



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

