

SAFE DECISIONS AND FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

BUSHFIRE CRC SEMINARS - MELBOURNE AND BENDIGO - 4 and 6 SEPTEMBER 2007

MANAGING RISK ON THE FIREGROUND

As Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre partners face the challenge of implementing change and improvements in the industry, the Bushfire CRC is providing ways for researchers and fire and land management agencies to work together to ensure the application of research findings across the fire industry.

The Bushfire CRC Program D is focussed on research for the protection of people and property. At this seminar, Bushfire CRC researchers will discuss the outcomes of two projects that are looking at the management of people on the fireground.

This seminar is presented by the Bushfire CRC in conjunction with Victoria's fire agencies - the Country Fire Authority, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

You are invited to register for this seminar either in Melbourne or Bendigo. There is no cost to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

Please circulate this invitation within your organisation.

MELBOURNE

DATE: 4 September 2007

TIME: 1.30pm to 4.30pm

VENUE: McCubbin Room

The Centre

Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe

BENDIGO

DATE: 6 September 2007

TIME: 4.30pm to 7.30pm

VENUE: Comfort Inn Colonial

463 High St (Calder Highway)

Golden Square, Bendigo

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Personnel from fire and emergency services, land management agencies, volunteer firefighters, and others who deal with the issue of bushfire risk. All welcome.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

Registration is essential as places are limited. To register for either the Melbourne or Bendigo seminar contact Bushfire CRC Event Coordinator Vaia Delizissis:

Email: vaia.delizissis@bushfirecrc.com

Phone: 9412 9604

SEMINAR PROGRAM

Understanding and reducing unsafe decisions - a human factors approach

Mary Omodei, La Trobe University

Mary will present findings from 120 detailed interviews that were conducted with firefighters within 48 hours of their managing a bushfire. These interviews, which took place in NSW and Victoria during two previous fire seasons, sought to identify the human factors that might lead even experienced firefighters to sometimes make unsafe decisions.

Such human factors include (a) reluctance to change plans with unexpected incident developments, (b) lack of trust in information provided by others that are not known personally, (c) inadequate changeover briefings, (d) overconfidence in fire suppression strategies, and (e) lack of awareness of mental overload.

Mary will also present findings obtained using computer-simulated wildfire scenarios that were specially designed to improve an understanding of how such human factors might operate. The possibilities for using computer scenarios in training for safe decision making will also be addressed.

Firefighter health, safety and well-being on the fireground

David Nichols, CFA

David will present the findings from firefighter physiological data collected over the last two fire seasons in south-eastern Australia. Firefighter's health, safety and wellbeing are largely determined by the interplay between the stressors they face during their work, their behaviour before, during and after the fireground shift, and their physical condition.

How these factors influence firefighter health and safety is the specific focus of this research. Its principal outcome will be to develop guidelines to promote and preserve the health, safety and wellbeing of firefighters during bushfire suppression.



Department of
Sustainability
and Environment