

media release

SA Country Fire Service
SA Metropolitan Fire Service



International Bushfire Research Conference

Sunday, 31 August 2008
12:00 noon

Firefighters, researchers, scientists and fire prevention managers from around the globe will be in Adelaide next week for the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre's (CRC) International Bushfire Research Conference 2008.

The event will also incorporate the 15th annual Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) conference and feature over 90 presentations to challenge and share issues faced by the industry around the world.

More than one thousand delegates will take part in this major event over three days with topics ranging from aerial fire fighting, community awareness and warnings, a European perspective of the mass media in the context of bushfires and the management of prescribed burnings.

AFAC President and CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson, is confident that the International Bushfire Research Conference will be stimulating, thought-provoking, informative and entertaining.

"This conference will essentially be about improving the knowledge and practice involved with managing fires and emergencies," he said.

"This year, the inclusion of the Bushfire CRC's International Bushfire Research Conference makes it a truly international event with a world-class program of speakers, workshops and field trips for the benefit of the entire community."

Bushfire CRC Chairman, Len Foster, agrees that the event will offer a great opportunity for representatives in the fire industry to exchange information about their respective practices.

"They will see how leading researchers from around the world are working with industry partners on issues that have been identified as critical to their business," Mr Foster said.

The conference will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 1-3 September 2008.

For program highlights see overleaf. For details on the full program including speakers, topics and schedules visit the conference website at www.fire2008.org

International Bushfire Research Conference

Program Highlights

	DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
Day 1	1/09/2008	Jon Keeley UCLA, California, USA	Fire Ecology
		Drew Dawson Centre for Sleep Research, University of Adelaide	Fatigue and Sleep Research
		Trent Penman NSW Department of Primary Industries	Prescribed Burning: How can it conserve the things we value?
		Ross Bradstock NSW	New fire regimes and management in Sydney
		Dianne DeLaine Rural Solutions Port Lincoln, SA	Women's bushfire safety skills workshops
		Karyn Bosomworth Centre for Risk & Community Safety, RMIT	Climate Change, disaster risk reduction and fire management
		Andrew Dowdy Bushfire CRC	Dry Lightning in Australia
		Matthew Phillips School of Exercises & Nutrition Science, Decon University	Job Performance changes with employed volunteer fire fighters.
Day 2	2/09/2008	Paulo Fernandes	Fire Paradox - What we can learn from European Innovation
		Dalal Smiley Metropolitan Fire & Emergency Services Board, VIC	Ethnic Communities - Are they interested in becoming firefighters
		David Peters Victorian Deaf Society	Emergency Services and the Deaf
		Claire Johnson School of Psychological Science, LaTrobe University	How worst case scenarios are considered by firefighters
Day 3	3/09/2008	Gavin Freeman Tasmania Fire Service	Myer Department Store Fire - Hobart
		Col. Ang Tse Meng Singapore	Training the Singapore Civil Defence Force
		Gavrill Xanthopoulos National Agricultural Research Foundation, Athens	People and the Mass Media during the Greece 2004 fires