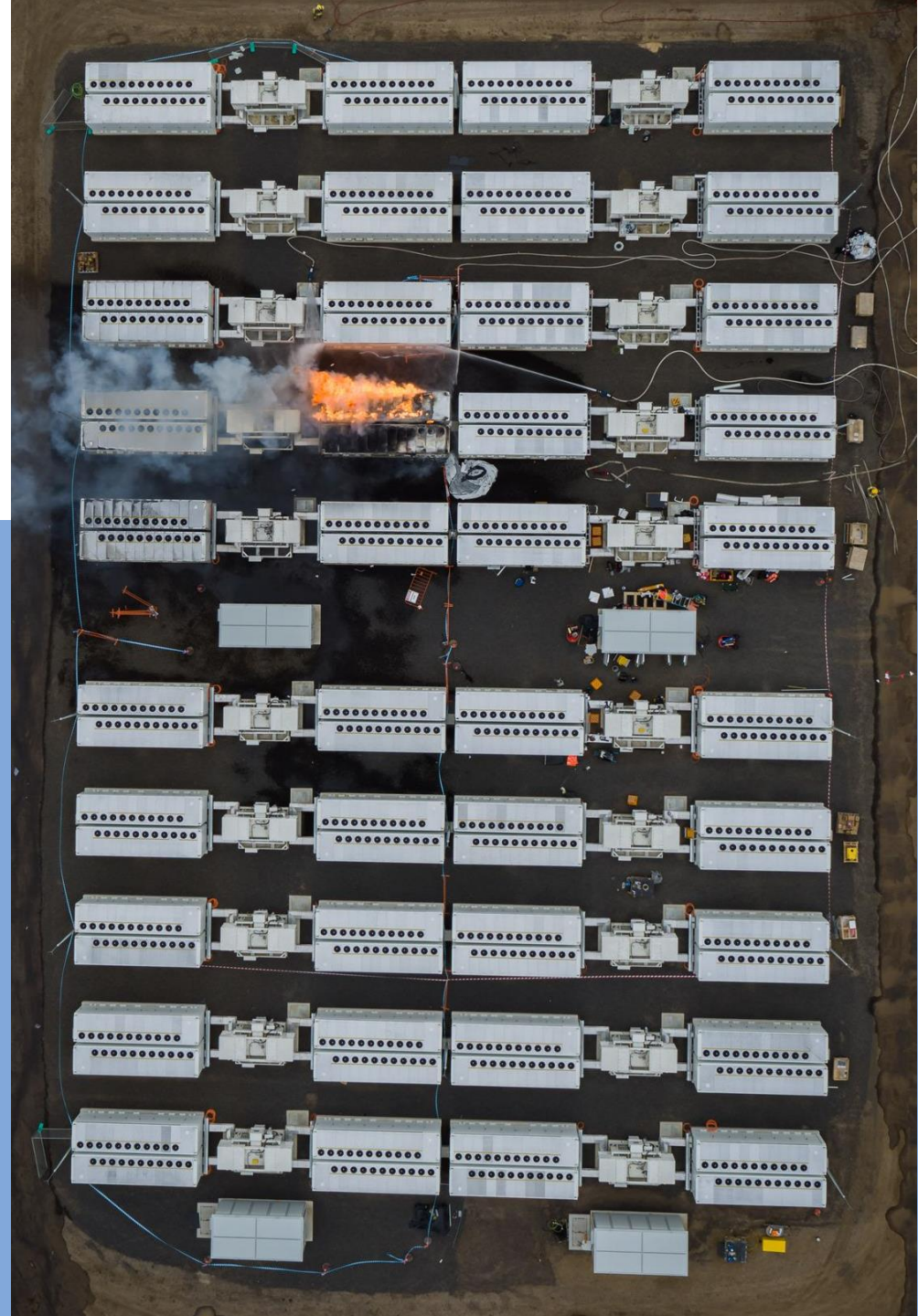
Incident Timeline | 2

Saturday, 31st July

- Containment and monitoring of temperature decrease.

Sunday, 1st August:

- Fire services cease precautionary water.
- Watch and Act Warning for toxic smoke downgraded.





Room to spread out?

Incident Timeline | 3

Monday, 2nd August:

- Firefighters successfully open all container doors.
- Incident declared under control.
- Fire crews remained on site for the next 24 hours “as a precaution in case of reignition,” taking temperature readings every two hours, said the CFA.

Investigation

- **A multi-agency investigation** was launched into the VBB blaze.
- **“Statement of Technical Findings”** published at the end of September.
- Full independent incident report due in November.
- Energisation testing has resumed at the VBB.



Conclusion

- The fire could likely have been mitigated had monitoring services not been switched to an "off-line mode".
- This error and other lessons learned have been compiled into a list of undertaken actions to prevent "a recurrence".
- Energisation testing has now resumed at the VBB and Neoen is still aiming for an operational date in time for Australia's high-grid demand summer.

Thank you!

Thank you to the Country Fire Authority and Fire Rescue Victoria for the incident information and imagery used in this case study.

Images: Fire Rescue Victoria

Timeline: Red Havas

ESV Report:

https://esv.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/VBB_StatementOfFindings_FINAL_28Sep2021.pdf

pv magazine links:

<https://www.pv-magazine.com/magazine-archive/moorabool-burning/>

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/08/02/fire-at-victorian-big-battery-now-under-control/>

<https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2021/09/28/australias-biggest-battery-cleared-for-testing-following-fire-fallout/>