Program Evaluation

A NSW Fire Brigades Perspective

Supt. Gerry Byrne
Manager Bushfire Natural Hazards

NSW Fire Brigades
2006 - 2016

Mission Statement

Excellence in Emergency Risk Management
**NSW Fire Brigades**

- Structural Fire
- Bushfires
- Hazardous materials
- Rescue
- Urban Search and Rescue
- Chemical Biological Radiological
- Natural Hazards Events

**NSW Fire Brigade Snapshot**

- 3500 Permanent Firefighters
- 3500 Retained Firefighters
- 5500 Community Fire Unit Volunteers
- Operating across the entire state of NSW
- 125,000 incidents responded to 2004-2005
- $530 million budget
Organisational environmental scan

• Increasing role across all aspects of emergency management
• Increasing community dependency particularly in urban areas
• Increasing demand on resources requiring a multi skilled approach
• Performance evaluation requirements by government
• Emphasis on pro active risk based approach

Environmental Scan Bushfires

• Climate warming, increased temps. and number of extreme fire weather days (4-25% within 20 yrs.)
• Limited opportunities to conduct prescribed burning
• Continuing population migration to coastal areas
• High and medium density development increase
• Commuter belts
• Multi cultural communities in high risk locations
• Increasing litigation
Challenges

• Urban areas and bushfires – I Zone
• Urban communities resilience/education
• Community Fire Units
• Prescribed burning programs in urban areas

Phegans Bay and Horsfield Bay Quarry Fire Initial Travel 1/01/06
Phegans Bay and Horsfield Bay
Quarry Fire Burnt Area 1/01/06

Phegans Bay and Horsfield Bay
Property Losses & Burnt Area
Focus is on the “assets”

• 1. Impact of fire
• 2. Vulnerability of the built environment

• Ember attack
• Structure to structure fire spread
• Fire linking areas

I Zone Mapping
Chatswood West
Key challenges

- Implementation of I Zone Program
- Spatial mapping
- Qualitative and quantitative research in urban communities
- Effective education programs for specific target communities
- Underpinning science of fire spread in urban areas
- Respiratory protection for firefighters