

Message-matrix

What's happening on the fire scene this month....

There have been a series of major fires across California. Still burning now, on the 19th November the fire has burnt about 16 600 hectares and destroyed approximately 800 homes. These include over 500 properties in a mobile home park (see photo below). More than 10 000 people have been evacuated (they don't have stay or go, it is mandatory to evacuate). Luckily there have been no deaths, so far, and only 11 injuries.

More information: <http://www.fire.ca.gov/index.php>



Apocalyptic: The scene after a bushfire ripped through the Oakridge mobile home park (AFP)

Nothing in Australia compares with this. The fire season has started though, with fires in NSW, QLD, Vic and SA. Nothing too large though.

Bigger news is the massive flooding of south east QLD (might be time to set up Aquamatrix) .

Fire restrictions came into force across much of Victoria on November 10th.

There have also been fires in South Africa

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=14&art_id=vn20081113052159491C664501

and New Zealand, including house evacuations!

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/4762810a11.html>

Useful websites

You will all probably know of these, but just in case...

Bushfire CRC

www.bushfirecrc.com

Geoscience Australia - Bushfires

<http://www.ga.gov.au/hazards/bushfire/>

Emergency Management Australia



www.ema.gov.au

Lots of interesting information on emergencies, risk etc. They also have a searchable library. The website is shocking, but contains worthwhile information.

Sentinel,

<http://sentinel.ga.gov.au/acres/sentinel/index.shtml>

Sentinel is a national bushfire monitoring system that provides timely information about hotspots to emergency service managers across Australia. The mapping system allows users to identify fire locations with a potential risk to communities and property.

Australian Disaster Information Network

<http://www.ausdin.gov.au/accesspoint?action=browse&id=490>

AusDIN portal- a multi-agency initiative to establish a national emergency management knowledge and information network to serve the Australian Community

Bureau of Meteorology - Bushfire weather

http://www.bom.gov.au/inside/services_policy/fire_ag/bushfire/bushfire.htm

CSIRO

Materials Science and Engineering, Fire Science - Capabilities and Services

<http://www.cmmt.csiro.au/research/special/fire-science/bushfire/>

Wikipedia

www.wikipedia.com

Although I wouldn't quote it in an article, wikipedia is a very useful place for information on all sorts of topics, including fire.

Journals

Below is a list of journals which deal in wildfire and disasters and emergencies more broadly. Although most articles are based in developing countries (not surprisingly) it is interesting to watch what is going on.

This is just a taste.

International Journal of Wildland Fire, published by CSIRO

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/114.htm>

Wildfire Magazine

<http://www.wildfiremag.com/>

Australian Journal of Emergency Management

www.ema.gov.au/ajem

Australasian Journal of Disaster and Trauma Studies

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/~trauma/>

Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy and Management

<http://www.odi.org.uk/resources/disasters.asp>

Disaster Prevention and Management: An International Journal

<http://info.emeraldinsight.com/products/journals/journals.htm?id=dpm>



International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters
<http://www.usc.edu/schools/sppd/ijmed/>

The Electronic Journal of Emergency Management
<http://facultystaff.richmond.edu/~wgreen/ejem.htm>

Environmental Hazards
<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/Journals/EnvironmentalHazards/tabid/37213/Default.aspx>

And....

Ask Santa to put this in your stocking. "Banjo Blue and the Bushfire" a kiddies talking book with australian animals, a fire truck and a bushfire.

www.apptism.com/apps/banjo-blue-and-the-bushfire

Growing opportunities for Vinomatrix

Studies into reducing the effects of fire on wine. How about a study looking at how to reduce the risk of fires in vineyards. It might involve lots of fieldwork.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/11/13/2418597.htm?section=australia>

There is so much information and goings on out there, I suggest each month I focus on a particular topic. Now I can choose these, but perhaps you might all like to contribute ideas so you don't just hear about social science!

Please let me know if you have any bright (or other) ideas.

Thanks