

Using technology to facilitate community preparedness (abstract only)

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ABSTRACT

Fire authorities constantly strive to improve their capacity to control bushfires, using the results of inquiries and research. Significant gains have been achieved in strike power and organisation have been achieved following major bushfires. Despite this, however, significant life and property loss are still likely in major bushfires in the urban interface.

This paper considers the public warning and importance of providing knowledge of the bushfire phenomena and real time information on the immediate fire threat. It reviews a new Country Fire Authority (CFA) project, Community Fireguard, which targets people in high fire hazard areas with a view to getting them to accept responsibility for their own bushfire safety. The CFA's technological thrust using sophisticated computer technology is also considered in the context of being better able to provide real time fire spread information to the threatened public.

