



## **A Fire Knowledge Network Event**

### **Fire Lessons Learnt Workshop Sharing US and Australasian Experiences**

**Date:** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2007  
**Time:** 9.30am – 4.00pm  
**Venue:** Dept. Sustainability and Environment, Victoria  
Level 4, Baw Baw and Buller Rooms (Rooms 11 & 12)  
8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, Victoria  
*(Sign-in with security on ground floor to receive a Visitor pass before proceeding to Level 4)*

Fire and Land Management agencies in Australasia have identified the need to learn from past fire experiences and to share their learnings as a key component of the Fire Knowledge Network that is being developed by the Bushfire CRC in collaboration with AFAC and the fire industry.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that recommendations from numerous Federal and State government reports and inquiries consistently raise the same issues with very little translation of the recommendations into changes in workplace practice.

Critical to the establishment of the Australasian Fire Lessons Learnt Centre is understanding existing best practice and learning from experience about what works well and what issues to be aware of. The US Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Centre (LLC) is seen as a leader in promoting and encouraging a learning culture to enhance safe and effective work practices through networking opportunities, providing opportunities to access organisational learning tools, and integrating valuable lessons and practices in wildland fire training.

Learning about the US LLC experience and successful 'learning into action' programs initiated by the Northern Rockies ground safety specialist, workshop participants will be able to benchmark their organisations continuous improvement programs against considered best practice in the fire industry internationally. Discussions on lessons learnt issues from an Australasian perspective will identify ways the Fire Knowledge Network, through its Australasian Fire Lessons Learnt Centre, can add value to the industry by aligning its systems and processes with organisational goals and objectives.

# Fire Lessons Learnt Workshop

## Sharing US and Australasian Experiences

### International guest speakers and panellists:

#### **Paula Nasiatka**

Centre Manager  
US Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center  
National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute

*Paula Nasiatka is the Centre Manager of the U.S. Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Centre located at the National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute in Tucson, Arizona. In her 26 year career with the National Park Service, Paula has 20 years experience in wildland fire and emergency management.*



*She has worked in seven different national park units in four states including Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area, Grand Canyon National Park and Saguaro National Park. From 1990-2001 Paula served as a District Ranger, Chief Ranger and acting Superintendent at Saguaro National Park in Tucson. In 2002, she began managing the new Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Centre.*



*Paula served for nine years on Type 1 and 2 incident management teams in California and Arizona in the Planning Section. She presents at numerous wildland fire courses and conferences around the US. She is the writer/editor of the Scratchline and Learning Curve newsletters. Paula received her Bachelor of Science in Park Administration from Springfield College in Massachusetts in 1981 and has done college continuing education from 1984-2000.*

#### **Paul Chamberlin**

Aerial Fire Depot  
Missoula, Montana

*Paul has been active in fire suppression since 1969, first with the California Division of Forestry, and then in 1971 with the US Forest Service Missoula Smokejumpers. After an even 30 years and 450 jumps he left smokejumping to become the Interagency Fire Operations Safety Specialist for the Northern Rockies, with paychecks coming from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He continues reporting to work at the Aerial Fire Depot in Missoula. As a Missoula Rural Fire Department volunteer he achieved NFPA FF-I, II, & III Structure Firefighter ratings, as well as Structure Fire Instructor certification.*



*During his career he has developed the LCES Workshop, the Model 52 engine, Magnum Hoselays, Up the Ante and 'Sim Limb' (hazard tree Initiatives), mishap and accident investigations (most recently Nuttall and I-90 / Tarkio), Safety Assistance Teams, Facilitated Learning Analysis, and 'Portals'. He is a co-author of the US Forest Service Chain Saw and Crosscut Saw Training Course.*



*Paul serves on numerous local, GAC and national committees and councils. He is currently working on Staff Rides, Sand Tables, High Reliability Organising, and demonstrating how Doctrinal Principles may be applied. Paul is an active OSC1 and SOF1, including incidents such as Valley Complex, Big Bar, 30-Mile, 9/11 NYC, Biscuit, and Katrina. He travels extensively presenting safety information ranging from small groups of firefighters to national and international conferences. He has instructed LCES in Canada, and ICS in Brazil. Paul is a recipient of the 2004 Paul Gleason 'Lead By Example' award for Motivation and Vision.*

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#### **Bushfire CRC Limited**

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### PROGRAM AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
9.30am	COFFEE
10.00am	<b>Welcome</b> <b>Gary Morgan</b> , Acting CEO Bushfire CRC
10.10am	<b>Outline of day</b> <b>Lesley Crombie</b> , Manager Knowledge Networking, Bushfire CRC
10.15am  <i>Includes 10mins questions</i>	<b>US Experience</b> <b>Paula Nasiatka</b> Centre Manager, US Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Centre  <i>Background on the establishment of the Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Centre (LLC) and the strategic direction for the next 5 years. Presentation will discuss the need for a US LLC and process to establish the Centre. Paula will highlight the issues they encountered in setting up the LLC and what we can learn from their experience. Critical tasks to help the wildland fire community become a Learning Organisation will be outlined.</i>
11.15am  <i>Presentations to include 5 mins for questions</i>	<b>Australasian Experience</b>  <i>Presentations from Bushfire CRC, Country Fire Authority – Victoria, Country Fire Service – South Australia and Queensland Fire and Rescue Service will provide an overview of the directions fire agencies are taking in their approach to lessons learnt and continuous improvement.</i> <b>Lesley Crombie</b> Overview of Fire Knowledge Network directions for Australasian Centre for Fire Lessons Learnt
11.30am	<b>Representative to be advised</b> Operations - Performance Improvement Country Fire Authority, Victoria
11.50am	<b>Leanne Adams</b> Executive Officer CFS Lessons Learned Centre Country Fire Service, South Australia
12.10pm	<b>Noel Harbottle</b> Acting Superintendent, Operations Knowledge Management Unit <b>Bruce Budge</b> Station Office with the Operations Directorate, Research and Improvement Section Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
12.30pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
1.30pm  <i>15 mins per program</i>	<b>Panel Session - Translation of Learning's into Action</b> <b>Paula Nasiatka</b> and <b>Paul Chamberlin</b> (Aerial Fire Depot, Missoula, Montana) will each outline 2 programs from their respective organisations that are leading to improved workplace practices.

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TIME	AGENDA ITEM
2.30pm	<p><b>Issues for Australasia in Translating Learning's into Action</b></p> <p>CFA representative, Leanne Adams, Noel Harbottle join Panel Session to discuss issues for Agencies in Australia in translating learnings into action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can the Fire Knowledge Network help?</li> <li>• What is the Agencies role and what is the Networks role in the lessons learnt process?</li> </ul>
3.00pm	<p><b>AFTERNOON TEA</b></p>
3.15pm	<p><b>Actions for Next Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities for the US LLC and Australasia to work together to share learnings and experiences</li> <li>• Establishing a Lessons Learnt Community between Australasia and United States</li> <li>• Defining a Lessons Learnt framework/process for Australasian fire industry</li> </ul>
4.00pm	<p><b>CLOSE</b></p>
6.30pm	<p><b>WORKSHOP DINNER (Venue to be advised – dependent on numbers)</b></p> <p>Opportunity for further discussions with Paula and Paul in a social environment</p>