



bushfire&natural
HAZARDSCRC

AN ANALYSIS OF HUMAN FATALITIES AND BUILDING LOSSES FROM NATURAL DISASTERS IN AUSTRALIA

Katharine Haynes

Risk Frontiers, Macquarie University, NSW.



An Australian Government Initiative



PROJECT TEAM

Lead researchers

Dr Katharine Haynes

Dr Rob van den Honert

Researchers

Ms Lucinda Coates

Dr Deanne Bird

Dr Ryan Crompton

PROJECT END USERS

Christopher Lee	(OEH, NSW)
Belinda Davies / Simon Opper	(NSW SES)
Bob Stevenson	(SES, SA)
Melissa O'Halloran	(NSW RFS)
Michael Morgan	(SAMFS)
Damien Killalea	(TFS)
Jennifer Pidgeon	(DFES, WA)
Ed Pikusa	(SAFECOM)

RESEARCH GAP

“The starting point for reducing disaster risk and promoting a culture of disaster resilience lies in the knowledge of the hazards and the physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities to disasters that most societies face, and of the ways in which hazards and vulnerabilities are changing in the short and long term, followed by action taken on the basis of that knowledge.”

United Nations 2005, Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-15: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters

OBJECTIVES

1. An analysis of fatalities, in terms of demographics, social and environmental circumstances surrounding deaths.
2. An analysis of people otherwise affected by natural hazards – injured, near-misses, rescued.
3. An analysis of building damage and losses arising from natural hazard events over the last century.

The hazards to be studied include: floods, cyclones, earthquakes, heatwaves, severe storms and bushfires.

MAJOR OUTCOMES

- A longitudinal and geographical examination of trends in the exposure and vulnerability of people and buildings.
- An understanding of the impact of changes to policy and procedures on life and property loss.
- An interpretation of trends in exposure and vulnerability in the context of emerging issues (e.g. ageing population, population shifts, climate change), in order to determine potential future trends.

MAJOR OUTCOMES

- Development of hazard specific risk communication from the analysis of fatalities and injuries.
- Evidence-based data to assist with appropriate emergency management and government decision making.