



HUMAN BEHAVIOUR & COMMUNITY SAFETY

Research results from February 7th Victorian Fires - Final Report

Authors

John Handmer^a, Anthony Bedford^b, Monique Ladds^b, Lyndsey Wright^c, Joshua Whittaker^a, Katharine Haynes^{d,a}, Jim McLennan^e, and Briony Towers^a



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This work was undertaken for the Bushfire CRC as part of the Post-fire research program in Human Behaviour.

Project leaders: John Handmer (RMIT) & Damien Killalea (Tasmania Fire Service)

This document was prepared by Anthony Bedford and Monique Ladds, statisticians at the School of Mathematics and Geospatial Science, RMIT University, and by John Handmer of the same School. All other listed authors were involved in survey design, data collection and the initial analysis.

This is the final report of the post 7 February 2009 Human Behaviour Project. The project was lead by John Handmer of the Centre for Risk and Community Safety at RMIT University and Damien Killalea of Tasmania Fire Service. Joshua Whittaker managed the fieldwork and survey administration. SPSS analysis for the initial interim report was undertaken by Katherine Haynes (Whittaker et al, 2010)¹.

¹ Joshua Whittaker, Katharine Haynes, Jim McLennan, John Handmer, and Briony Towers: (2010) Research results from February 7th Victorian Fires Second Report on: Human Behaviour & Community Safety. Melbourne: Bushfire CRC.

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This project has many debts. Numerous people contributed to the research, including in the field, in logistics, intellectual support, leadership and countless other ways. Our sincere thanks go to all who contributed, including those not named below.

The project began a few days after the February 7th bushfires. The first part of the project involved interviews with more than 600 residents who were affected by the February 7th fires. Field interviewers were drawn from agencies and groups across Australia, including: Terramatrix; the Tasmania Fire Service; NSW Rural Fire Service; SA Country Fire Service; CFA; DSE; CSIRO; and RMIT and La Trobe universities. The 'Human Behaviour' team worked collaboratively and productively with the 'Building and Planning Issues' team, led by Justin Leonard of CSIRO. Our sincere thanks are due to all who worked in our teams or who collaborated with us, in particular to Sarah McCaffrey who joined us from the US Forest Service and provided valuable advice at the critical, early stage.

There were many teams in the field at fire sites across Victoria at any one time. Coordination of such large numbers of people in terms of logistics was a major task undertaken by the Bushfire CRC and AFAC. We thank these organisations sincerely for their leadership, patience and capabilities, in particular Lyndsey Wright, overall manager of the post-fire research program, Duncan Maughan of Terramatrix, who coordinated the fieldwork, and Richard Thornton, who oversaw the process. They were supported by staff from the CFA, DSE, OESC and elsewhere. The individuals who contributed are too numerous to mention, but include Alison Stone of DSE, Gary Morgan of the Bushfire CRC, Naomi Brown of AFAC, John Gledhill of the Tasmania Fire Service, Euan Ferguson of the SA Country Fire Service, Neil Bibby of the CFA and Bruce Esplin of the OESC.

The 'Householder response to the February 7th bushfires' survey was developed from the initial field interview research. In addition to the individuals and groups mentioned above, many of whom contributed directly to the survey's development, we would like to thank Michael Black of Spatial Vision, and Robert Pascale and Stephen Pittman of Datatime Services Pty Ltd.

Finally, we acknowledge with appreciation our home institutions, which have provided consistently strong support for the research.

Executive Summary

On Saturday the 7th of February, 2009, Victoria experienced the worst bushfires in Australia's recorded history. 173 people lost their lives and more than 2000 homes were destroyed, in addition to substantial economic and environmental impacts.

In response to these events, the Bushfire CRC established a Research Task Force to undertake research for the Fire and Land Management sector and the fire research community in Australia and internationally. The Research Task Force covers three key areas:

- Fire Behaviour
- Human Behaviour and Community Safety Issues
- Building (infrastructure) and Planning Issues

This is the final report of the 'Human Behaviour and Community Safety Issues' team (hereafter referred to as the 'Human Behaviour' team), based on the results of the "Householder response to the February 7th bushfires' survey". The report is presented in the form of a databook setting out frequencies and some cross-tabulations from a quantitative analysis of surveys mailed to households that were affected by the February 7th bushfires. An interim report (Whittaker et al, 2010) set out preliminary findings based on analysis of 1104 surveys. This introductory text is similar to that of the Interim Report, however the body of the report differs as it contains analysis of all usable completed surveys - 1314 in total, additional frequency tables and cross tabulations as well as statistical tests for all cross-tabs.

The survey form was developed from previous post-fire surveys and research needs arising from the 2009 fires. The survey included questions requested by the stakeholders. Survey drafts were piloted.

Surveys were mailed to approximately 6000 addresses in areas that physically fell within the 'burnt area', as defined by DSE (Victorian Department of Sustainability Environment). A response rate of approximately 25% was obtained. This is generally considered sufficient to avoid sampling bias. This figure excludes 699 uncompleted surveys that were returned to the Centre for Risk & Community Safety, the vast majority of which were undeliverable. It is possible that more residents did not receive the survey. Approximately half of the final sample was female (49%). Most respondents (72%) were aged between 35 and 64 and most owned their own homes.

The survey was divided into five sections, with section 5 covering demographics:

Section 1: How the bushfire affected you and your property

Approximately one-third (32%) of respondents reported that their house was destroyed in the bushfires. Rates of house destruction were significantly higher among respondents in the Latrobe (42%), Murrindindi (38%), Mitchell (35%) and Whittlesea (32%) local government areas (LGA).

The vast majority of respondents (88%) reported that their household was adversely affected by the bushfires. Sixteen respondents (1%) reported that a member of their household had perished in the fires, and 7% of respondents reported that a household member was injured in the fires.

Almost two-thirds of respondents reported that a household member had felt more sad or depressed (64%) and/or more nervous or anxious than usual (61%). More than one-third of respondents (39%) reported increased strain between members of their household as a result of the fires.

A significant proportion of respondents indicated that they had experienced financial strain due to job loss or loss of livelihood (29%) and/or a lack of insurance (20%). A small number of respondents (4%) reported that they did not have insurance.

Section 2: Information and warnings

Almost all respondents (97%) reported that they were aware that February 7th was a day of Total Fire Ban.

The majority of respondents (68%) expected to receive an official warning if there was a bushfire in their town or suburb.

Respondents most commonly became aware of the fire through: sensory cues from the environment (i.e. smoke, embers, fire; 33%); a warning from family, friends or neighbours (21%); or a radio announcement (6%).

Almost two-thirds (64%) reported that they did not receive an official warning. A majority of respondents in Whittlesea (83%), Murrindindi (80%), Yarra Ranges (80%) and Mitchell (71%) report not receiving an official warning.

A majority of respondents (61%) reported that they received information and warnings about the fire from a family member, friend or neighbour.

Section 3: Before the bushfire

The majority of all respondents (64%) claim to have had a firm plan about what to do if a bushfire occurred before February 7th, with three quarters of residents (76%) acknowledging that it was likely or very likely for a bushfire to occur in their area.

Nearly half of all respondents (48%) reported that, at the beginning of last summer (2008), they intended to stay and defend their house or property from bushfires. 17% reported their intention to leave, including 16% who planned to leave as soon as they knew a fire was threatening and 1% who planned to leave on all days of high fire danger. Notably, a quarter of respondents (24%) reported that they were effectively undecided, including those who planned to stay and defend but leave if threatened by fire (16%) and those who intended to see what the fire was like before deciding whether to stay or leave (8%).

The majority of respondents (78%) reported discussing their intended response with members of their household. More than two-thirds (68%) had thought about what each member of the household would do. Notably, fewer respondents had considered how things could change if some members of the household were not at home during a fire (42%) or written down important things to do and remember (26%).

Most frequently residents rated their level of preparedness as average (36%) and the majority wanted to be more prepared than they were (69%).

Section 4: During the bushfire

Half of respondents (50%) reported that they stayed to defend their homes and properties from the February 7th bushfires. 10% of these respondents left when they felt the danger was too great to stay, and 2% did not encounter fire on their properties. 41% of respondents left their homes or properties either before or when the fires arrived in their town or suburb. A small proportion (5%) reported that they sheltered inside a house, in a structure other than a house, in a vehicle, or somewhere outside during the fire.

Over half of the respondents (54%) who left their homes and properties before or when the fires arrived considered themselves to have left 'Late' or 'Very late'. A large proportion of respondents (48%) left because they felt it was too dangerous to stay and protect their house. In addition, seeing or smelling fire nearby (31%), advice from relatives, friends or neighbours (25%) and the need to remove household members or visitors from danger (24%) were major factors in motivating people to leave.

A significant proportion of respondents reported experiencing difficulties associated with leaving late, including: smoke (45%); poor visibility (26%); traffic (24%); embers (22%); flames (17%); and fallen trees (12%).

The majority of respondents (77%) who stayed with their house or property during the bushfire did so to protect their house, property and/or livestock. 72 people (11%) stayed because they felt it was too late to leave, or failed in their attempt to leave.

One-third (34%) of respondents who stayed with their house or property reported leaving at some stage during the fire. The most commonly cited reason for leaving was that it was too dangerous to stay and defend (42%). Other commonly cited reasons were: there were flames in the immediate vicinity of the property (31%); to remove household members or visitors from danger (24%). One quarter of these respondents (26%) reported leaving because utilities or equipment failed and/or because their house caught fire (17%).

The majority of respondents (72%) who left their homes and properties before or when the fires arrived stated that they would leave again if there was a similar fire in the future. A similar proportion (73%) of those who stayed with their homes and properties declared their intention to stay and protect their homes and properties from future bushfires.

Introduction

On Saturday the 7th of February, 2009, Victoria experienced the worst bushfires in Australia's recorded history. 173 people lost their lives and more than 2000 homes were destroyed, in addition to substantial economic and environmental impacts.

In response to these events, the Bushfire CRC established a Research Task Force to undertake research for the Fire and Land Management sector and the fire research community in Australia and internationally. The initial scope of the Task Force was determined by the Bushfire CRC, CFA and DSE on February 11th 2009. It was agreed that the research would cover three key areas:

- Fire Behaviour
- Human Behaviour and Community Safety Issues
- Building (infrastructure) and Planning Issues

The Task Force was led by a team of experienced bushfire researchers from Australia, New Zealand and the USA. These researchers, supported by a large number of trained field staff from fire agencies throughout Australia, gathered and collated as much information as was possible in a time-critical period to support the process of learning lessons from the fires.

More details of the initiation and the broader outcomes of this work can be found in the Bushfire CRC Final Report available on the Bushfire CRC website.²

All aspects of the research consider the question: 'Was the impact of the fires of 7th February consistent with established knowledge or was this the result of previously unidentified behaviours or factors?' Due to the scale of the events and the limited time frame, this was not a forensic investigation of any individual event, occurrence, location or structure, but rather a consideration of the patterns evident as a result of these events.

This is the final report of the 'Human Behaviour and Community Safety Issues' team (hereafter referred to as the 'Human Behaviour' team). It is presented in the form of a databook setting out frequencies and some cross-tabulations from a quantitative analysis of surveys mailed to households that were affected by the February 7th bushfires. An interim report (Whittaker et al, 2010) set out preliminary findings based on analysis of 1104 surveys. This introductory text is similar to that of the Interim Report, however the body of the report differs as it contains analysis of all usable completed surveys - 1314 in total, additional frequency tables and cross tabulations as well as statistical tests for all cross-tabs.

The following sections outline the purpose and limitations of the research and the methods that were used to conduct it. The report then turns to the key quantitative findings, which are presented for each section of the survey:

Section 1: How the bushfires affected you and your property

Section 2: Information and warnings

Section 3: Before the bushfire [Planning and preparedness]

Section 4: During the bushfire [Householder responses]

² "Victorian 2009 Bushfire Research Response Final Report" October 2009, Bushfire CRC, ISBN: 978-0-9806759-8-6 (<http://www.bushfirecrc.com/research/taskforce2009.html>)

Purpose and limitations

This is the Final Report of the post-fire research into human behaviour and community safety issues during the February 7th bushfires. It presents findings from a quantitative analysis of surveys mailed to households that were affected by the February 7th fires. It is important to recognise that the results presented are subject to some limitations. The most obvious of these is that responses are likely to have been influenced by 'hindsight effects' involved in making judgements about the causes of events in the past with the knowledge of results from the present.³ In particular, participants' responses to the survey may have been influenced by the extensive media publicity and public discussion arising from the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission hearings and associated developments. These include, for example, changes to government and agency policies concerning vegetation clearing and community warnings, and criticism of fire agencies and the 'Prepare, stay and defend or leave early' policy.

This report presents only the findings of the *quantitative* research. Findings from the qualitative component of the research are reported in the Report on Human Behaviour and Community Safety in the Bushfire CRC research response final report, hereafter referred to as the 'first report'.

³ For example: Pohl, R. F. (2004). Hindsight bias. In R. F. Pohl (ed.), *Cognitive illusions: A handbook on fallacies and biases in thinking, judgement and memory* (pp. 363-378). New York: Psychology Press.

Methodology

The research was designed with distinct qualitative and quantitative components. This report presents findings from an analysis of the quantitative data. The qualitative component of the research entailed interviews with approximately 600 residents who were affected by the February 7th bushfires. Detail of the qualitative research, including findings relating to human behaviour and community safety issues, can be found in the first report.

3.1 Survey rationale

The purpose of the first report was to provide qualitative insights into human behaviour and community safety issues arising from the February 7th bushfires. Semi-structured interviewing was selected as the primary data collection method for the first phase of the research as it enabled participants to freely share their experiences and thoughts about the bushfires. This approach was sensitive to survivors' needs to share and have their experiences heard, but also enabled researchers to identify important issues and themes that may not have been previously considered. The mail-out survey, which is the focus of this report, was developed to gather quantitative data on the Taskforce Research Questions and the issues and themes that emerged from the qualitative component of the research.

3.2 Survey design

The "Householder response to the February 7th bushfires' survey" was developed from previous post-fire surveys and research needs arising from the 2009 fires. Researchers from the Centre for Risk and Community Safety, RMIT University, drafted a list of questions for possible inclusion in the survey. Based on internal assessment and discussions with stakeholders, the list was redrafted before it was presented to the Bushfire CRC and stakeholders for formal feedback. The survey was then revised to include a number of additional questions requested by the stakeholders and was restructured to achieve a clearer and more logical layout. Survey drafts were piloted. The survey was divided into five sections (see Appendix A for a copy of the survey):

- ***Section 1: How the bushfires affected you and your property***
 - A series of questions about: the age and construction of respondents' homes; whether their homes were damaged or destroyed by fire or wind; and how members of the household were affected by the fires.
- ***Section 2: Information and warnings***
 - A series of questions about: general information people received about bushfires prior to February 7th, such as information about how to plan and prepare for bushfires; warnings about potential fire danger on February 7th; and information and warnings received during the February 7th bushfires.
- ***Section 3: Before the bushfire***
 - A series of questions about householder planning and preparation for bushfires prior to and on February 7th.
- ***Section 4: During the bushfire***
 - A series of questions about householder responses to the February 7th bushfires. The first part of this section is intended for respondents who left their home or property either before or when the fire arrived in their town or suburb (and did not initiate defence). The second part of this section is intended for respondents who stayed with their home or property for some or all of the fire. This includes respondents who: stayed and defended throughout the fire; initiated defence but left once the danger was too great; and those who did not initiate defence but sheltered inside the house or elsewhere on the property.

- **Section 5: Information about you and your household**

- A series of questions about the respondent's: gender; age; type and tenure of property; length of residence; insurance; household composition; and membership of CFA and Community Fire Guard groups.
- The survey was again distributed to colleagues at RMIT University and the Bushfire CRC, as well as to a number of contacts in high-fire risk areas, to gain feedback on its content and layout. It was then pre-tested with ten Kinglake residents to ensure that respondents' interpretations of the questions were consistent with that intended in the research design and that the issues covered were considered salient by respondents. However, because the survey was based on issues identified from the semi-structured interviews and questions were phrased using the language and terms used by respondents, only minor amendments were necessary.

3.3 Survey sample

Surveys were mailed to approximately 6000 addresses in areas affected by the February 7th bushfires. Addresses that physically fell within the 'burnt area', as defined by DSE, were extracted from the Vicmap database. Residents of fire-affected areas who did not receive a copy of the survey were invited to participate through a series of press releases and radio announcements advising them to contact the Centre for Risk & Community Safety for a copy of the survey. An online version of the survey was also made available.

A response rate of approximately 25% was obtained. This is generally considered sufficient to avoid sampling bias. This figure excludes 699 uncompleted surveys that were returned to the Centre for Risk & Community Safety, the vast majority of which were undeliverable. It is possible that more residents did not receive the survey.

The 1314 surveys included in this report were received from more than 40 postcode areas across Victoria. These are located in each of the major fire complexes, including: Murrindindi, Yarra Ranges, Mitchell, Whittlesea, Latrobe and Baw Baw.

Fire complex	Postcodes
Murrindindi	3711, 3714, 3717, 3763, 3778, 3779
Yarra Ranges	3767, 3774, 3775, 3777, 3799
Mitchell	3658, 3660, 3758, 3764
Whittlesea	3757
Latrobe	3840, 3842, 3844
Baw Baw	3816, 3818
Other*	3099, 3171, 3340, 3400, 3401, 3478, 3551, 3568, 3660, 3673, 3691, 3737, 3749, 3761, 3873, 3878
Invalid postcode	5638, 5818

*Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

About half (49%) of respondents were female. Most respondents (76%) were aged between 35 and 64 and most owned their own homes. A cross sectional analysis of respondent's age and home ownership is shown below. Further demographic and other information about the households represented in the survey sample can be found in the Results section of this report.

$\chi^2 = 50.136$	$P < 0.001$	Owned or buying	Renting	Other	Total
18-24	Count	6	3	1	10
	Expected	9.4	0.4	0.2	
25-34	Count	69	10	6	85
	Expected	79.6	3.8	1.7	
35-44	Count	259	11	4	274
	Expected	256.4	12.2	5.3	
45-54	Count	312	15	7	334
	Expected	312.6	14.9	6.5	
55-64	Count	310	11	4	325
	Expected	304.2	14.5	6.3	
65-74	Count	154	2	1	157
	Expected	146.9	7	3.1	
75+	Count	44	3	1	48
	Expected	44.9	2.1	0.9	
Total	Count	1154	55	24	1233

Q73. What is your age? By Q78 Did you own or rent property?

3.4 Ethics and fieldwork risks

Ethics approval for the research was obtained from RMIT University's Human Research and Ethics Committee. The surveys were conducted and data were managed in accordance with the Committee's requirements. The main ethical issue facing the survey research was the need to engage sensitively with research participants, who may have suffered trauma as a result of their experiences.

The survey form that was mailed to households included a brief introductory letter and a more detailed Project Information Statement that explains the purpose of the research, the parties undertaking it, and the benefits and risks of participating. These documents clearly state that participation in the survey is voluntary (See Appendix A). Residents were informed that their address has been randomly selected from a list of fire affected properties compiled using fire maps and government records, and that their names have not been obtained. The Project Information Statement also states that only members of the household over the age of 18 should complete the survey. Respondents were advised that recalling the events of February 7th may cause distress and were provided with contact details for free counselling and support services. Respondents were informed that their responses to the surveys will remain anonymous and that only the researchers undertaking the analysis will have access to the raw data. Importantly, the Project Information Statement also included a statement about how the information collected will be used to improve community bushfire safety.

The Project Information Statement provided respondents with contact details for researchers should they have any concerns or questions about their participation in the research. Contact details were also provided for the Executive Officer of the RMIT Human Research Ethics Committee should respondents have complaints about their

participation in the research. A number of residents made contact with researchers to request copies of the survey and to discuss aspects of the survey.

3.4 Data collection and analysis

A data entry company was contracted to enter the survey data. The statistical analysis software *SPSS* (Version 17) was used to analyse the data. The analysis for the interim report on the survey (Whittaker et al, 2010) was coordinated by RMIT University's Centre for Risk & Community Safety. Analysis for this final report was undertaken by statisticians in RMIT's School for Mathematics and Geospatial Science in conjunction with the Centre for Risk & Community Safety. Handling and use of the dataset is subject to strict privacy and ethical considerations.

As discussed in the 'Purpose and limitations' section of this report, the findings presented in this report are based on an analysis of 1314 of approximately 1350 returned surveys. This report presents basic frequencies for each survey question, with cross-tabulations and statistical tests for key questions. Analysis of qualitative fields ('Other - please specify' and text box questions) has not been undertaken for this report.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE:

Joshua Whittaker, Katharine Haynes, Jim McLennan, John Handmer, and Briony Towers (2010) Research results from February 7th Victorian Fires Second Report on: Human Behaviour & Community Safety. Melbourne: Bushfire CRC.

Results

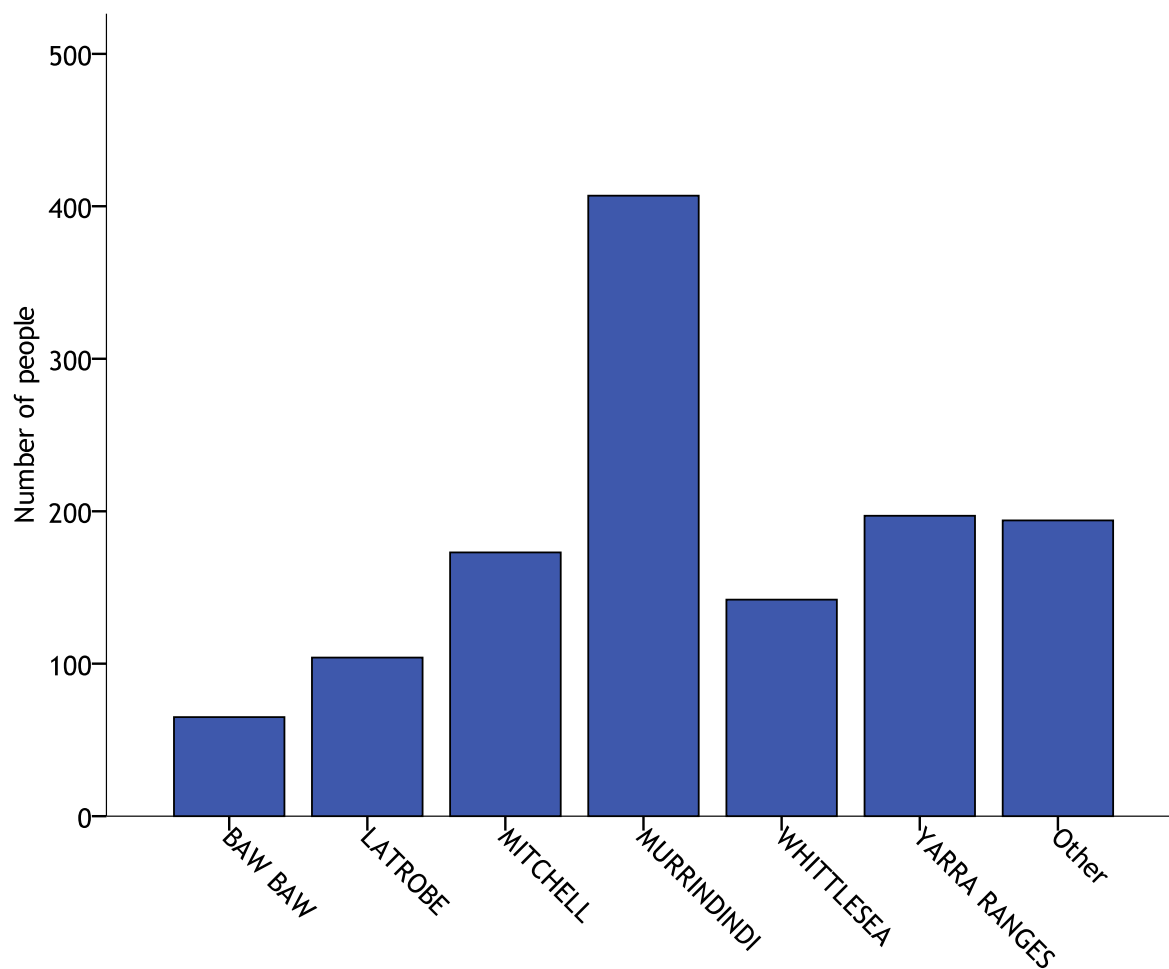
Descriptive Statistics

Section 1: How the bushfire affected you and your property

Q1. What is your postcode?

	Missing	Baw Baw	Latrobe	Mitchell	Murrindindi	Whittlesea	Yarra Ranges	Other	Total
Count	32	65	104	173	407	142	197	194	1314
Percent	2.4	4.9	7.9	13.2	31	10.8	15	14.8	100

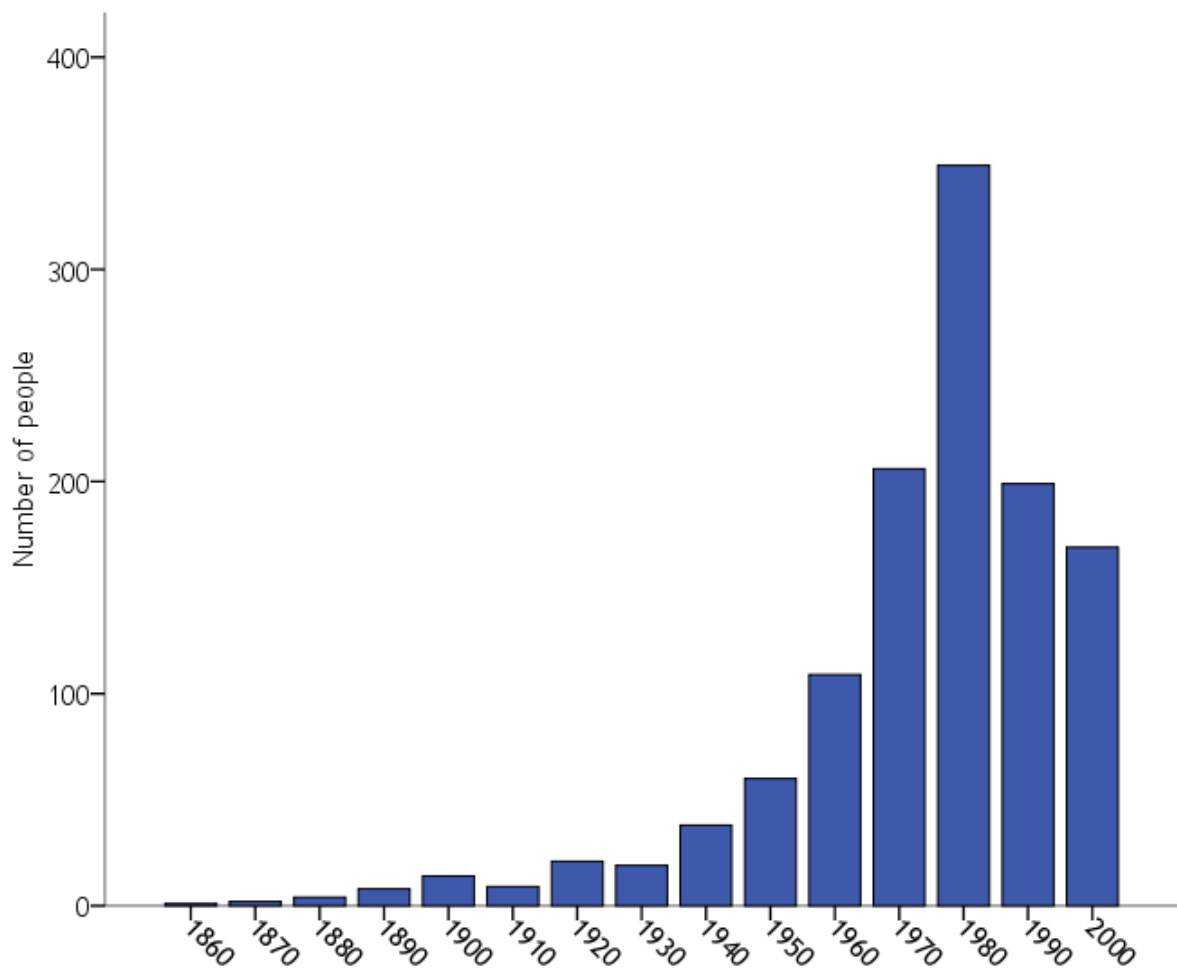
In the table above, postcodes have been grouped into the main fire complexes using the fire progression maps presented in the Interim Report of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission. The large proportion of surveys returned from the Murrindindi fire complex reflects the large size of this fire complex and the effected population.



Q2. In what decade was the house built?

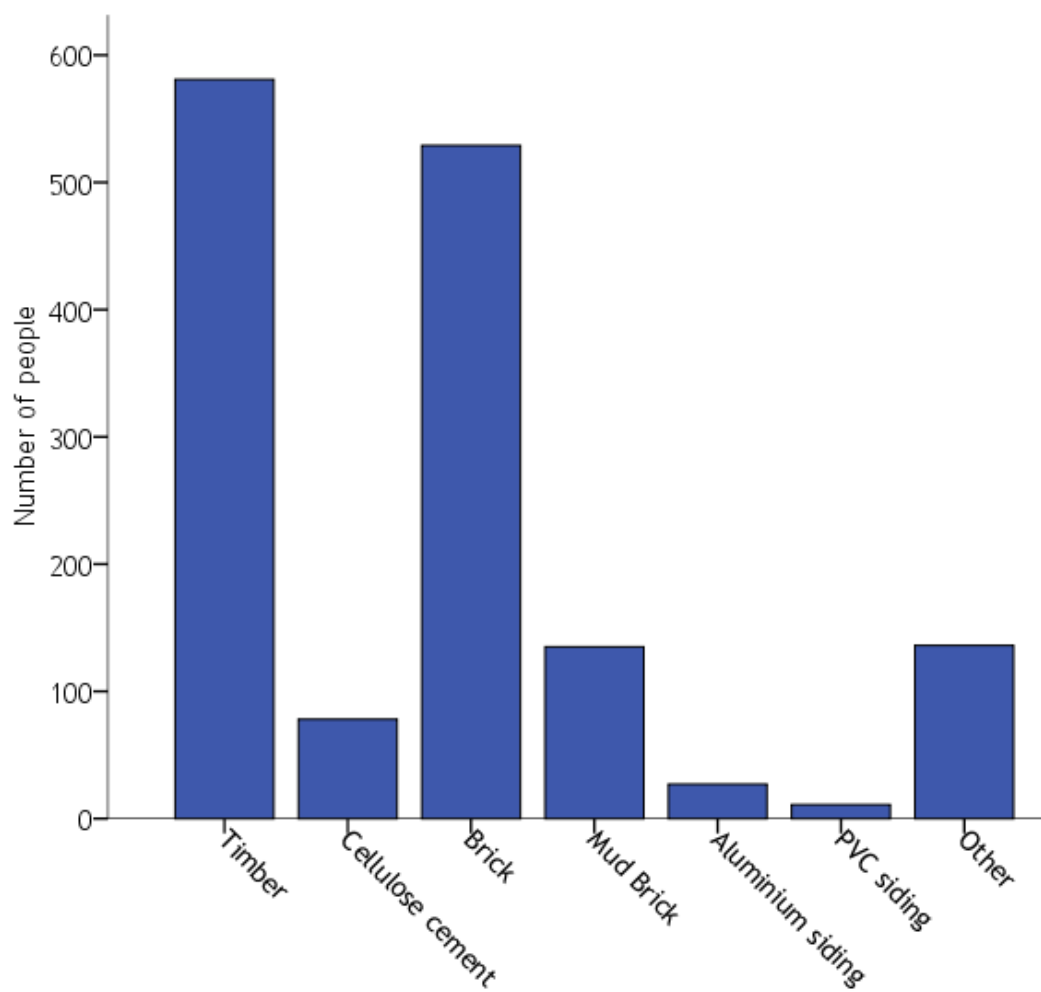
	Before 1900	1900 - 1919	1920 - 1939	1940 - 1959	1960 - 1979	1980 - 1999	2000 - 2009	Valid Total	Missing	Total
Count	15	23	40	98	315	548	169	1208	106	1314
Percent	1.2	1.8	3	7.5	24	41.7	12.9	91.9	8.1	100

Homes that were built in fire affected areas were largely built after 1980.



Q3. What is/was your bushfire-affected house made of?

	Timber	Cellulose cement	Brick	Mud Brick	Aluminium siding	PVC siding	Other
Count	581	78	529	135	27	11	136
Percent	44.2	5.9	40.3	10.3	2.1	0.8	10.4



	House was undamaged	Minor damage	Major damage	Destroyed
Timber	42.3% (219)	36.8% (110)	31.6% (12)	56.8% (235)
Cellulose cement	4.4% (23)	6.0% (18)	2.6% (1)	8.5% (35)
Brick	45.8% (237)	45.5% (136)	57.9% (22)	31.4% (130)
Mud Brick	8.9% (46)	13.7% (41)	13.2% (5)	9.7% (40)
Aluminium siding	2.3% (12)	2.0% (6)	.0% (0)	2.2% (9)
PVC siding	1.0% (5)	1.0% (3)	.0% (0)	.5% (2)
Other	11.4% (59)	11.4% (34)	10.5% (4)	8.9% (37)
Don't know	.0% (0)	.0% (0)	.0% (0)	.0% (0)

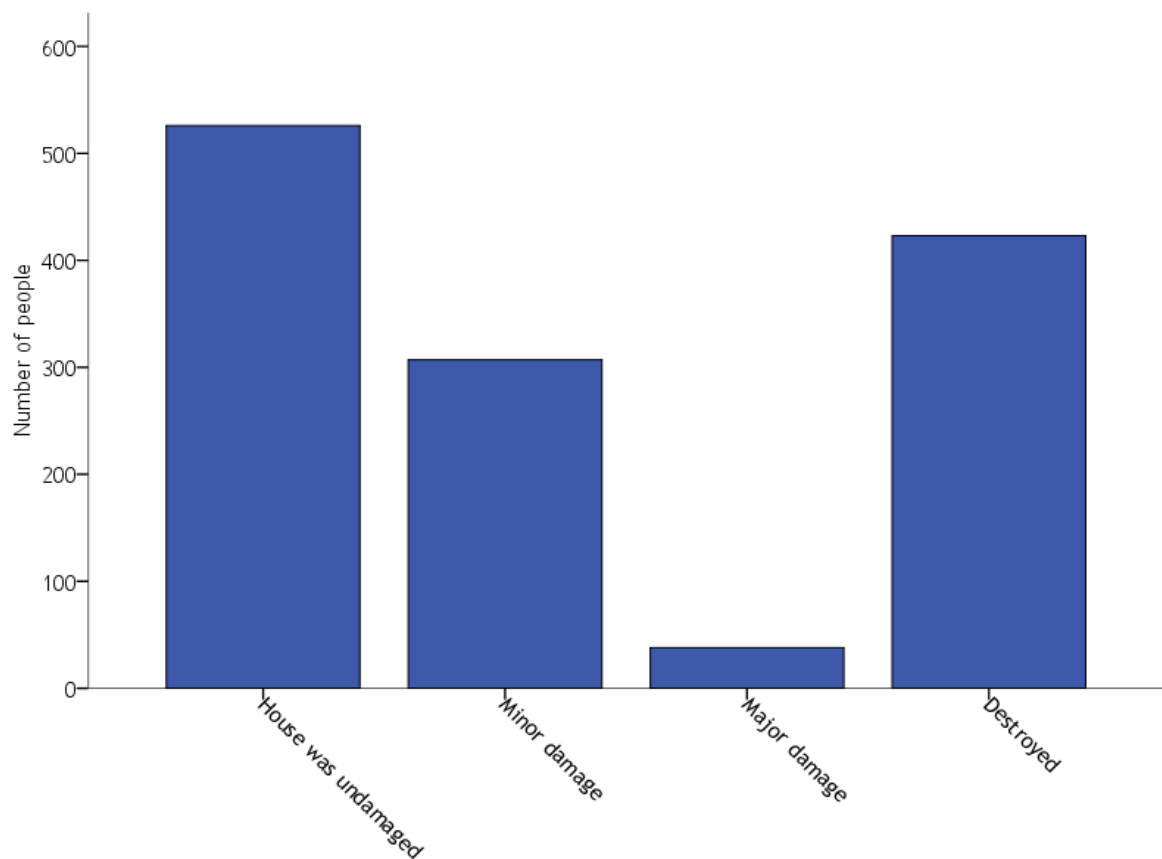
	House was undamaged	Minor damage	Major damage	Destroyed
Timber	38.0%	19.1%	2.1%	40.8%
Cellulose cement	29.9%	23.4%	1.3%	45.5%
Brick	45.1%	25.9%	4.2%	24.8%
Mud Brick	34.8%	31.1%	3.8%	30.3%
Aluminium siding	44.4%	22.2%	.0%	33.3%
PVC siding	50.0%	30.0%	.0%	20.0%
Other	44.0%	25.4%	3.0%	27.6%
Don't know	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%

Q4. Was your house damaged or destroyed during the bushfire?

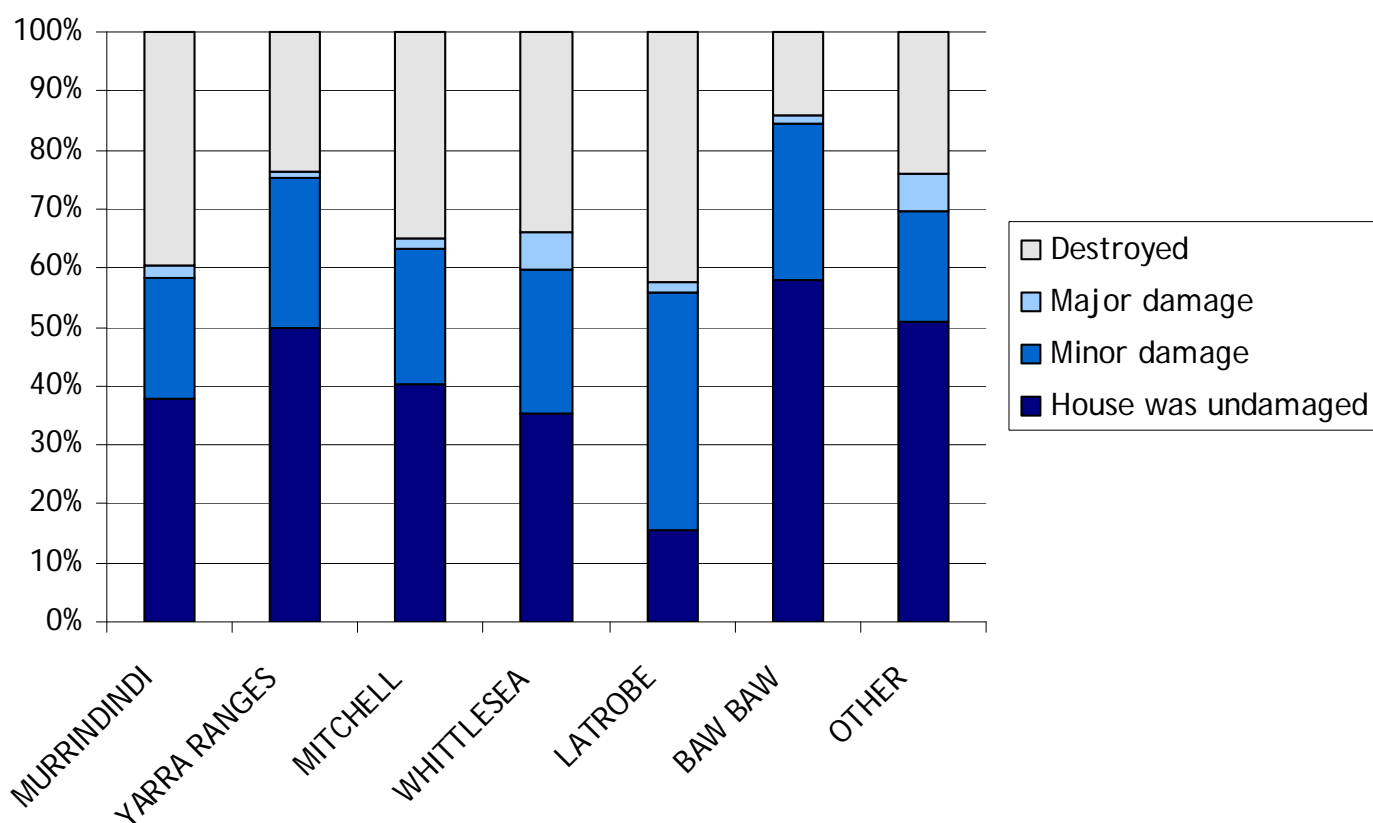
	House was undamaged	Minor damage	Major damage	Destroyed	Total	Missing	Total
Count	526	307	38	423	1294	20	1314
Percent	40.0	23.4	2.9	32.2	98.5	1.5	100

Almost one-third (32.2%) of respondents reported that their home was destroyed in the fires. It is noteworthy that relatively few houses impacted by the fires survived with major damage (<3%). This is also consistent with past findings from the building assessment teams where houses are usually found with minor damaged or completely destroyed.

The table and chart below display proportions of house destruction and damage for each of the fire complexes represented in the survey sample. Respondents reporting property damage was lowest in Baw Baw with 16% of properties being destroyed or sustaining major damage. Major property damage and destruction was greatest in Murrindindi (42%, n=168) and Latrobe (44%, n=45).



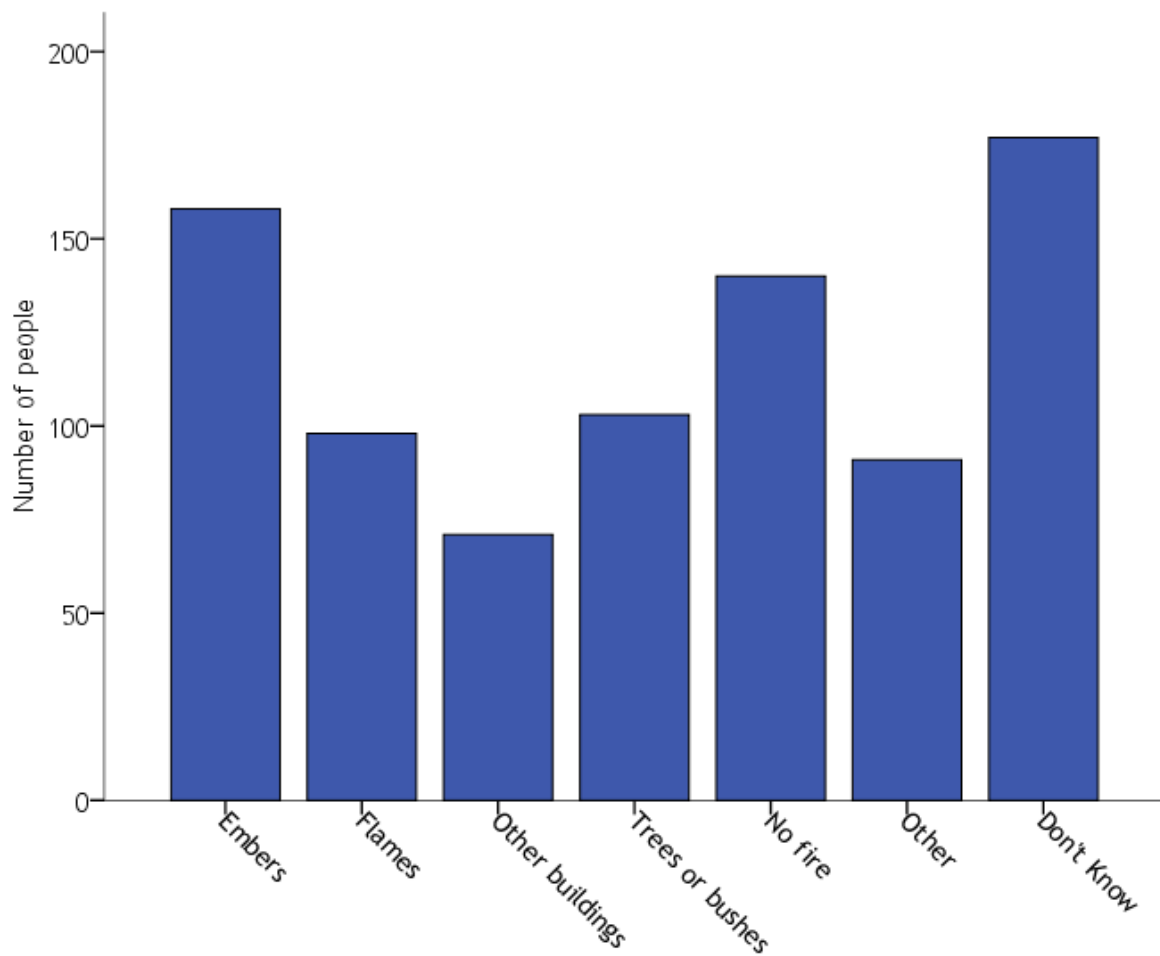
	Baw Baw	Latrobe	Mitchell	Murrindindi	Whittlesea	Yarra Ranges	Other
House was undamaged	57.8% (37)	15.4% (16)	40.2% (68)	37.7% (152)	35.5% (50)	49.7% (97)	52.2% (97)
Minor damage	26.6% (17)	40.4% (42)	23.1% (39)	20.6% (83)	24.1% (34)	25.6% (50)	18.8% (35)
Major damage	1.6% (1)	1.9% (2)	1.8% (3)	2.2% (9)	6.4% (9)	1.0% (2)	6.5% (12)
Destroyed	14.1% (9)	42.3% (44)	34.9% (59)	39.5% (159)	34.0% (48)	23.6% (46)	22.6% (42)
Total	100% (64)	100% (104)	100% (169)	100% (403)	100% (141)	100% (195)	100% (186)



Q5. If known, how did the bushfire first ignite your house?

	Embers	Flames	Other buildings	Trees or bushes	No fire	Other	Don't Know	Total
Count	158	98	71	103	140	91	177	838
Percent	12.0	7.5	5.4	7.8	10.7	6.9	13.5	100

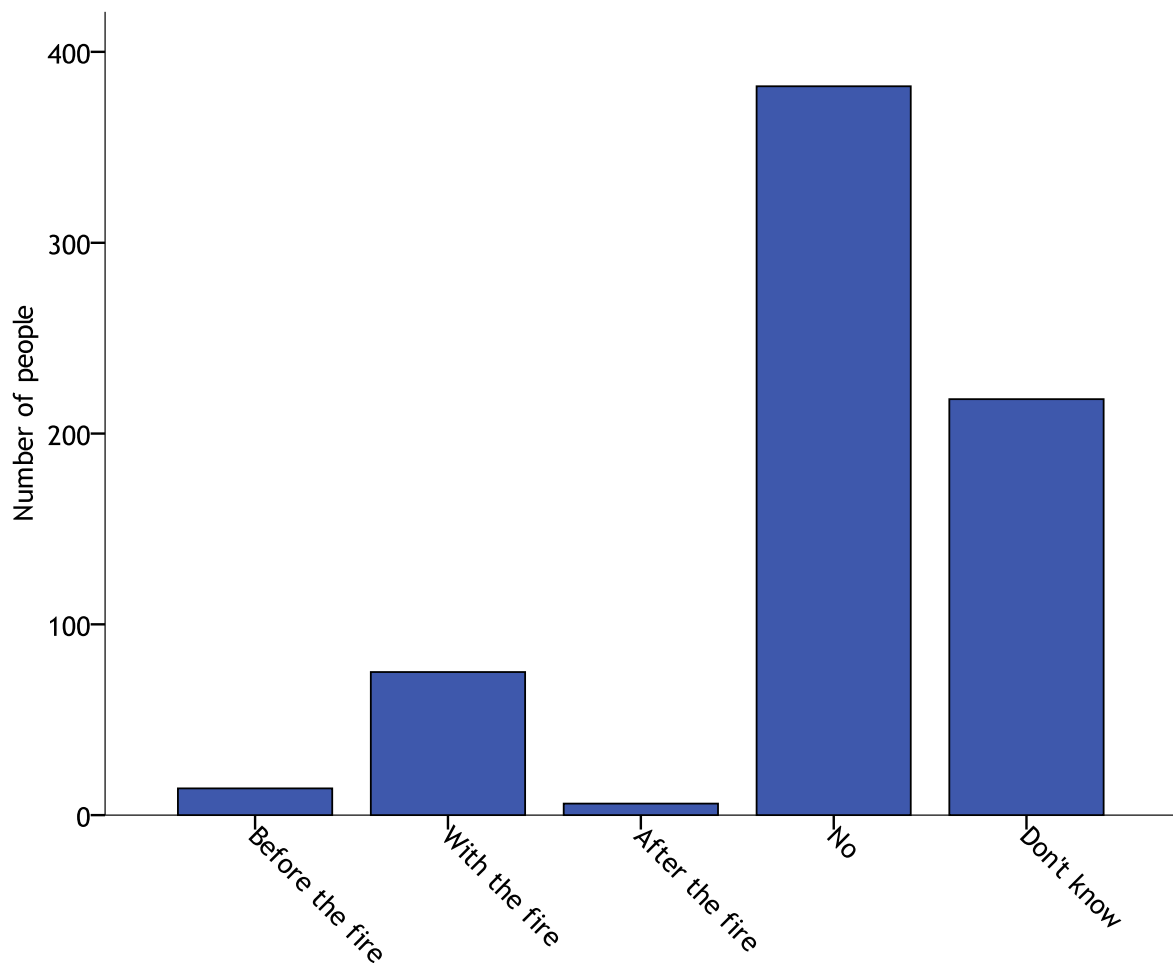
Consistent with findings from previous studies, the most common cause of house ignition was ember attack (19%). The large number of 'Don't know' is possibly due to many respondents leaving their homes before the fire impacted (see Q35 & Q37).



Q6. Was the house damaged by wind at any time during the bushfire

	Before the fire	With the fire	After the fire	No	Don't know	Total	Missing	Total
Count	14	75	6	382	218	695	73	768
Percent	1.8	9.8	.8	49.7	28.4	90.5	9.5	100

Despite the many accounts of strong winds on February 7th, the majority of residents (49.7%) reported that their house was not damaged by wind. Of those who indicated they were affected by wind damage, most said that it occurred with the fire.



	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure
Before the fire	.0% (0)	7.1% (1)	.0% (0)	85.7% (12)	7.1% (1)
With the fire	2.6% (2)	1.3% (1)	3.8% (3)	91.0% (71)	1.3% (1)
After the fire	.0% (0)	.0% (0)	.0% (0)	100.0% (5)	.0% (0)
No	2.7% (11)	4.7% (19)	5.2% (21)	85.7% (349)	1.7% (7)
Don't know	2.3% (5)	.0% (0)	3.2% (7)	88.0% (190)	6.5% (14)

Q7. To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?

		Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent
The actions I took to prepare before Feb 7	None or minor damage	12% (95)	16% (131)	18% (142)	53% (416)
	Major damage or destroyed	62% (240)	15% (61)	9% (36)	12% (49)
My actions on the day	None or minor damage	20% (156)	10% (82)	9% (70)	59% (461)
	Major damage or destroyed	65% (270)	10% (42)	5% (24)	13% (54)
Help of family, friends or neighbours on the day	None or minor damage	33% (253)	13% (100)	10% (81)	42% (324)
	Major damage or destroyed	76% (312)	6% (28)	2% (11)	8% (35)
Construction of my home	None or minor damage	33% (250)	17% (129)	18% (140)	25% (191)
	Major damage or destroyed	41% (173)	16% (67)	13% (58)	21% (91)
Fire agencies fire fighting activities	None or minor damage	69% (526)	7% (55)	5% (41)	14% (111)
	Major damage or destroyed	76% (309)	4% (18)	2% (11)	8% (35)
Fire agencies fuel reduction activities	None or minor damage	84% (633)	5% (39)	2% (22)	3% (28)
	Major damage or destroyed	67% (276)	5% (24)	2% (10)	15% (65)
Fuel (e.g. trees, bushes, leaves etc.)	None or minor damage	19% (146)	24% (180)	19% (142)	35% (263)
	Major damage or destroyed	23% (100)	20% (87)	14% (61)	37% (161)
Topography/Landscape	None or minor damage	16% (126)	20% (156)	26% (196)	30% (224)
	Major damage or destroyed	19% (83)	20% (86)	15% (64)	37% (159)
Temperature	None or minor damage	10% (79)	5% (38)	7% (56)	71% (531)
	Major damage or destroyed	1% (6)	1% (5)	5% (23)	89% (393)
Wind	None or minor damage	5% (42)	5% (44)	7% (53)	77% (586)
	Major damage or destroyed	1% (8)	1% (5)	3% (16)	90% (396)
Luck or chance	None or minor damage	13% (99)	23% (179)	13% (105)	47% (354)
	Major damage or destroyed	25% (102)	12% (51)	10% (42)	38% (151)
Other	None or minor damage	8% (8)	1% (1)	4% (4)	81% (81)
	Major damage or destroyed	3% (2)	1% (1)	3% (2)	79% (49)

Note that this Table contains two sets of responses for each factor: the upper set is from respondents whose house was **not** damaged or sustained **minor** damage only; the lower set is from respondents whose house was **destroyed** or sustained **major** damage.

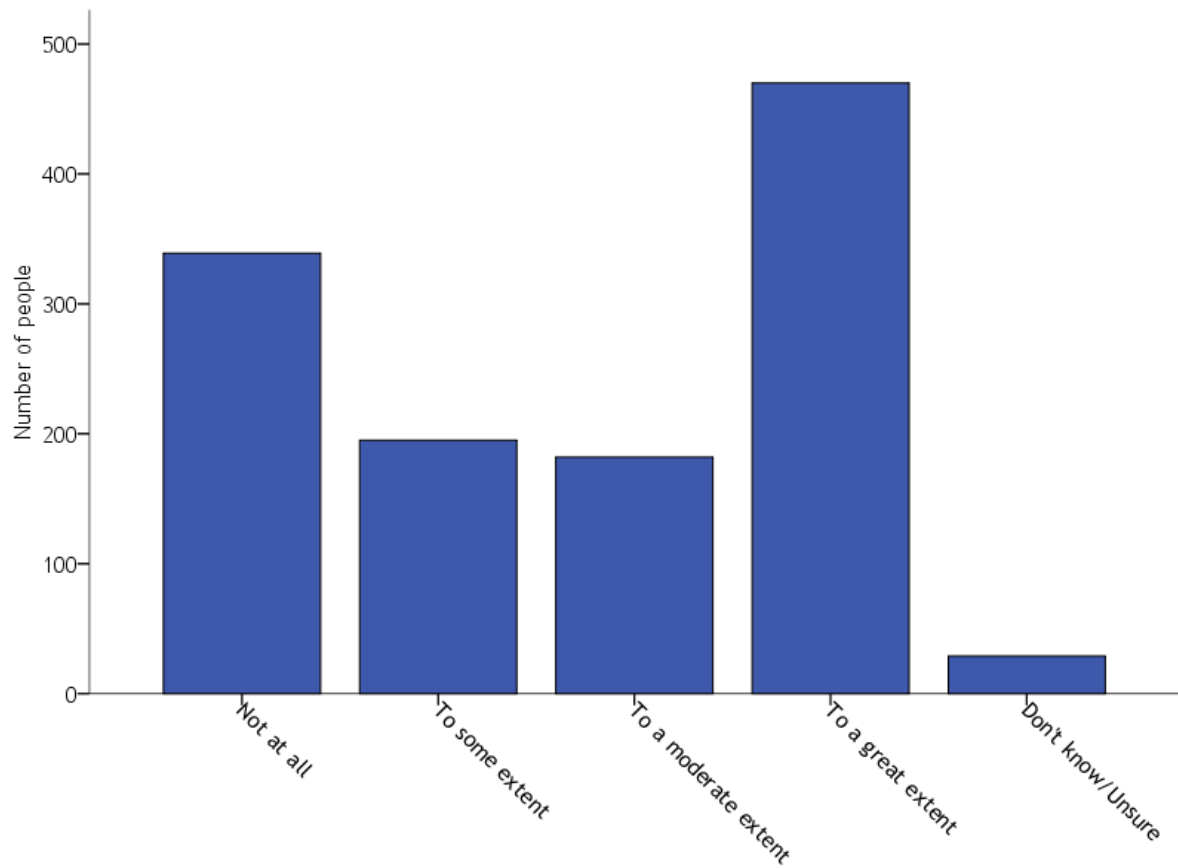
It is noteworthy that a large majority of both groups of respondents judged that the efforts of fire agencies on the day were largely unrelated to the outcomes; and a majority of both groups judged that the high temperatures and wind strengths were important determinants of how the fire affected respondents' homes. Those whose houses were destroyed or sustained major damage were rather more likely to report the high temperatures and winds as contributing "to a great extent" (an external cause attribution) compared with those whose houses survived.

In particular, judgements reported about the first two factors ('The actions I took to prepare before Feb 7'; and 'My actions on the day') appear to be strongly related to whether the house survived (with minor damage), or was destroyed or sustained major damage (explored in greater depth in section 2). Those whose house was destroyed or sustained major damage reported that both of these two factors were less influential in determining the impact of the fire on the house compared with those whose house survived or sustained only minor damage. Such a difference probably reflects a reasonably robust finding from social psychology: when actions are followed by negative outcomes, responsibility for the negative outcome is more likely to be attributed to external factors rather than personal endeavours⁴. Similar processes probably affected respondents' answers to the 7th factor: item 'Fire agencies' fuel reduction activities' — respondents whose house was destroyed or sustained major damage were more likely to regard this factor as a significant influence on how the fire affected their home.

⁴ For example: Malle, B. (1999). How people explain behaviour: A new theoretical framework. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 3, 23-48.

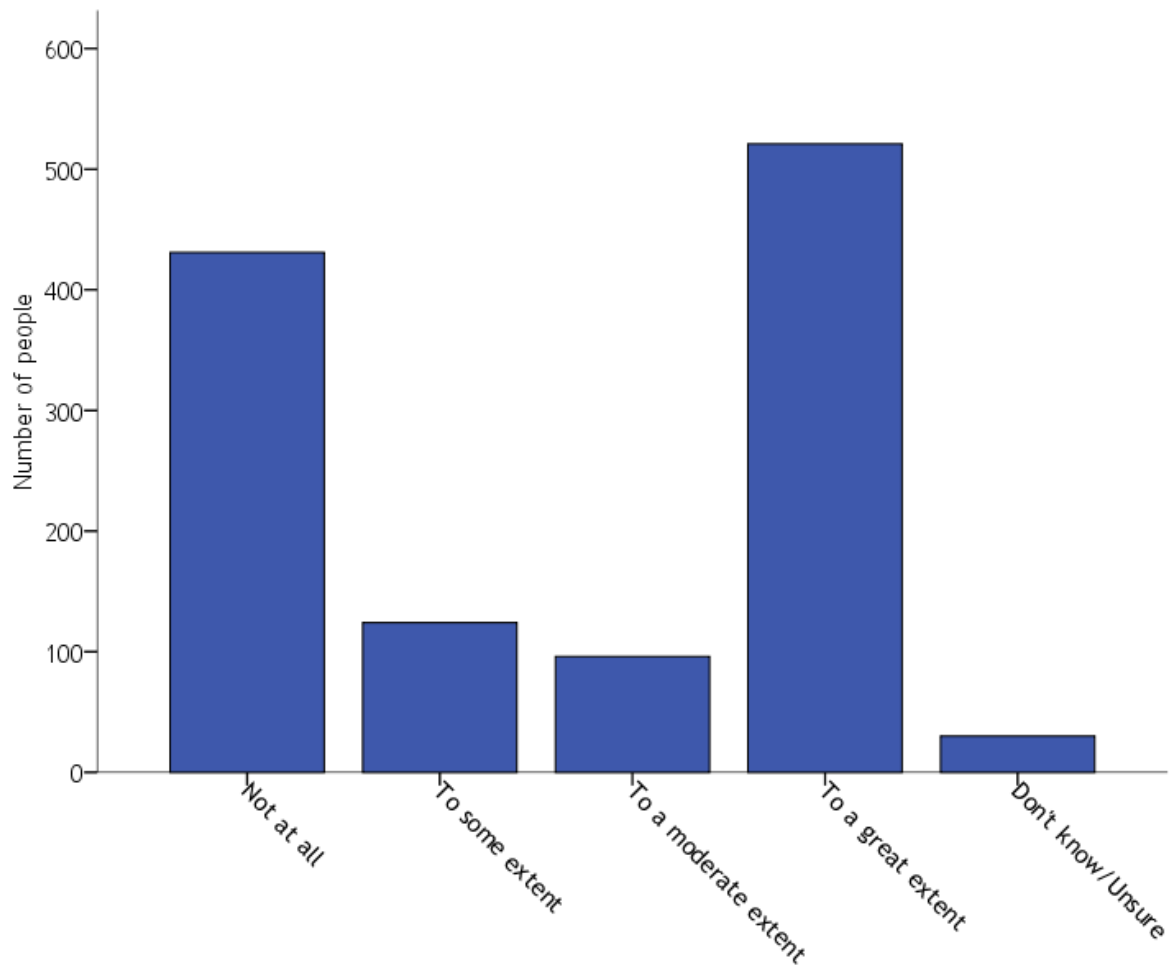
Q7.1 The actions I took to prepare before February 7th

	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know /Unsure	Total	Missing	Total
Count	339	195	182	470	29	1215	99	1314
Percent	25.8	14.8	13.9	35.8	2.2	92.5	7.5	100.0



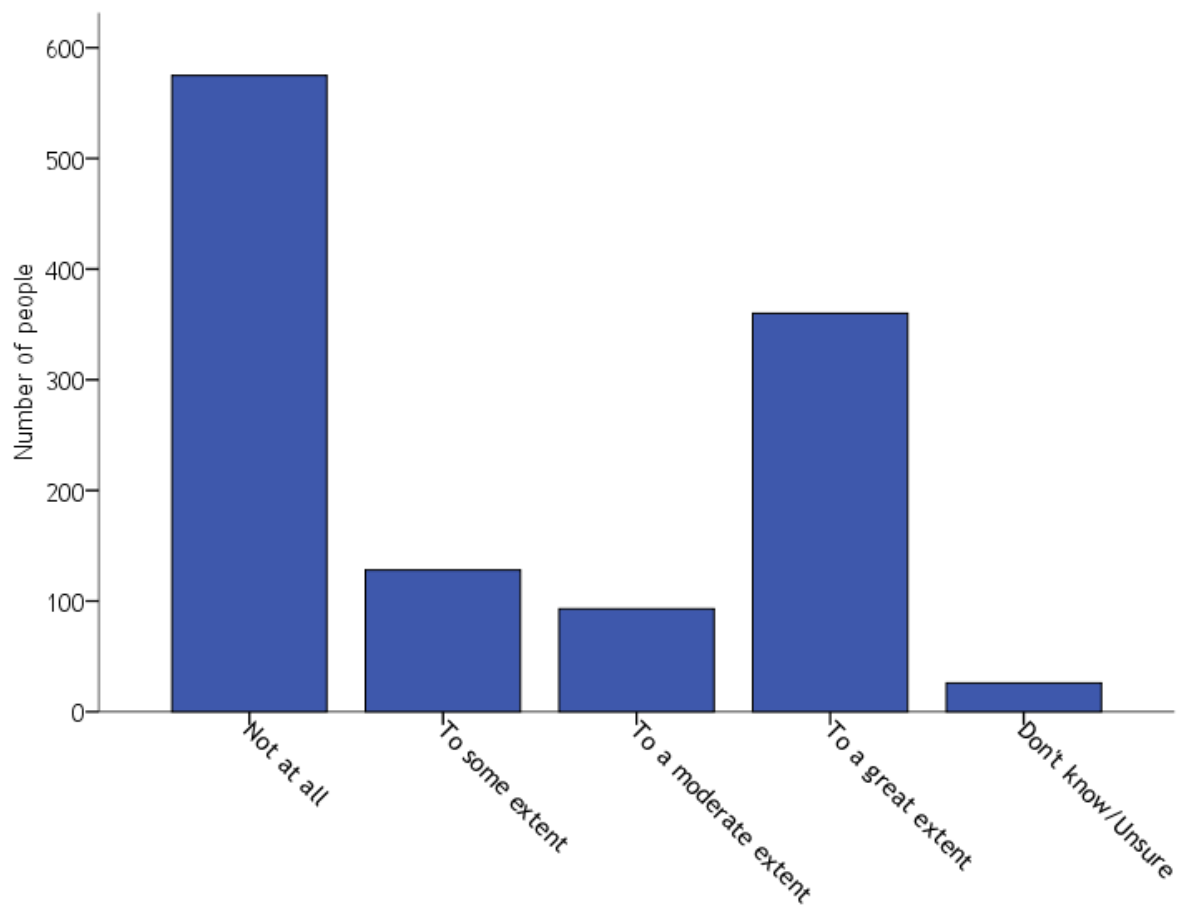
Q7.2 My actions on the day

	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know /Unsure	Total	Missing	Total
Count	431	124	96	521	30	1202	112	1314
Percent	32.8	9.4	7.3	39.6	2.3	91.5	8.5	100.0



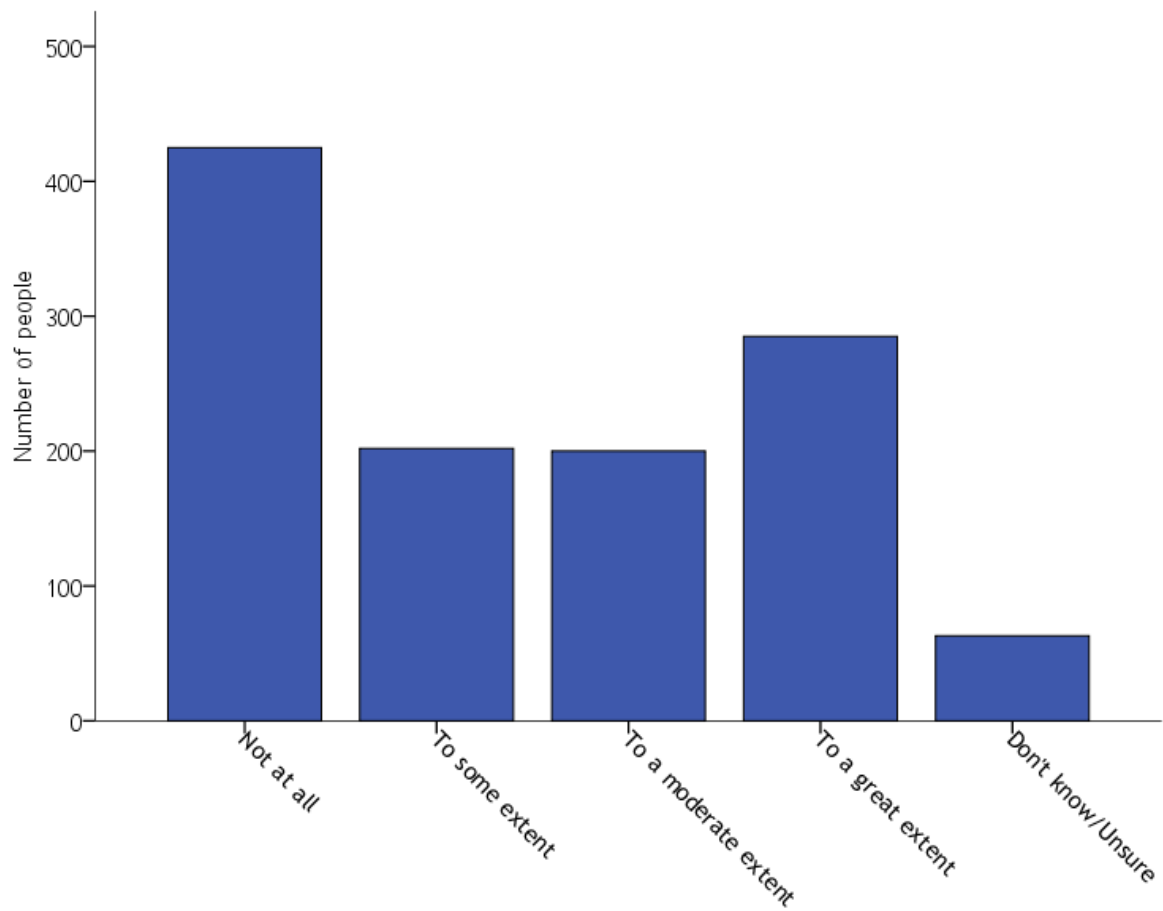
Q7.3 The help of family, friends or neighbours on the day

	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know /Unsure	Total	Missing	Total
Count	575	128	93	360	26	1182	132	1314
Percent	43.8	9.7	7.1	27.4	2.0	90.0	10.0	100.0



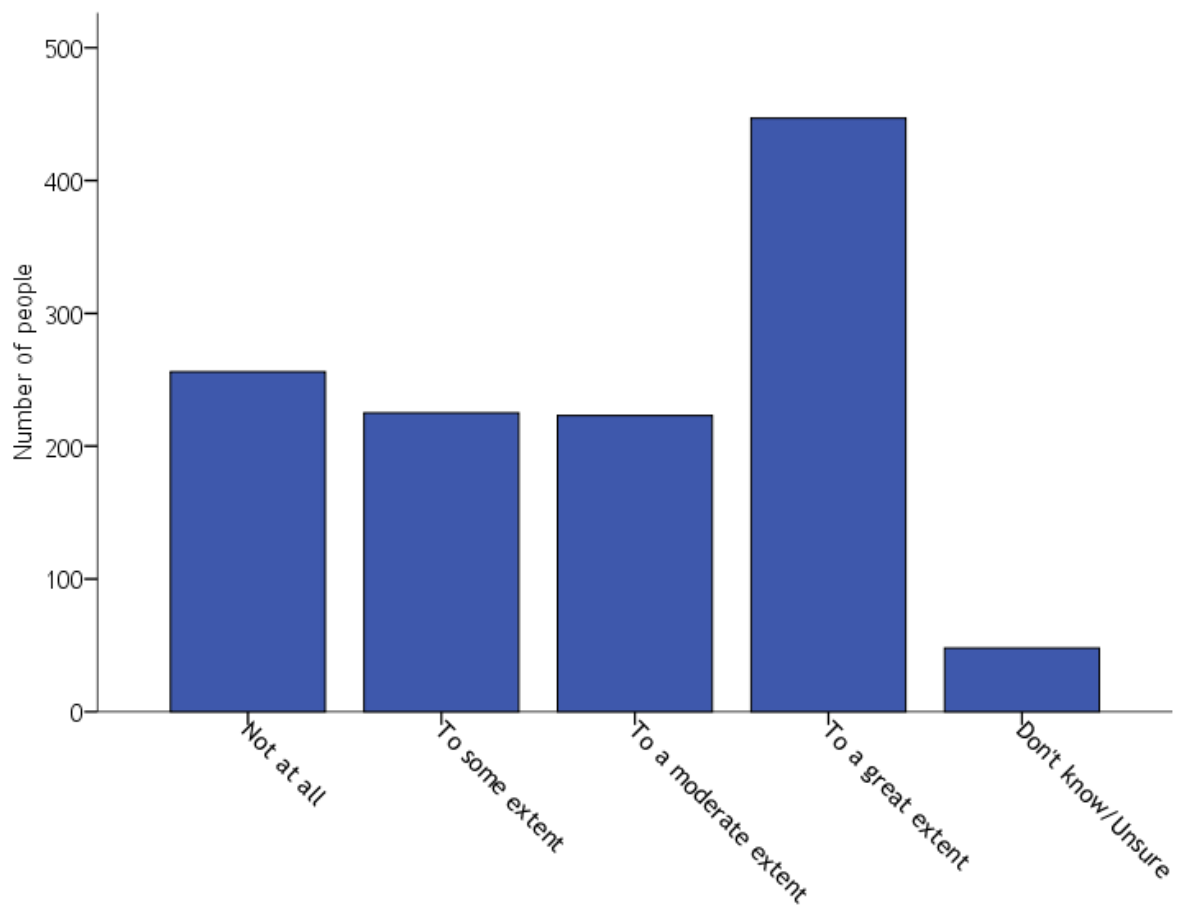
Q7.4 The construction of my home

	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know /Unsure	Total	Missing	Total
Count	425	202	200	285	63	1175	139	1314
Percent	32.3	15.4	15.2	21.7	4.8	89.4	10.6	100.0



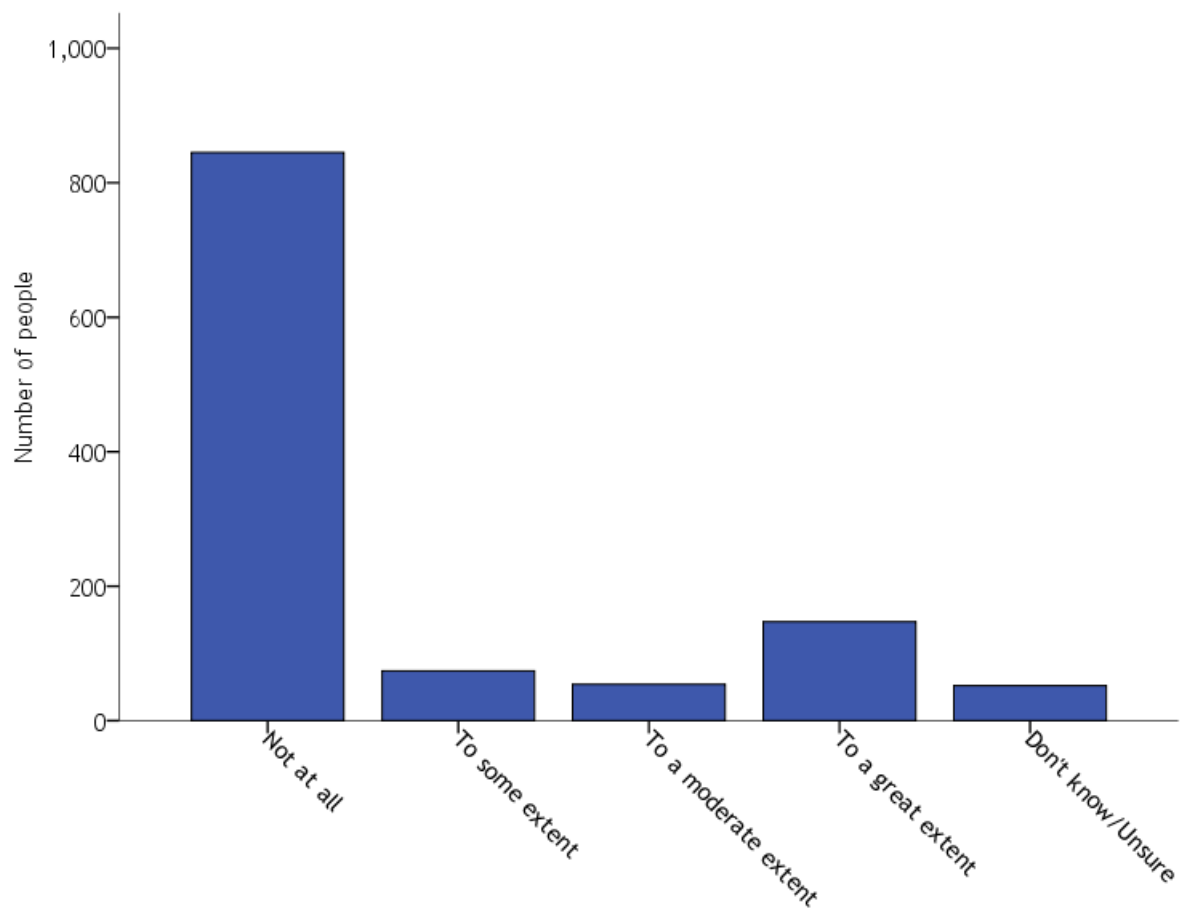
Q7.5 The position of my home

	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know /Unsure	Total	Missing	Total
Count	256	225	223	447	48	1199	115	1314
Percent	19.5	17.1	17.0	34.0	3.7	91.2	8.8	100.0



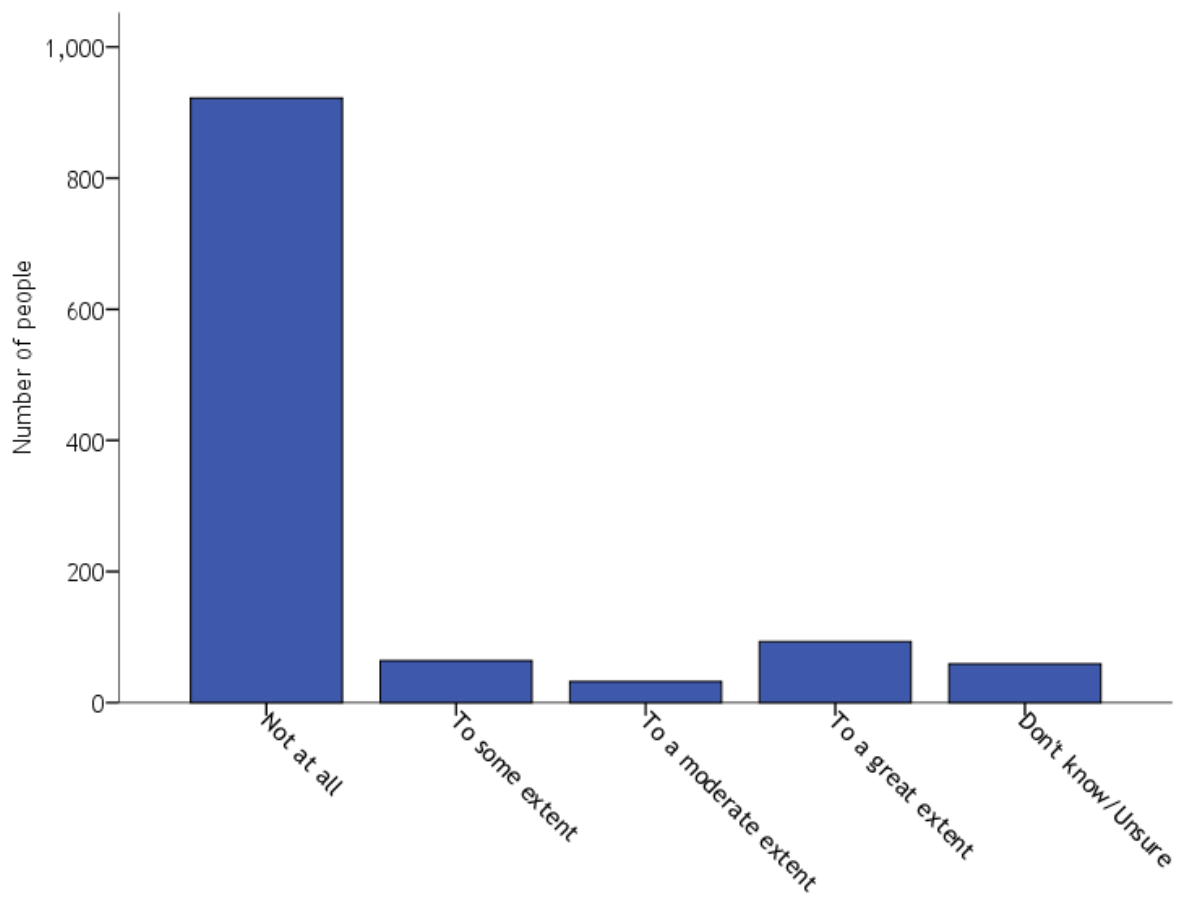
Q7.6 Fire agencies fire fighting activities

	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know /Unsure	Total	Missing	Total
Count	845	74	54	147	52	1172	142	1314
Percent	64.3	5.6	4.1	11.2	4.0	89.2	10.8	100.0



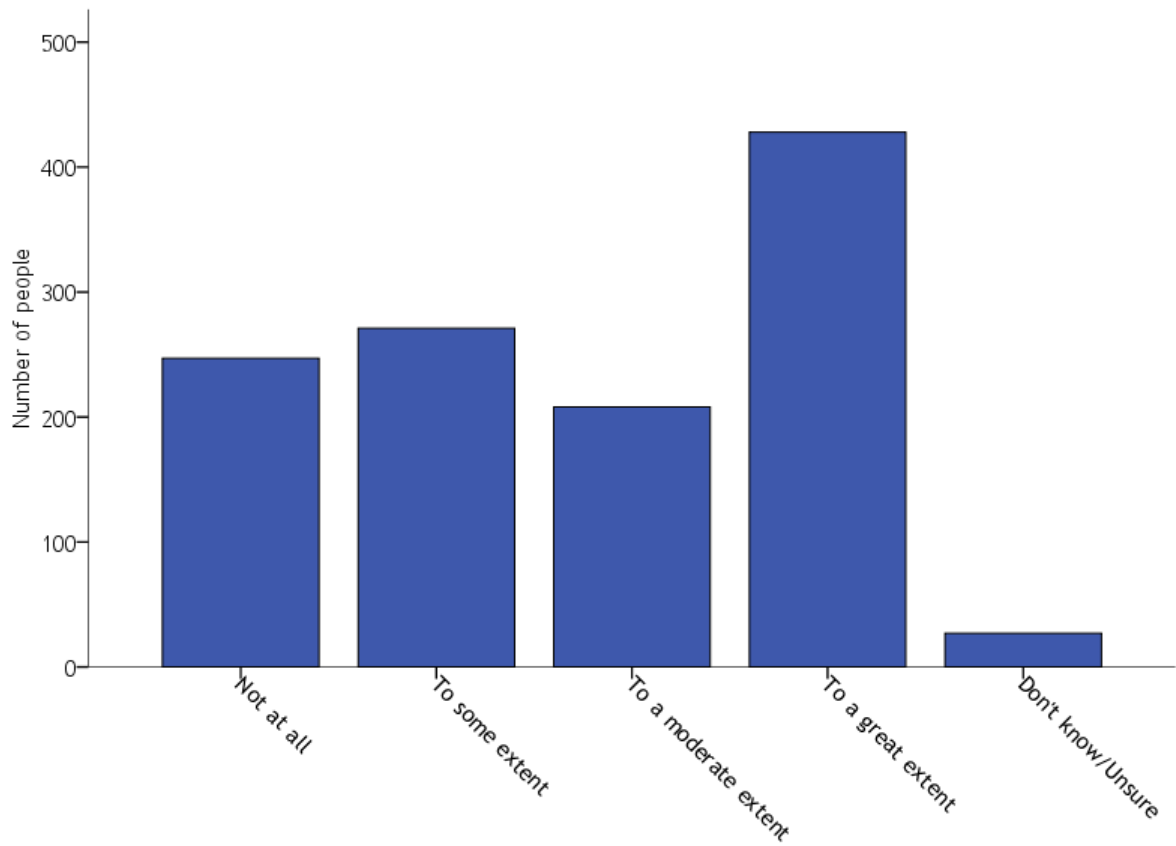
Q7.7 Fire agencies fuel reduction activities

	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know /Unsure	Total	Missing	Total
Count	922	64	32	93	59	1170	144	1314
Percent	70.2	4.9	2.4	7.1	4.5	89.0	11.0	100.0



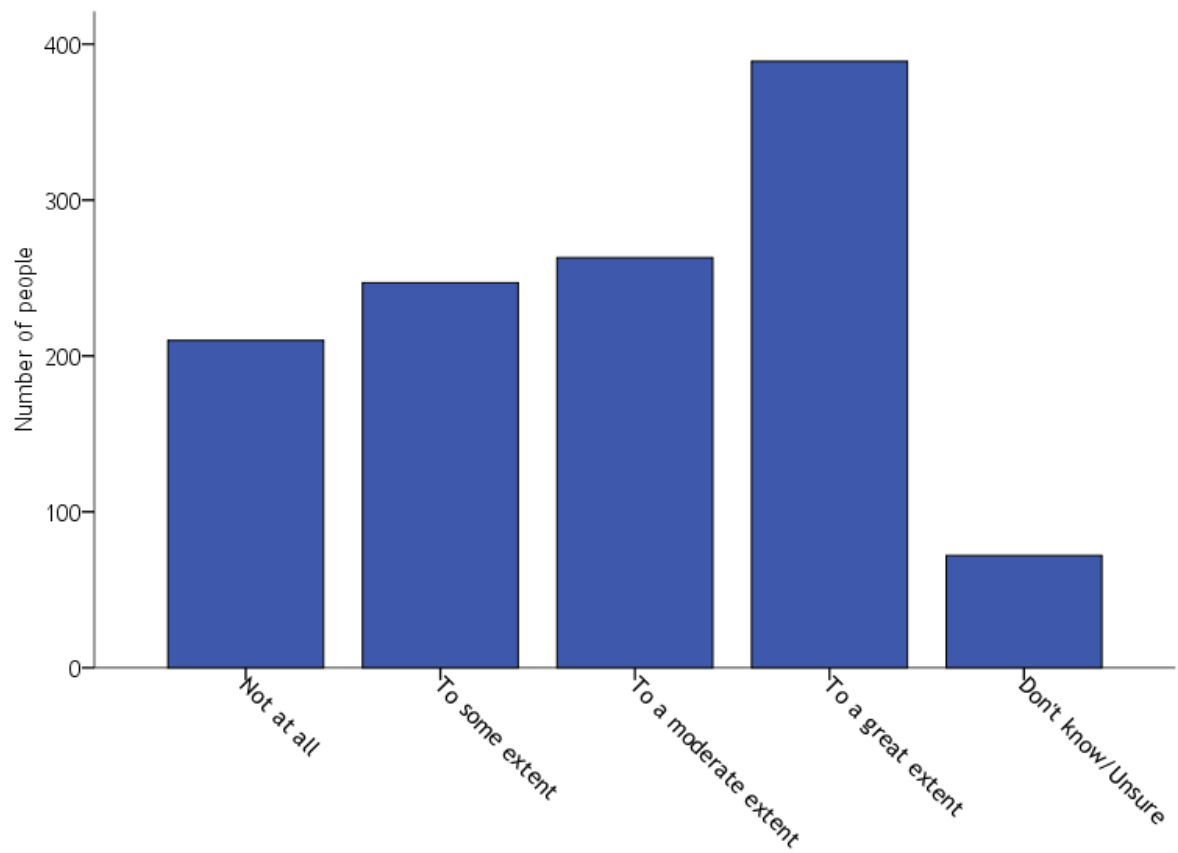
Q7.8 Fuel (e.g. trees, bushes, leaves on ground etc)

	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know /Unsure	Total	Missing	Total
Count	247	271	208	428	27	1181	133	1314
Percent	18.8	20.6	15.8	32.6	2.1	89.9	10.1	100.0



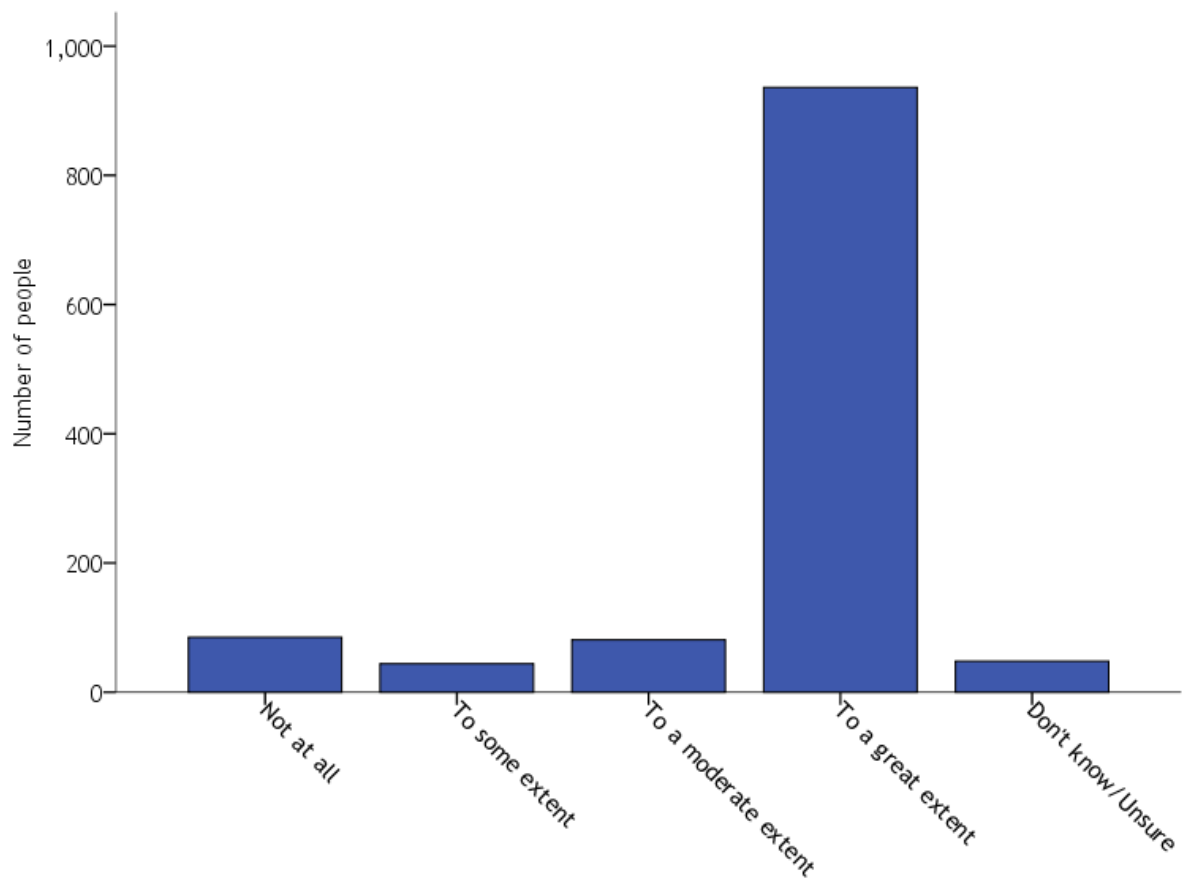
Q 7.9 Topography/Landscape (e.g. hills, valleys, rivers etc)

	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know /Unsure	Total	Missing	Total
Count	210	247	263	389	72	1181	133	1314
Percent	16.0	18.8	20.0	29.6	5.5	89.9	10.1	100.0



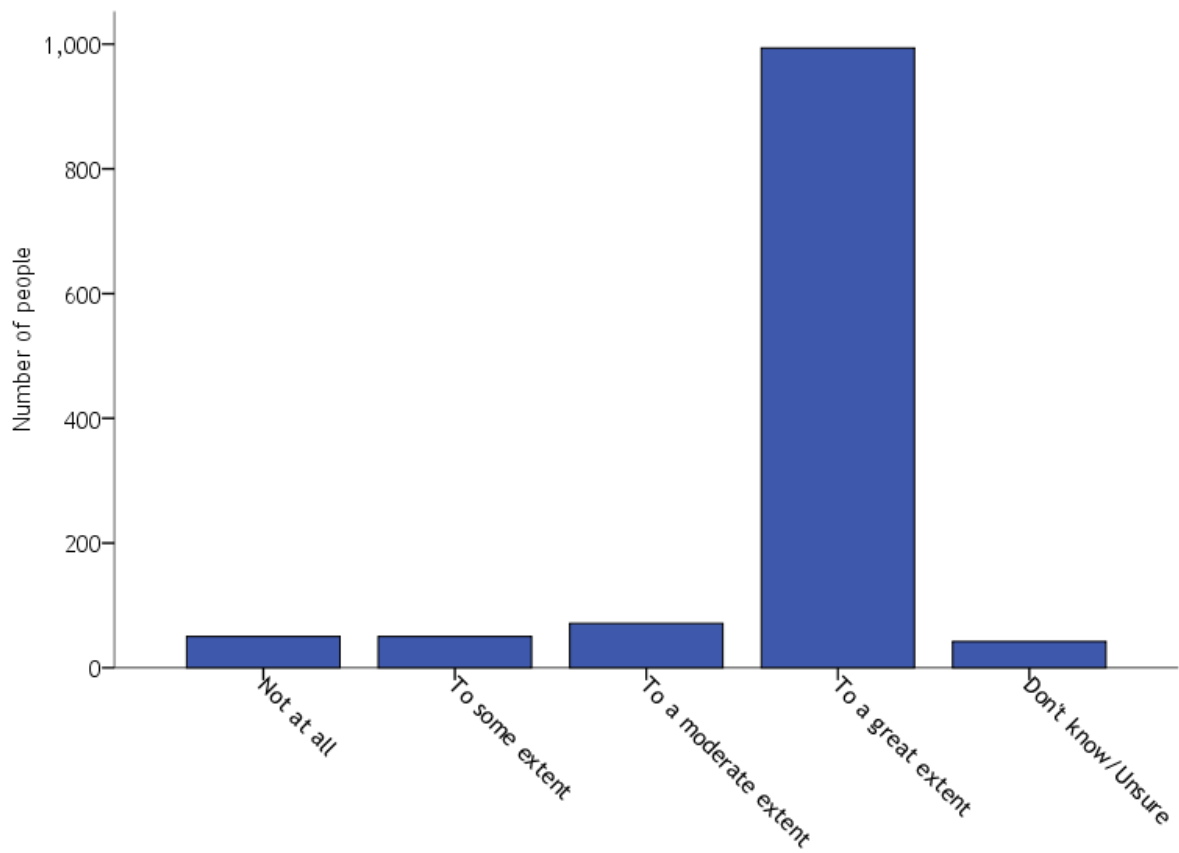
Q 7.10 Temperature

	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know /Unsure	Total	Missing	Total
Count	85	44	81	936	48	1194	120	1314
Percent	6.5	3.3	6.2	71.2	3.7	90.9	9.1	100.0



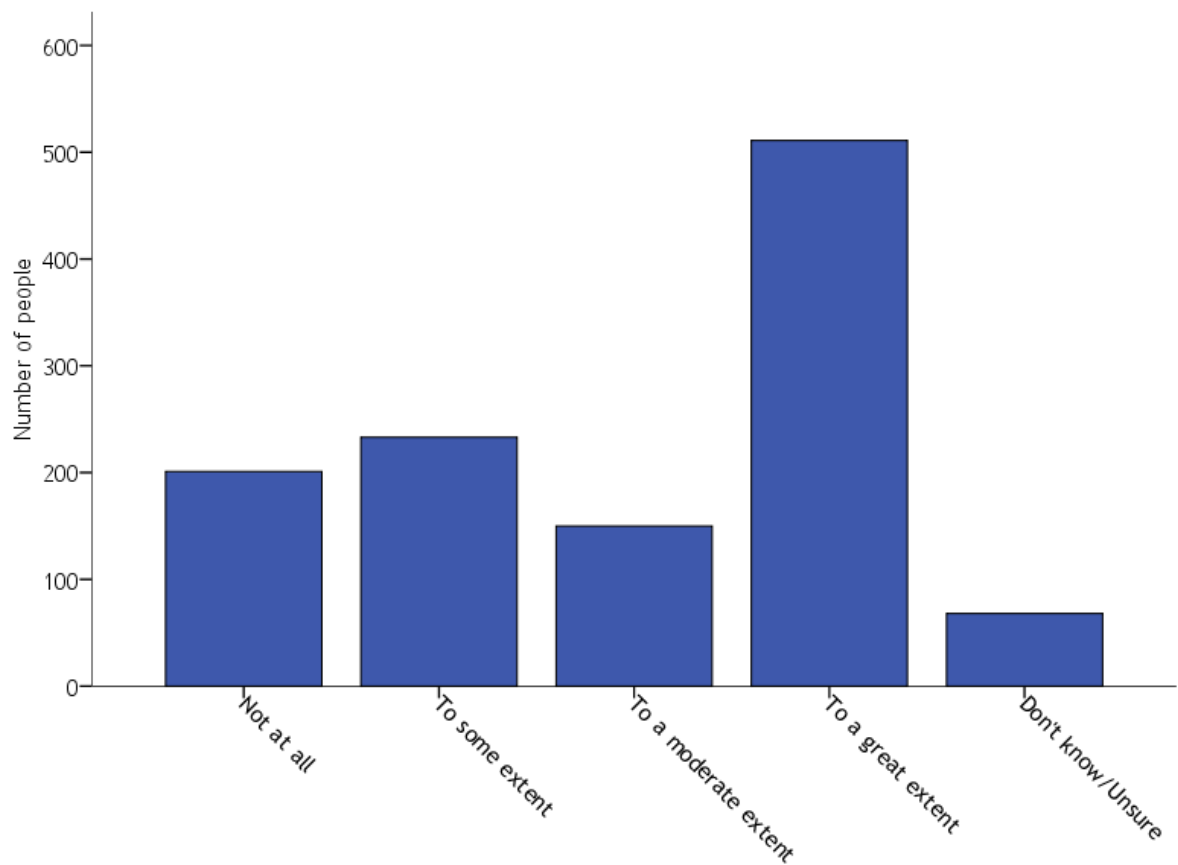
Q7.11 Wind

	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know /Unsure	Total	Missing	Total
Count	50	50	71	994	42	1207	107	1314
Percent	3.8	3.8	5.4	75.6	3.2	91.9	8.1	100.0



Q 7.12 Luck or chance

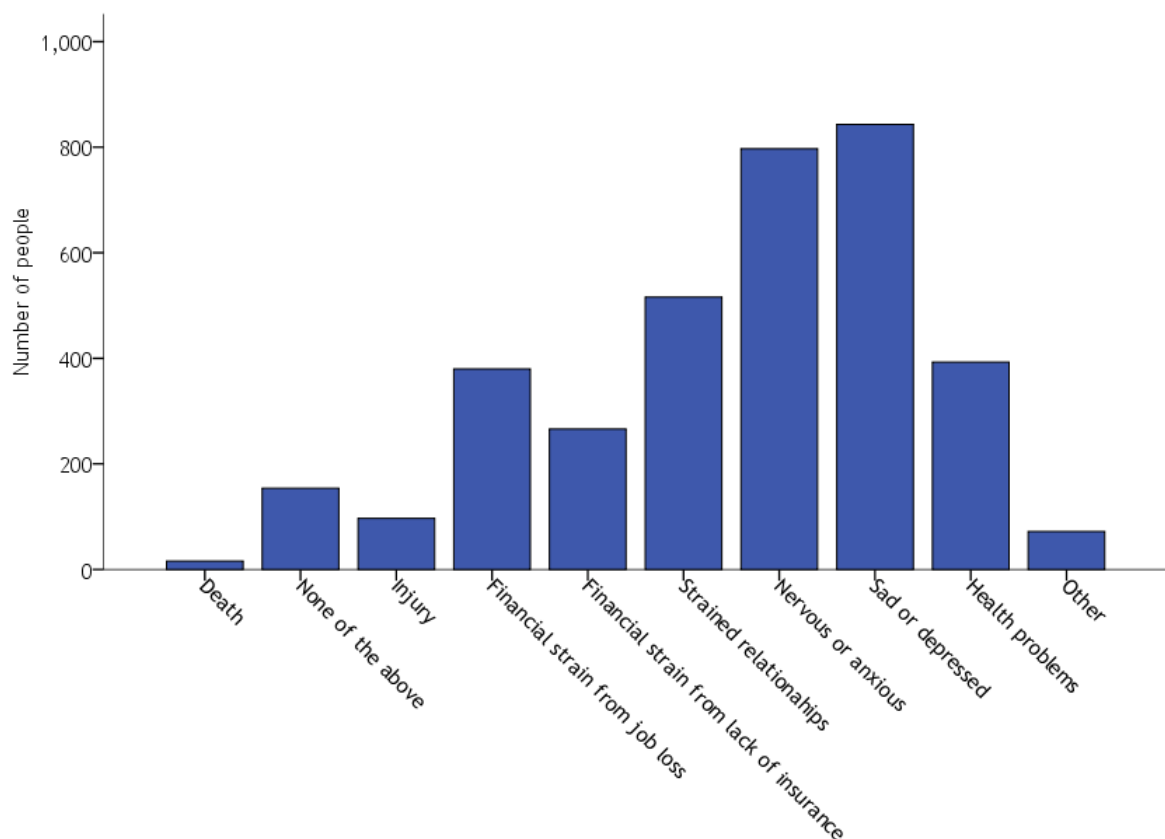
	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know /Unsure	Total	Missing	Total
Count	201	233	150	511	68	1163	151	1314
Percent	15.3	17.7	11.4	38.9	5.2	88.5	11.5	100.0



Q8. Have members of your household experienced any of the following as a result of the fires?

	Death	Injury	Financial strain from job loss	Financial strain from lack of insurance	Strained relationships
Count	16	97	380	266	516
Percent	1.2	7.4	28.9	20.2	39.3
	Nervous or anxious	Sad or depressed	Health problems	Other	None of the above
Count	797	843	393	72	154
Percent	60.7	64.2	29.9	5.5	11.7

Only a small proportion of respondents (12%) reported that their household was not affected in some way by the bushfires - death/injury, financial strain, emotionally, or health-wise. Clearly, adverse emotional responses, in the form of anxiety and depression, were very common, with nearly two-thirds of respondents reporting a household member(s) being affected emotionally. Financial problems accommodated around half (49%) of the respondents.



Note that the following table reads from the left, where the values represent the percentage of respondents who selected the column variable as well as the corresponding row variable. For example 11% of those who reported a death in the household also reported an injury.

Nearly two-thirds of the sample had a household member suffer psychological distress and it is likely that this is coupled with some other factor. For example those who had a family member suffer from financial strain also had a household member experience nervousness, anxiousness, sadness or depression. Most notably one third of those who indicated that a household member was nervous or anxious also had a household member that was sad or depressed. Strained relationships were evident in 22% of households where a member was also under some psychological distress. Over one fifth of respondents had a household member experiencing psychological distress when another household member had perished or suffered an injury.

	Injury	Financial strain from job loss	Financial strain from lack of insurance	Strained relationships	Nervous or anxious	Sad or depressed	Health problems
Death	11%	14%	7%	9%	20%	23%	16%
Injury		15%	7%	16%	22%	22%	17%
Financial strain from job loss	4%		13%	18%	23%	26%	15%
Financial strain from lack of insurance	3%	17%		18%	22%	25%	14%
Strained relationships	3%	14%	10%		27%	29%	16%
Nervous or anxious	4%	14%	10%	22%		33%	16%
Sad or depressed	4%	15%	10%	22%	31%		17%

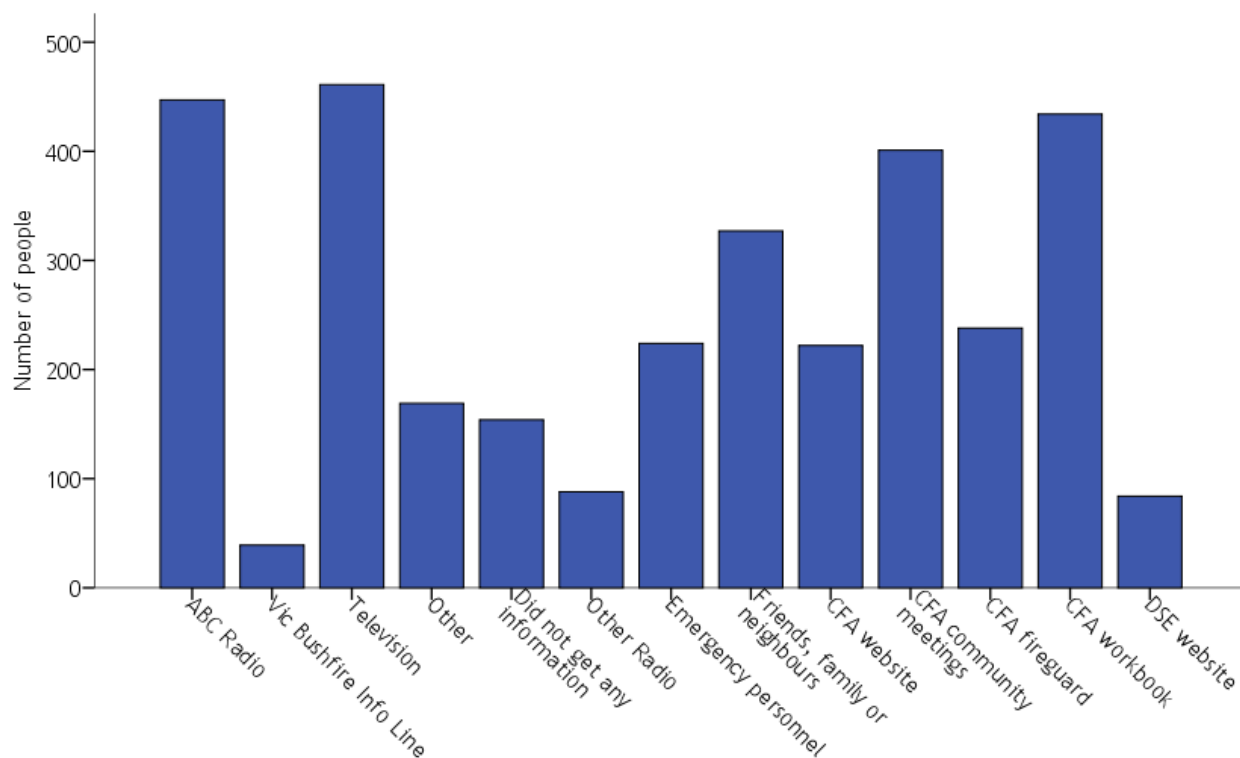
Section 2: Information and warnings

This Section presents basic frequencies and percentages for a series of questions relating to bushfire information and warnings. This includes general information, such how to plan and prepare for bushfires, and specific information and warnings about the February 7th bushfires.

Q10. In the 12 months before the February 7th bushfire, did you get any information about how to prepare your household for bushfires from any of the following sources?

	ABC Radio	Other Radio	Emergency personnel	Friends, family or neighbours	CFA website	CFA community meetings	
Count	447	88	224	327	222	401	
Percent	34.0	6.7	17.0	24.9	16.9	30.5	
	CFA fireguard	CFA workbook	DSE website	Vic Bushfire Info Line	Television	Did not get any information	Other
Count	238	434	84	39	461	154	169
Percent	18.1	33.0	6.4	3.0	35.1	12.9	11.7

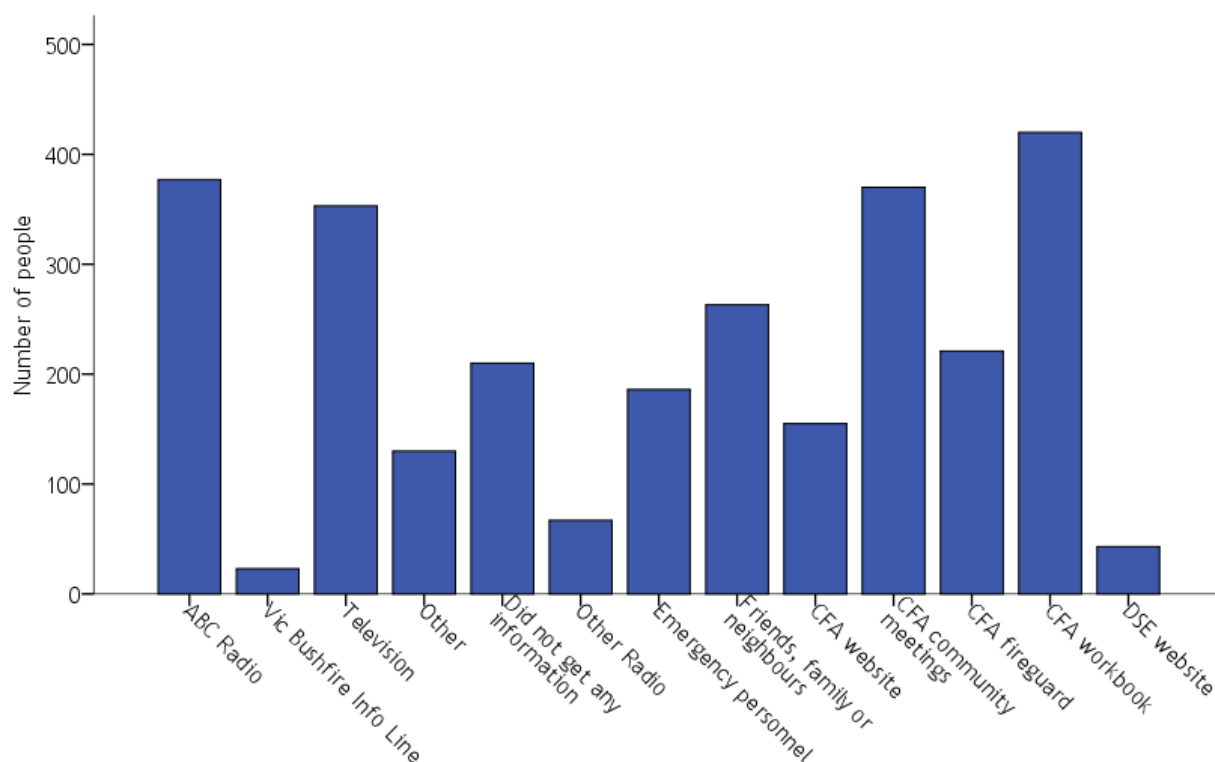
Only 13% (n=154) of respondents claimed that they received no information on how to prepare for bushfires. The most frequently reported sources of information were television and ABC radio followed closely by the CFA's community meetings and living in the bush workbook. It is also interesting to note that almost the same number of respondents (25%, n=327) received information from family, friends or neighbours.



Q11. In the 12 months before the February 7th bushfire, did you get any information about what to do during a bushfire from any of the following?

	ABC Radio	Other Radio	Emergency personnel	Friends, family or neighbours	CFA website	CFA community meetings	
Count	377	67	186	263	155	370	
Percent	28.7	5.1	14.2	20.0	11.8	28.2	
	CFA fireguard	CFA workbook	DSE website	Vic Bushfire Info Line	Television	Did not get any information	Other
Count	221	420	43	23	353	130	210
Percent	16.8	32.0	3.3	1.8	26.9	9.9	16.0

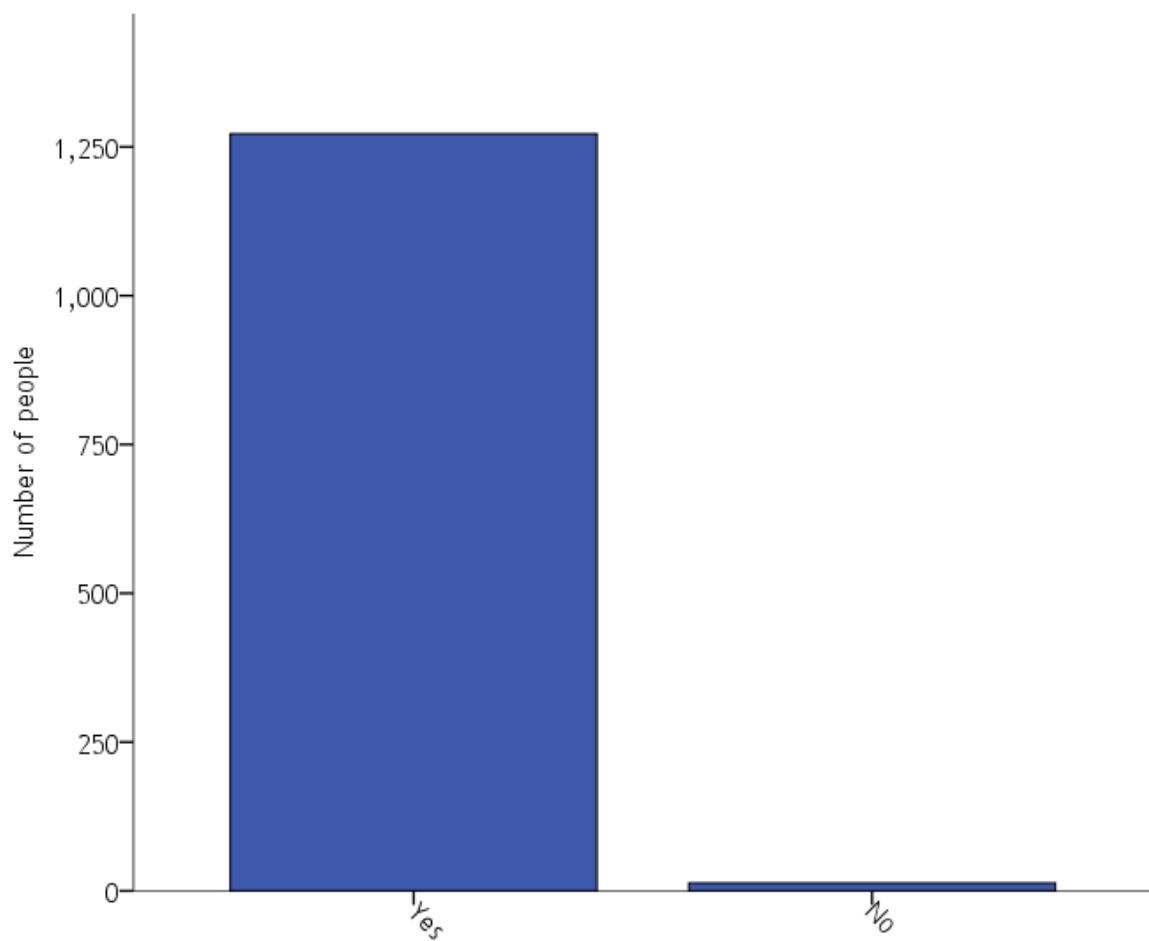
The pattern of Count of source of information about what to do during bushfires above matches closely the pattern of responses about sources of information about how to prepare for a bushfire.



Q12. Did you know that February 7th 2009 was a day of Total Fire Ban?

	Yes	No	Total	Missing	Total
Count	1272	13	1285	29	1314
Percent	96.8	1.0	97.8	2.2	100

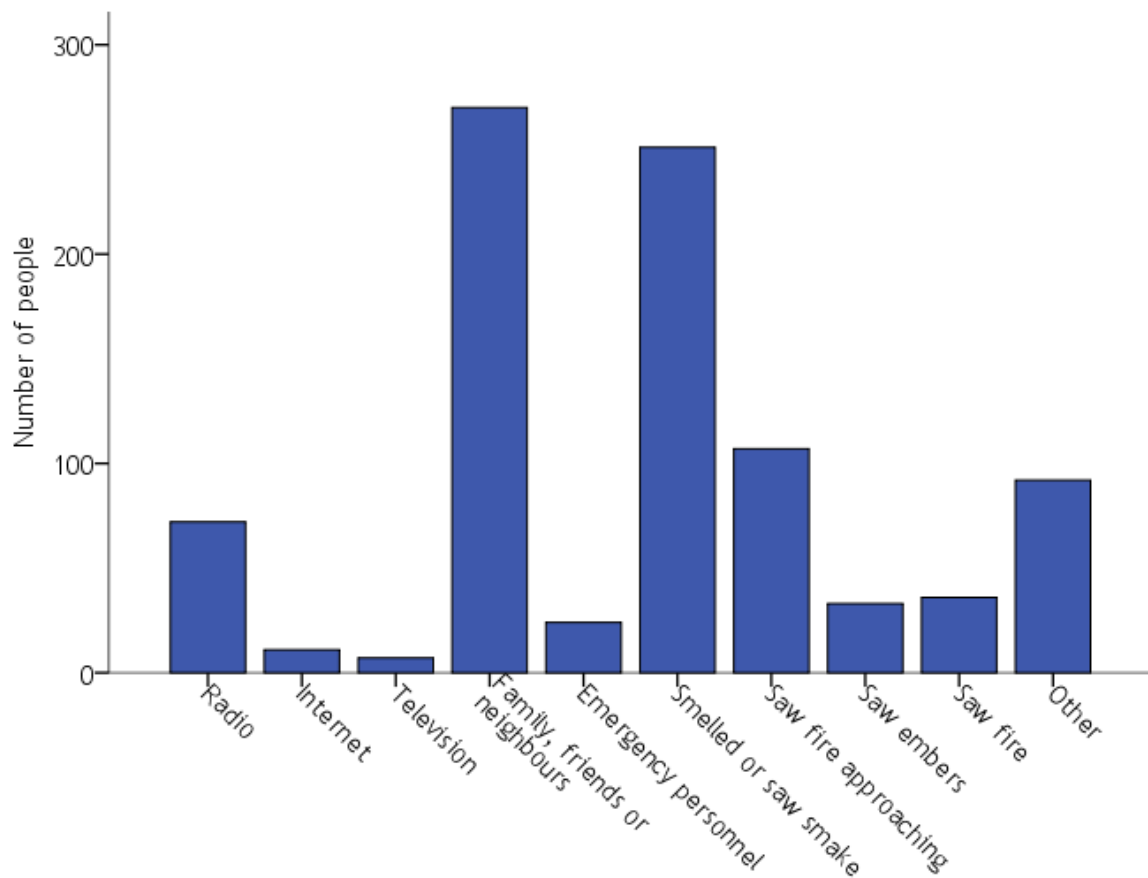
The findings support what seemed to emerge in the immediate aftermath of the 7th February 2009 fires: almost everybody knew the day was a day of total fire ban. However, the events of 7th February 2009 suggest that there was little connection between such awareness and individuals taking appropriate actions.



Q13. How did you FIRST find out that the February 7th bushfire was in your town or suburb?

	Radio	Internet	Television	Family, friends or neighbours		Emergency personnel		Smelled or saw smoke	
Count	72	11	7	270		24		251	
Percent	5.5	0.8	0.5	20.5		1.8		19.1	
	Saw fire approach		Saw embers	Saw fire burning	Other	Total	Missing	Total	
Count	107		33	36	92	903	411	1314	
Percent	8.1		2.5	2.7	7.0	68.7	31.3	100	

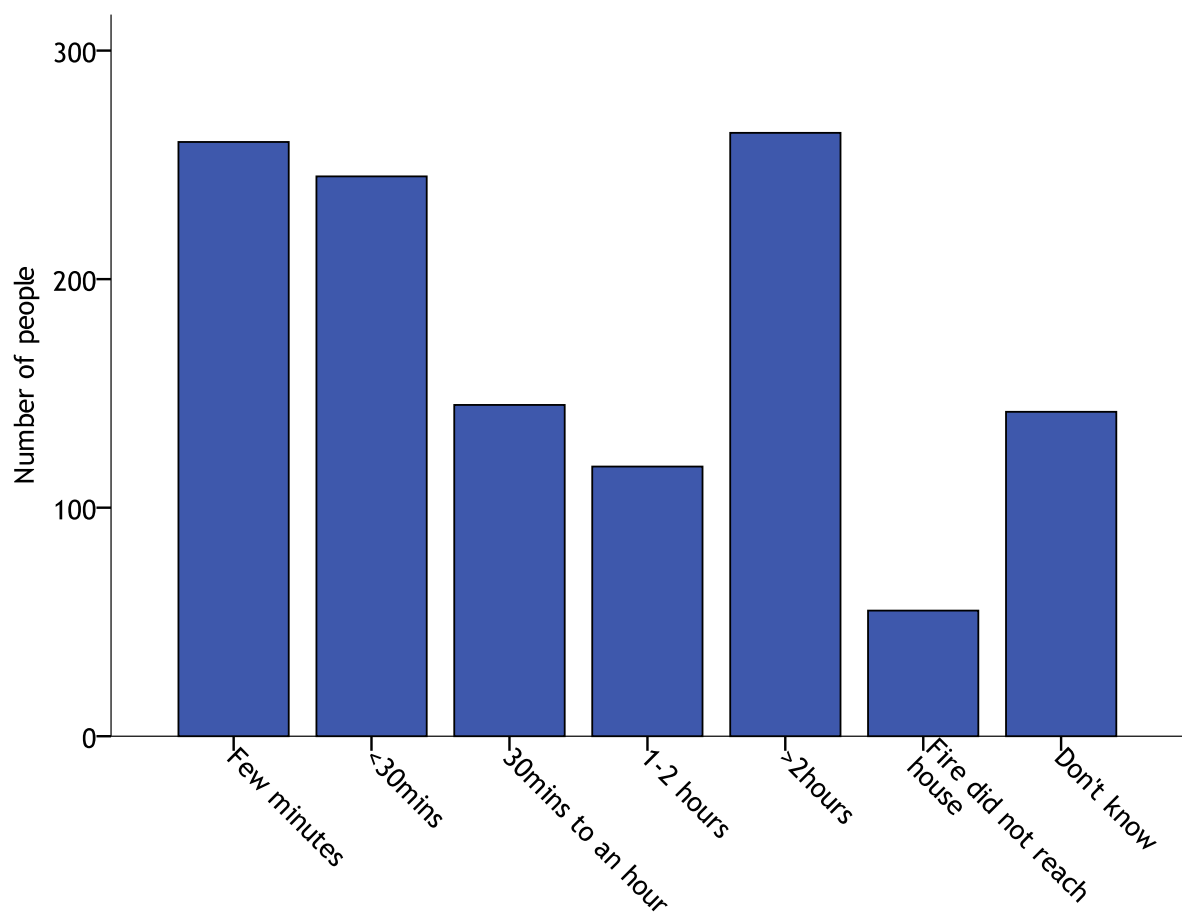
The majority of respondents noted that they first became aware of the bushfire through sensory cues from the environment (smoke, fire embers: total n=427, 32%). The second most common form of first warning was from family, friends or neighbours (21%). Only 8% were first alerted through 'official' warnings (radio, emergency personnel, internet, television: total n=114). This is consistent with findings from the Bushfire CRC Investigation Taskforce interviews.



Q14. After finding out the fire was in your town or suburb, how long was it before the fire reached your house?

	Few minutes	<30mins	30mins to 1 hour	1-2 hours	>2hours	Fire did not reach house	Don't know	Total	Missing	Total
Count	260	245	145	118	264	55	142	1229	85	1314
Percent	19.8	18.6	11.0	9.0	20.1	4.2	10.8	93.5	6.5	100

38% of respondents had less than 30 minutes in which to respond to the fires, with approximately 1 in 5 respondents (20%) only having a few minutes.



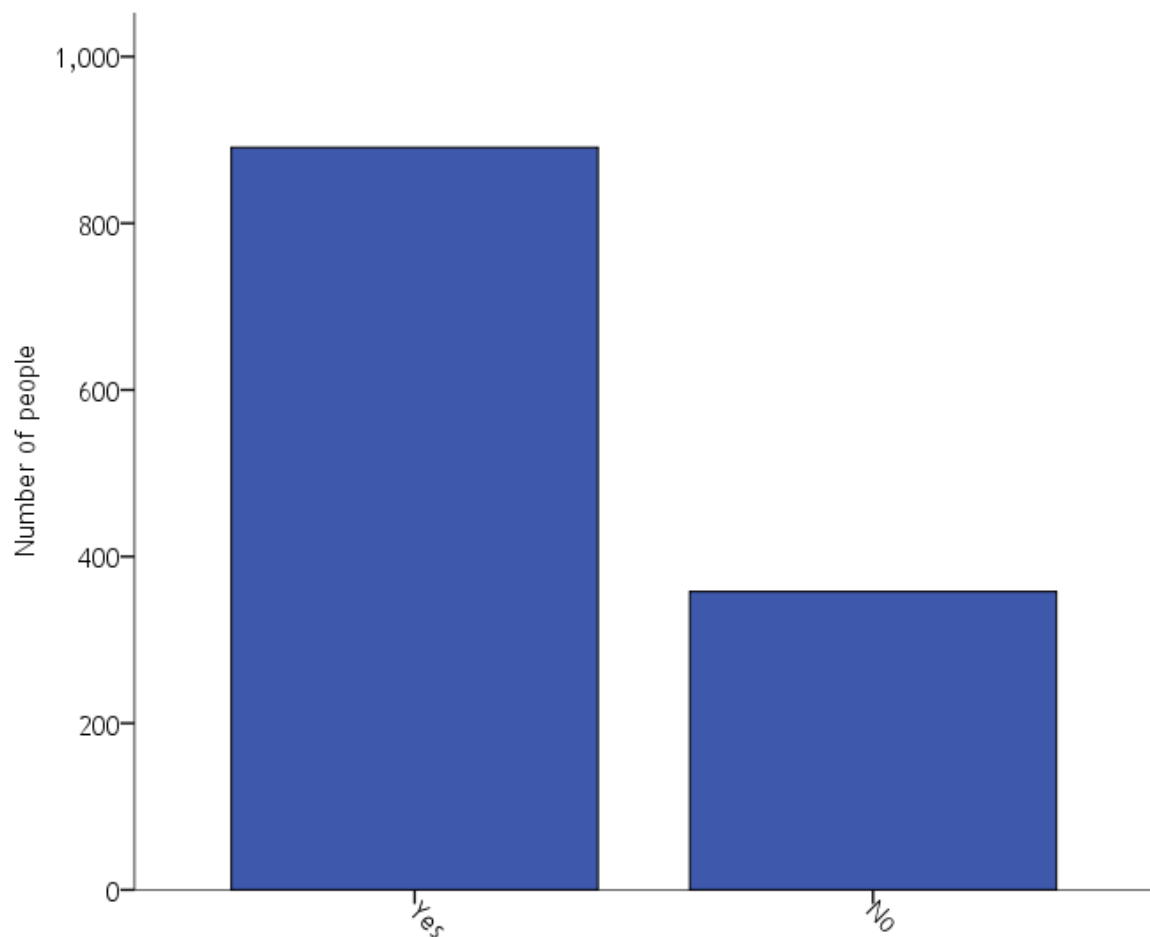
The more extreme the warning signs of fire were the less time people had before the fire reached their home. Three quarters of those who saw the fire and two thirds of those who saw embers only had a few minutes before the fire reached their property. Time lines for those who smelled or saw smoke was similar to those who were informed of the fire by family friends or neighbours. The majority had less than two hours before the fire reached their property.

	Few minutes	<30mins	30mins to 1 hour	1-2 hours	>2hours	Fire did not reach house	Don't know
Radio	13% (9)	13% (9)	5.8% (4)	7.2% (5)	29% (20)	1.4% (1)	30.4% (21)
Internet	0% (0)	30% (3)	10% (1)	0% (0)	30% (3)	0% (0)	30% (3)
Television	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	16.7% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	83.3% (5)
Family, friends or neighbours	12.8% (33)	17.1% (44)	15.5% (40)	10.5% (27)	25.2% (65)	5.4% (14)	13.6% (35)
Emergency personnel	0% (0)	4.2% (1)	20.8% (5)	12.5% (3)	33.3% (8)	4.2% (1)	25% (6)
Smelled or saw smoke	12.9% (31)	23.7% (57)	10.4% (25)	12.4% (30)	28.6% (69)	5.4% (13)	6.6% (16)
Saw fire approaching	43.7% (45)	24.3% (25)	10.7% (11)	4.9% (5)	3.9% (4)	5.8% (6)	6.8% (7)
Saw embers	63.3% (19)	20% (6)	10% (3)	0% (0)	3.3% (1)	0% (0)	3.3% (1)
Saw fire	75.8% (25)	6.1% (2)	9.1% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	3% (1)	6.1% (2)
Other	15.1% (13)	15.1% (13)	8.1% (7)	7% (6)	36% (31)	5.8% (5)	12.8% (11)

Q15. Did you EXPECT to receive an OFFICIAL warning if there was a bushfire in your town or suburb? Official warnings include those from authorities such as the CFA, the police or other emergency services, and ABC radio.

	Yes	No	Total	Missing	Total
Count	891	358	1249	65	1314
Percent	67.8	27.2	95.1	4.9	100

The implication of the information in the table is clear: most respondents (68%) expected to receive some form of an official warning if a bushfire threatened their home. Their actions on the day were, presumably, based on this expectation.



Q16. Did you actually RECEIVE an OFFICIAL warning from any of the following?

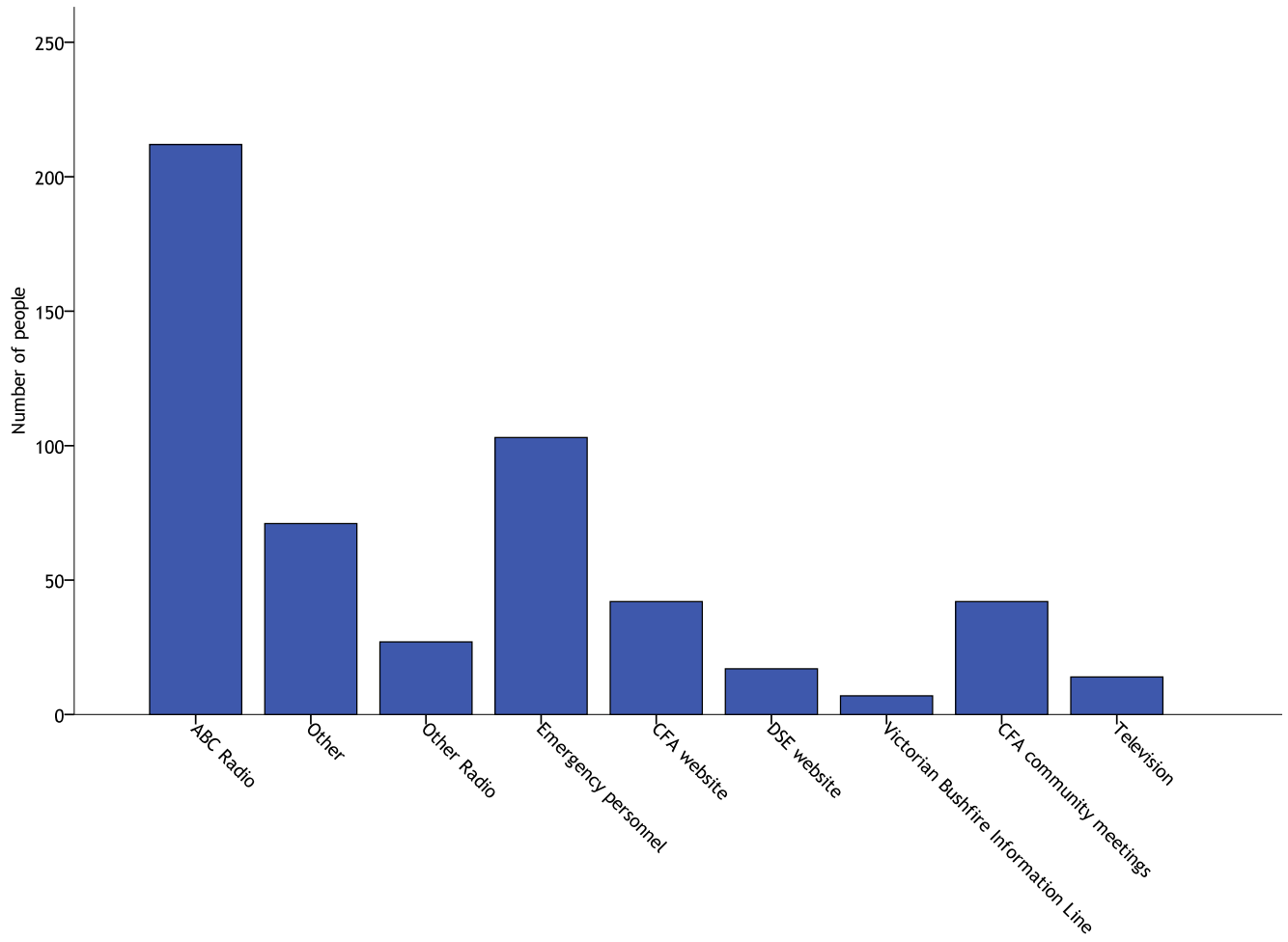
	ABC Radio	Other Radio	Emergency personnel	CFA website	DSE website	Victorian Bushfire Information Line	CFA community meetings	Television	Did not receive warning
Count	218	27	104	44	17	7	42	14	841
Percent	16.6	2.1	7.9	3.3	1.3	0.5	3.2	1.1	64.0

The pattern of responses in the table above must be interpreted in light of the pattern of responses concerning expectations about warnings: nearly two-thirds (n=841, 64%) of the 1314 respondents report not receiving an official warning; while 891 (68%) expected to. Consistent with findings from the Bushfire CRC Research Taskforce interviews, radio was the most frequently reported source of official warnings which were reportedly received.

When sources of official warning are looked at by fire complex (table below), it can be seen that a significant proportion of respondents from Yarra Ranges (81%), Mitchell (71%), Whittlesea (83%) and Murrindindi (80%) felt they did not receive an official warning. It is interesting to note the split in the data for Latrobe where, despite significant proportions of respondents receiving official warnings from ABC Radio (51%), a high proportion also stated that they did not receive a warning (40%). Baw Baw's respondents had the highest proportion of warnings, nearly two-thirds of which were from CFA community meetings (63%) and many respondents had warnings from multiple sources.

	Murrindindi	Yarra Ranges	Mitchell	Whittlesea	Latrobe	Baw Baw	Other
ABC Radio	9.3%	12.4%	15.3%	9.4%	50.5%	37.3%	25.8%
Other Radio	4.1%	.0%	2.5%	.0%	.0%	5.1%	2.2%
Emergency personnel	6.8%	2.2%	11.0%	4.7%	9.7%	33.9%	11.3%
CFA website	2.2%	1.6%	6.1%	3.9%	6.5%	16.9%	1.1%
DSE website	1.1%	.0%	1.2%	.8%	1.1%	10.2%	1.1%
Victorian Bushfire Information Line	.0%	.0%	1.2%	.0%	.0%	5.1%	.5%
CFA community meetings	.3%	.5%	.0%	.8%	1.1%	62.7%	.0%
Television	.5%	.5%	1.8%	1.6%	1.1%	5.1%	.0%
Did not receive warning	79.6%	80.5%	70.6%	82.8%	39.8%	15.3%	64.0%
Other	6.0%	7.6%	11.0%	6.3%	6.5%	3.4%	9.7%

*Column percentages sum to more than 100% as it was a multiple response question

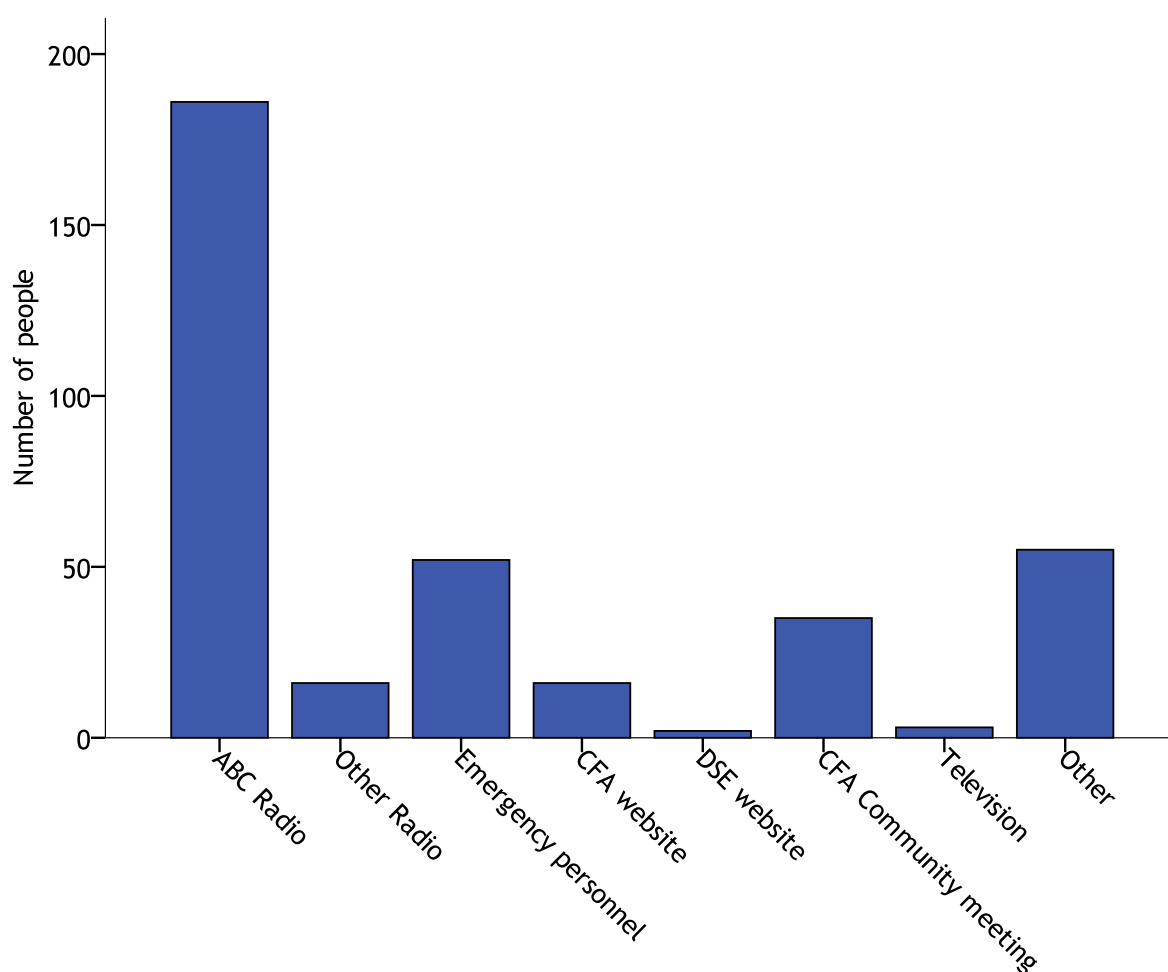


The next five questions refer only to those who received an official warning (question 16).

Q17. Which official source was the MOST IMPORTANT in helping you to respond to the bushfire?

	ABC Radio	Other Radio	Emergency personnel			CFA website		DSE website
Count	186	16	52			16		2
Percent	39.3	3.4	11.0			3.4		.4
	CFA Community meeting		Television	Other	Total	Missing	Total	
Count	35		3	55	365	108	473	
Percent	7.4		.6	11.6	77.2	22.8	100	

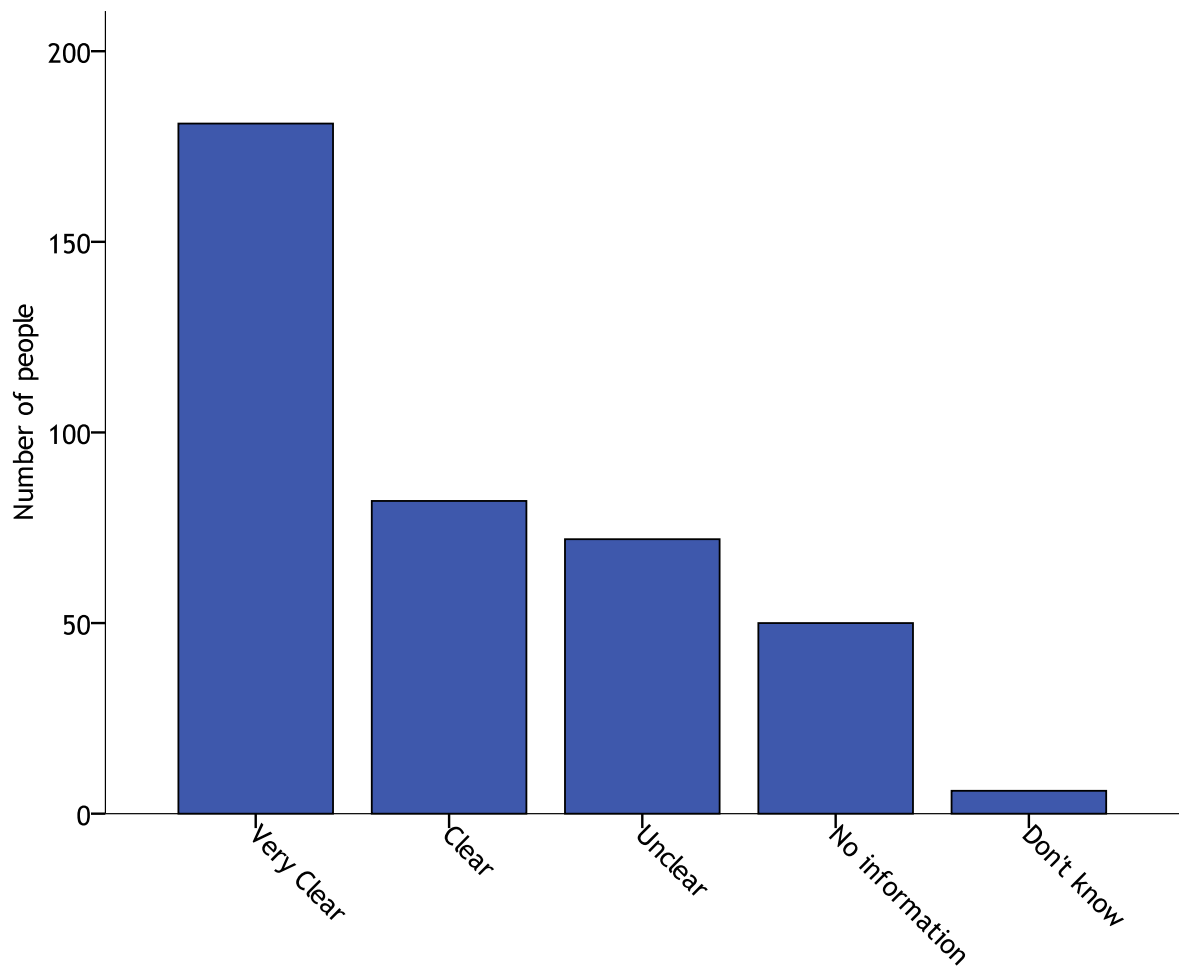
Not only was ABC radio the most frequently reported source of official warning (for those 36% of respondents who received an official warning) but it was also reported to be the most important source of official warnings by many of the respondents (39%). Please note that environmental cues (smoke, flames and embers etc) were the most common form of first warning for respondents, followed by unofficial warnings from friends, family and neighbours. Official sources only alerted 8% of respondents to the presence of danger. Interestingly only 4% of respondents thought of the official websites as important sources of information.



Q18. Was the information you received about the LOCATION of the fire clear enough for you to understand the danger to your household?

	Very Clear	Clear	Unclear	No information	Don't know	Total	Missing	Total
Count	181	82	72	50	6	391	82	473
Percent	38.3	17.3	15.2	10.6	1.3	82.7	17.3	100

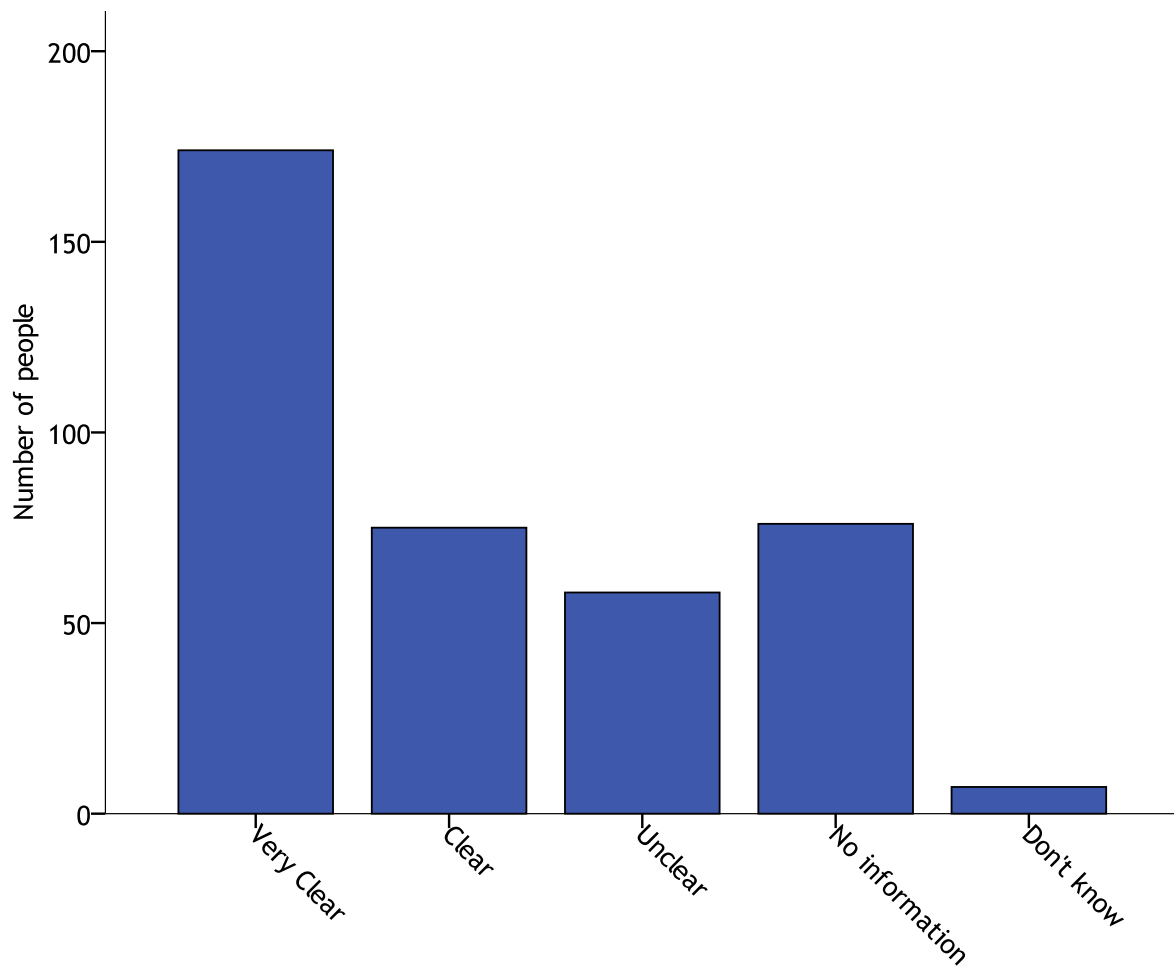
It is notable that over half (56%) of respondents found the information they received about the location of the fire to be clear or very clear. At the same time, however, 26% felt that the information they received did not provide clear or provided no information about the location of the fire and the danger to their household.



Q19. Was the information you received about the SEVERITY of the fire clear enough for you to understand the danger to your household?

	Very Clear	Clear	Unclear	No information	Don't know	Total	Missing	Total
Count	174	75	58	76	7	390	83	473
Percent	36.8	15.9	12.3	16.1	1.5	82.5	17.5	100

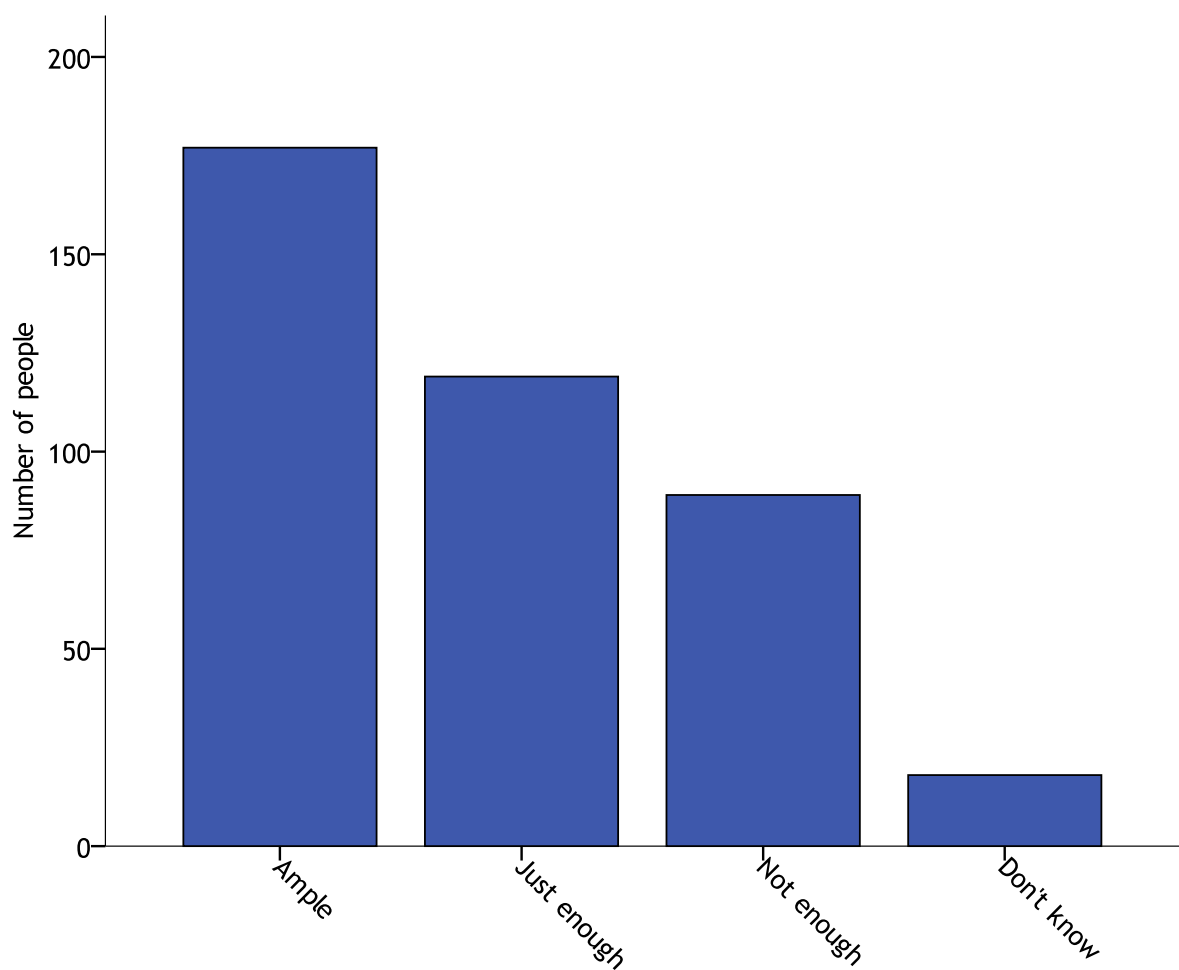
The percentage of respondents who received an official warning (36%) provided a somewhat mixed overall appraisal of the quality of these warnings. (a) Location: 56% Very Clear or Clear, 10% No information about location; Severity: 53% Very Clear or Clear, 16% No information about severity.



Q20. Did you receive the warning in enough time to respond to the bushfire safely?

	Ample	Just enough	Not enough	Don't know	Total	Missing	Total
Count	177	119	89	18	403	70	473
Percent	37.4	25.2	18.8	3.8	85.2	14.8	100

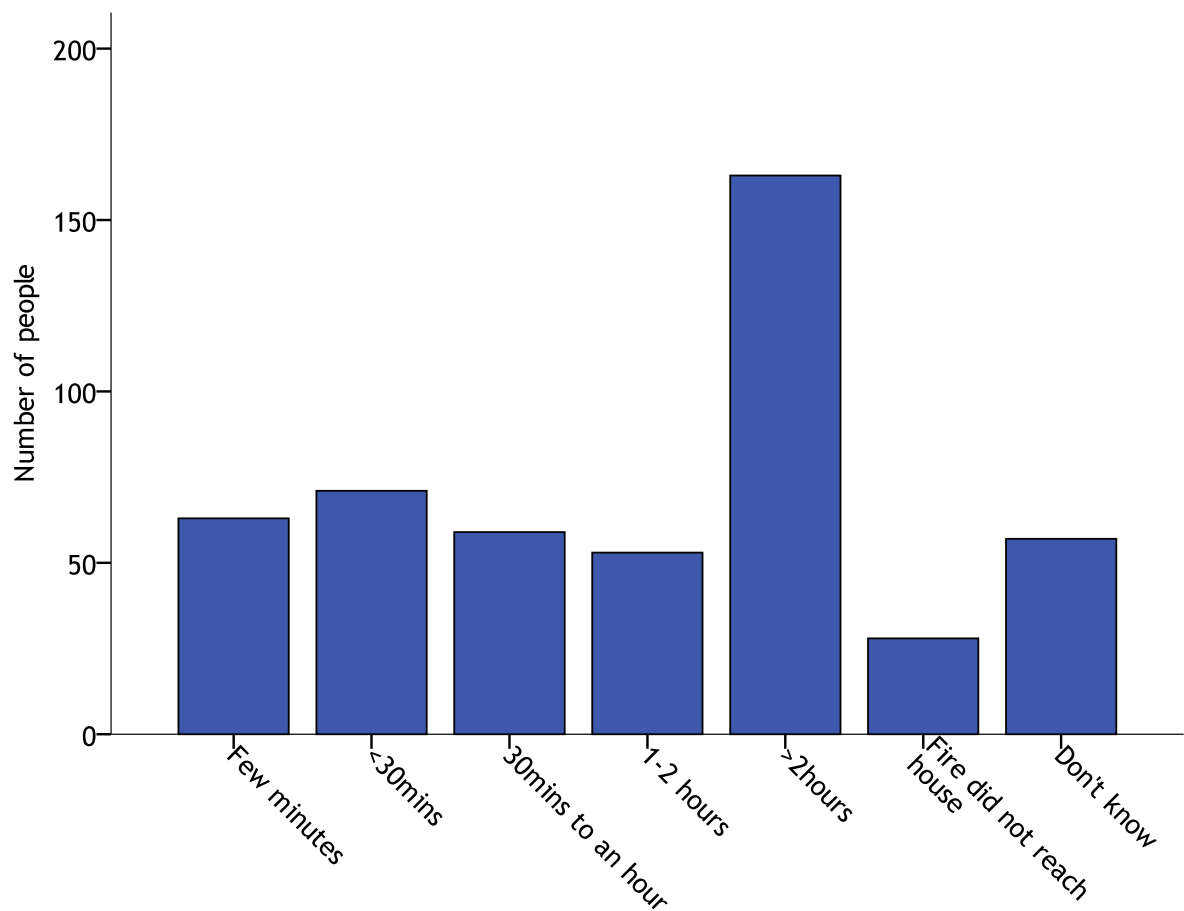
In terms of the usefulness of warnings, more than one third of the respondents who received a warning reported that their warning was timely. When this data is explored by respective fire complex (below) it can be seen that a higher proportion of respondents in Yarra Ranges (46%) and Whittlesea (43%) reported that they did not receive the warning in enough time to respond safely to the bushfire.



	Murrindindi	Yarra Ranges	Mitchell	Whittlesea	Latrobe	Baw Baw	Other
Ample	34.1%	19.5%	50.0%	10.7%	61.7%	78.8%	39.1%
Just enough	34.1%	24.4%	35.4%	28.6%	23.3%	9.6%	40.6%
Not enough	27.5%	46.3%	10.4%	42.9%	15.0%	7.7%	18.8%
Don't know	4.4%	9.8%	4.2%	17.9%	.0%	3.8%	1.4%

Q21. How long AFTER you got the warning did the fire reach your house or property?

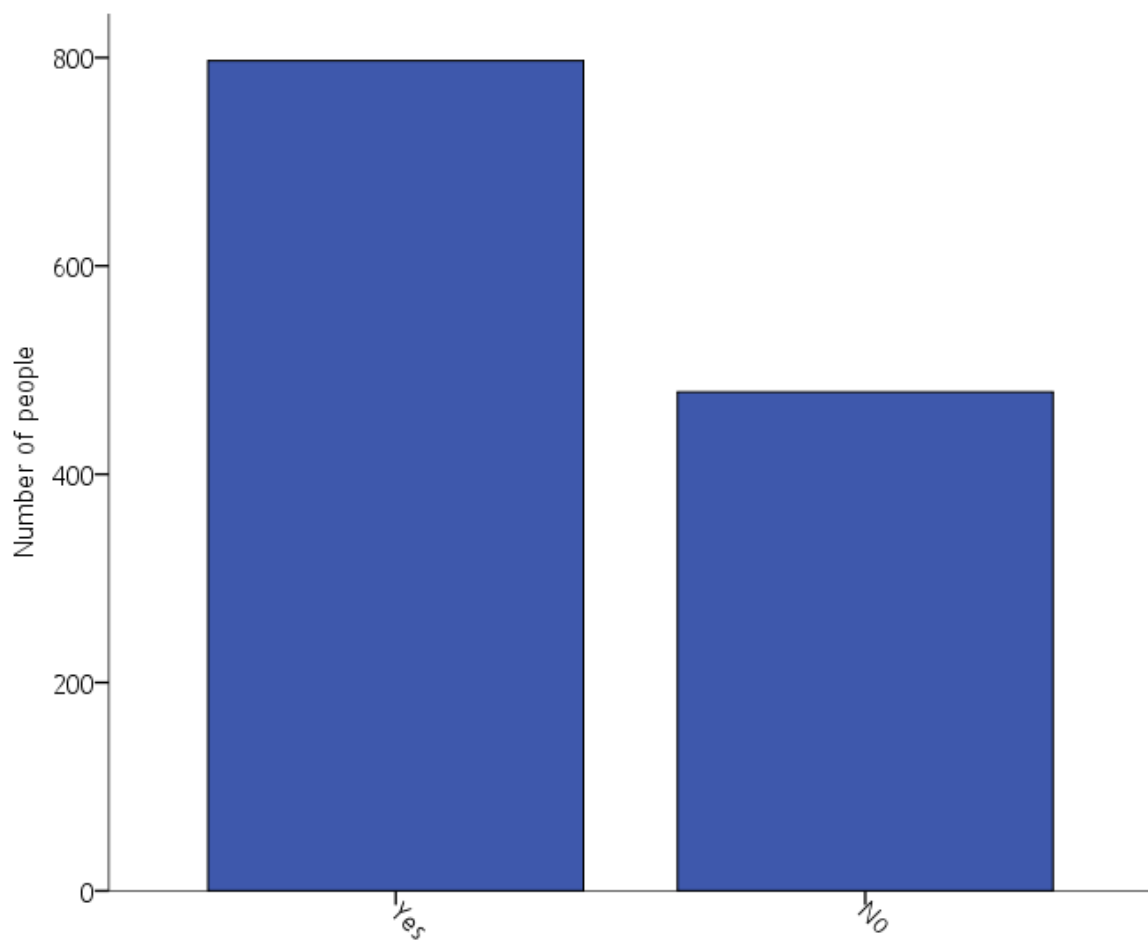
	Few minutes	<30mins	30mins to 1 hour	1-2 hours	>2hours	Fire did not reach house	Don't know	Total	Missing	Total
Count	63	71	59	53	163	28	57	494	820	1314
Percent	4.8	5.4	4.5	4.0	12.4	2.1	4.3	37.6	62.4	100.0



Q22. Did you receive an UNOFFICIAL warning about the fire from family, friends or neighbours?

	Yes	No	Total	Missing	Total
Count	797	479	1276	38	1314
Percent	60.7	36.5	97.1	2.9	100

A majority of respondents (61%, n=797) stated they received a warning about the fire from a family member, friend, or neighbour. As identified in Q13 1 in 5 residents received their first inkling of potential fire danger from this unofficial source. This information is consistent with the Bushfire CRC Research Taskforce interviews, where the residents were either first alerted by or confirmed warnings (particularly environmental cues) with a family member, friend, or neighbour.



Q23. Please use the space below to describe any issues or difficulties you had with information or warnings before, during or after the bushfire.

This was an open ended question, the analysis of which is beyond the scope of this report.

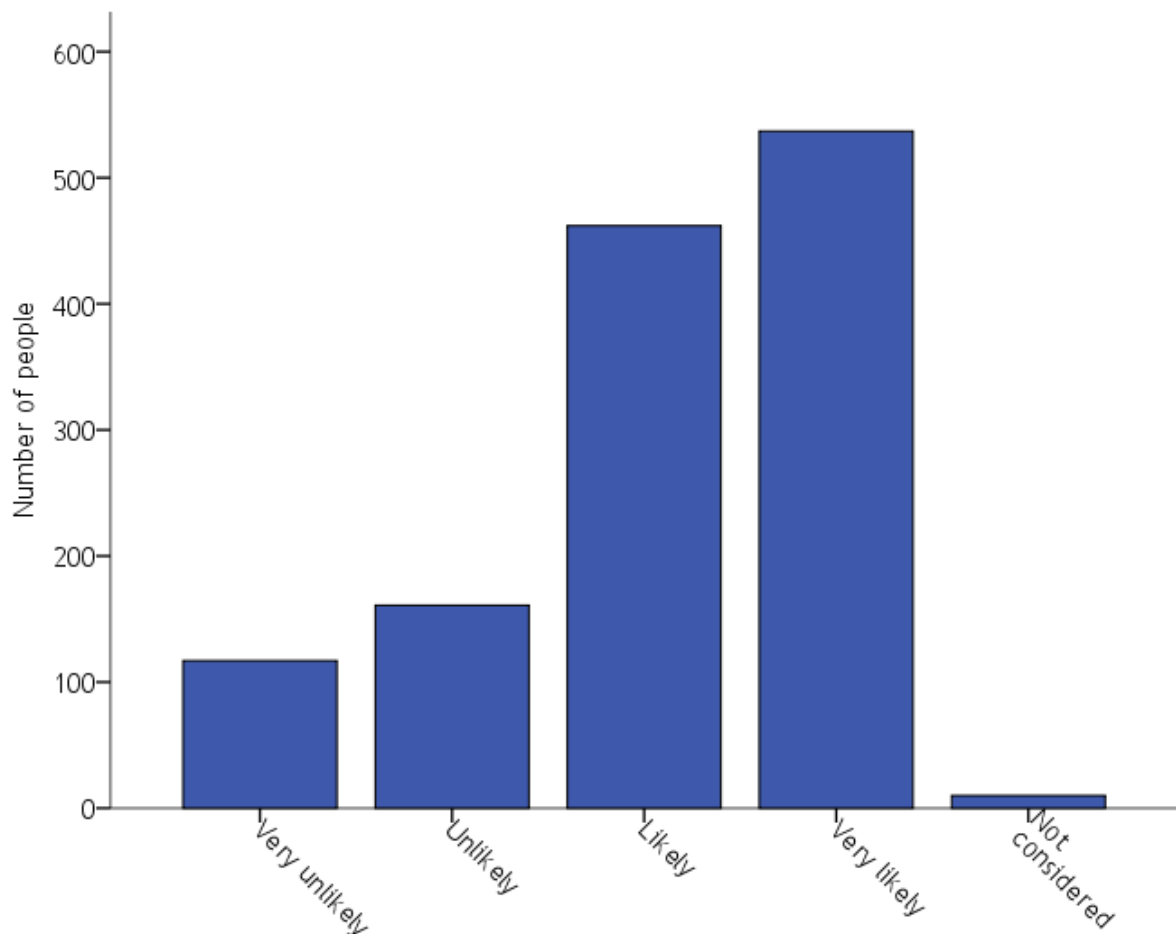
Section 3: Before the bushfire

This Section presents basic frequencies and percentages for a series of questions relating to households' planning and preparedness for bushfires.

Q24. Before the February 7th bushfire, how likely did you think it was that a bushfire could occur in your town or suburb?

	Very unlikely	Unlikely	Likely	Very likely	Not considered	Total	Missing	Total
Count	117	161	462	537	10	1287	27	1314
Percent	8.9	12.3	35.2	40.9	.8	97.9	2.1	100

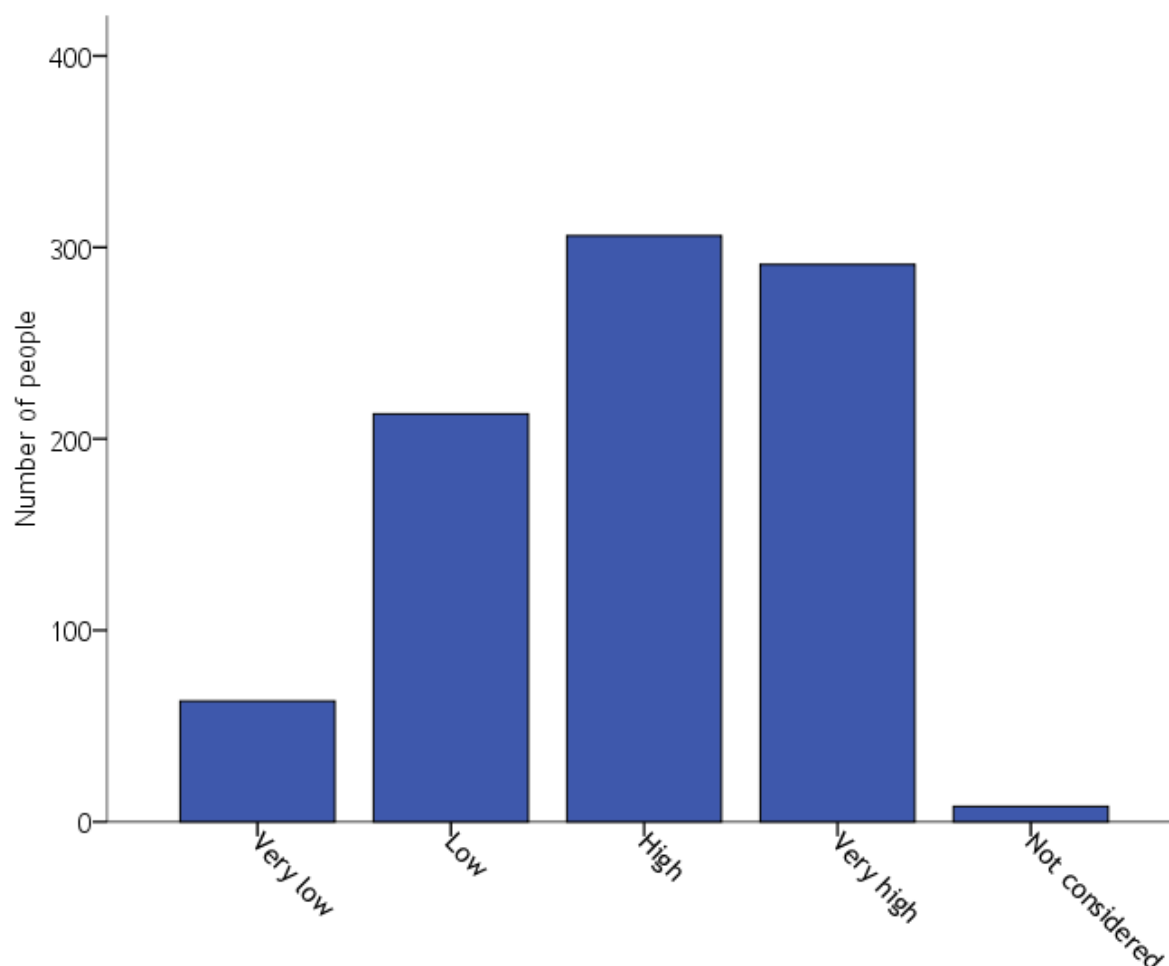
The vast majority of survey respondents (76%) claim to have thought, before the February 7th fires, that it was 'likely' or 'very likely' that a bushfire would occur in their town or suburb. Hindsight is likely to have affected these results, with experiences of the February 7th bushfires influencing people's recollections of the past.



Q25. Before the February 7th bushfire, how significant did you think the threat from bushfires was to life and property in your town or suburb?

	Very low	Low	High	Very high	Not considered	Total	Missing	Total
Count	63	213	306	291	8	881	20	901
Percent	7.0	23.6	34.0	32.3	0.9	97.8	2.2	100

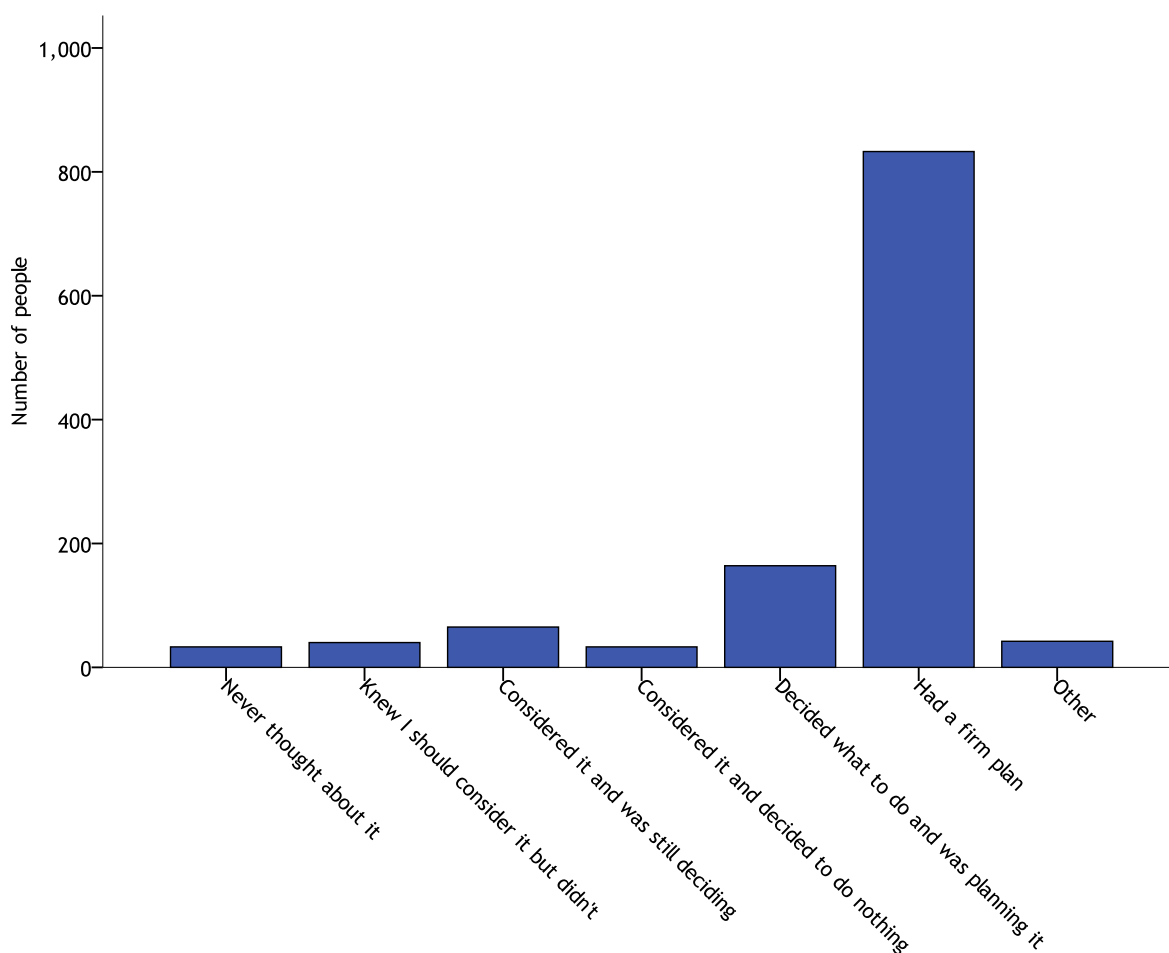
As with Q24, a large majority of respondents (66%) claim to have thought, before the February 7th fires, that the threat to life and property from bushfires was 'high' or 'very high' in their town or suburb. Again, hindsight is likely to have affected these results.



Q26. Which of the following best describes your level of planning for bushfires BEFORE February 7th?

	Never thought about it	Knew I should consider it but didn't	Considered it and was still deciding	Considered it and decided to do nothing	Decided what to do and was planning it	Had a firm plan	Other	Total	Missing	Total
Count	33	40	65	33	164	833	42	1210	104	1314
Percent	2.5	3.0	4.9	2.5	12.5	63.4	3.2	92.1	7.9	100.0

The vast majority of survey respondents (64%) claim to have had a firm plan about what to do if a bushfire occurred before February 7th. It is relevant to note that the qualitative analysis of interviews with residents found that there was considerable variation in the quality of people's plans and that a considerable amount of 'last-minute' planning and preparation occurred on the day.



When responses to Q26 are looked at by fire complex, we note that Whittlesea yielded the highest proportion of respondents in terms of *had a firm plan*.

	Murrindindi	Yarra Ranges	Mitchell	Whittlesea	Latrobe	Baw Baw	Other
Never thought about it	1.0%	2.3%	3.6%	3.1%	.0%	4.1%	8.5%
Knew I should consider it but didn't	4.8%	2.3%	3.6%	3.1%	3.1%	2.0%	4.2%
Considered it and was still deciding	3.8%	4.5%	1.8%	.0%	6.3%	2.0%	9.9%
Considered it and decided to do nothing	2.9%	2.3%	.0%	3.1%	1.6%	8.2%	4.2%
Decided what to do and was planning it	19.2%	13.6%	14.5%	9.4%	10.9%	20.4%	8.5%
Had a firm plan	64.4%	68.2%	70.9%	81.3%	78.1%	59.2%	54.9%
Other	3.8%	6.8%	5.5%	.0%	.0%	4.1%	9.9%

When respondents' perceptions of bushfire threat are compared with level of planning (below), it can be seen that, as would be expected, respondents who perceived a 'High' or 'Very high' threat to life and property from bushfires reported having firm plans to reduce their risks from bushfires.

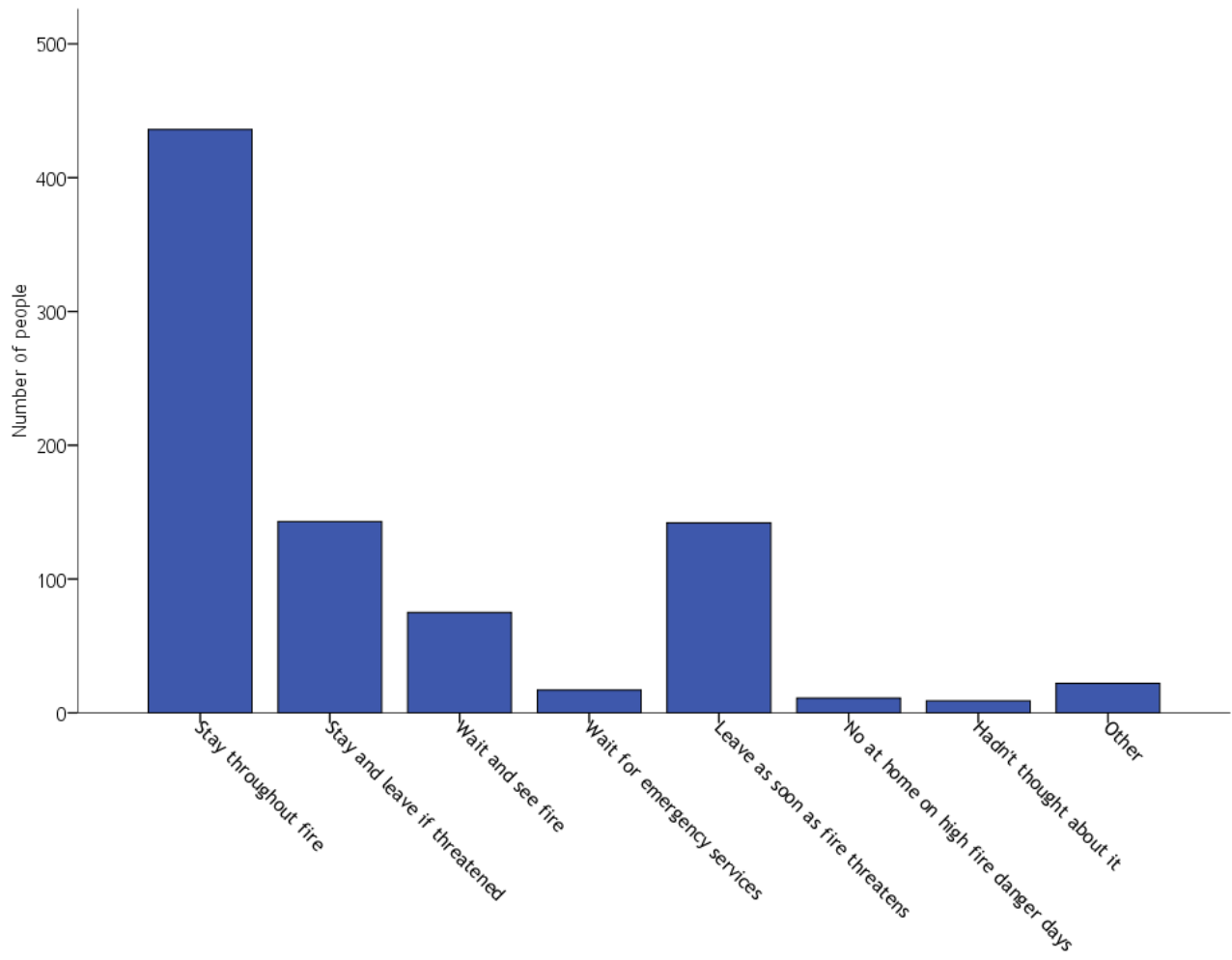
	Very low	Low	High	Very high	Not considered
Never thought about it	53.8%	38.5%	.0%	.0%	7.7%
Knew I should consider it but didn't	12.5%	56.3%	18.8%	.0%	12.5%
Considered it and was still deciding	26.3%	47.4%	10.5%	10.5%	5.3%
Considered it and decided to do nothing	46.2%	30.8%	23.1%	.0%	.0%
Decided what to do and was planning it	6.6%	27.9%	42.6%	23.0%	.0%
Had a firm plan	2.4%	17.7%	34.4%	45.5%	.0%
Other	26.3%	21.1%	47.4%	5.3%	.0%

Q27. At the beginning of last summer, which of the following did you think you were MOST LIKELY to do if a bushfire occurred in your town or suburb? Select ONE only.

	Stay throughout fire	Stay and protect but leave if threatened	Wait and see fire	Wait for emergency services	Leave as soon as fire threatens	No at home on high fire danger days	Hadn't thought about it	Other	Total	Missing	Total
Count	436	143	75	17	142	11	9	22	855	46	901
Percent	48.4	15.9	8.3	1.9	15.8	1.2	1.0	2.4	94.9	5.1	100

Nearly half of all survey respondents (48%) reported that, at the beginning of summer 2008, they intended to stay and defend their property throughout bushfires. 16% had planned to leave as soon as they knew a fire was threatening and 1% planning to leave on all days of high fire danger.

It is significant that more than one-quarter of survey respondents (26%) were effectively undecided, planning to stay and defend but leave if threatened by fire (16%), to wait and see what the fire is like before deciding to stay or leave (8%) or to wait for emergency services (2%).



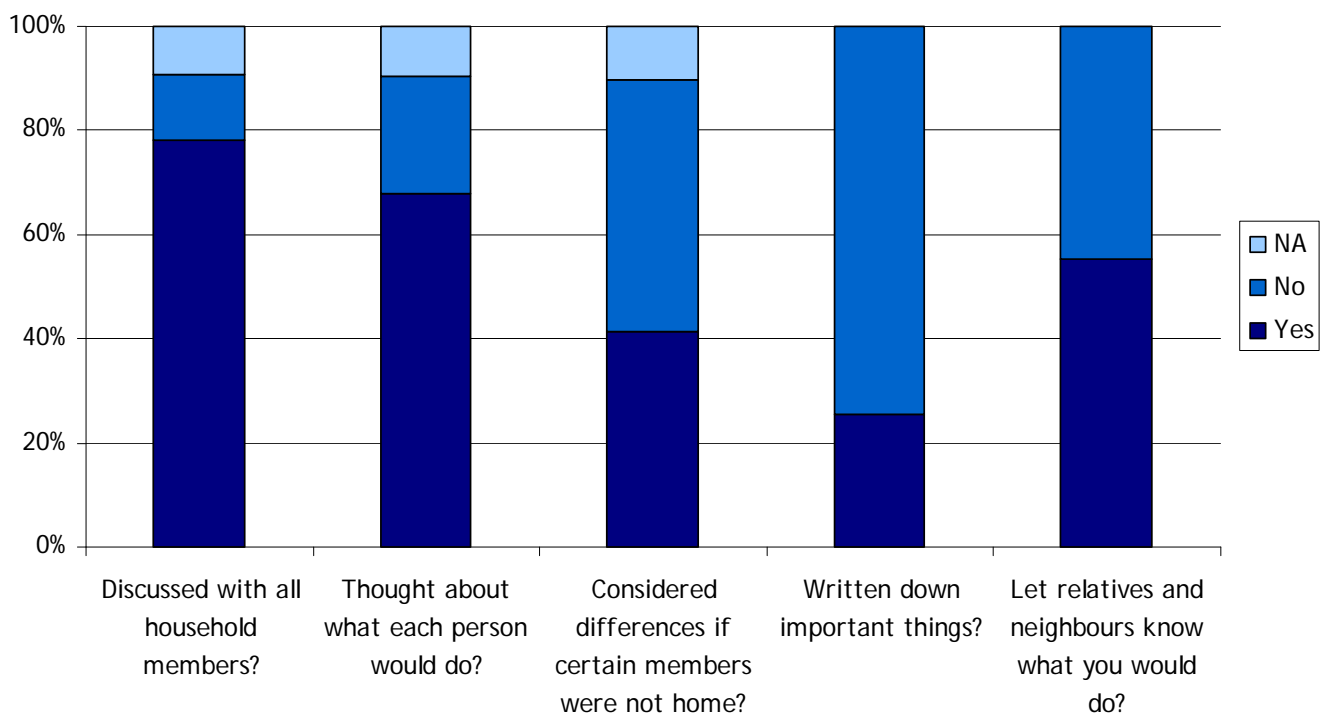
Q28. Given what you intended to do if a bushfire occurred in your town or suburb, had you...

	Discussed with all household members?			Thought about what each person would do?			Considered differences if certain members were not home?			Written down important things?		Let relatives and neighbours know what you would do?	
	Yes	No	NA	Yes	No	NA	Yes	No	NA	Yes	No	Yes	No
Count	948	151	112	709	236	99	416	483	104	247	718	569	461
Percent	78.3	12.5	9.2	67.9	22.6	9.5	41.5	48.2	10.4	25.6	74.4	55.2	44.8

*NA - Single member household.

The vast majority of respondents (78%) reported discussing their intended response with members of their household. More than two-thirds (68%) had thought about what each member of the household would do.

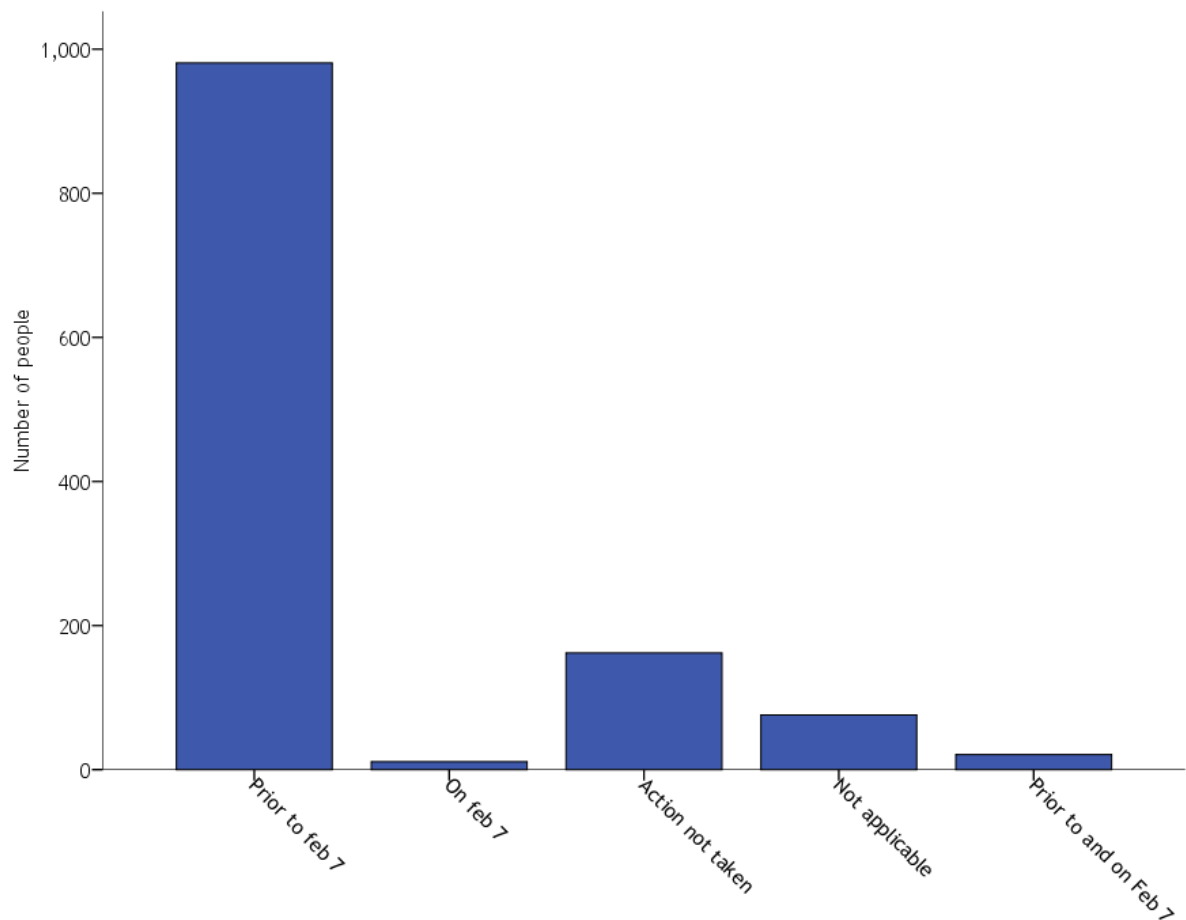
It is significant that considerably fewer respondents had considered how things could change if some members of the household were not at home during a fire (42%) or written down important things to do and remember (26%).



Q29. Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires? Please indicate whether the action was taken prior to February 7th or on the day of the fire. If you took an action both PRIOR TO and ON FEB 7, please tick both boxes.

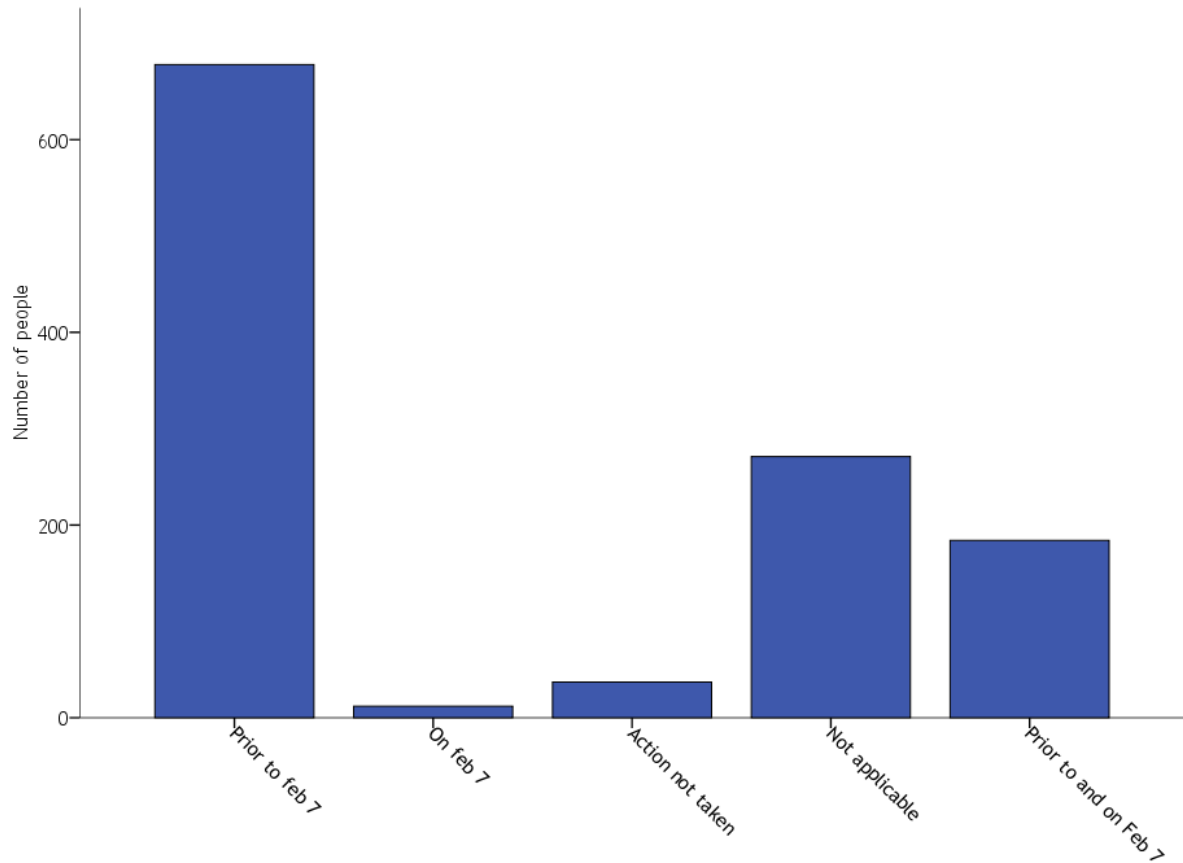
Q29.1 Cleared leaves, twigs and long grass for a distance of about 20-30m around the house

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	981	11	162	76	21	1251	63	1314
Percent	74.7	.8	12.3	5.8	1.6	95.2	4.8	100



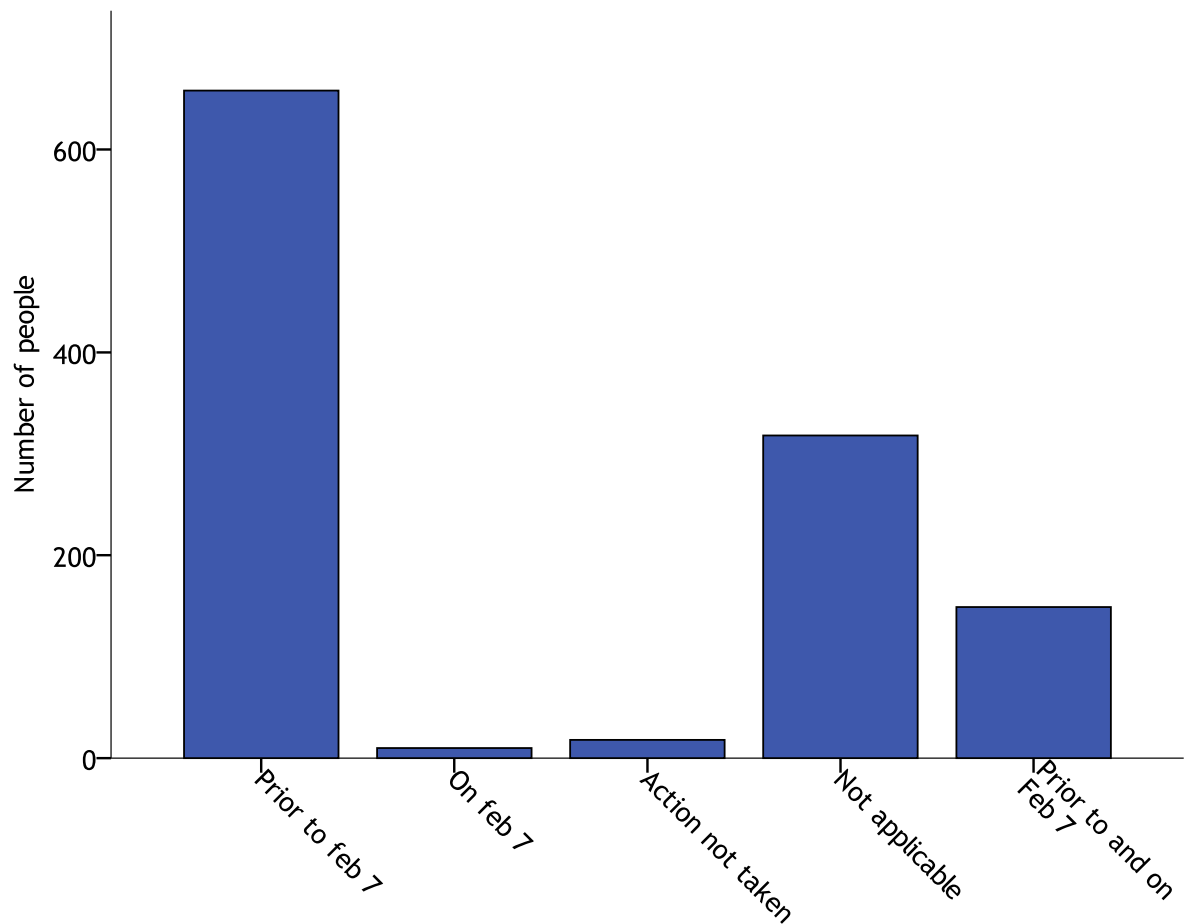
Q29.2 Removed bushes close to the house and cut back overhanging tree branches

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	678	12	37	271	184	1182	132	1314
Percent	51.6	.9	2.8	20.6	14.0	90.0	10.0	100



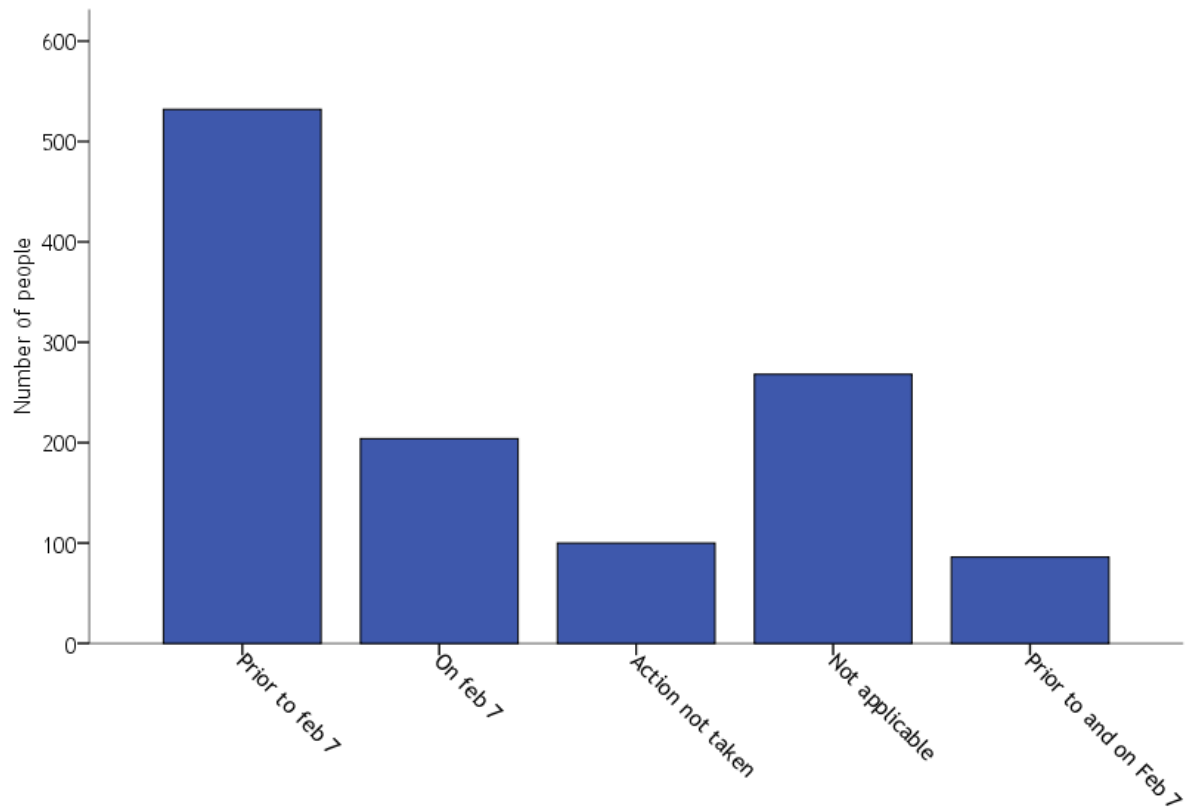
Q29.3 Used landscaping or the layout of garden to reduce the fire risk

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	658	10	18	318	149	1153	161	1314
Percent	50.1	.8	1.4	24.2	11.3	87.7	12.3	100



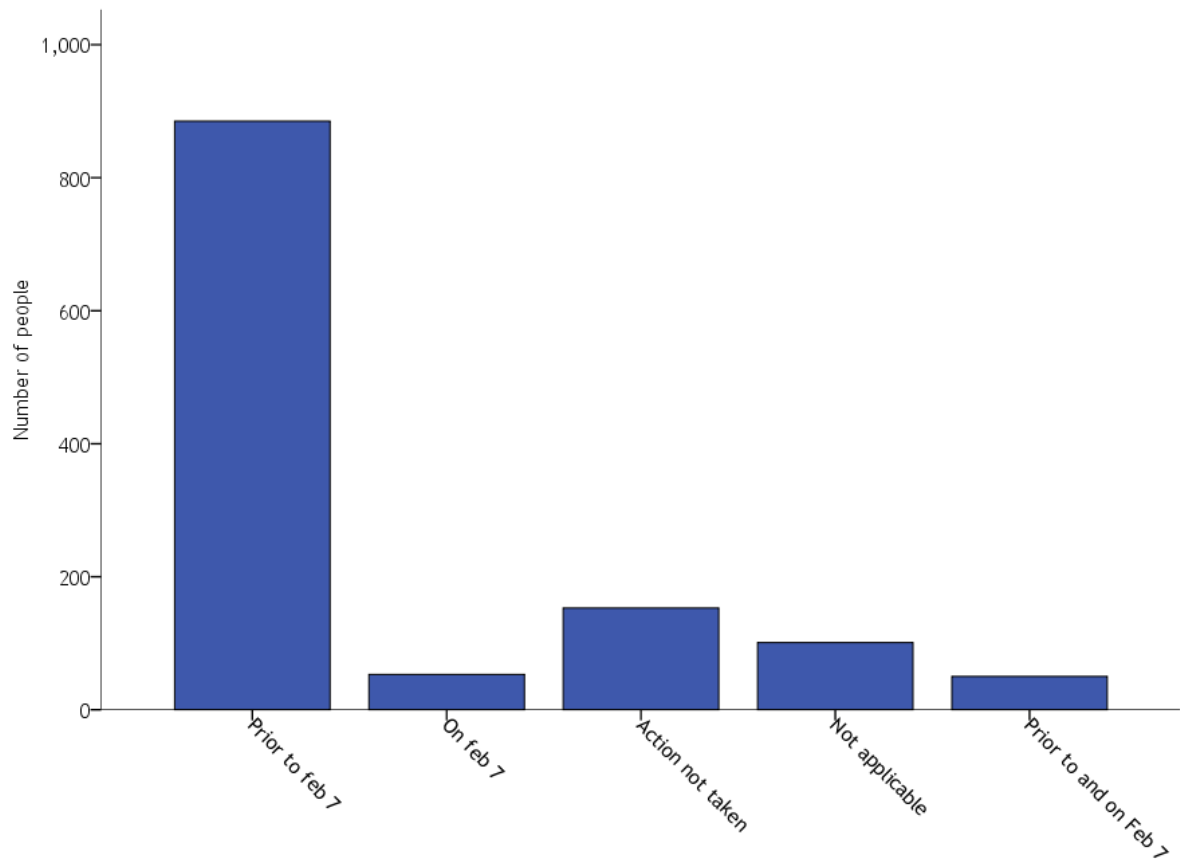
.Q29.4 Moved combustible materials such as firewood and wooden garden furniture away from the house

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	532	204	100	268	86	1190	124	1314
Percent	40.5	15.5	7.6	20.4	6.5	90.6	9.4	100



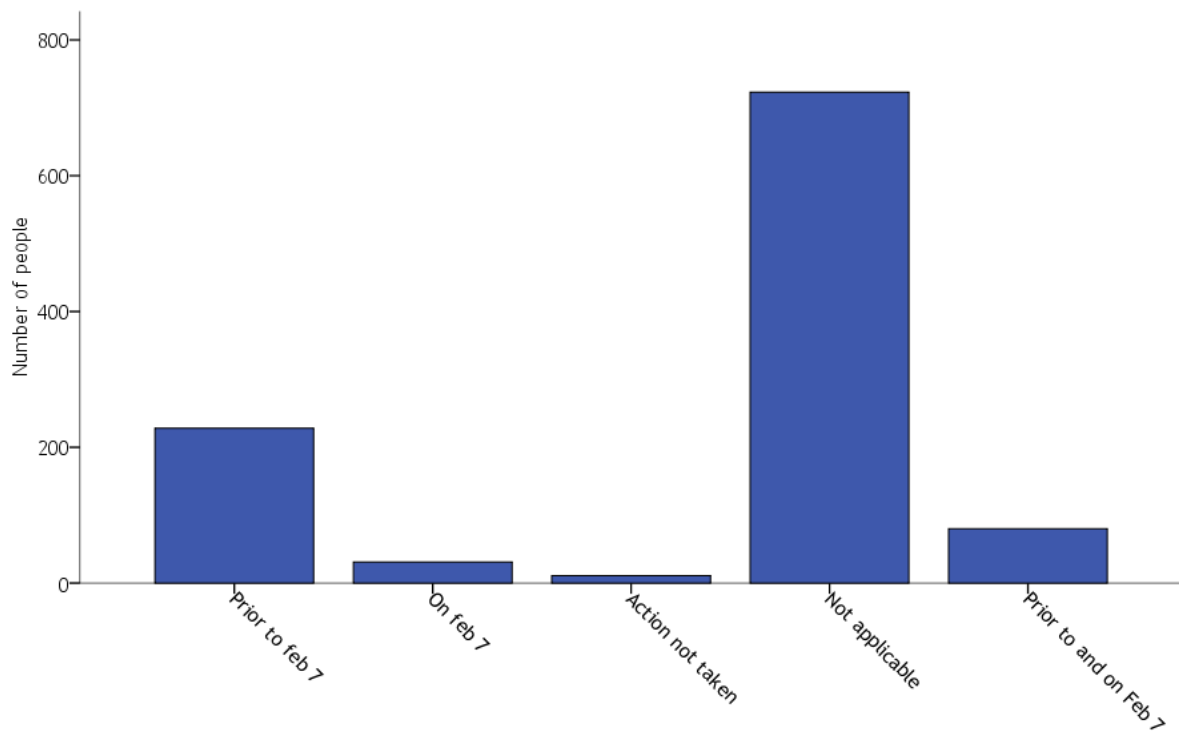
Q29.5 Cleared gutters of leaves

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	885	53	153	101	50	1242	72	1314
Percent	67.4	4.0	11.6	7.7	3.8	94.5	5.5	100



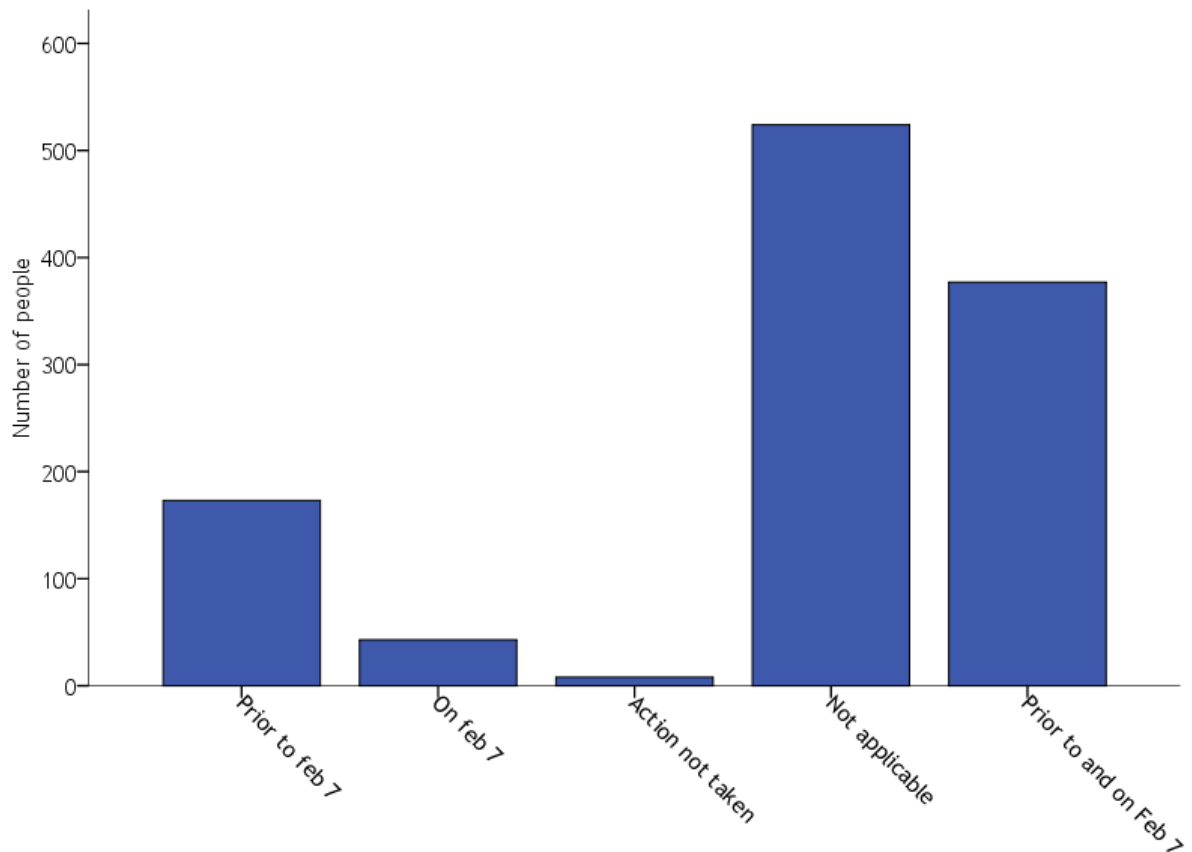
Q29.6 Installed gutter protection

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	228	31	11	723	80	1073	241	1314
Percent	17.4	2.4	.8	55.0	6.1	81.7	18.3	100



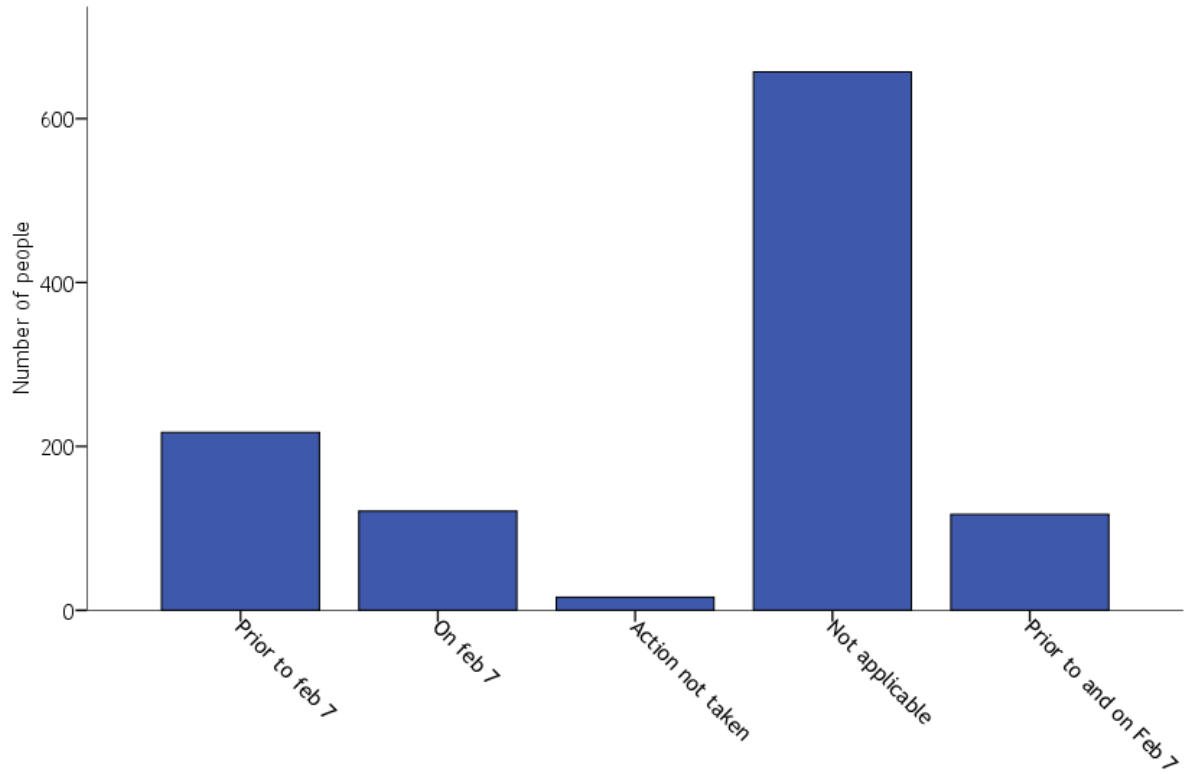
Q29.7 Covered underfloor spaces to prevent embers and flame entering

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	173	43	8	524	377	1125	189	1314
Percent	13.2	3.3	.6	39.9	28.7	85.6	14.4	100



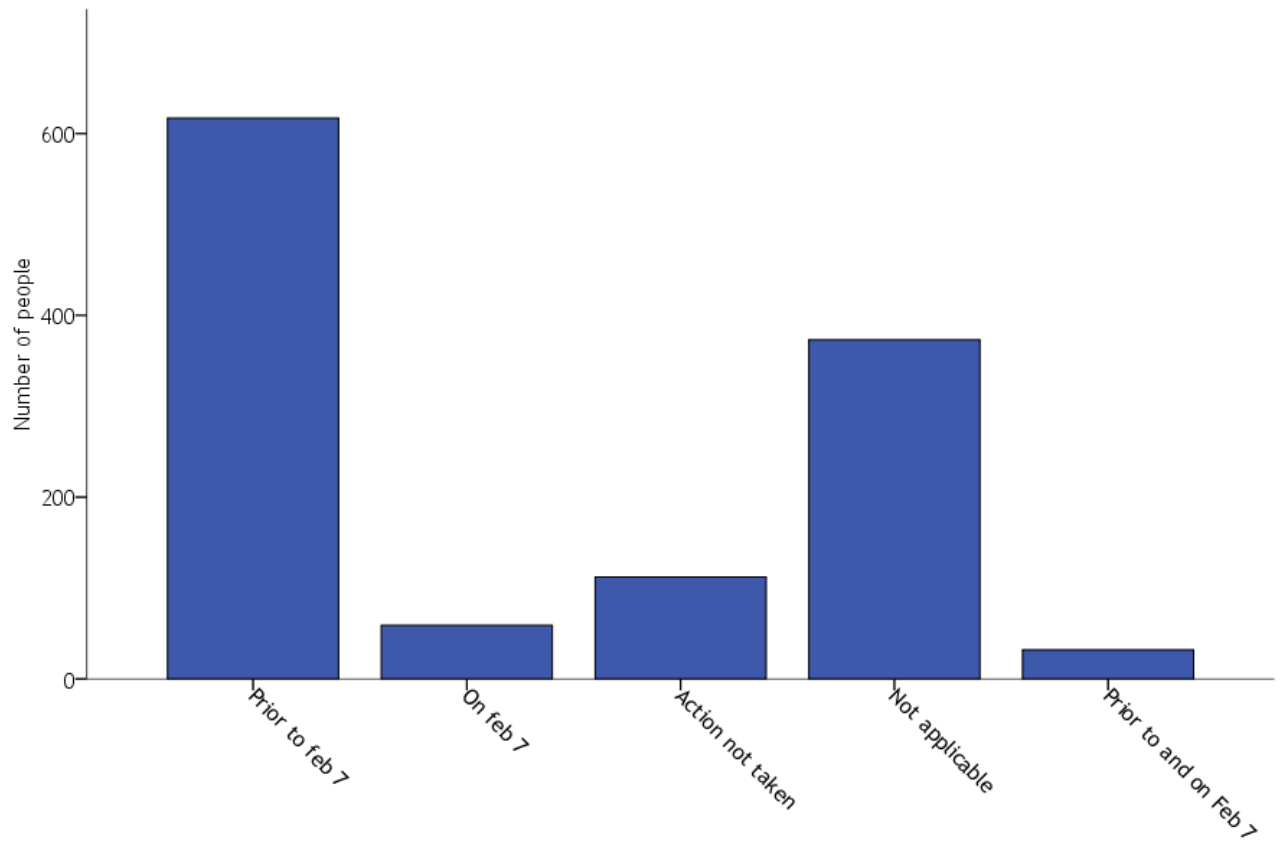
.Q29.8 Covered all gaps and vents to reduce the risk of embers entering the house or cavities (e.g. roof, wall, etc.)

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	217	121	16	657	117	1128	186	1314
Percent	16.5	9.2	1.2	50.0	8.9	85.8	14.2	100



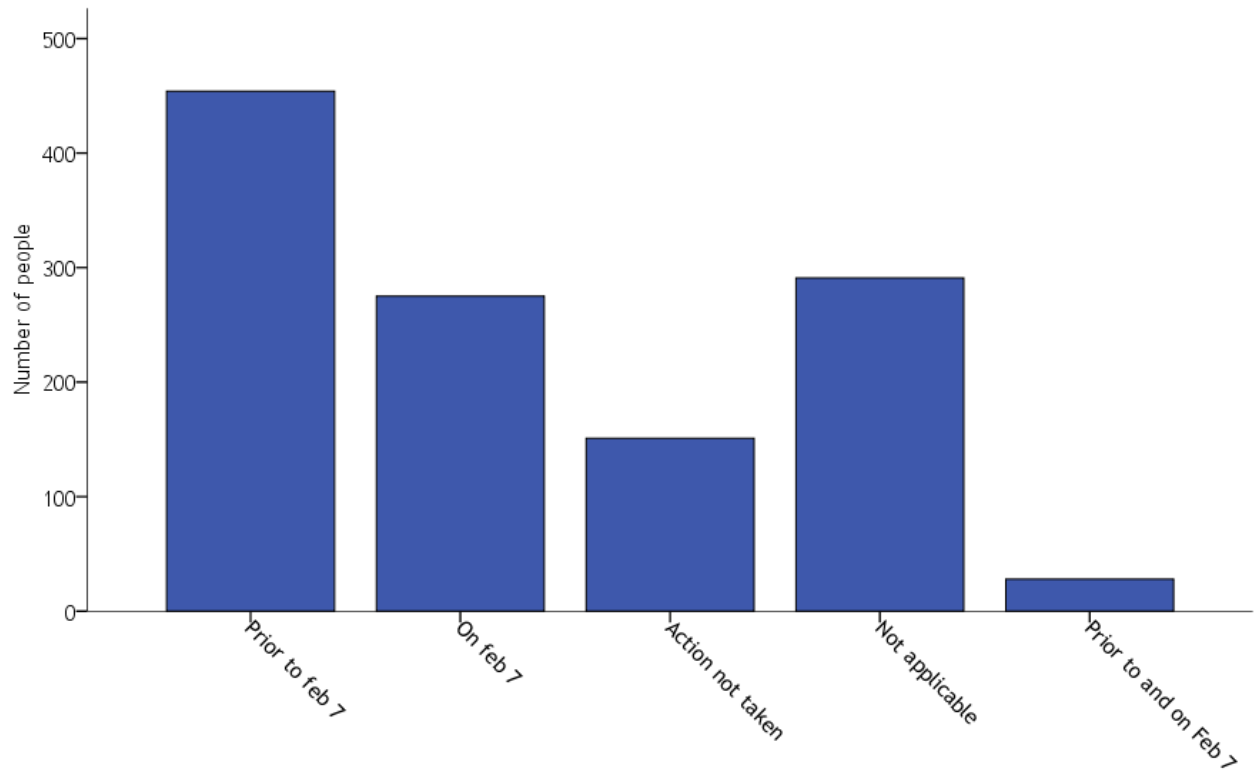
Q29.9 Obtained and prepared fire fighting equipment (e.g. hoses and a pump)

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	617	59	112	373	32	1193	121	1314
Percent	47.0	4.5	8.5	28.4	2.4	90.8	9.2	100



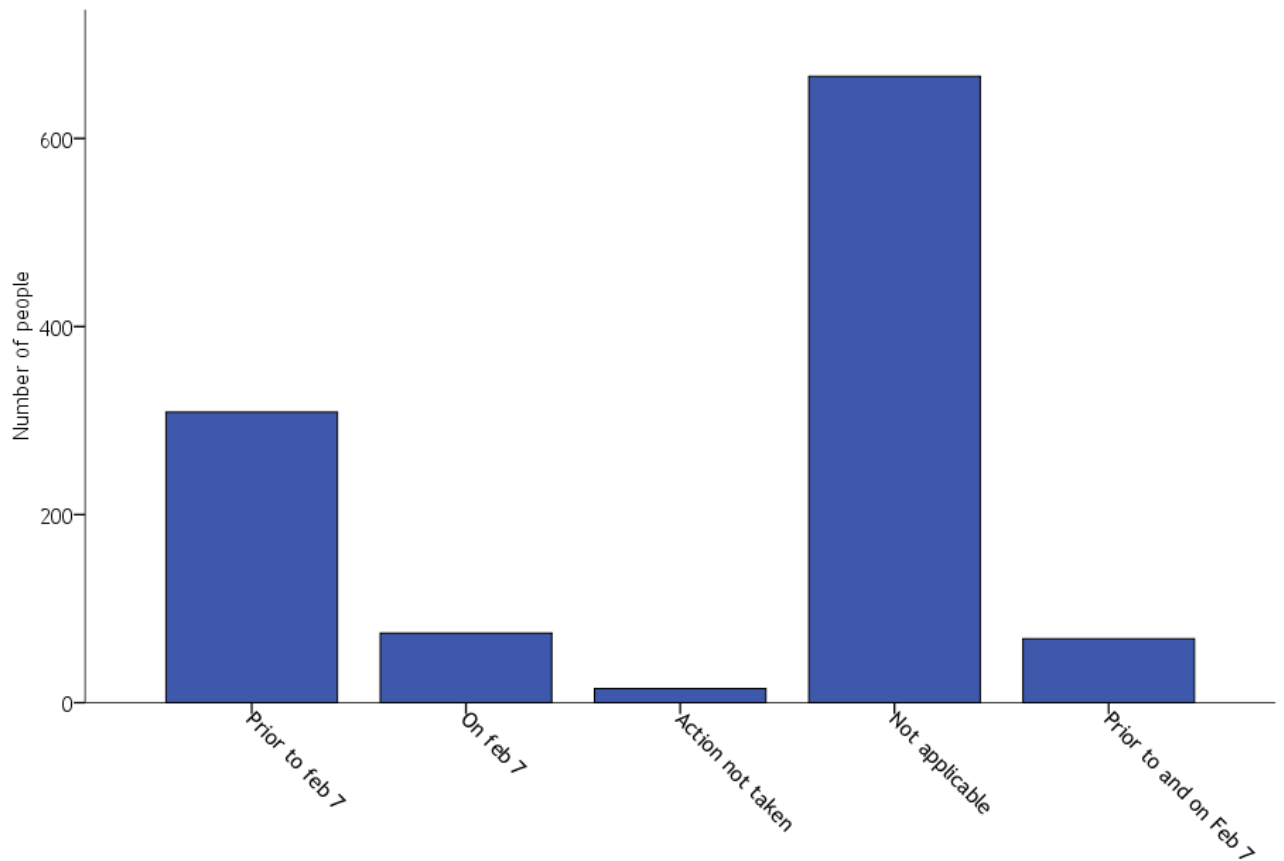
Q29.10 Obtained and prepared equipment such as ladder, buckets and mops to put out spot fires

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	454	275	151	291	28	1199	115	1314
Percent	34.6	20.9	11.5	22.1	2.1	91.2	8.8	100



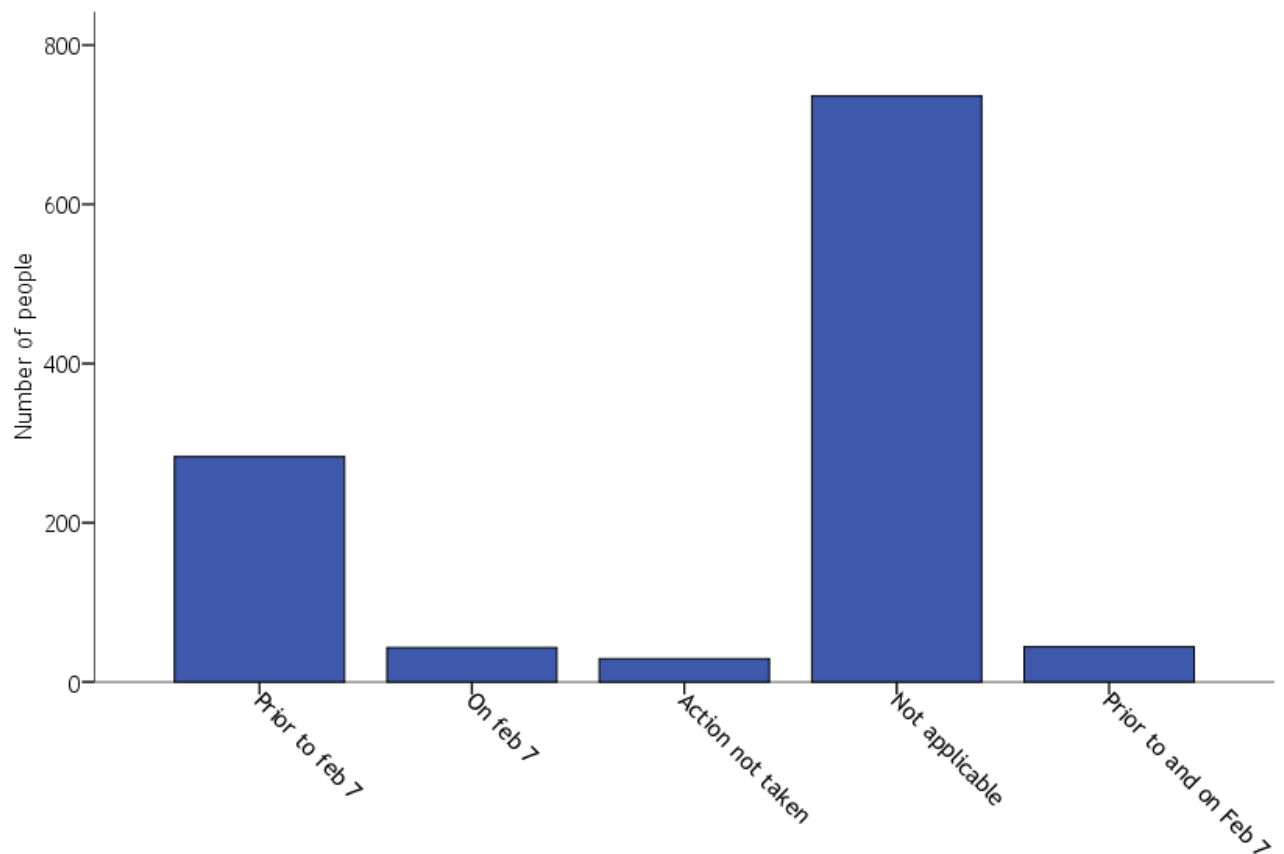
Q29.11 Installed seals and/or draft protectors around windows and doors

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	309	74	15	666	68	1132	182	1314
Percent	23.5	5.6	1.1	50.7	5.2	86.1	13.9	100



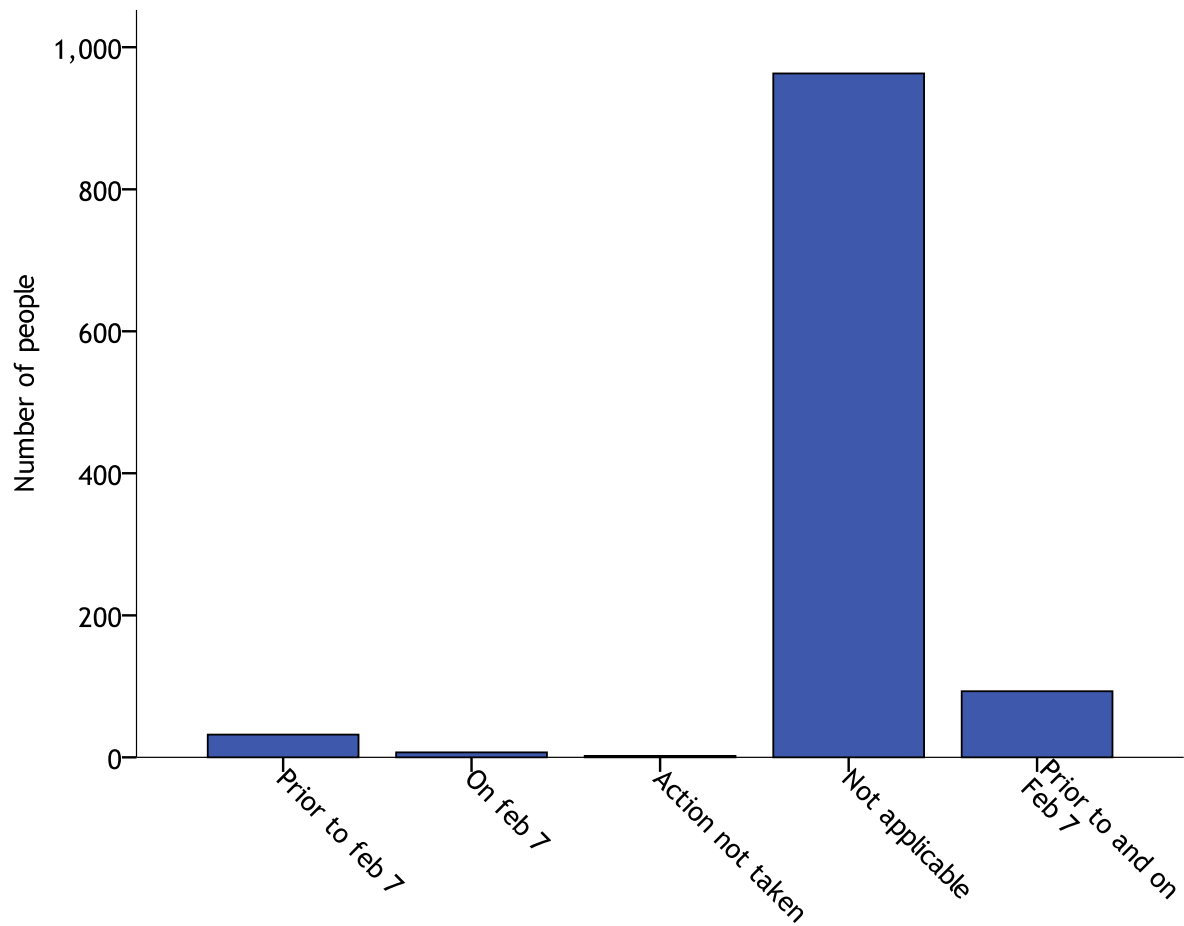
Q29.12 Installed a sprinkler system on or around the house

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	283	43	29	736	44	1135	179	1314
Percent	21.5	3.3	2.2	56.0	3.3	86.4	13.6	100



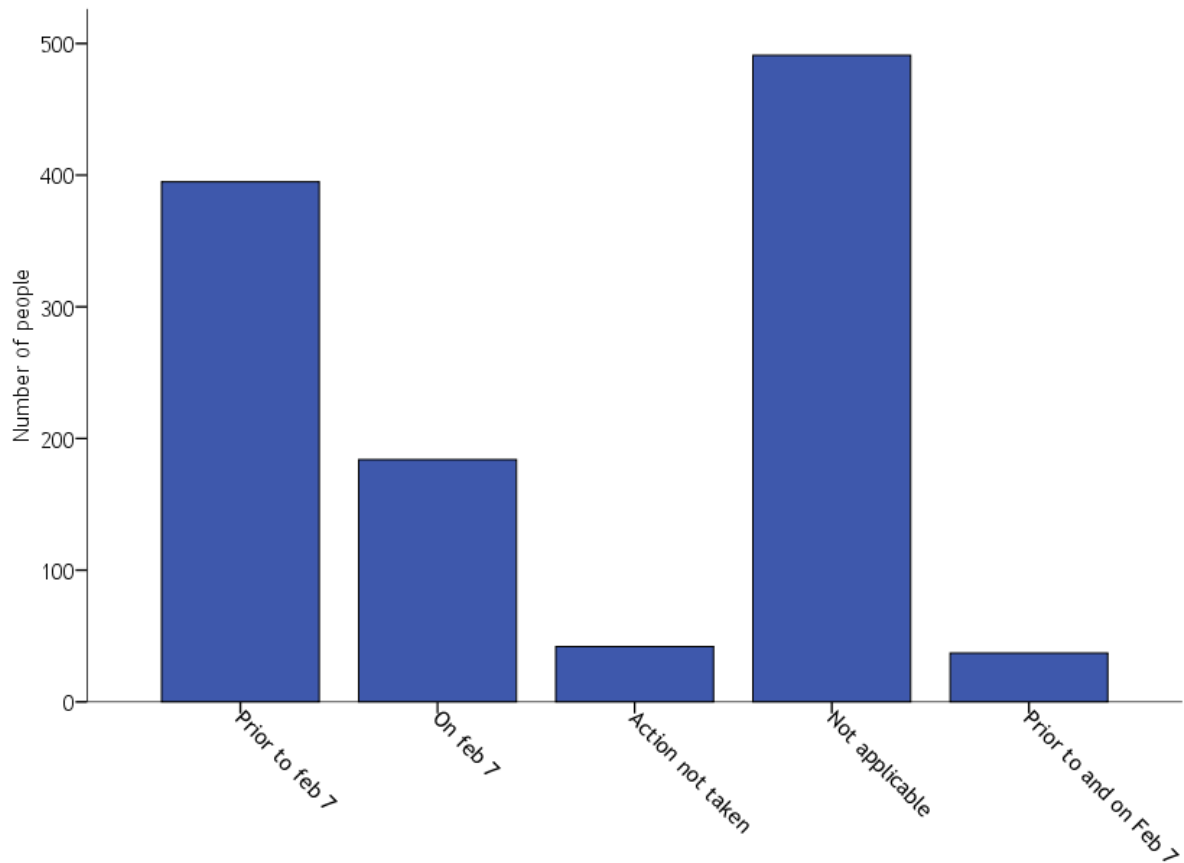
Q29.13 Installed shutters

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	32	7	2	963	93	1097	217	1314
Percent	2.4	.5	.2	73.3	7.1	83.5	16.5	100



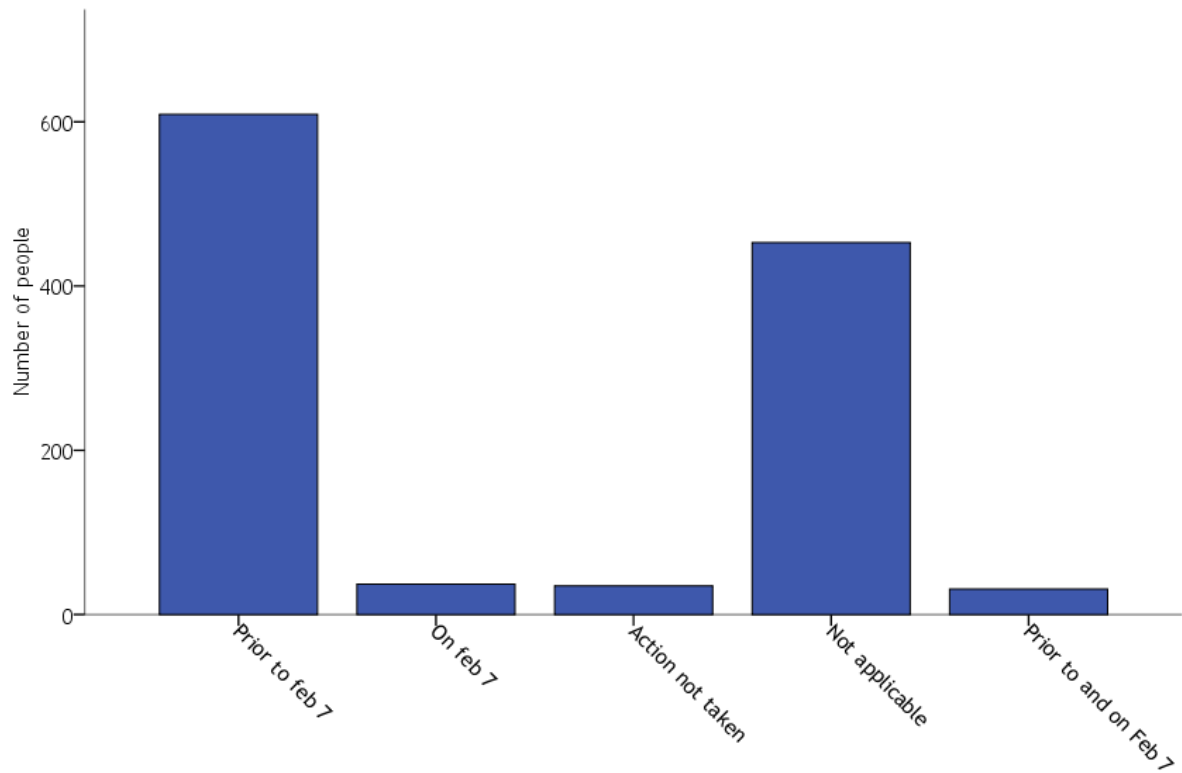
Q29.14 Prepared a kit of personal protective clothing for each member of the household

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	395	184	42	491	37	1149	165	1314
Percent	30.1	14.0	3.2	37.4	2.8	87.4	12.6	100



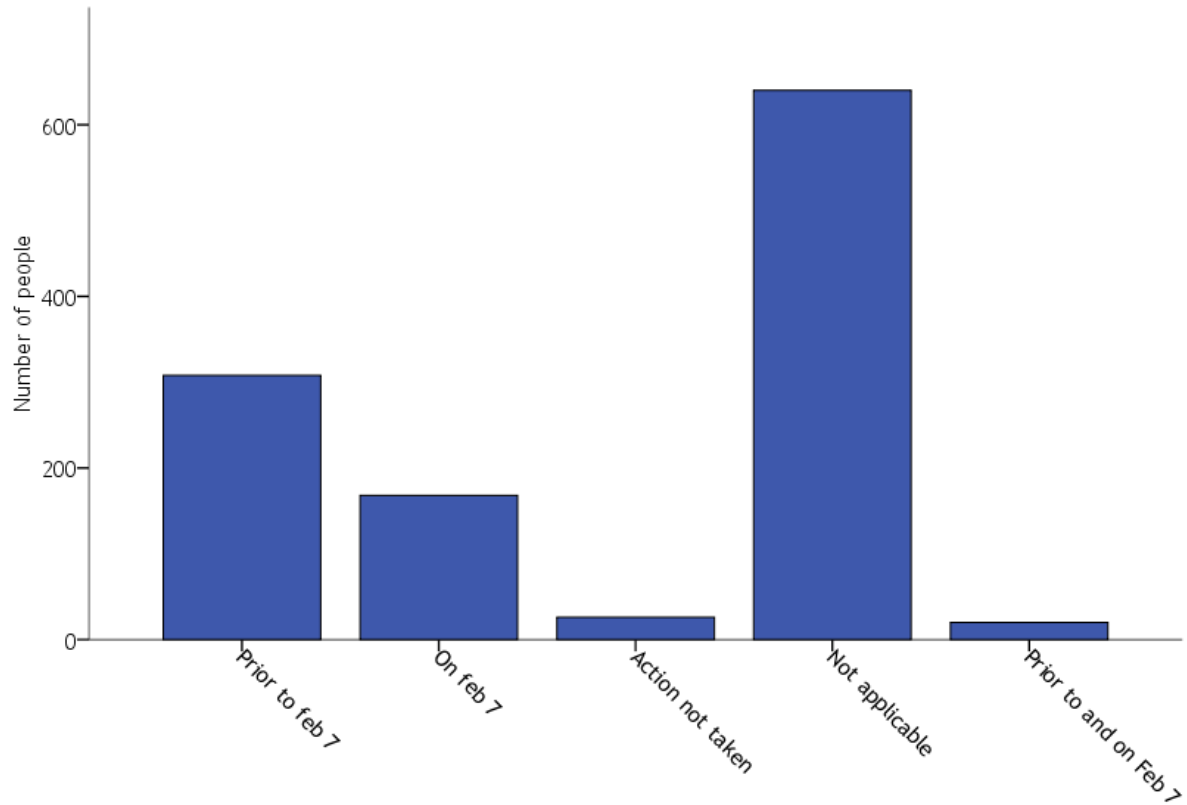
Q29.15 Obtained a battery-powered radio

	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	609	37	35	453	31	1165	149	1314
Percent	46.3	2.8	2.7	34.5	2.4	88.7	11.3	100



.Q29.16 Stored important documents and possessions off-site or in a fire safe compartment

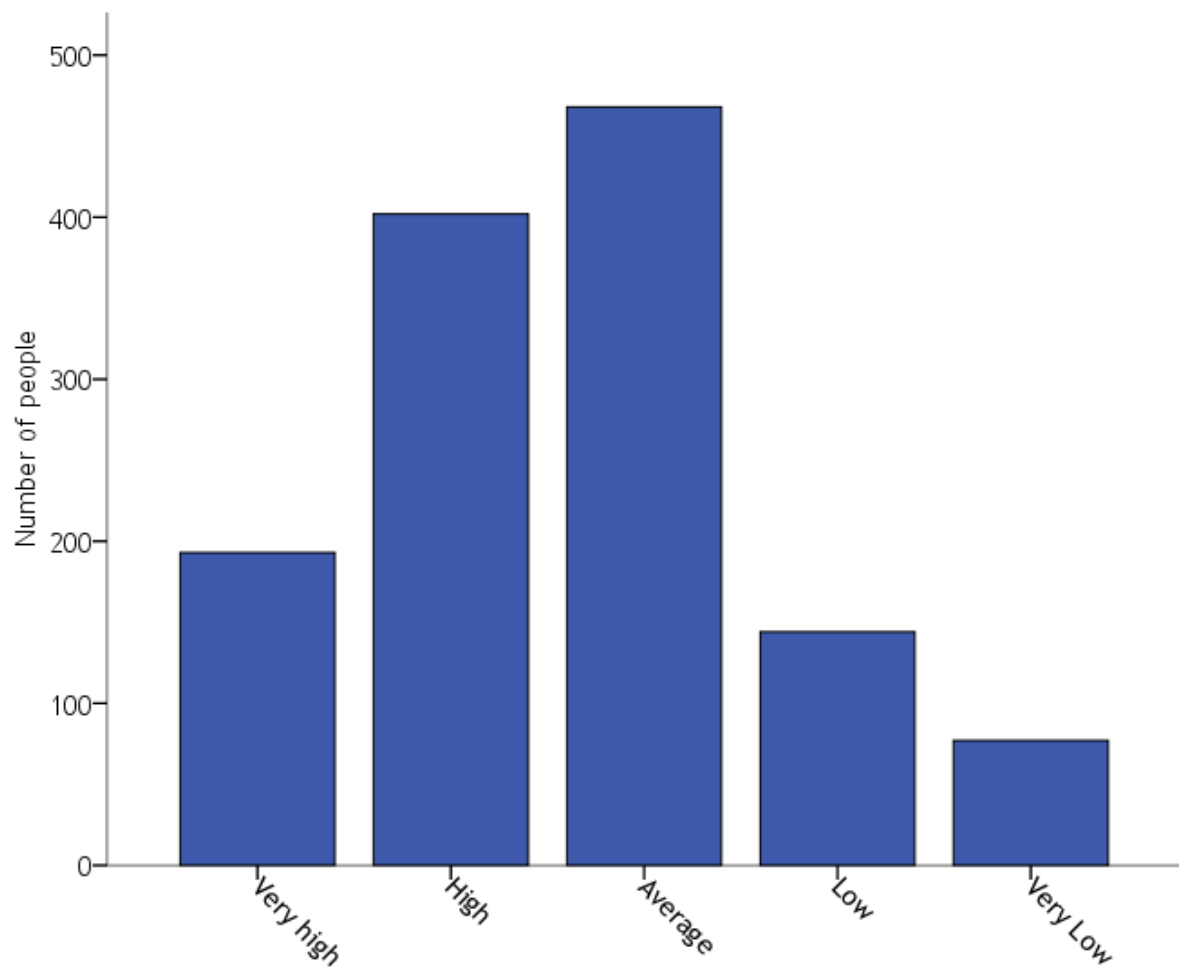
	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Not applicable	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	Missing	Total
Count	308	168	26	640	20	1162	152	1314
Percent	23.4	12.8	2.0	48.7	1.5	88.4	11.6	100



Q30. How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

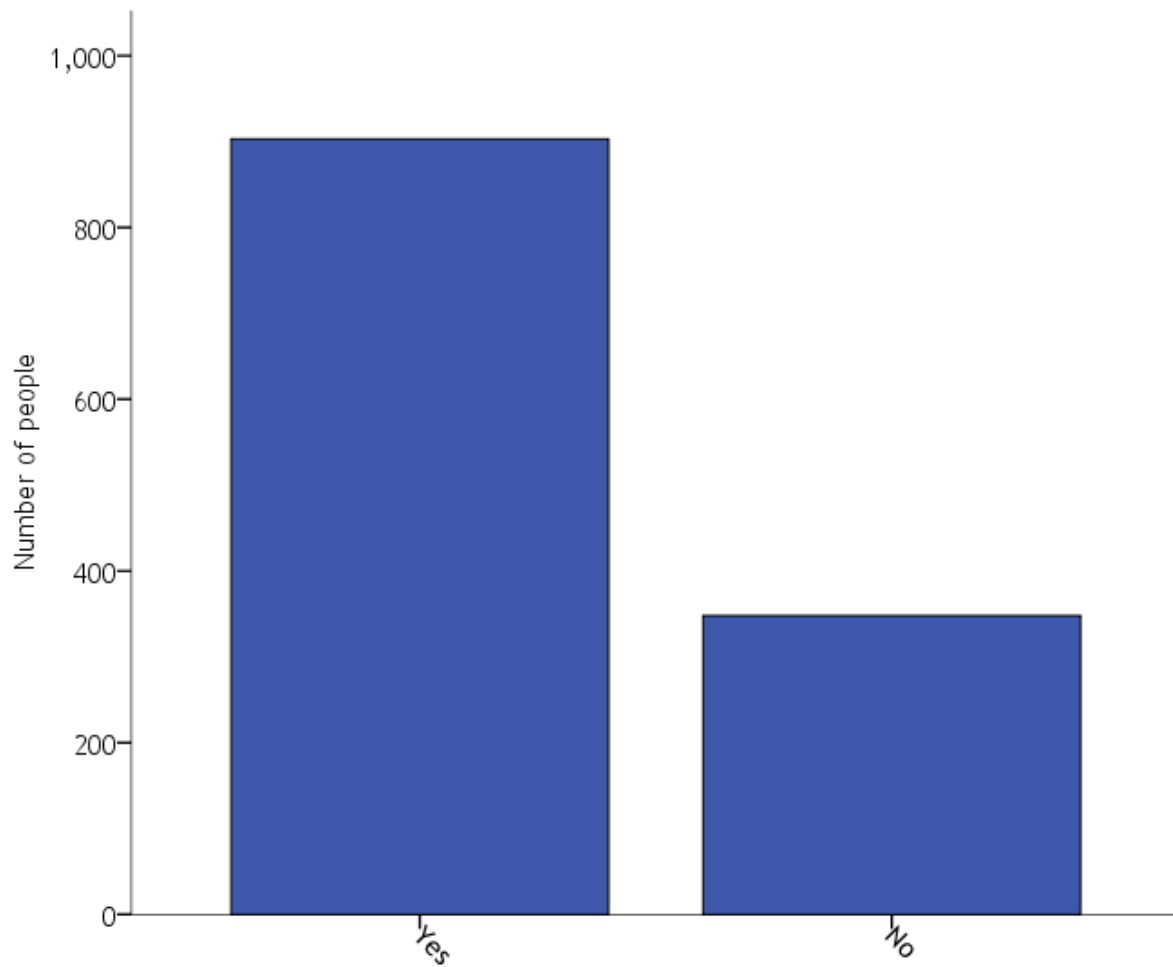
	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very Low	Total	Missing	Total
Count	193	402	468	144	77	1284	30	1314
Percent	14.7	30.6	35.6	11.0	5.9	97.7	2.3	100

Almost half of all survey respondents (45%) rated their preparedness level as 'High' or 'Very high', 36% as 'Average' and 17% as 'Low' or 'Very low'. It should be noted that many of those who were interviewed for the Taskforce Research considered themselves to be well-prepared for a 'normal' bushfire, but not for fires of the severity experienced on February 7th.



Q31. Did you want to be more prepared than you were?

	Yes	No	Total	Missing	Total
Count	903	348	1251	63	1314
Percent	68.7	26.5	95.2	4.8	100



Q32. What prevented you from being more prepared?

This was an open ended question, the analysis of which is beyond the scope of this report.

Q33. Please use the space below if you would like to add any comments about your experience of preparing for bushfires.

This was an open ended question, the analysis of which is beyond the scope of this report.

Section 4. During the bushfire

This Section presents basic frequencies and percentages for a series of questions relating to household responses during the February 7th bushfires.

Q34. If known, at what time did the bushfire arrive in your town or suburb? (e.g. '4.10pm' or 'About 4pm')

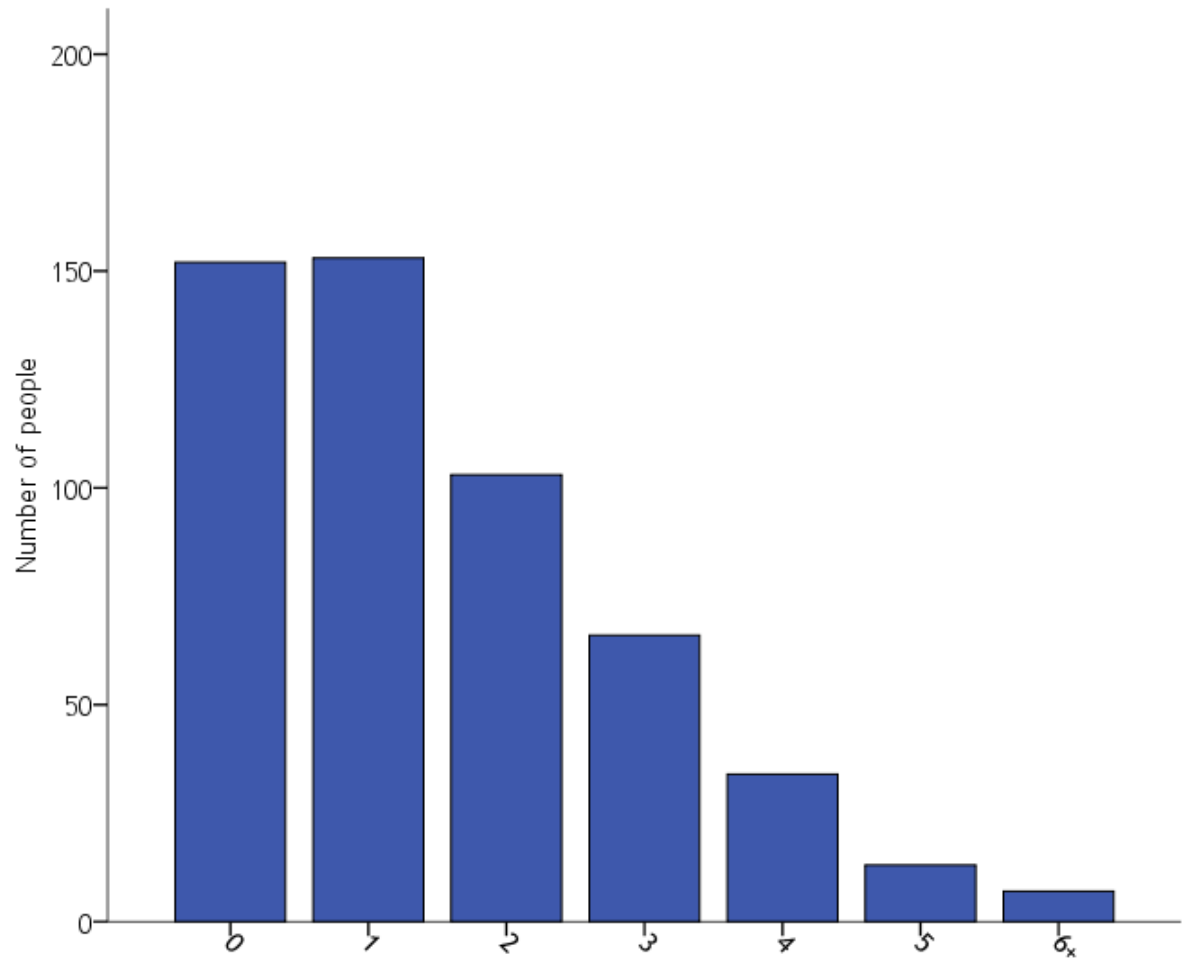
This was an open ended question, the analysis of which is beyond the scope of this report.

Q35. What did OTHER members of your household do? You may select more than one.

This question has been filtered to exclude people from one person households. (The tables read as: count/percentage - number of households; ledged - number of people).

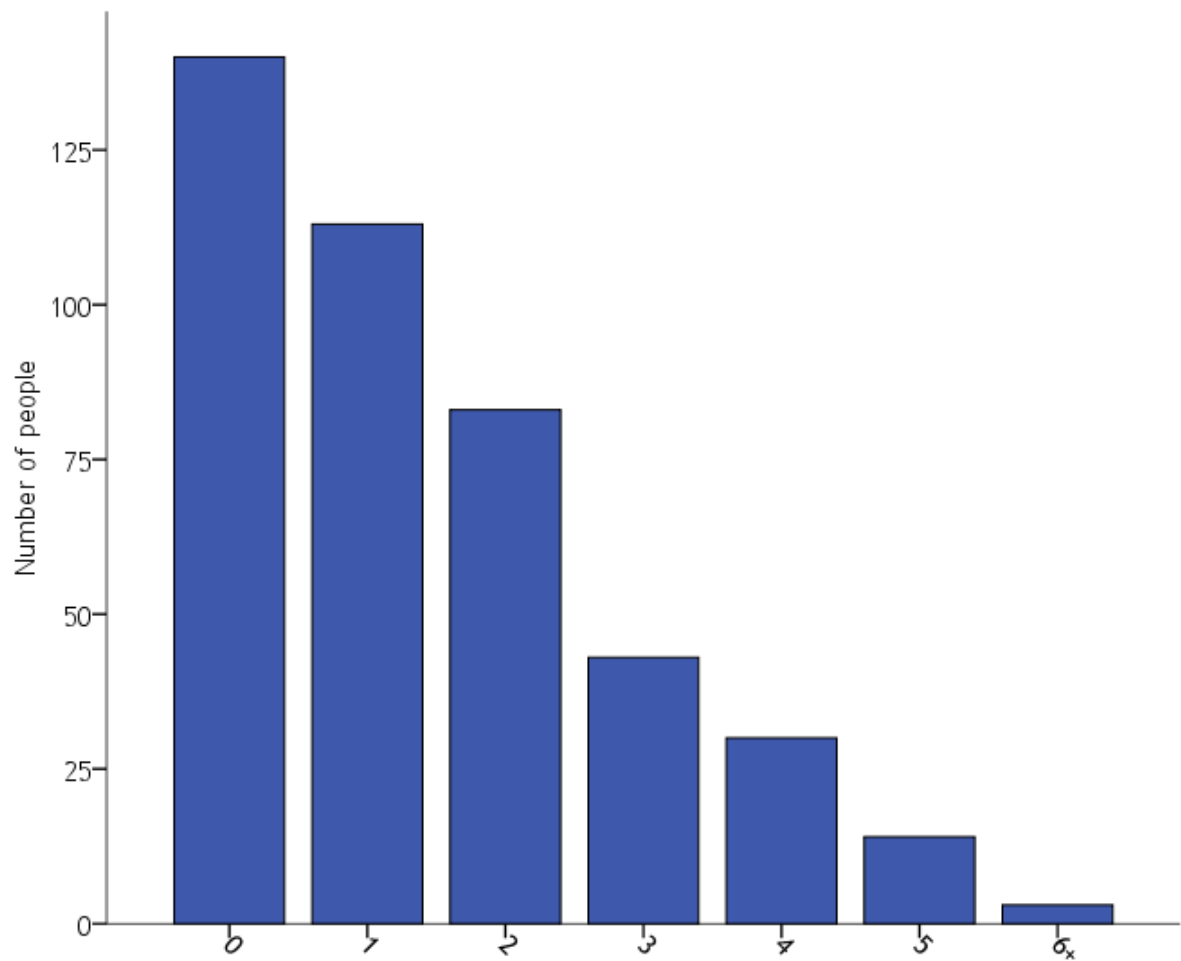
Q35.1 Number of people who left my household before the fire arrived in my town or suburb.

	Number of people							Total	Missing	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+			
Count	152	153	103	66	34	13	7	528	584	1112
Percent	13.7	13.8	9.3	5.9	3.1	1.2	0.6	47.5	52.5	100



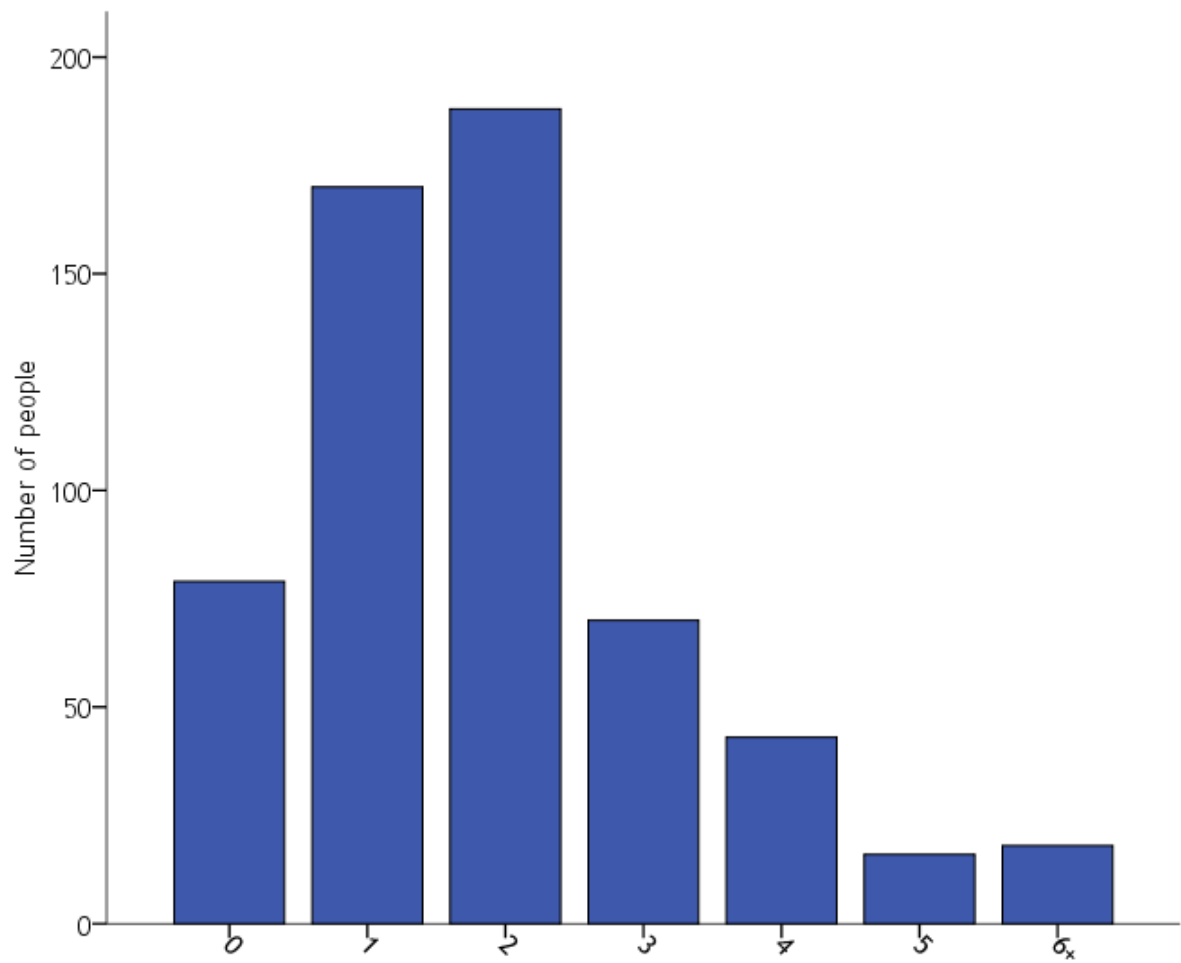
Q35.2 Number of people who left when the fire arrived in my town or suburb

	Number of people							Total	Missing	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+			
Count	140	113	83	43	30	14	3	426	686	1112
Percent	12.6	10.2	7.5	3.9	2.7	1.3	0.3	38.3	61.7	100



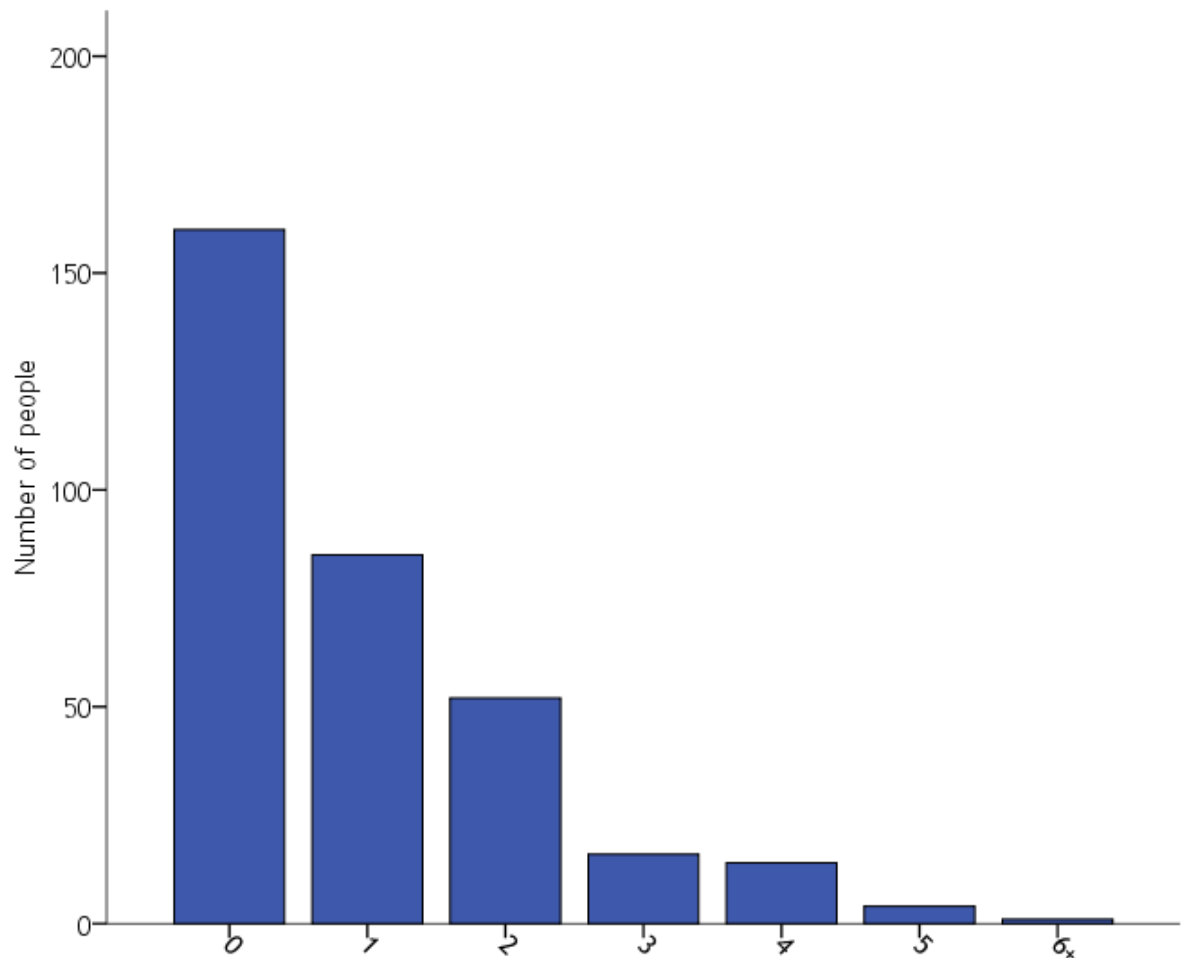
Q35.3 Number of people who stayed and actively defended the house and property

	Number of people							Total	Missing	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+			
Count	79	170	188	70	43	16	18	584	528	1112
Percent	7.1	15.3	16.9	6.3	3.9	1.4	1.6	52.5	47.5	100



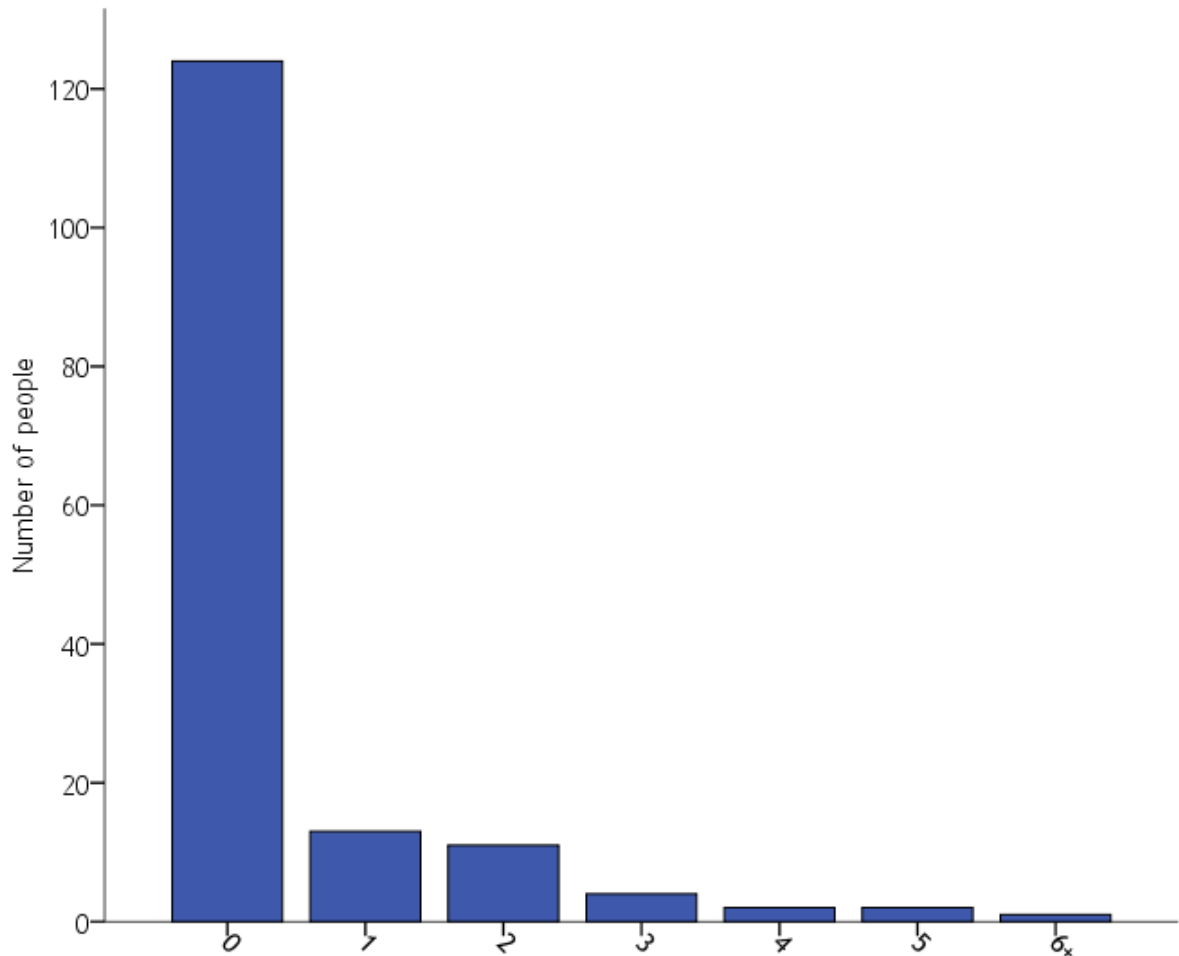
Q35.4 Number of people who began defending the house and property from the fire but left when they felt the danger was too great

	Number of people							Total	Missing	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+			
Count	160	85	52	16	14	4	1	332	780	1112
Percent	14.4	7.6	4.7	1.4	1.3	0.4	0.1	29.9	70.1	100



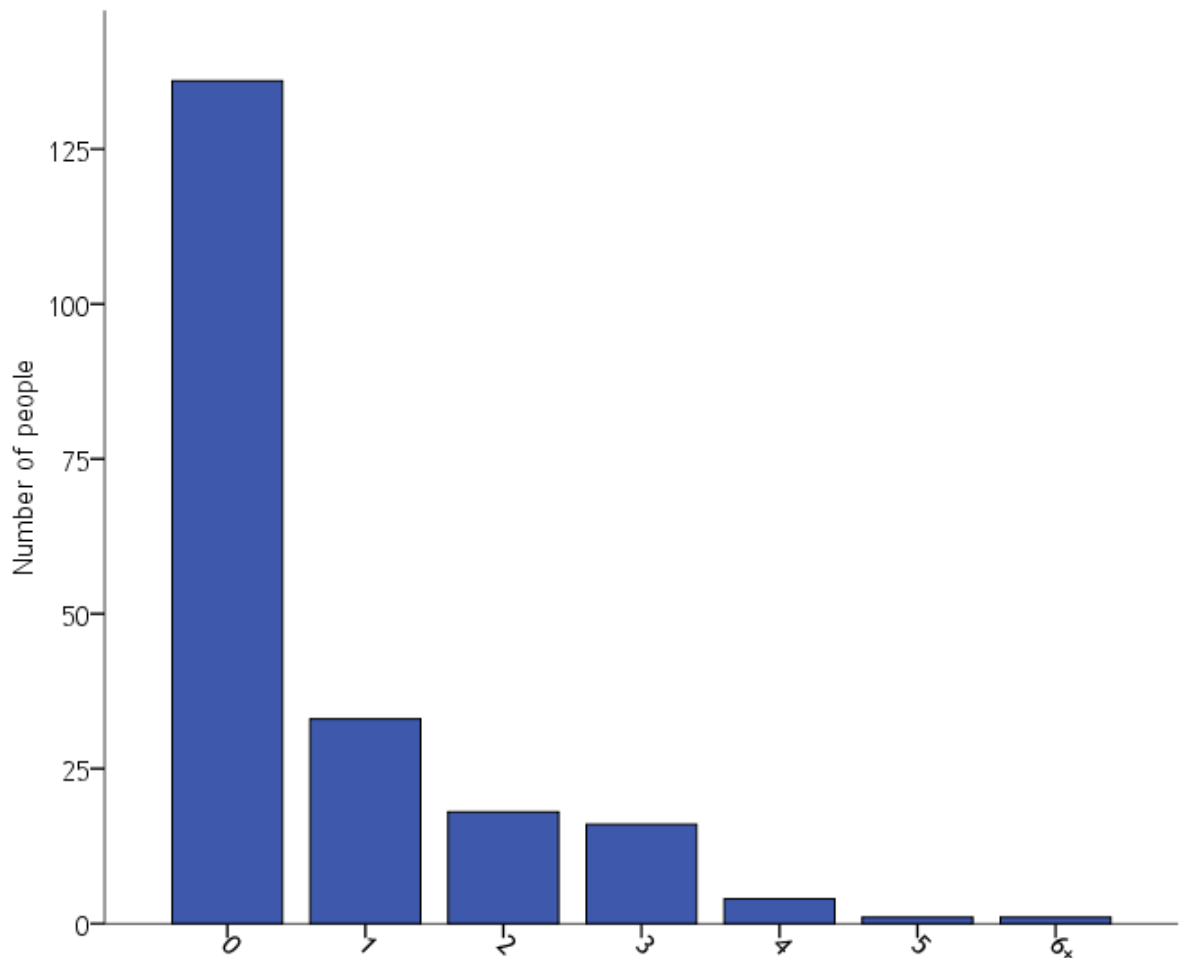
Q35.5 Number of people who stayed to actively defend the house or property, but the fire never arrived

	Number of people							Total	Missing	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+			
Count	124	13	11	4	2	2	1	157	955	1112
Percent	11.2	1.2	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	14.1	85.9	100



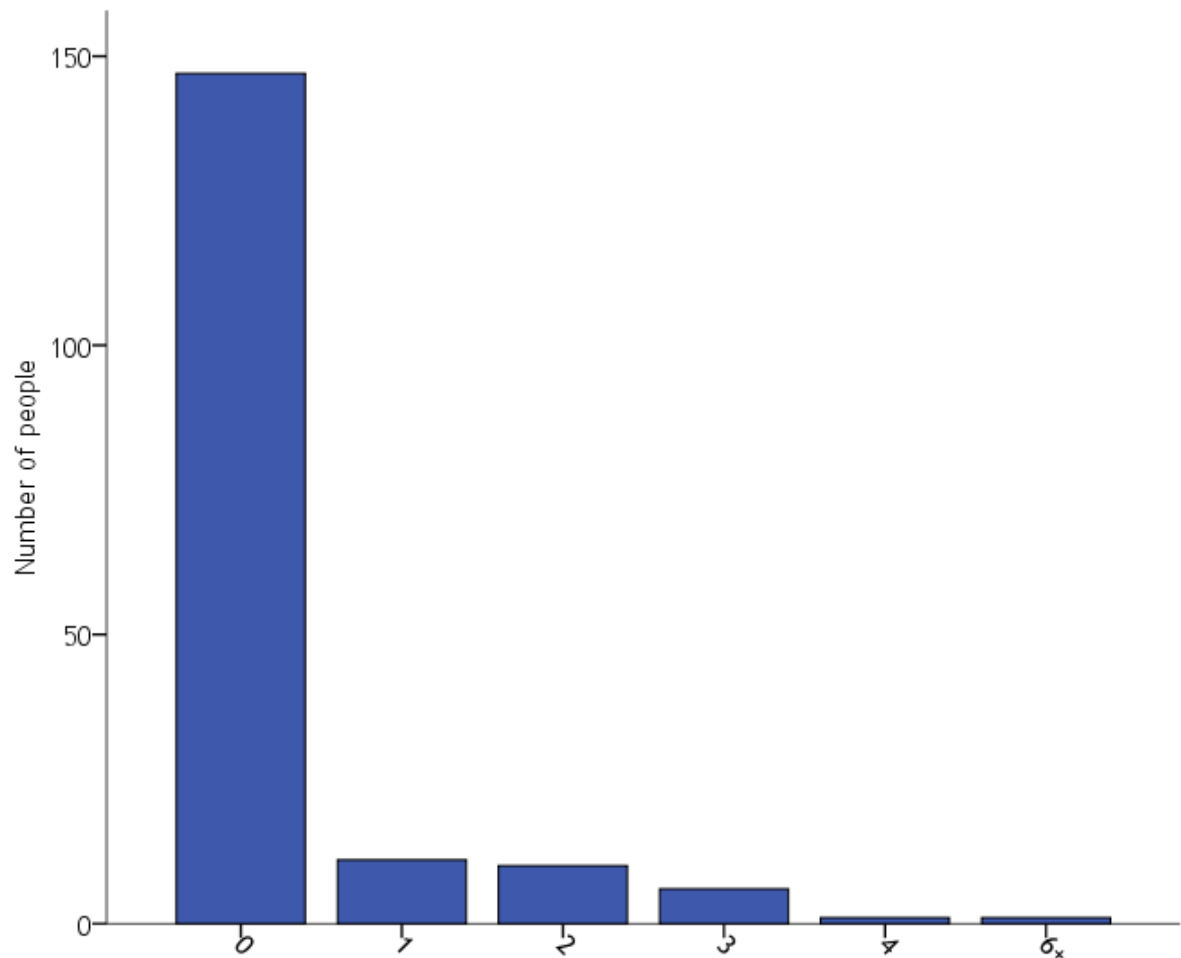
.Q35.6 Number of people who did not actively defend the house and property but stayed throughout the fire and sheltered in the house

	Number of people							Total	Missing	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+			
Count	136	33	18	16	4	1	1	209	903	1112
Percent	12.2	3.0	1.6	1.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	18.8	81.2	100



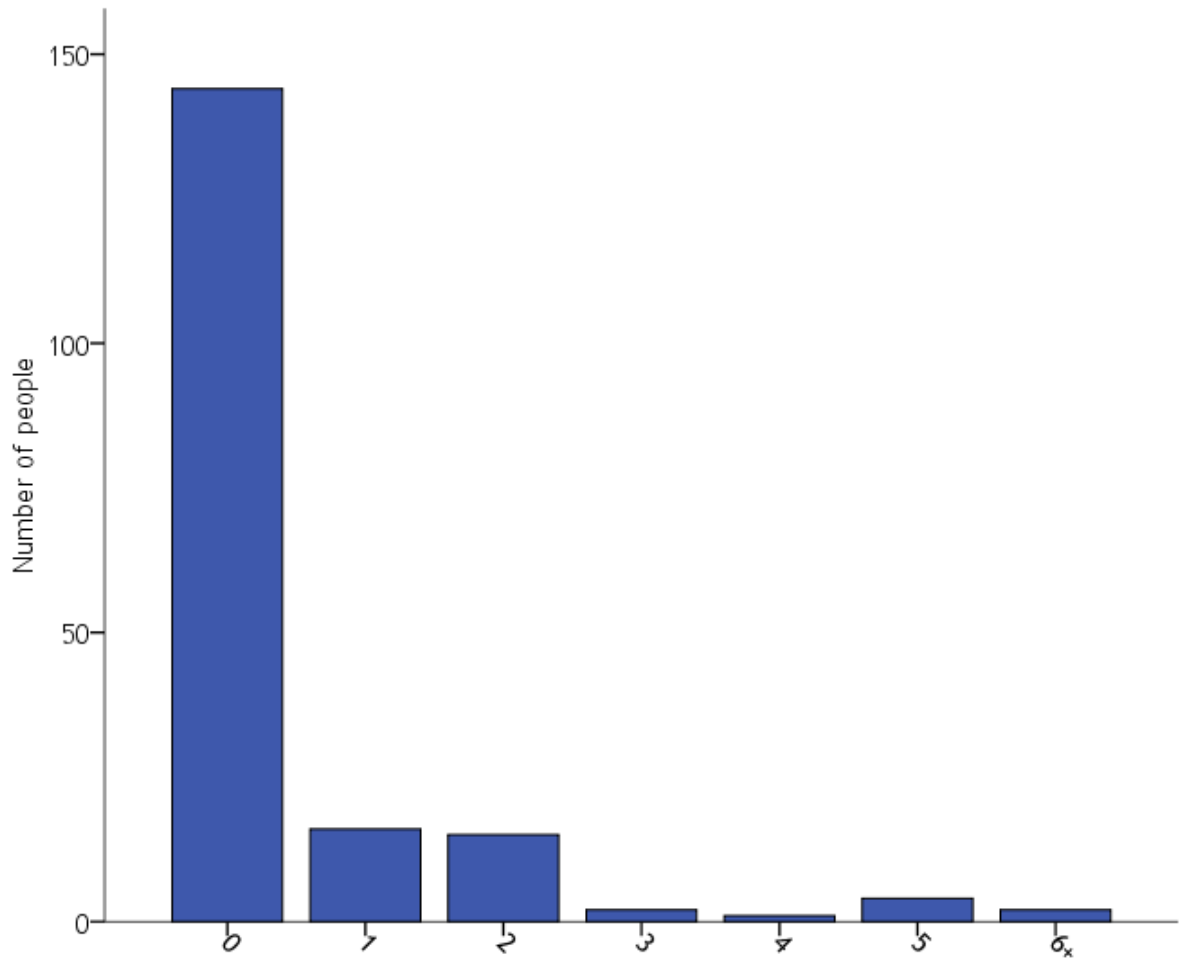
Q35.7 Number of people who did not actively defend the house and property but stayed throughout the fire and sheltered in a structure (other than the house) or vehicle

	Number of people							Total	Missing	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+			
Count	147	11	10	6	1	0	1	176	936	1112
Percent	13.2	1.0	0.9	0.5	0.1	0	0.1	15.8	84.2	100



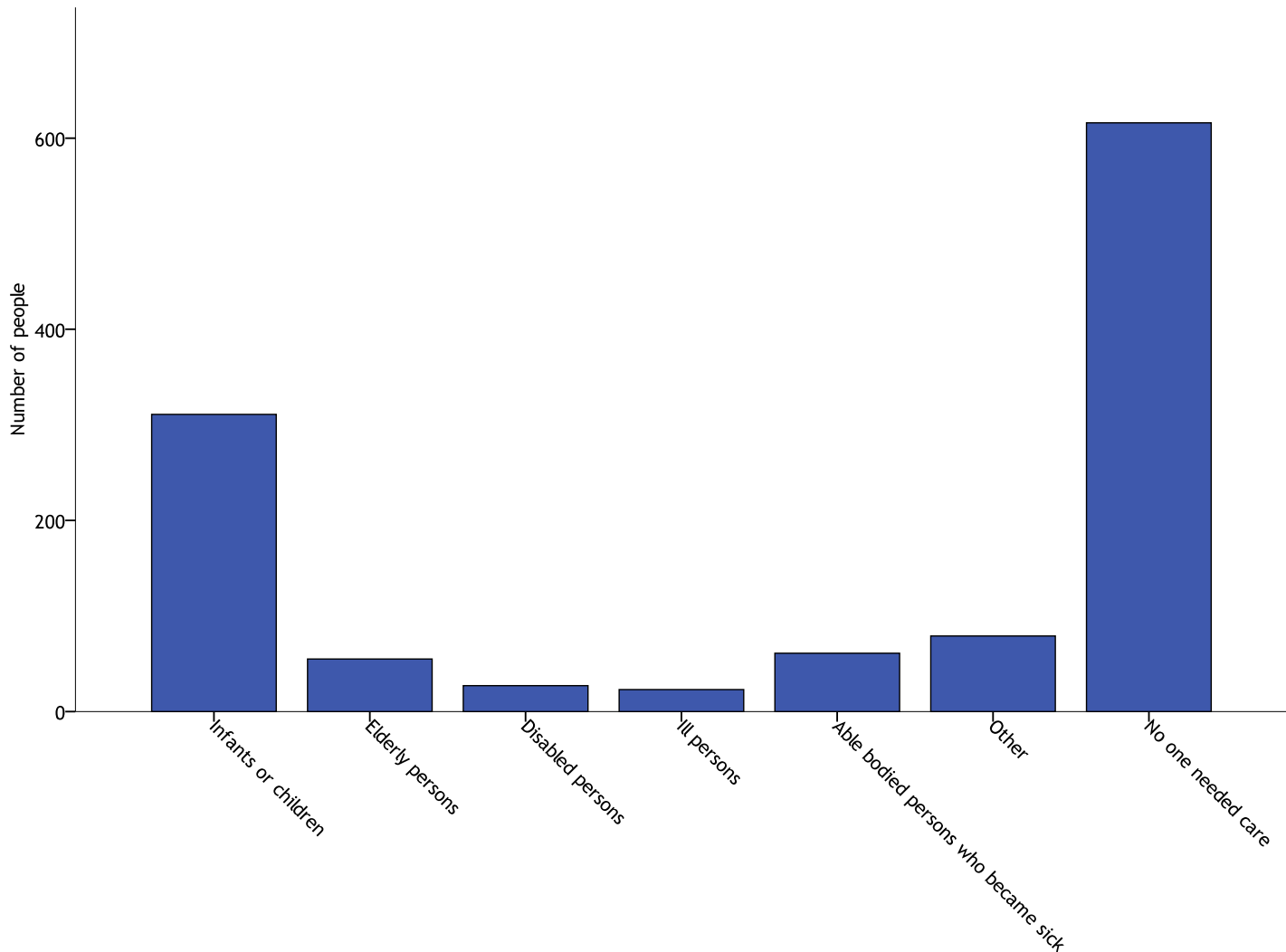
.Q35.8 Number of people who did not actively defend the house and property but stayed throughout the fire and took refuge somewhere outside

	Number of people							Total	Missing	Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6+			
Count	144	16	15	2	1	4	2	184	928	1112
Percent	12.9	1.4	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	16.5	83.5	100



Q36. Were there members of your household who needed looking after during the fire? You may select more than one.

	Infants or children	Elderly persons	Disabled persons	Ill persons	Able bodied persons who became sick	Other	No one needed care
Count	311	55	27	23	61	79	616
Percent	23.7%	4.2%	2.1%	1.8%	4.6%	6.0%	46.9%

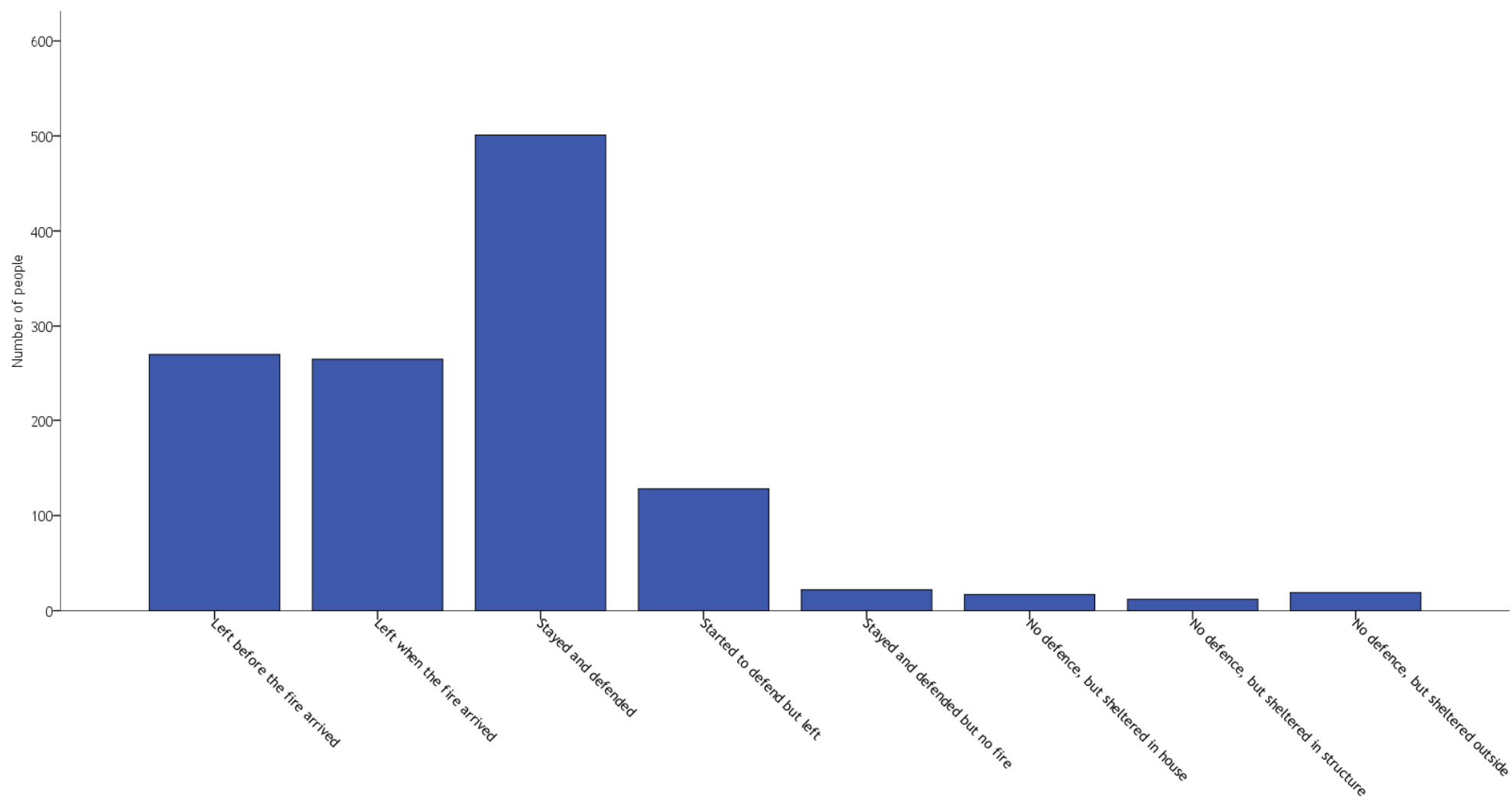


Q37. Which one of the following best describes what YOU did DURING the bushfire? Select ONE only.

	Left before the fire arrived	Left when the fire arrived	Stayed and defended	Started to defend but left	Stayed and defended but no fire	No defence, but sheltered in house	No defence, but sheltered in structure	No defence, but sheltered outside	Total	Missing	Total
Count	270	265	501	128	22	17	12	19	1234	80	1314
Percent	20.5	20.2	38.1	9.7	1.7	1.3	0.9	1.4	93.9	6.1	100

Please note that Q37 directs respondents to *one* of two sets of questions that more fully explore their responses to the fires. The first set of questions (Q38 – Q50) is intended for respondents who left their home either before or when the fire arrived in their town or suburb (and did not initiate defence). The second set of question (Q51 – 71) is intended for respondents who stayed with their home or property for some or all of the fire. The Table for Q37 and the following paragraph provide an overview of respondents' responses, which are examined in more detail in the corresponding sections.

The majority of survey respondents (50%) reported that they stayed to defend their homes and properties from the bushfires. 10% of these respondents left when they felt the danger was too great to stay, and 2% did not encounter fire on their properties. 41% of respondents left their homes or properties either before or when the fires arrived in their town or suburb. A small proportion (4%) reported that they sheltered inside a house, in a structure other than a house, in a vehicle, or somewhere outside.

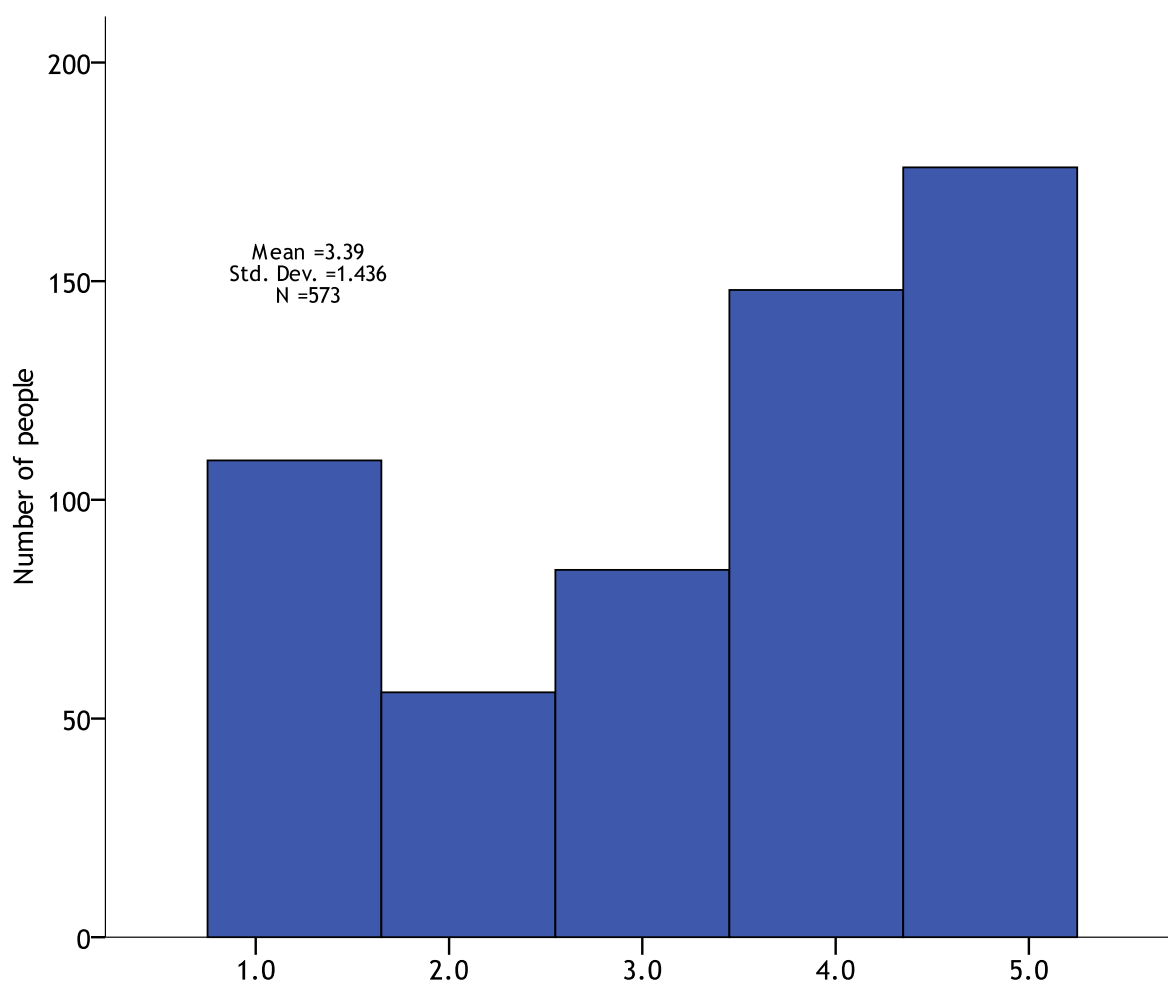


The following questions refer only to those who left their property (answered a or b at question 37).

Q38. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'very early' and 5 is 'very late', when did you leave your home or property?

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Count	109	56	100	149	159	573
Percent	19.0	9.8	17.5	26.0	27.7	100

Just over half (54%) of the respondents who left their homes and properties considered themselves to have been 'Late' or 'Very late' in leaving.



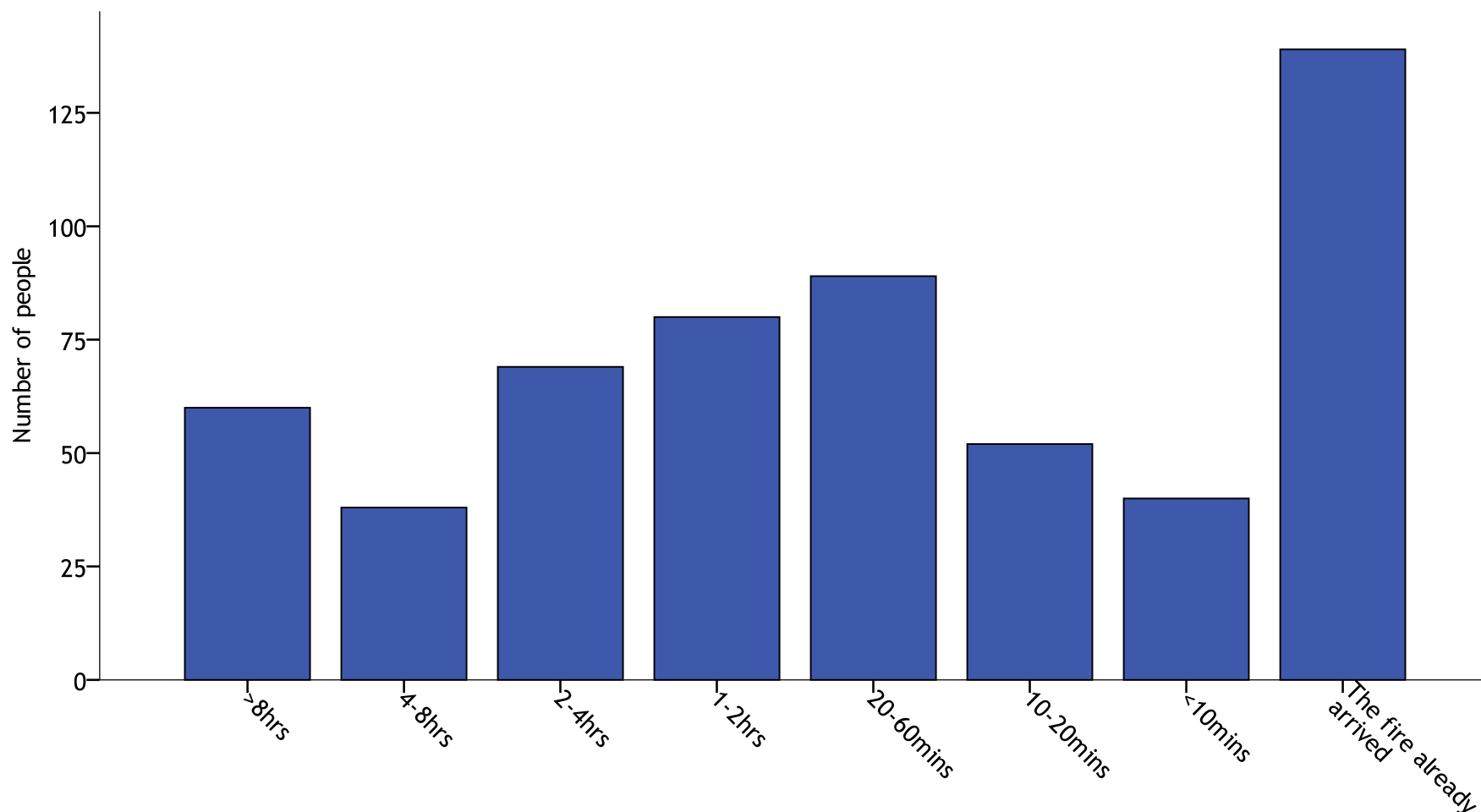
Q39. If known, at what time did you leave? (e.g. '4.10pm' or 'About 4pm')

This was an open ended question, the analysis of which is beyond the scope of this report.

Q40. To the best of your knowledge, how long before the fire arrived in your town or suburb did you leave?

	>8hrs	4-8hrs	2-4hrs	1-2hrs	20-60mins	10-20mins	<10mins	The fire already arrived	Total	Missing	Total
Count	58	35	64	78	86	45	35	108	509	26	535
Percent	10.8	6.5	12.0	14.6	16.1	8.4	6.5	20.2	95.1	4.9	100

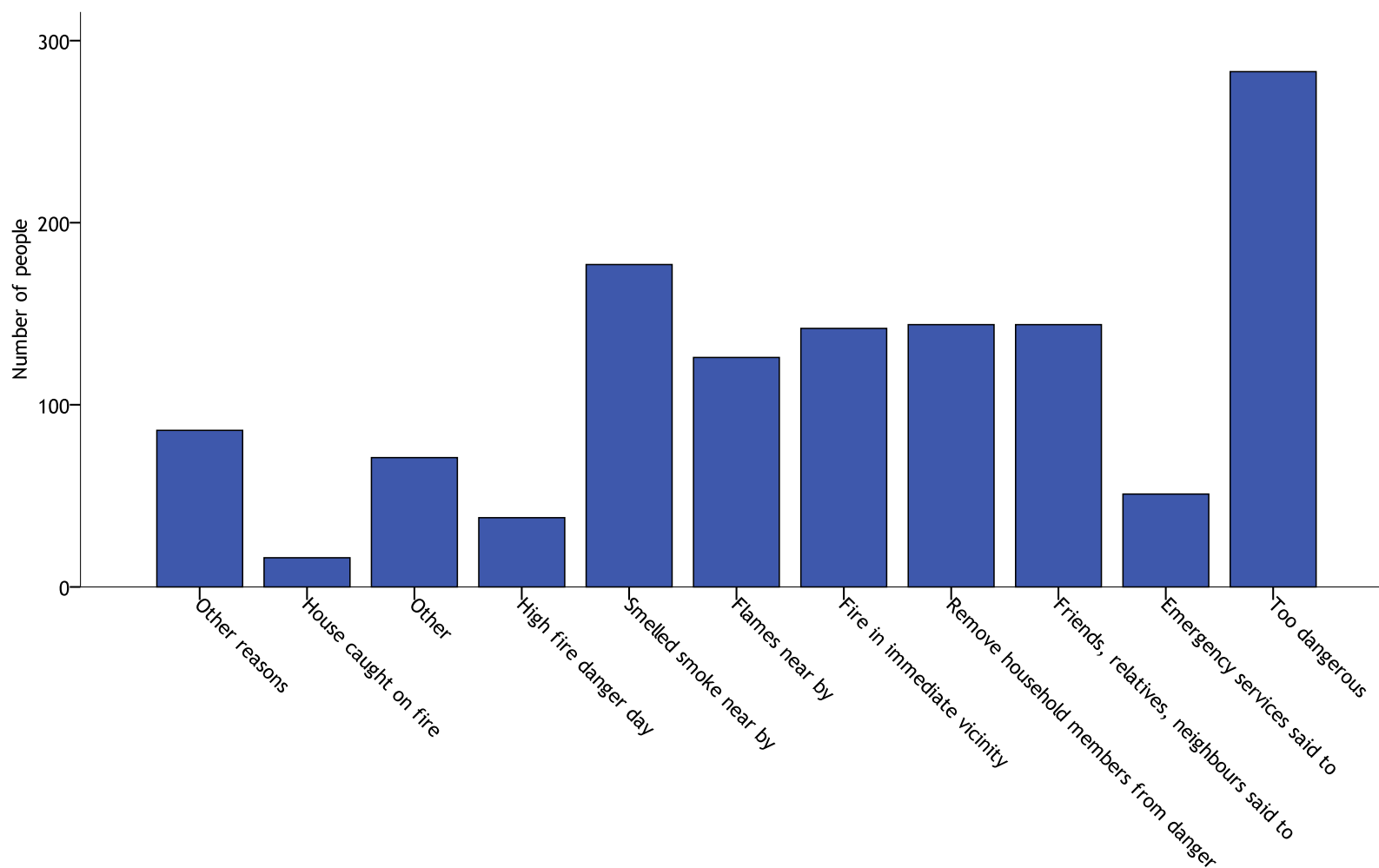
Just over half (51%) of respondents who left their homes and properties did so less than an hour before the fire arrived in their town or suburb. A significant proportion (35%) left less than 20 minutes before the fire arrived, with 20% leaving when the fire had already arrived.



Q41. Why did you leave your house or property on Saturday February 7th? You may select more than one.

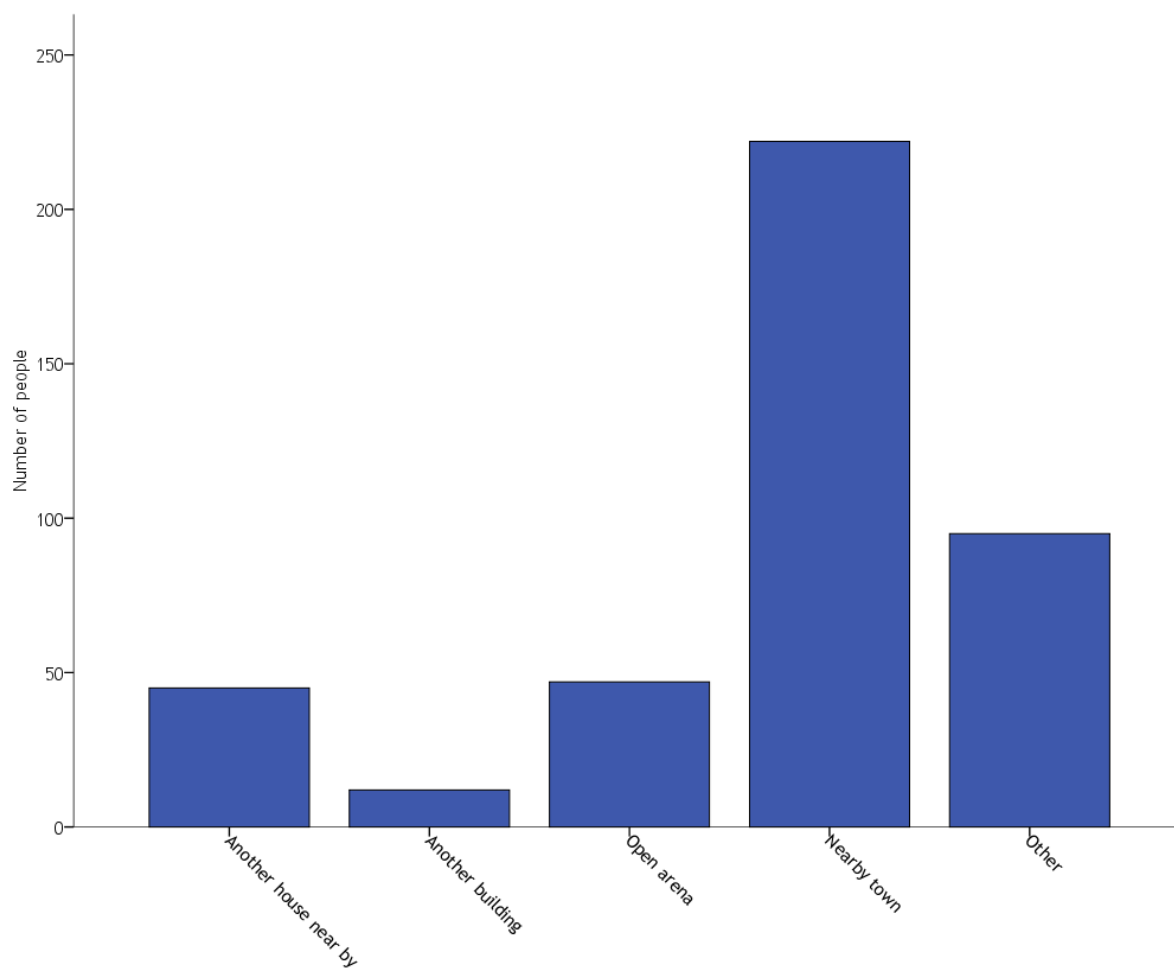
	Other reasons	High fire danger day	Smelled smoke near by	Flames near by	Fire in immediate vicinity	Emergency services said to	Friends, relatives, neighbours said to	Remove other household members from danger	Too dangerous	House caught on fire	Other
Count	78	37	164	112	124	47	131	130	254	7	60
Percent	14.6	6.9	30.7	20.9	23.2	8.8	24.5	24.3	47.5	1.3	11.2

Close to one half (46%) of the respondents who left their homes and properties before or when the fires arrived reported that they left because it was too dangerous to stay and protect their house. In addition to seeing or smelling fire nearby (75%), advice from relative's friends or neighbours (25%) was a significant factor in motivating people to leave.



Q42. Where had you originally planned to go?

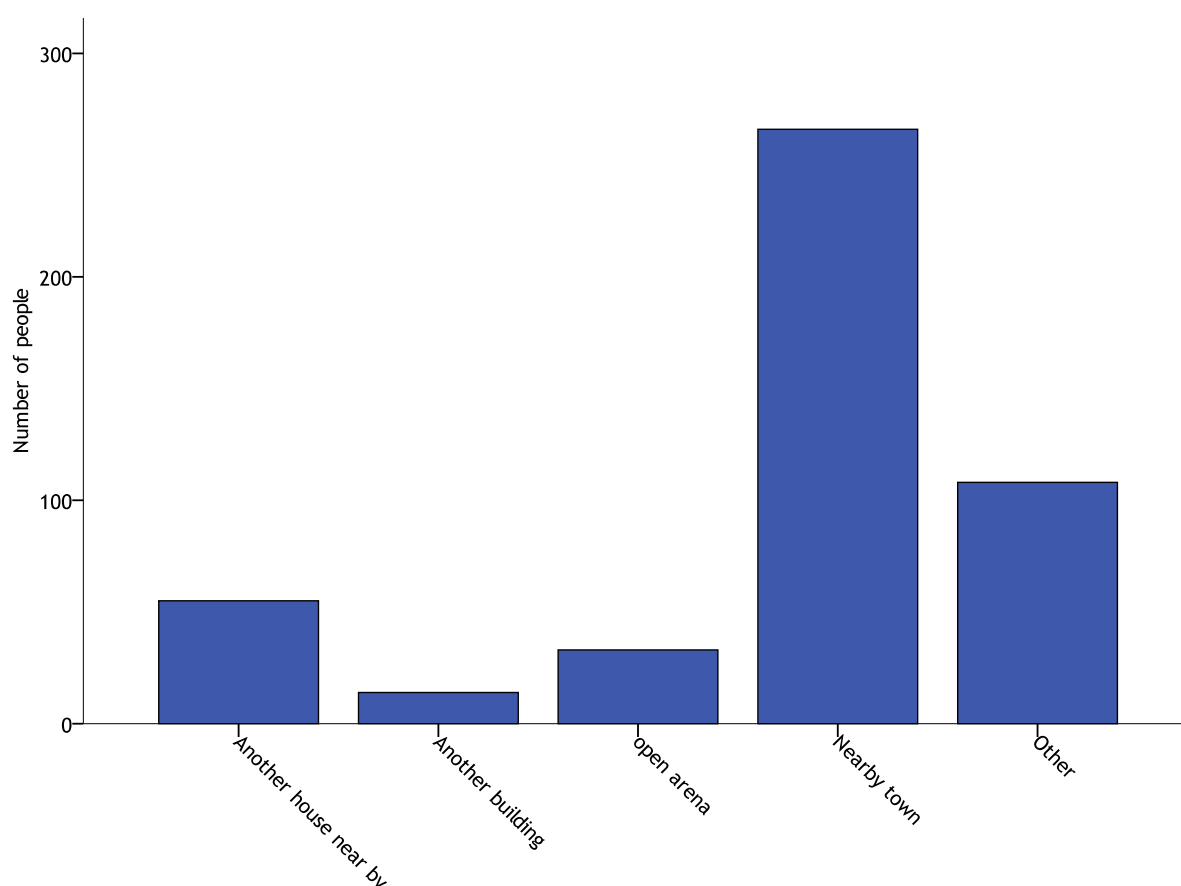
	Another house near by	Another building	Open arena	Nearby town	Other	Total	Missing	Total
Count	45	12	47	222	95	421	114	535
Percent	8.4	2.2	8.8	41.5	17.8	78.7	21.3	100



Q43. When you left, where did you actually go?

	Another house near by	Another building	Open arena	Nearby town	Other	Total	Missing	Total
Count	45	12	23	238	95	413	122	535
Percent	8.4	2.2	4.3	44.5	17.8	77.2	22.8	100

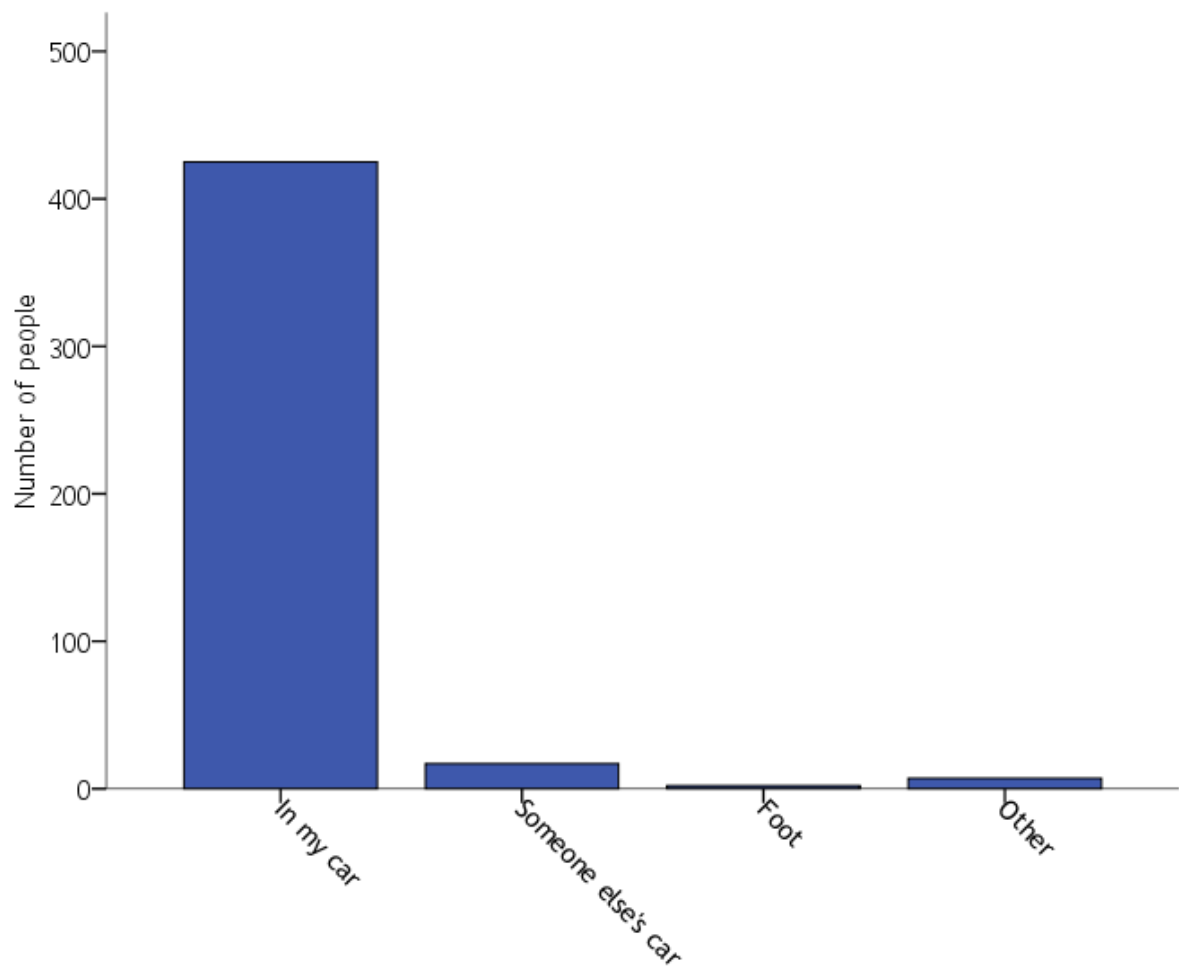
The roughly even proportions for Q42 and Q43 suggest that most of those who left their homes and properties made it to their intended destination. In the majority of cases (45%), respondents left their homes for the safety of a nearby town that was not impacted by bushfires.



Q44. How did you get there?

	In my car	Someone else's car	Foot	Other	Total	Missing	Total
Count	425	17	2	7	451	84	535
Percent	79.4	3.2	.4	1.3	84.3	15.7	100

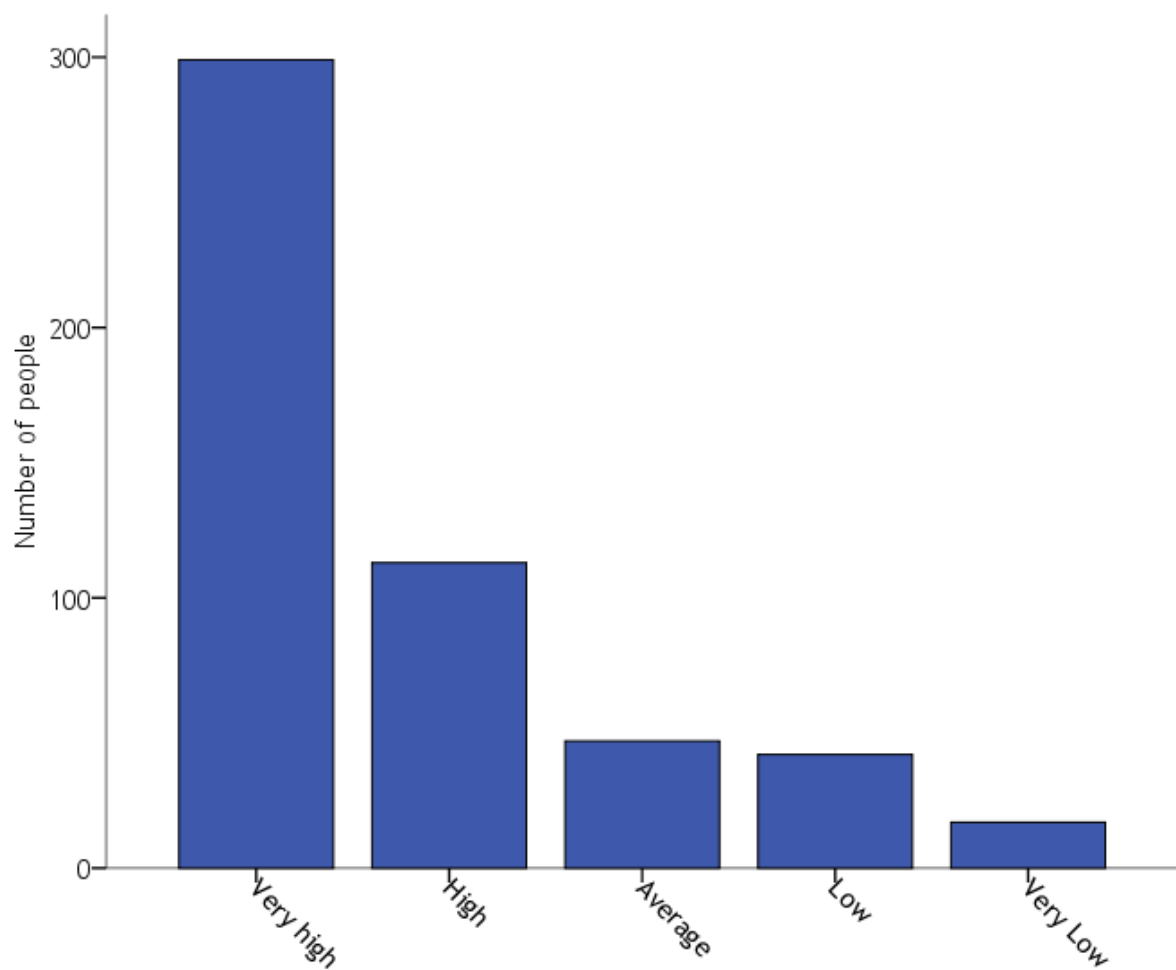
The vast majority of respondents (79%) travelled to their destination in their own cars.



Q45. When you left your house or property, did you feel that the danger was...?

	Very high	High	Average	Low	Very Low	Total	Missing	Total
Count	299	113	47	42	17	518	17	535
Percent	55.9	21.1	8.8	7.9	3.2	96.8	3.2	100

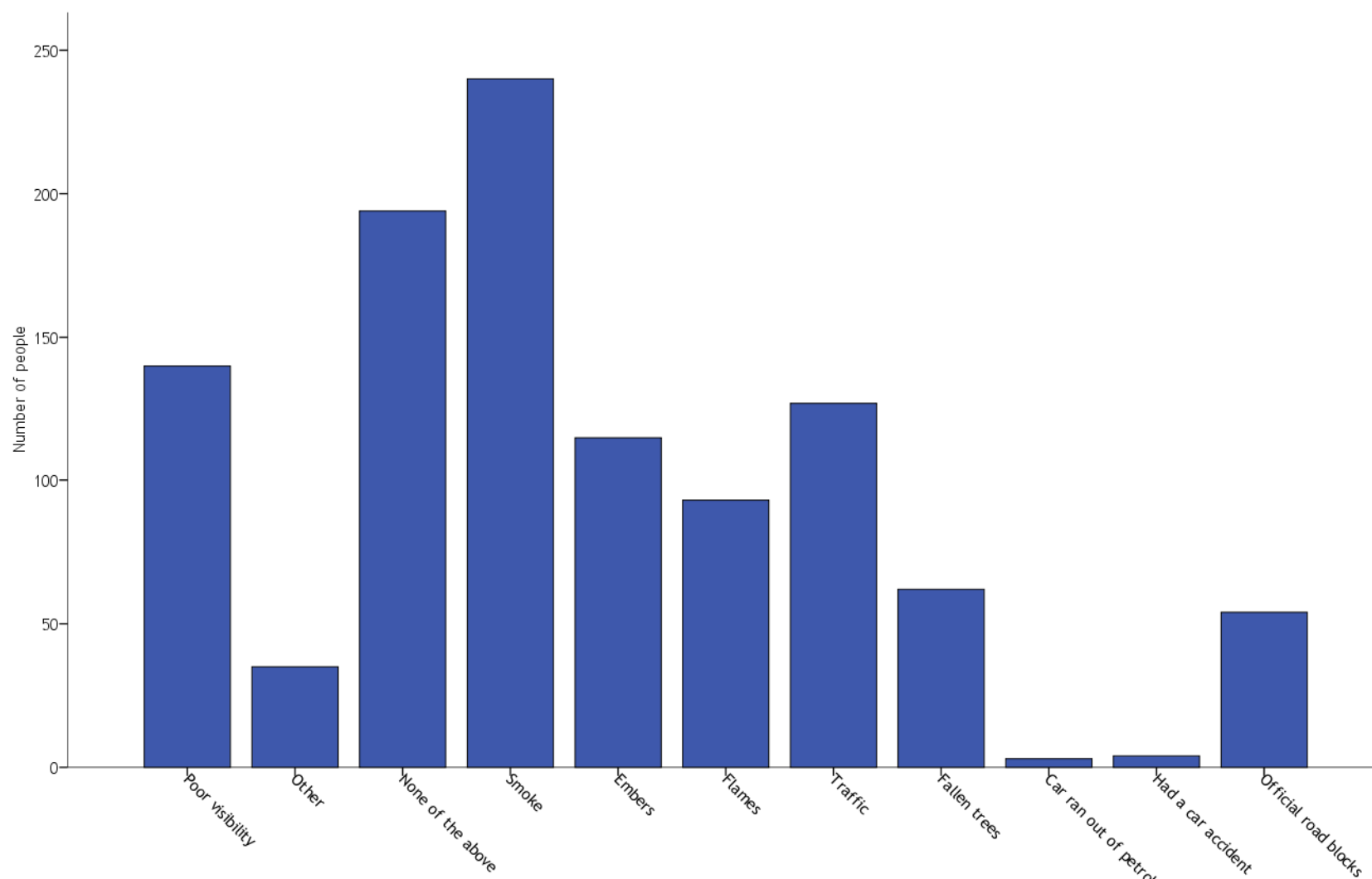
The vast majority of respondents (78%) perceived the level of danger to be 'High' or 'Very high' when they left their house or property. This is consistent with the preliminary findings for Q38 and Q40: that many people left their homes with little or no time before the bushfire arrived.



Q46. When leaving, did you experience difficulties associated with any of the following? You may select more than one.

	Poor visibility	Smoke	Embers	Flames	Traffic	Fallen trees	Car ran out of petrol	Had a car accident	Official road blocks	Other	None of the above
Count	140	240	115	93	127	62	3	4	54	35	194
Percent	26.2%	44.9%	21.5%	17.4%	23.7%	11.6%	0.6%	0.7%	10.1%	6.5%	36.3%

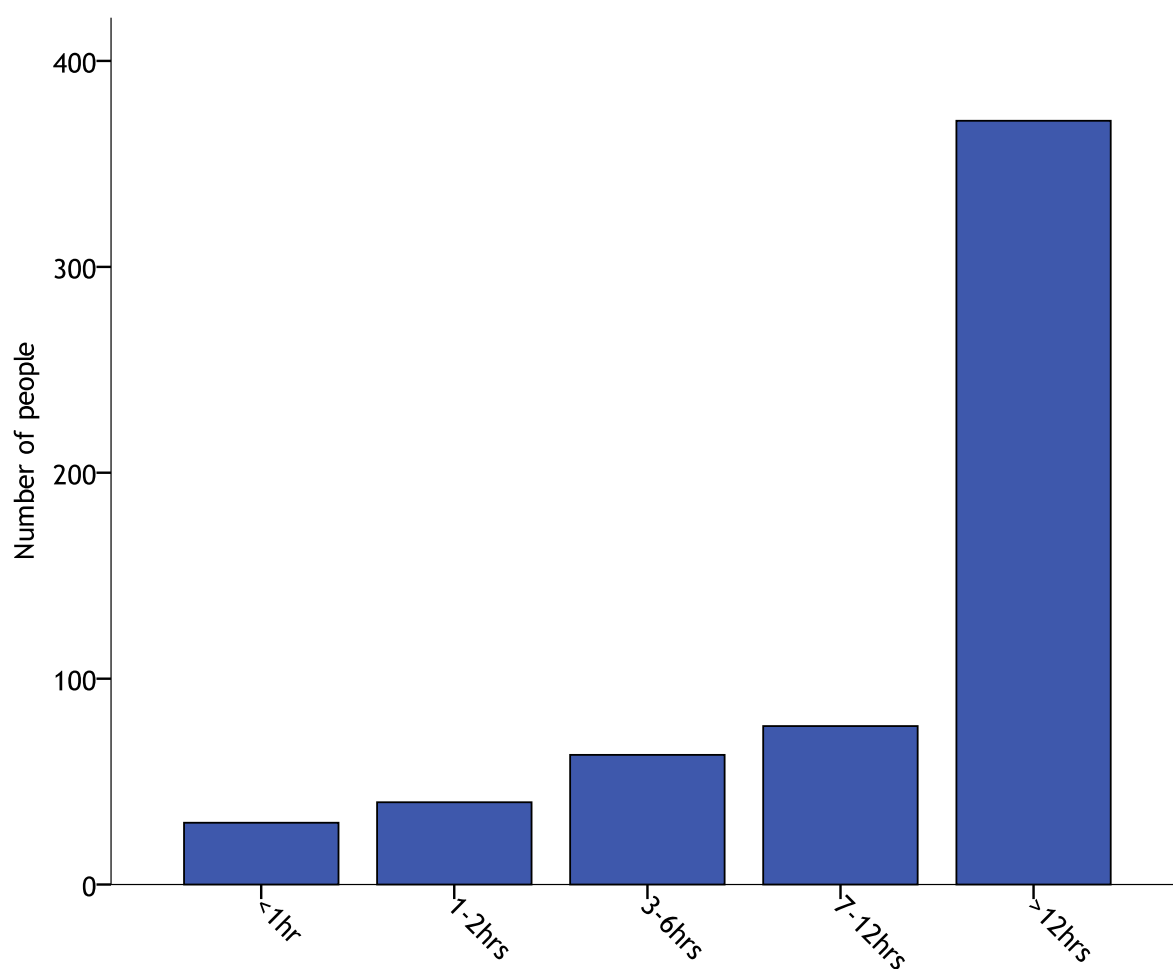
A significant proportion of respondents reported experiencing difficulties associated with leaving late, including: smoke (45%); poor visibility (26%); traffic (24%); embers (22%); flames (17%); and fallen trees (12%).



Q47. How long after the fire passed through your town or suburb did you first attempt to return?

	<1hr	1-2hrs	3-6hrs	7-12hrs	>12hrs	Total	Missing	Total
Count	19	36	54	61	335	505	30	535
Percent	3.6	6.7	10.1	11.4	62.6	94.4	5.6	100

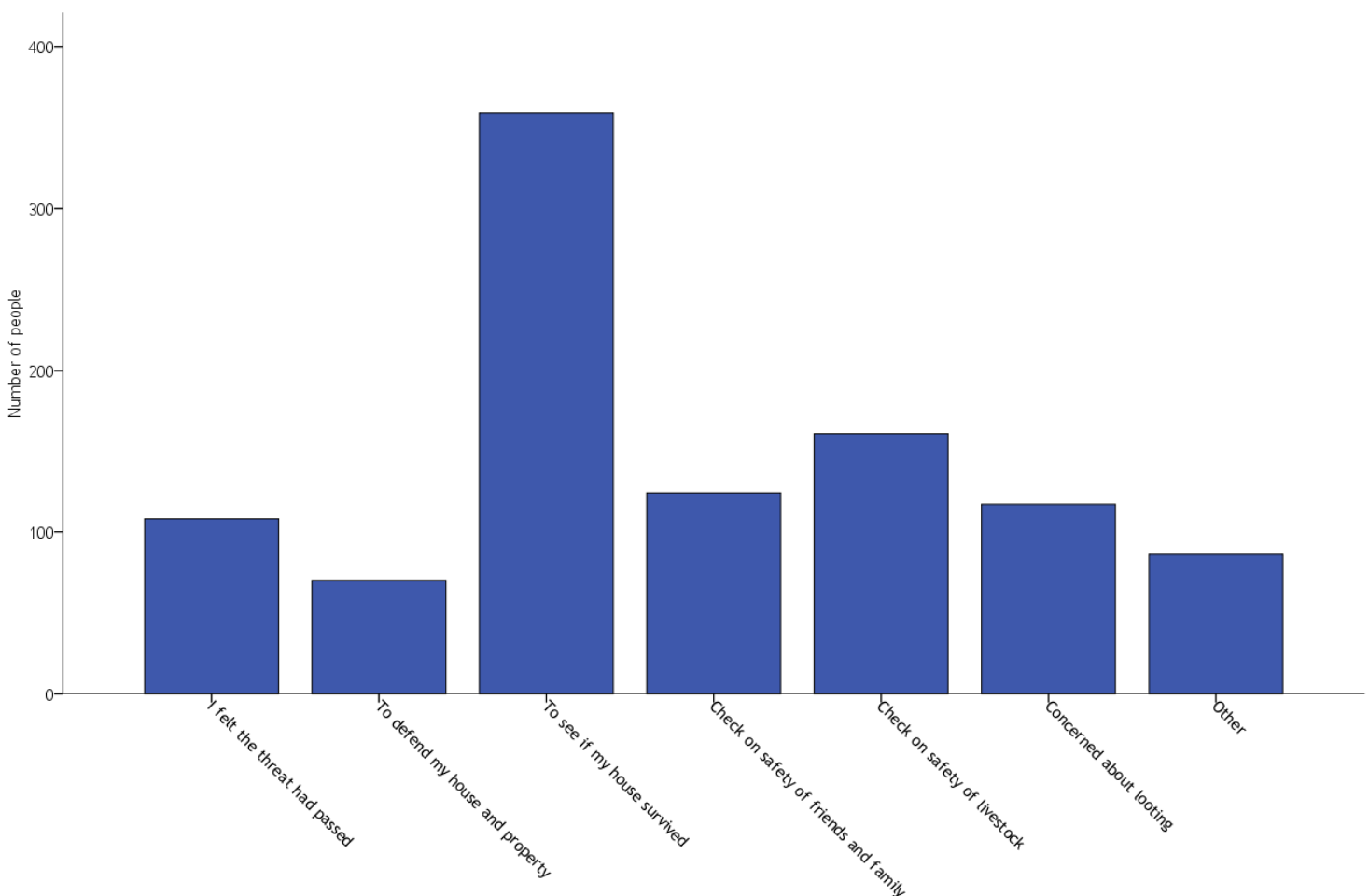
While some residents attempted to return to their homes and properties within six hours of the fire (approx. 20%), the vast majority (63%) attempted to return more than 12 hours later.



Q48. Why did you return? You may select more than one.

	I felt the threat had passed	To defend my house and property	To see if my house survived	Check on safety of friends and family	Check on safety of livestock	Concerned about looting	Other
Count	108	70	359	124	161	117	86
Percent	20.2%	13.1%	67.1%	23.2%	30.1%	21.9%	16.1%

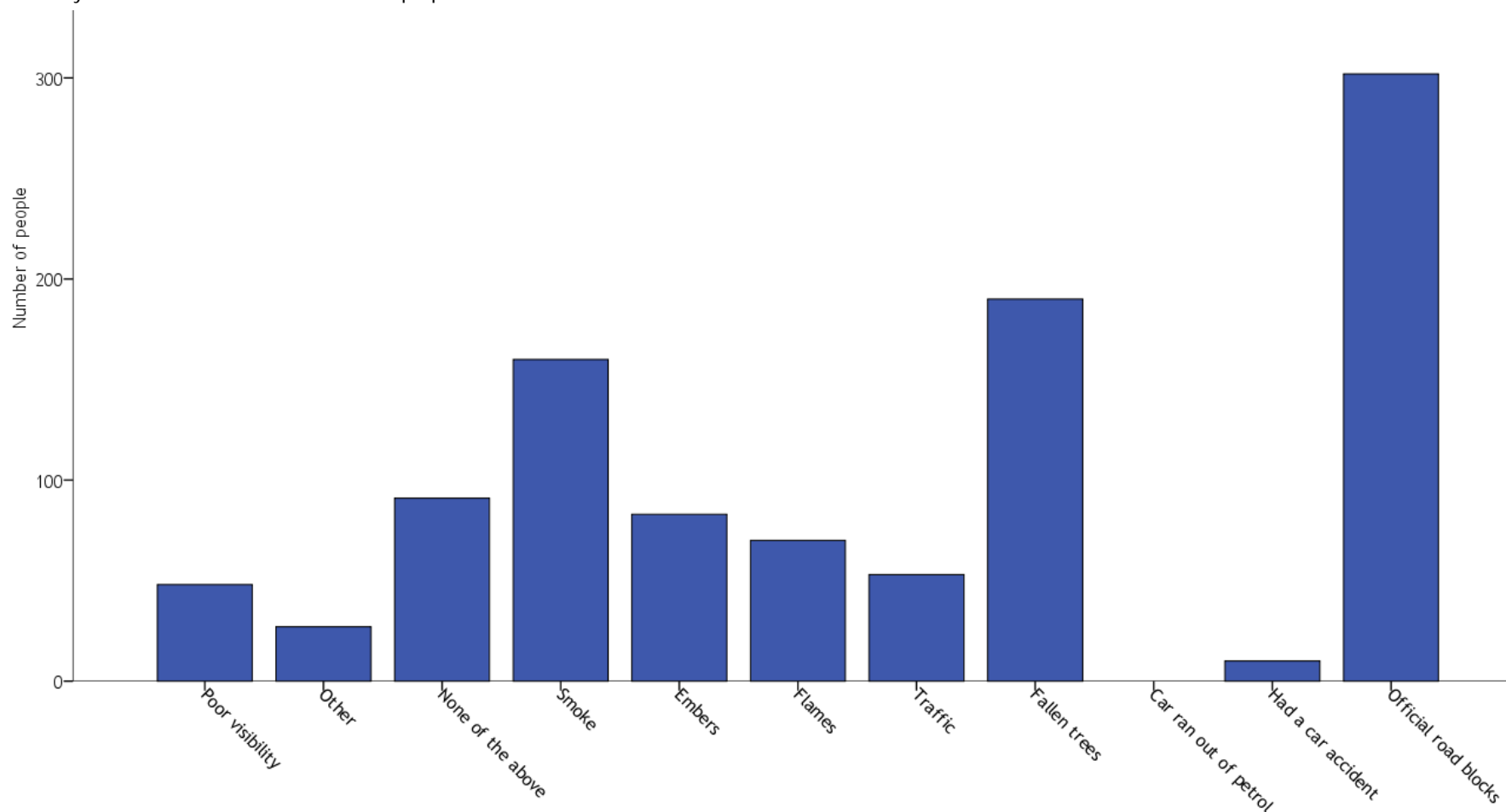
People returned to their homes for a range of reasons, including to see if their house had survived (67%) and to check on the safety of pets or livestock (30%); which are more likely to have been left behind) and family and friends (23%). 13% of respondents returned to defend their house or property from fire.



Q49. When returning, did you experience difficulties associated with any of the following? You may select more than one.

	Poor visibility	Smoke	Embers	Flames	Traffic	Fallen trees	Car ran out of petrol	Had a car accident	Official road blocks	Other	None of the above
Count	48	160	83	70	53	190	0	10	302	27	91
Percent	9.0%	29.9%	15.5%	13.1%	9.9%	35.5%	0.0%	1.9%	56.4%	5.0%	17.0%

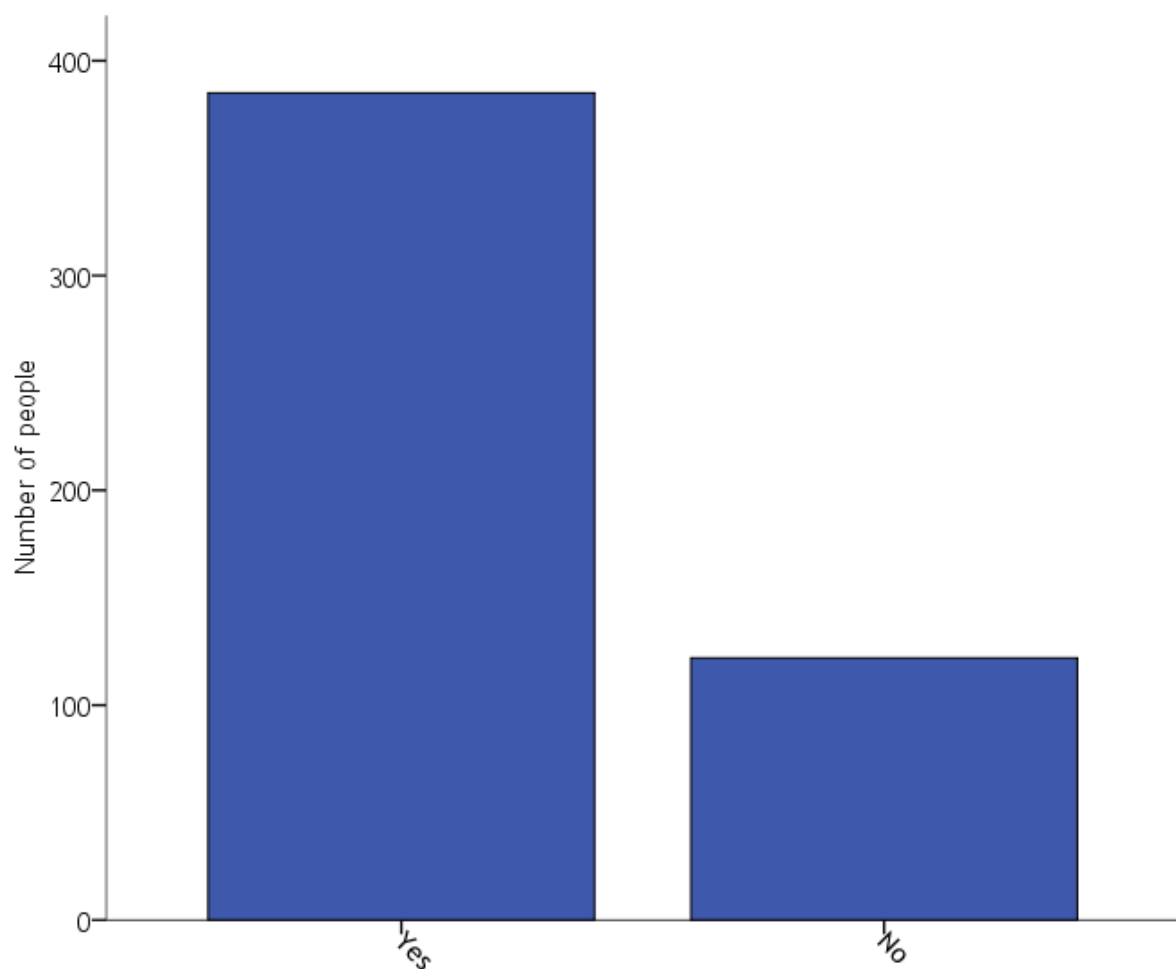
Respondents reported experiencing a range of difficulties when returning to their homes and properties. The most common reported difficulty was official road blocks (56%), followed by fallen trees (36%) and smoke (30%). The significant proportion of respondents who reported experiencing difficulties associated with embers (16%) and flames (13%) are likely to be those who returned to their properties within a few hours of the fire.



Q50. If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb would you take the same action in leaving?

	Yes	No	Total	Missing	Total
Count	385	122	507	28	535
Percent	72.0	22.8	94.8	5.2	100

The majority of respondents who left their homes and properties (72%) declared their intention to leave if there was a similar fire in the future. The remainder (23%) stated that they would *not* take the same action. Analysis of the qualitative responses will provide insights into the reasons why people would/would not take the same action in future fires.

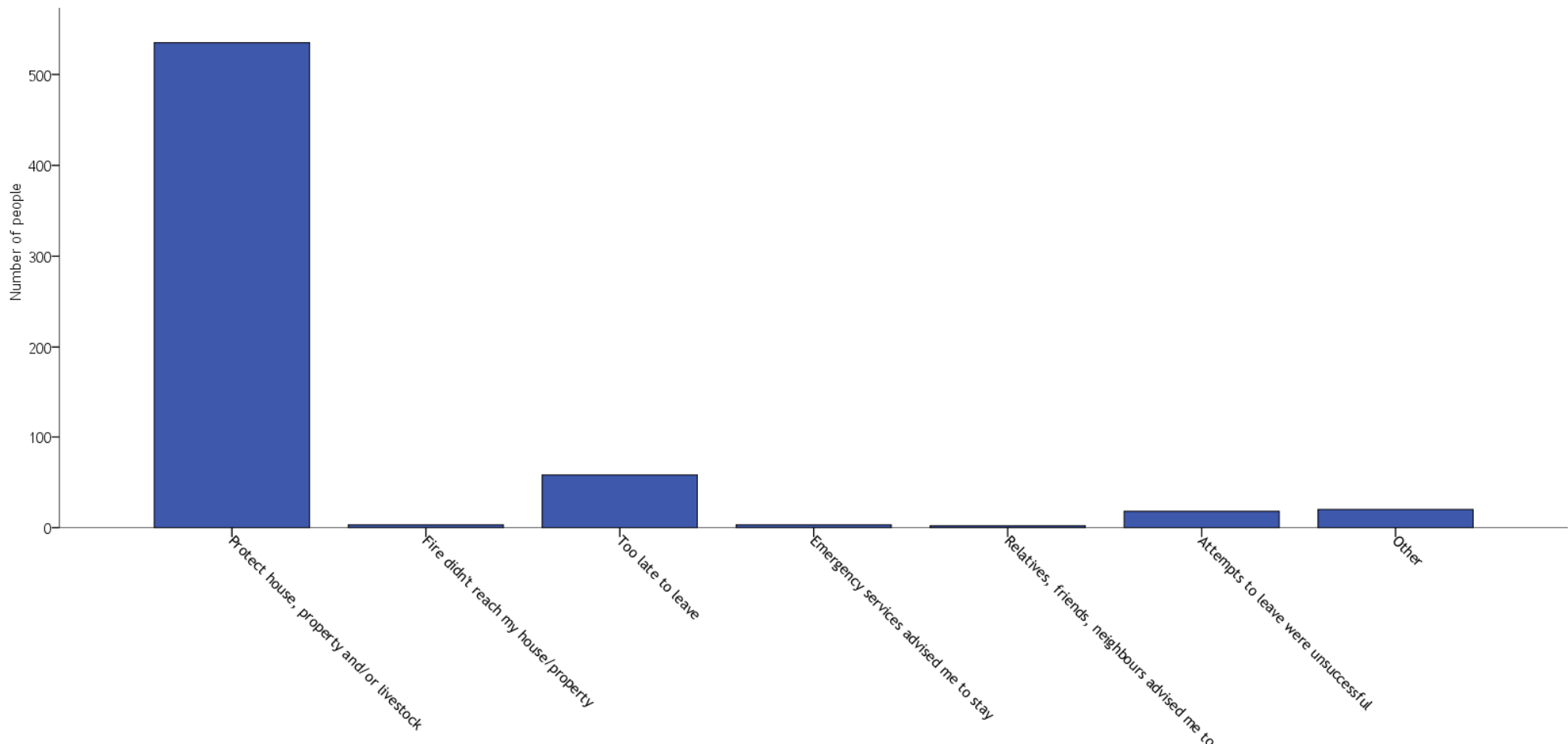


The following questions refer only to those who stayed on their property (answered c, d, e, f, g, or h at question 37).

Q51. What was the main reason you stayed with your home or property during the bushfire?

	Protect house, property and/ or livestock	Fire didn't reach my house/ property	Too late to leave	Emergency services advised me to stay	Relatives, friends, neighbours advised me to stay	Attempts to leave were unsuccessful	Other	Total	Missing	Total
Count	535	3	58	3	2	18	20	639	60	699
Percent	76.5	0.4	8.3	0.4	0.3	2.6	2.9	91.4	8.6	100

The majority of respondents (77%) stayed with their home or property during the bushfires to protect their house, property and/or livestock. A significant proportion (11%) stayed because they felt it was too late to leave or attempted to leave but failed.

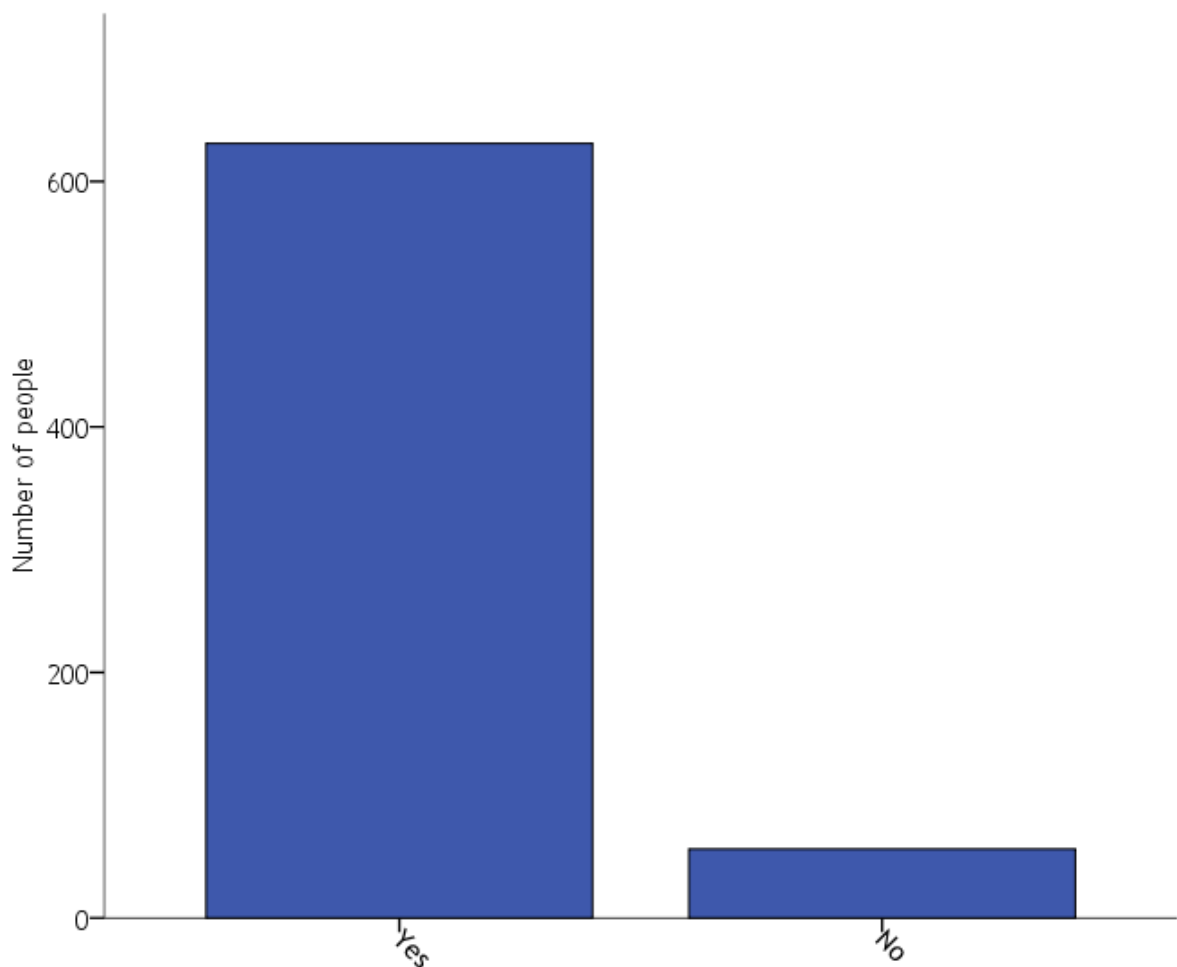


Q52. If known, from which direction did the fire approach your house or property? You can use descriptions such as 'South-west' or 'The fire came up through Smith's Gully'.

This was an open ended question, the analysis of which is beyond the scope of this report.

Q53. Did the fire reach your house or property?

	Yes	No	Total	Missing	Total
Count	631	56	687	12	699
Percent	90.3	8.0	98.3	1.7	100



Q54. If known, at what approximate time did the fire reach your house or property? (e.g. '4.10pm' or 'About 4pm')

This was an open ended question, the analysis of which is beyond the scope of this report.

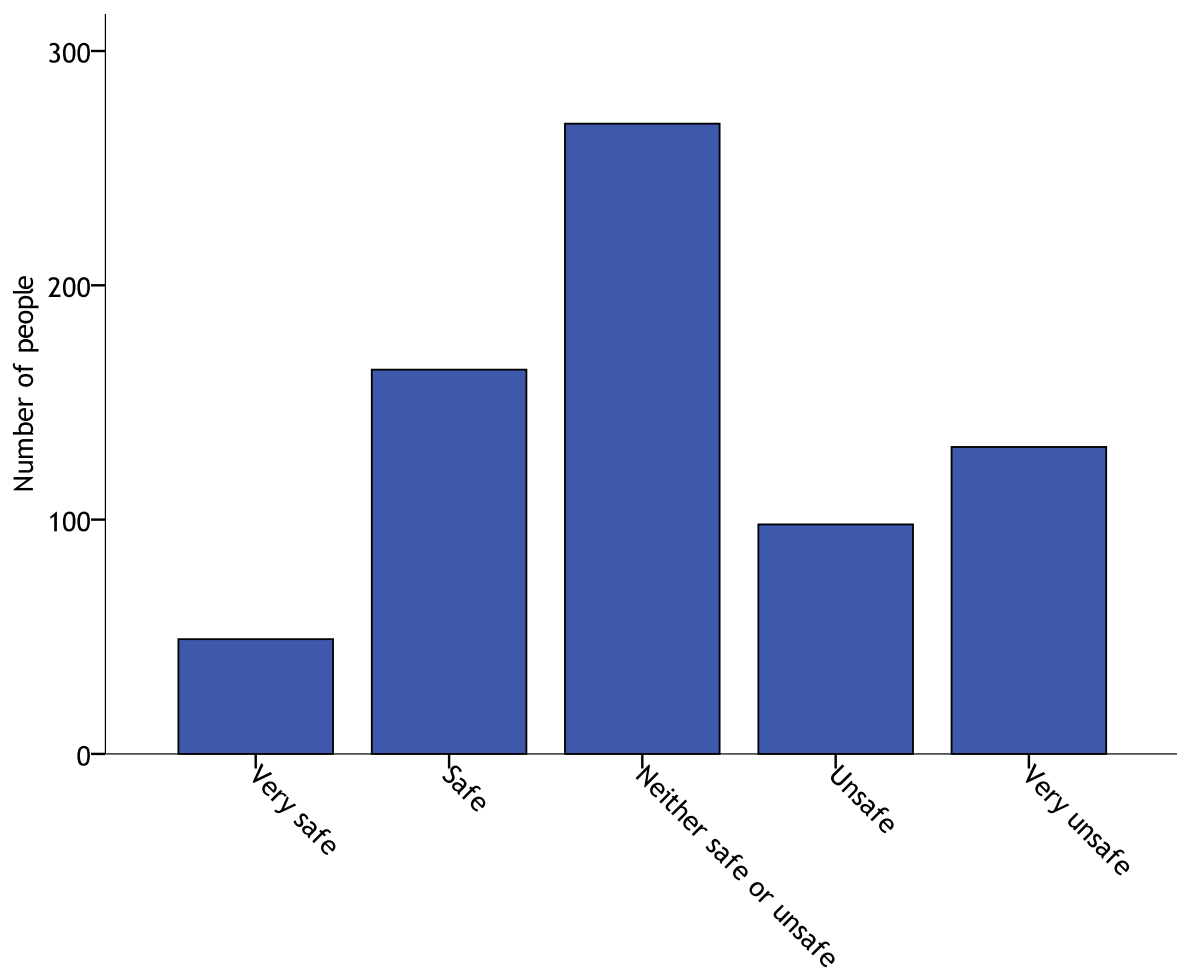
Q55. How long did it take for the fire to pass over your property?

This was an open ended question, the analysis of which is beyond the scope of this report.

Q56. How safe did you feel while staying at your house?

	Very safe	Safe	Neither safe or unsafe	Unsafe	Very unsafe	Total	Missing	Total
Count	48	158	250	86	116	658	41	699
Percent	6.9	22.6	35.8	12.3	16.6	94.1	5.9	100

Perceptions of personal safety were evenly distributed for those who stayed with their homes and properties during the bushfire, with 30% feeling 'Safe' or 'Very safe', 36% feeling 'Neither safe nor unsafe', and 29% feeling 'Unsafe' or 'Very unsafe'.



When perceptions of safety are examined by fire complex, it can be seen a majority of residents in Murrindindi (39%) felt unsafe, with a large proportion of residents in Mitchell (29%), Whittlesea (29%) and Latrobe (30%) feeling 'Unsafe' or 'Very unsafe'. It is interesting to note that the majority of respondents in Baw Baw (63%) felt 'Neither safe or unsafe'.

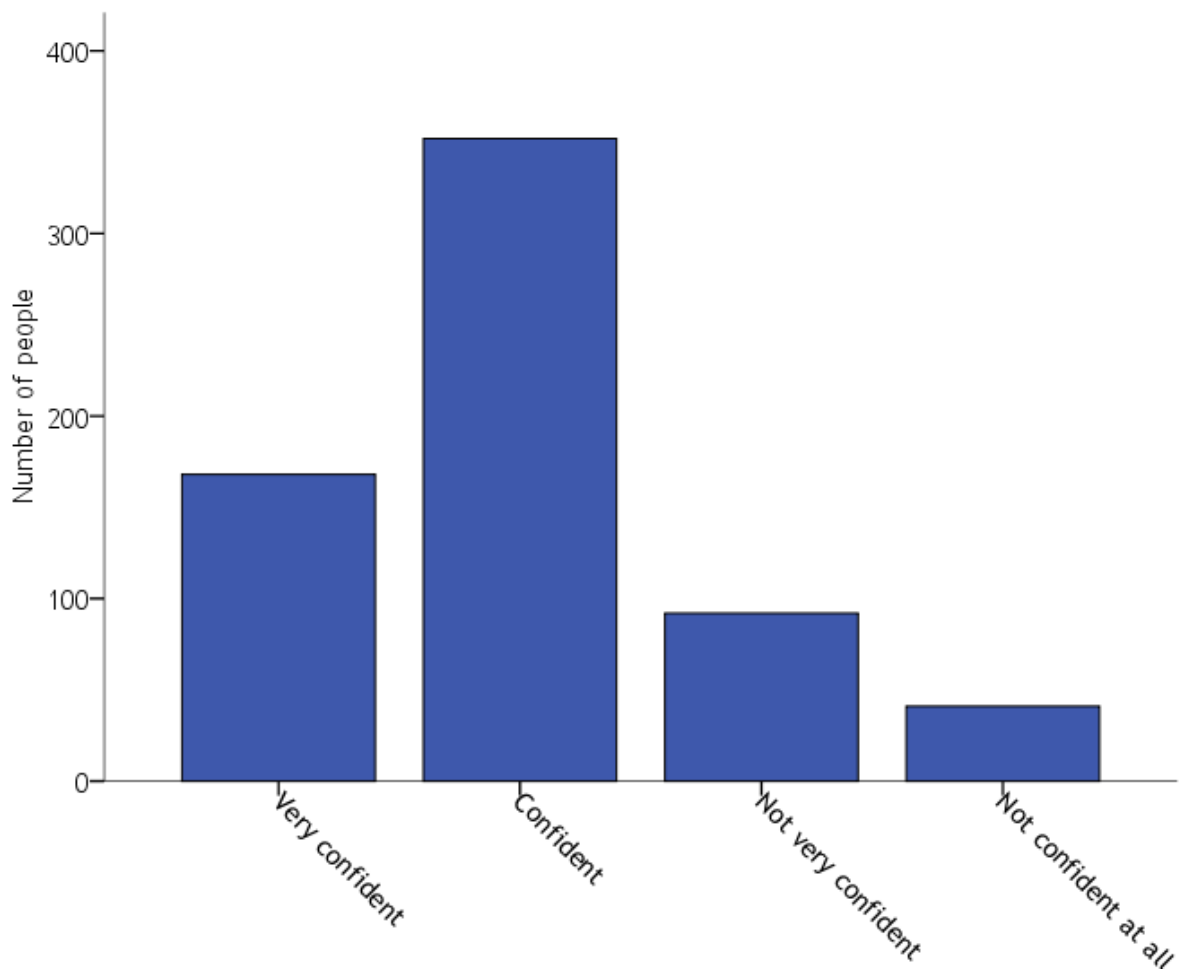
	Murrindindi	Yarra Ranges	Mitchell	Whittlesea	Latrobe	Baw Baw	Other
Very safe	6.6%	4.5%	8.2%	5.9%	2.3%	5.0%	14.3%
Safe	22.5%	26.1%	21.9%	22.4%	34.1%	10.0%	27.7%
Neither safe or unsafe	31.9%	43.2%	41.1%	42.4%	34.1%	62.5%	30.4%
Unsafe	14.8%	14.4%	15.1%	7.1%	11.4%	15.0%	12.5%
Very unsafe	24.2%	11.7%	13.7%	22.4%	18.2%	7.5%	15.2%

Q57. As the fire approached your property on February 7th, how confident were you that you...

On the whole, respondents were confident that they could do what was required to protect themselves and others (74%) and their homes and properties (64%), but not confident that they would get help from other people (69%) or fire and emergency services (76%).

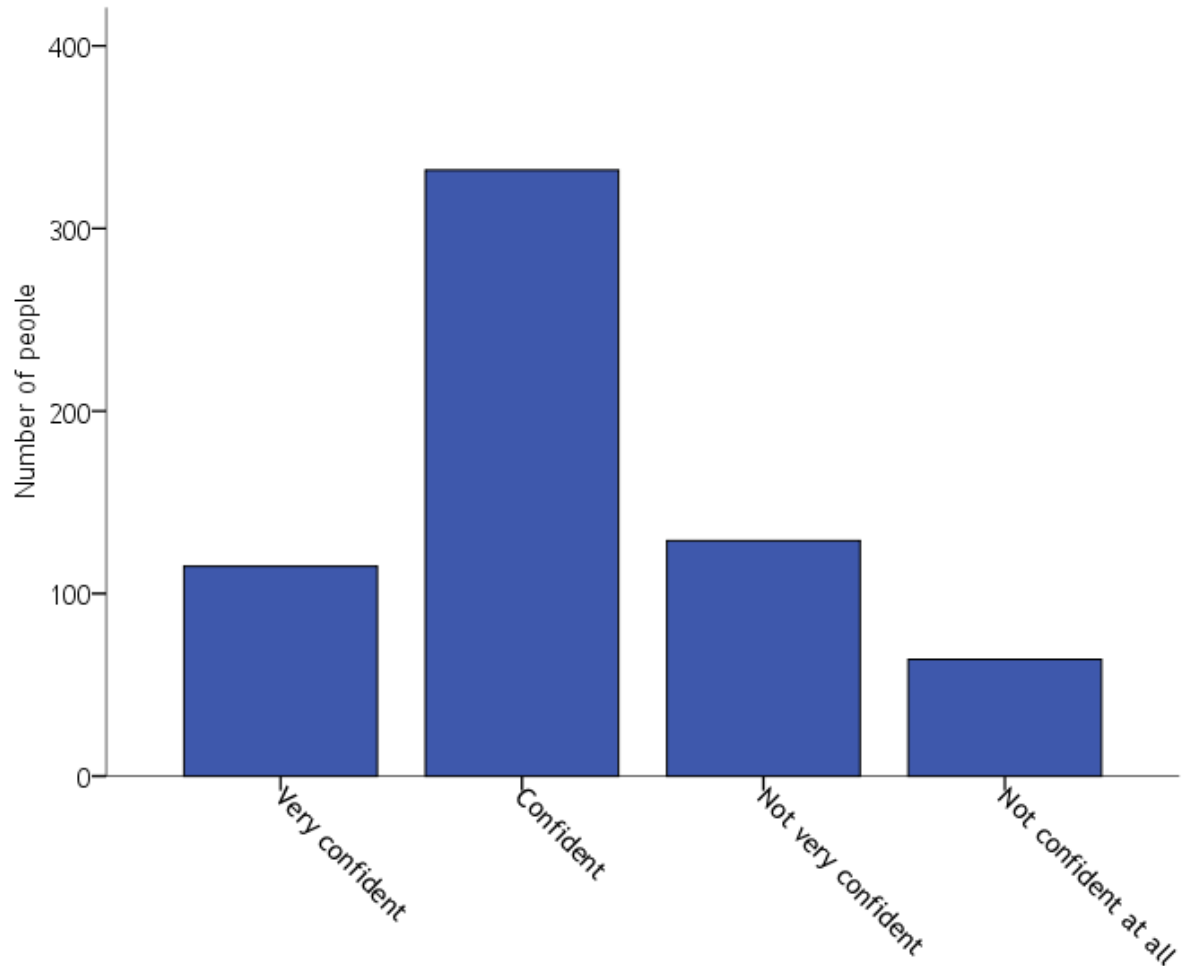
Q57.1 Could do what was required to protect yourself and others?

	Very confident	Confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Total	Missing	Total
Count	168	352	92	41	653	46	699
Percent	24.0	50.4	13.2	5.9	93.4	6.6	100



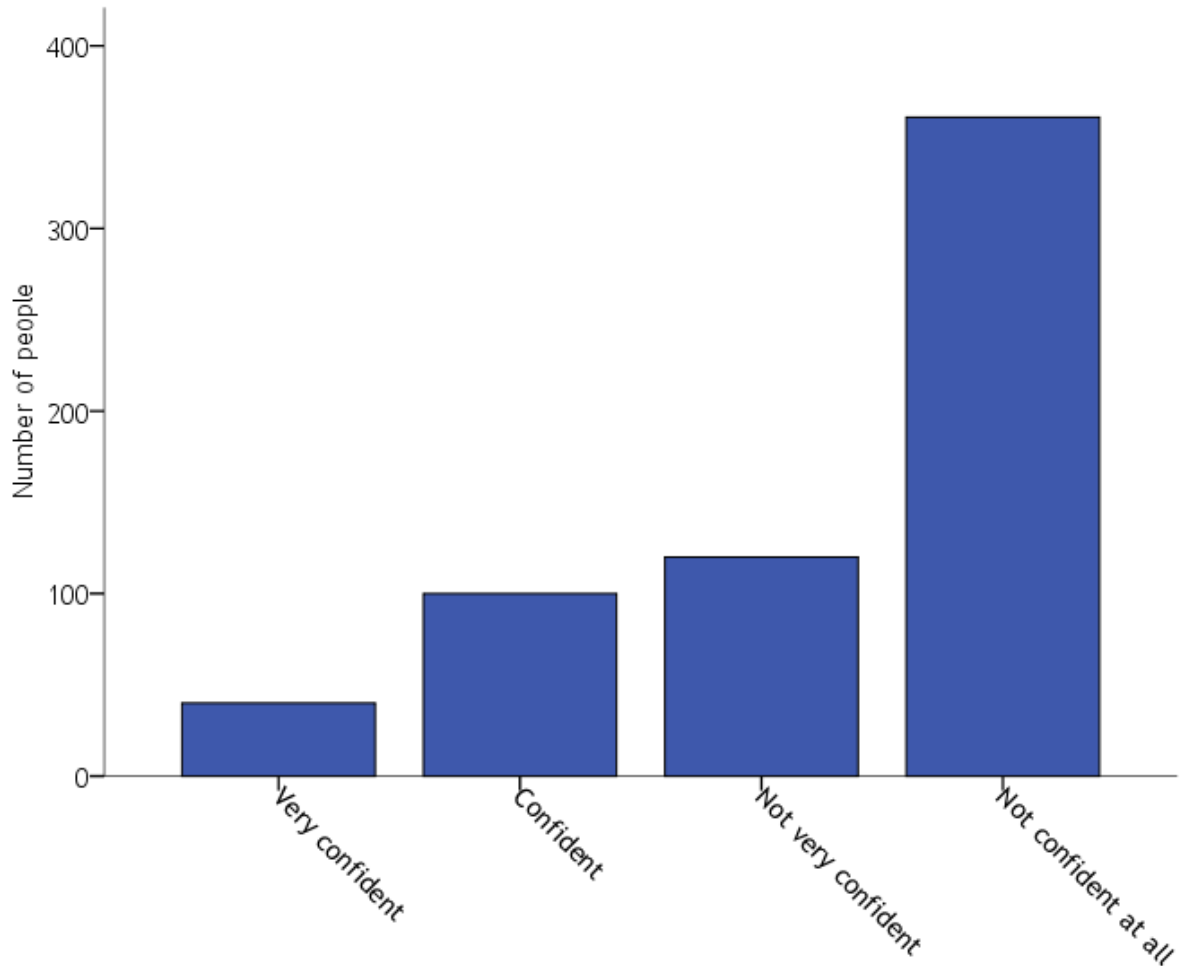
Q57.2 Could do what was required to protect your house and property?

	Very confident	Confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Total	Missing	Total
Count	115	332	129	64	640	59	699
Percent	16.5	47.5	18.5	9.2	91.6	8.4	100



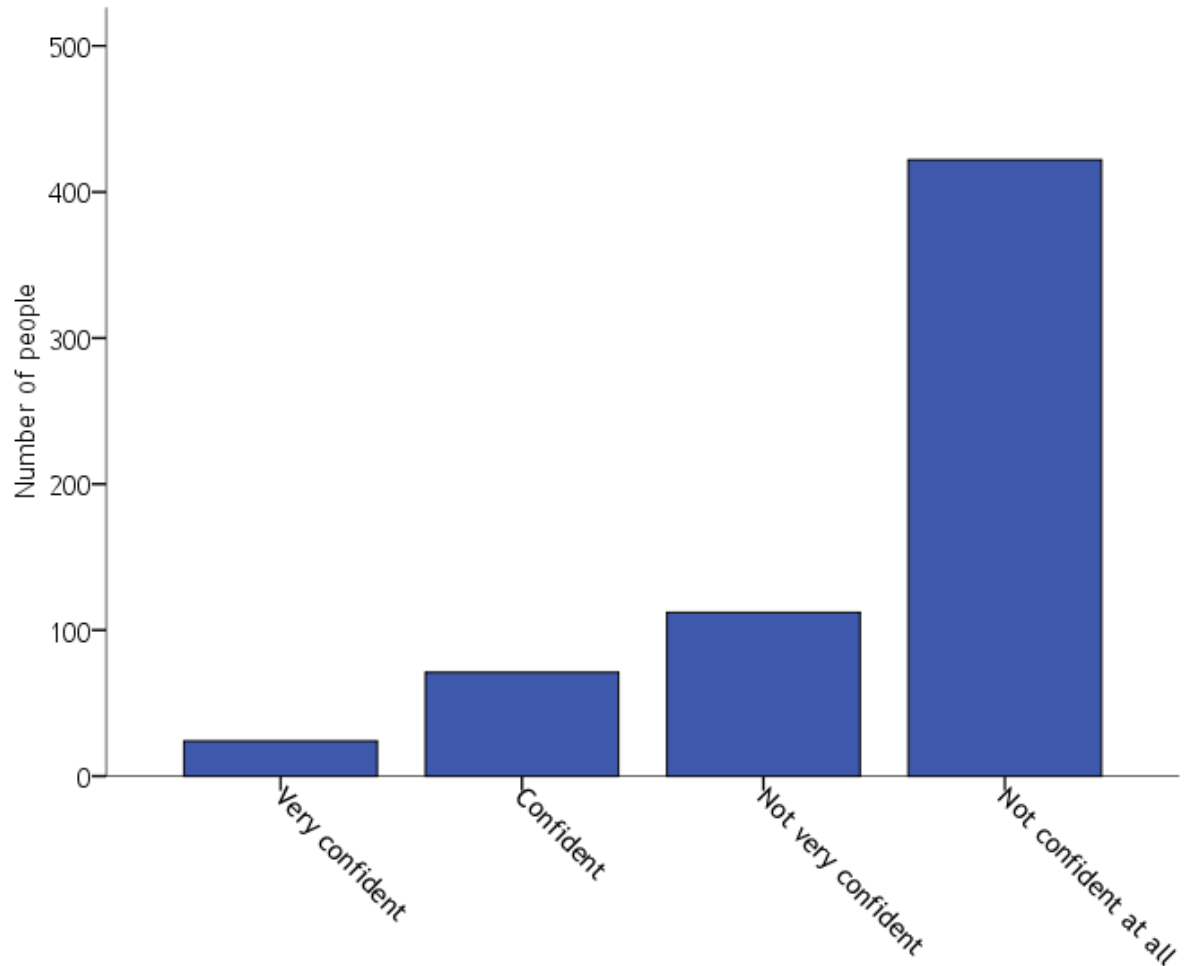
Q57.3 Would get help from other people? (e.g. neighbours, friends)

	Very confident	Confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Total	Missing	Total
Count	40	100	120	361	621	78	699
Percent	5.7	14.3	17.2	51.6	88.8	11.2	100



Q57.4 Would get help from fire or emergency services?

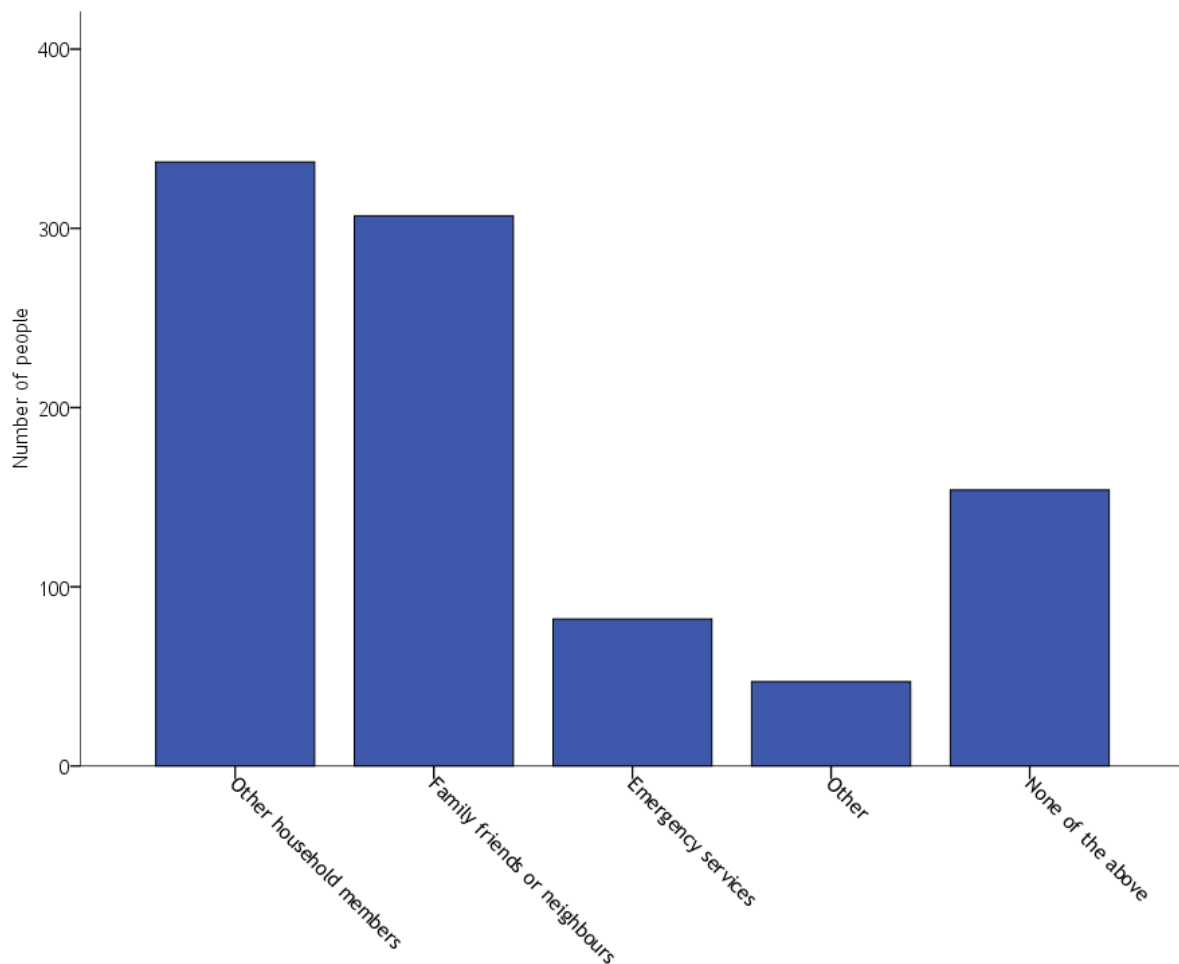
	Very confident	Confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Total	Missing	Total
Count	24	71	112	422	629	70	699
Percent	3.4	10.2	16.0	60.4	90.0	10.0	100



Q58. Did you receive help from any of the following sources when staying with your house? You may select more than one.

	Other household members	Family friends or neighbours	Emergency services	Other	None of the above
Count	337	307	82	47	154
Percent	48.2	43.9	11.7	6.7	22.0

As is to be expected in such large and extensive bushfires, significantly more respondents reported receiving help from other household members (48%) and family, friends or neighbours (44%) than fire or emergency services (12%). Almost one-quarter of respondents (22%) reported receiving no help at all when staying with their house.



Q59. Did you experience any difficulties while staying with your home or property? (e.g. lost electricity, suffered smoke inhalation)

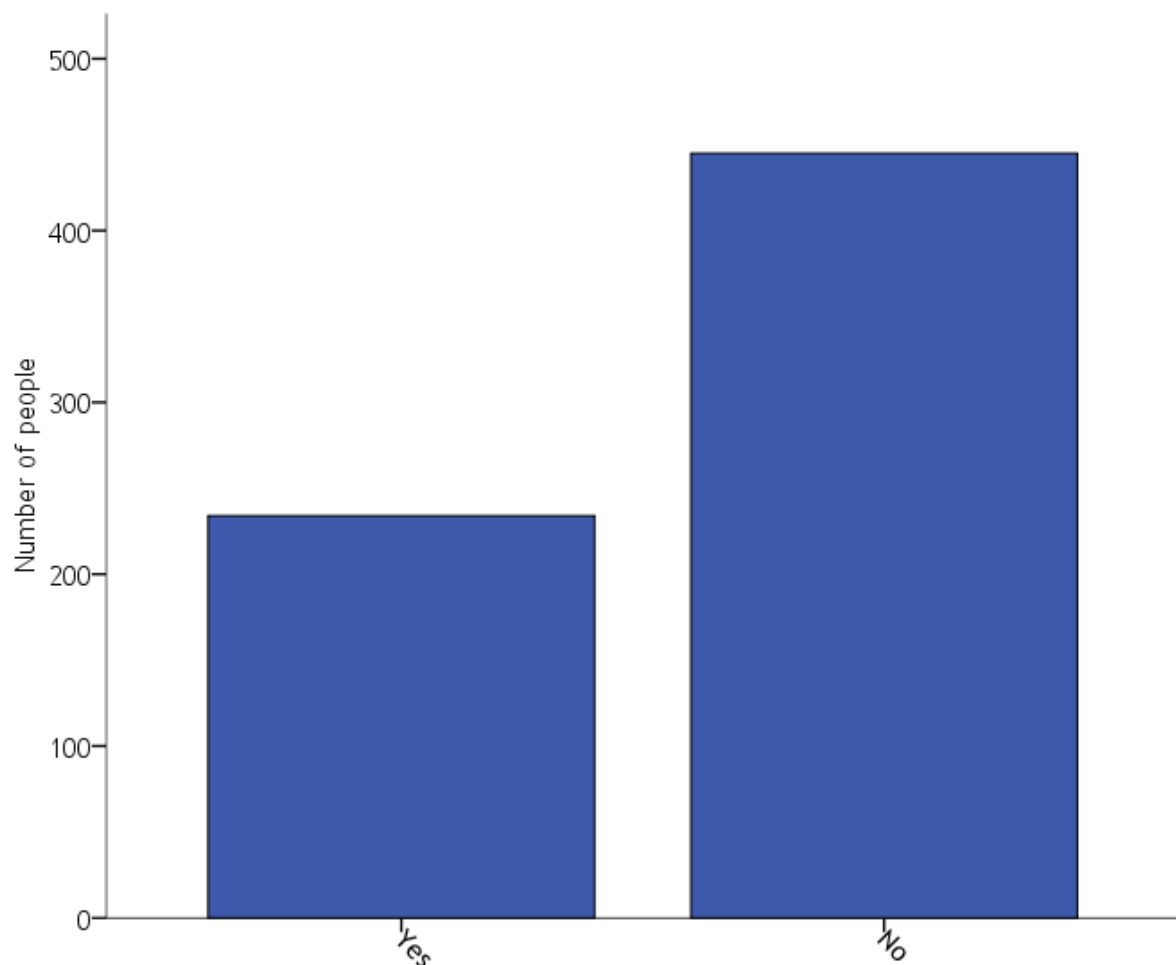
This was an open ended question, the analysis of which is beyond the scope of this report.

Q60. Did you leave your property at any stage during the fire?

	Yes	No	Total	Missing	Total
Count	234	445	679	20	699
Percent	33.5	63.7	97.1	2.9	100

One-third (34%) of respondents who stayed with their house and property during the bushfire reported leaving at some stage during the fire.

[Questions 61 through 69 include only the 277 respondents who selected 'Yes' in Question 60 to indicate that they left their property during the fire]



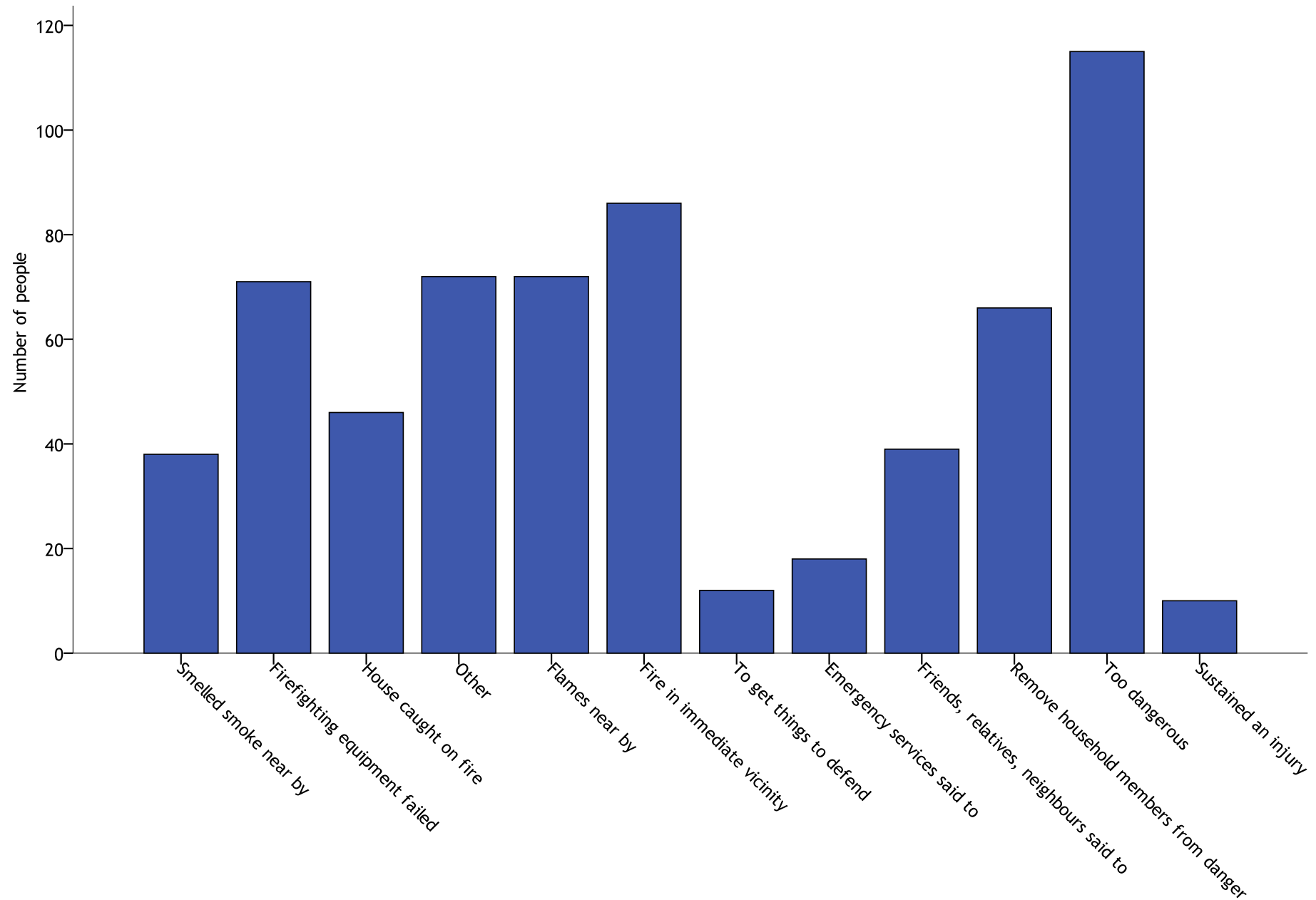
The following questions only include those who stayed on their property (answered c, d, e, f, g, or h at question 37) and 'yes' at question 60

Q61. Why did you leave your house or property? You may select more than one.

	Smelled smoke near by	Flames near by	Fire in immediate vicinity	To get things to defend	Emergency services said to	Friends, relatives, neighbours said to	Too dangerous	Sustained an injury	Remove household members from danger	Fire fighting equipment failed	House caught on fire	Other
Count	45	78	91	14	20	43	121	10	71	73	49	81
Percent	13.7%	26.0%	31.0%	4.3%	6.5%	14.1%	41.5%	3.6%	23.8%	25.6%	16.6%	26.0%

The most commonly cited reason for leaving a house or property during the bushfire was that it was too dangerous to stay and defend (42%). Other commonly cited reasons were that there were flames in the immediate vicinity of the property (31%) or nearby (26%) and to remove other household members of visitors from danger (24%).

Almost one-quarter of these respondents reported leaving because utilities or equipment failed (26%) and/or because their house caught fire (17%).



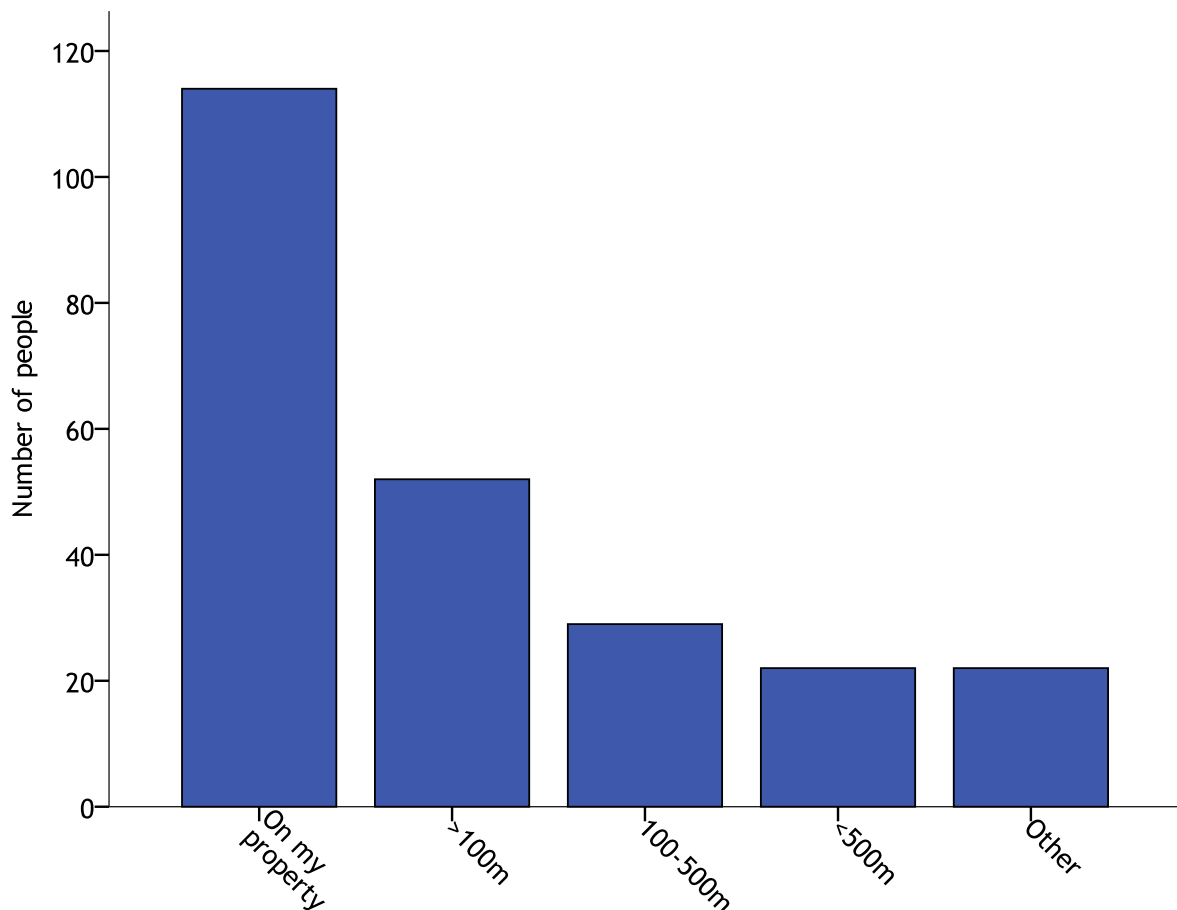
Q62. Please use the box below if you would like to add comments about why you left your property.

This was an open ended question, the analysis of which is beyond the scope of this report.

Q63. Where was the fire when you left your house or property?

	On my property	<100m	100-500m	>500m	Other	Total	Missing	Total
Count	114	52	29	22	22	239	38	277
Percent	41.2	18.8	10.5	7.9	7.9	86.3	13.7	100

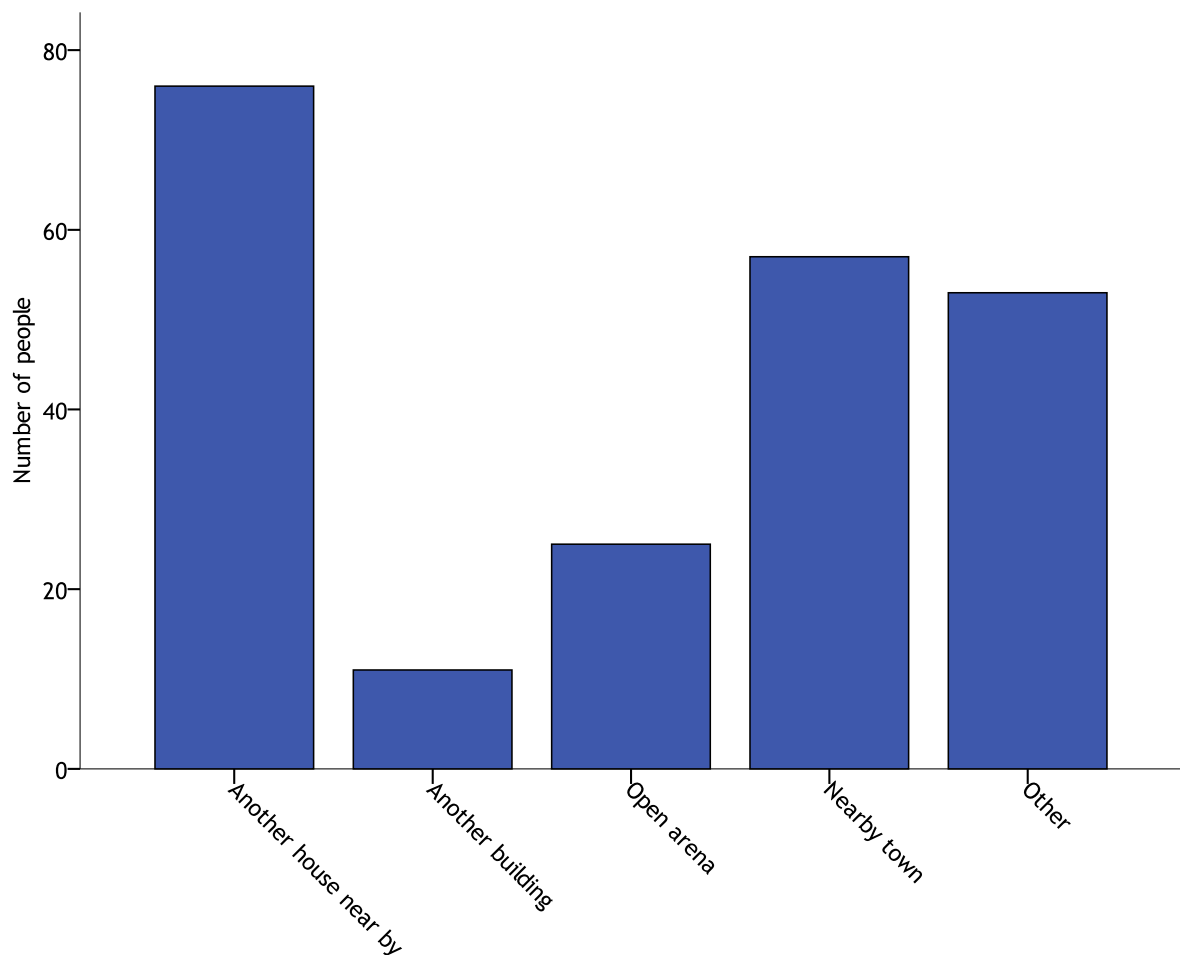
Given that these respondents attempted to stay but had to leave for the reasons discussed above (Q61), it is not surprising that many had fire within 500m of their house or property (70%), including 41% with fire already on their property.



Q64. When you left, where did you go?

	Another house near by	Another building	Open arena	Nearby town	Other	Total	Missing	Total
Count	76	11	25	57	53	222	55	277
Percent	27.4	4.0	9.0	20.6	19.1	80.1	19.9	100

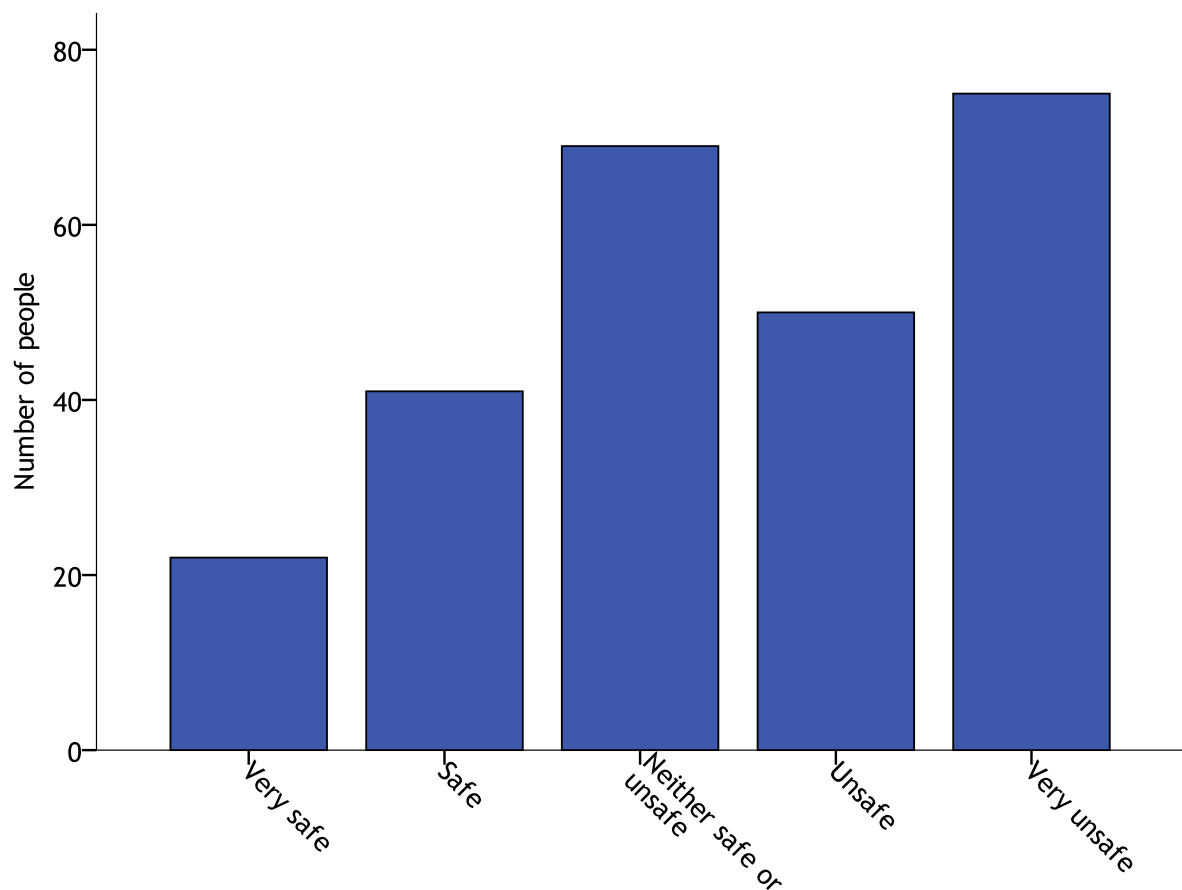
Many of those who left their house or property after attempting to stay travelled to a nearby house (27%) or town (21%). As a significant proportion of respondents selected 'Other' (19%), it is expected that analysis of the qualitative will shed more light on where these respondents went.



Q65. How safe did you feel when travelling to your chosen location?

	Very safe	Safe	Neither safe or unsafe	Unsafe	Very unsafe	Total	Missing	Total
Count	22	41	69	50	75	257	20	277
Percent	7.9	14.8	24.9	18.1	27.1	92.8	7.2	100

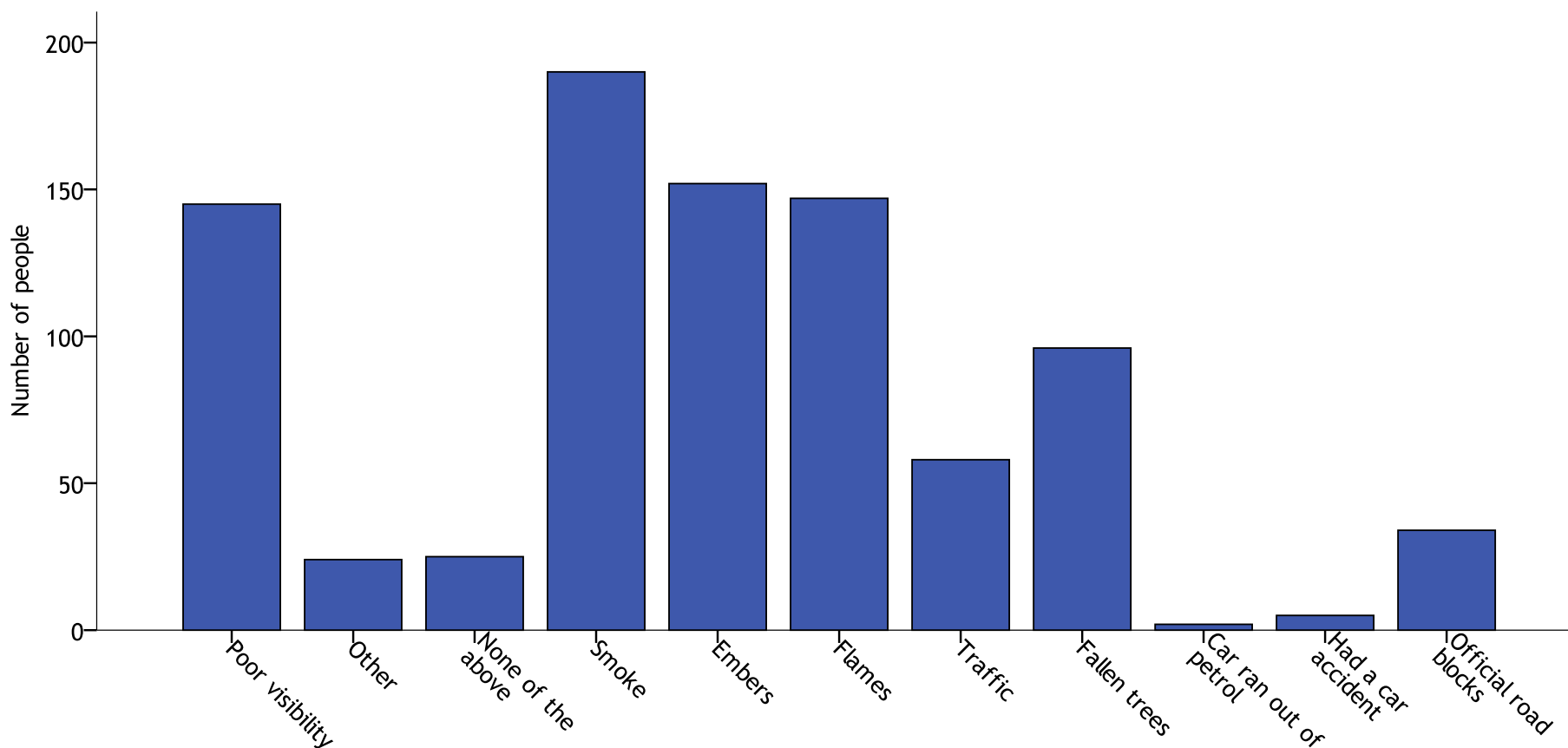
Almost half (45%) of respondents who left their house or property after attempting to stay did not feel safe travelling to the new location. This can be attributed to the close proximity of the fire for most of these people (see Q63), which is likely to have restricted their options for relocating.



Q66. When leaving, did you experience difficulties associated with any of the following? You may select more than one.

	Poor visibility	Smoke	Embers	Flames	Traffic	Fallen trees	Car ran out of petrol	Had a car accident	Official road blocks	Other	None of the above
Count	145	190	152	147	58	96	2	5	34	24	25
Percent	52.3%	68.6%	54.9%	53.1%	20.9%	34.7%	0.7%	1.8%	12.3%	8.7%	9.0%

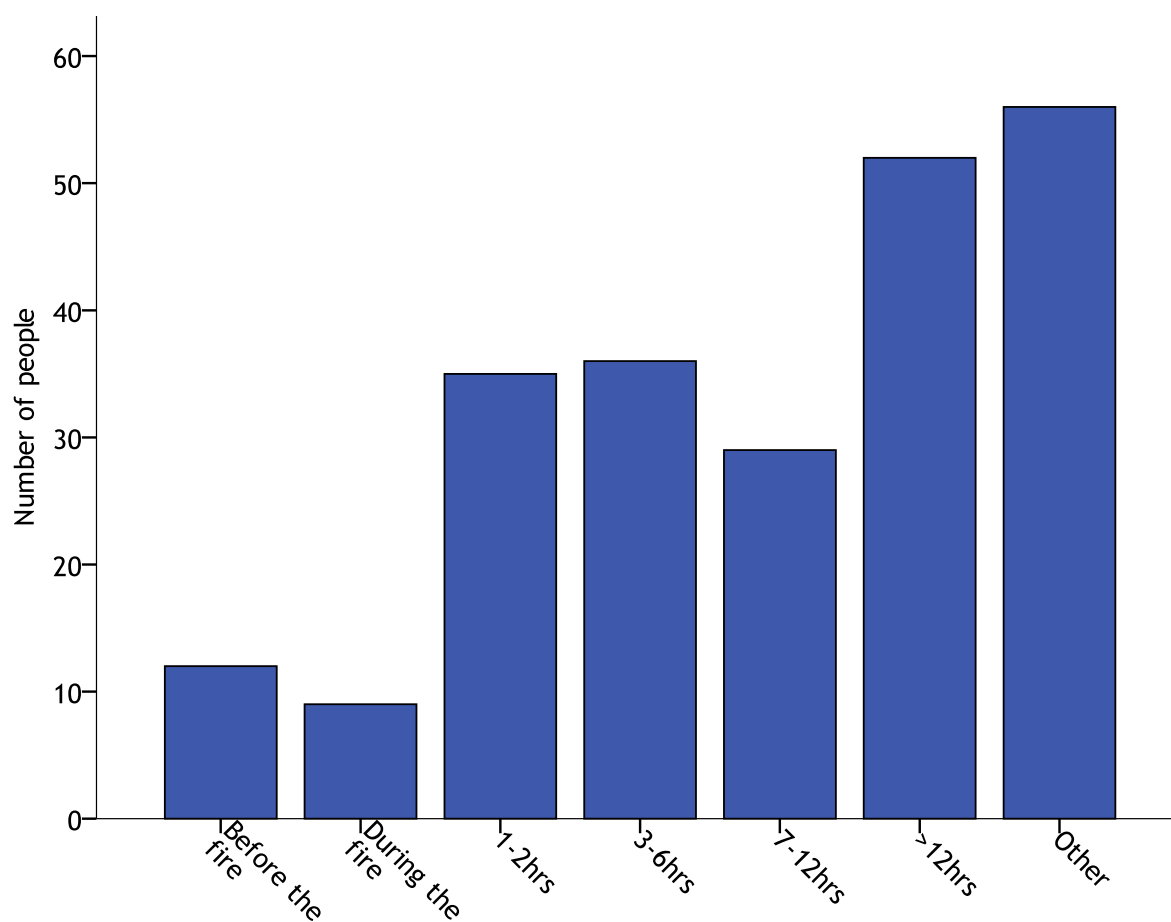
A significant proportion of respondents who left their house or property after attempting to stay experienced a range of difficulties when leaving, including: smoke (69%); embers (55%); flames (53%); poor visibility (52%); and fallen trees (35%).



Q67. When did you return to your property?

	Before the fire	During the fire	1-2hrs	3-6hrs	7-12hrs	>12hrs	Other	Total	Missing	Total
Count	12	9	35	36	29	52	56	229	48	277
Percent	4.3	3.2	12.6	13.0	10.5	18.8	20.2	82.7	17.3	100

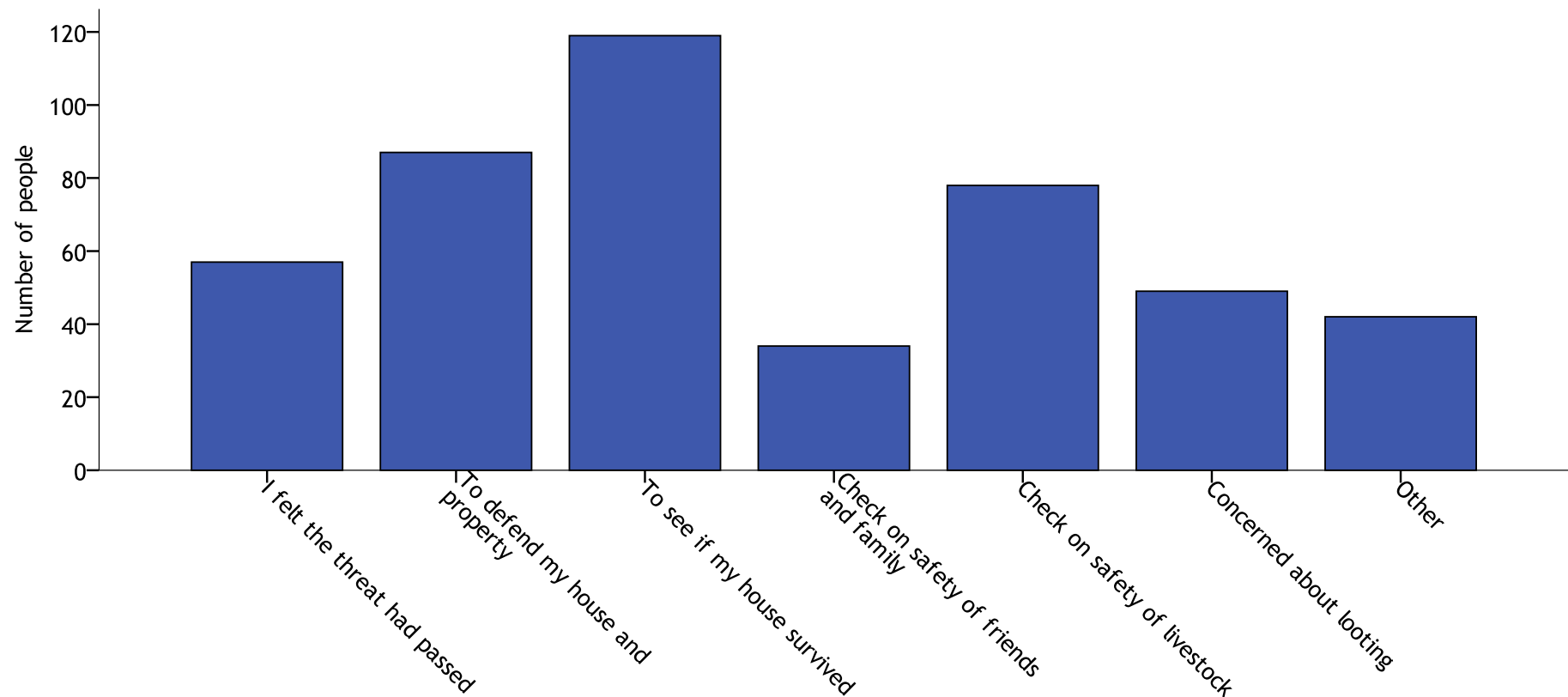
20% were able to return before or within a couple of hours of the fire passing.



Q68. Why did you return? You may select more than one.

	I felt the threat had passed	To defend my house and property	To see if my house survived	Check on safety of friends and family	Check on safety of livestock	Concerned about looting	Other
Count	57	87	119	34	78	49	42
Percent	20.6%	31.4%	43.0%	12.3%	28.2%	17.7%	15.2%

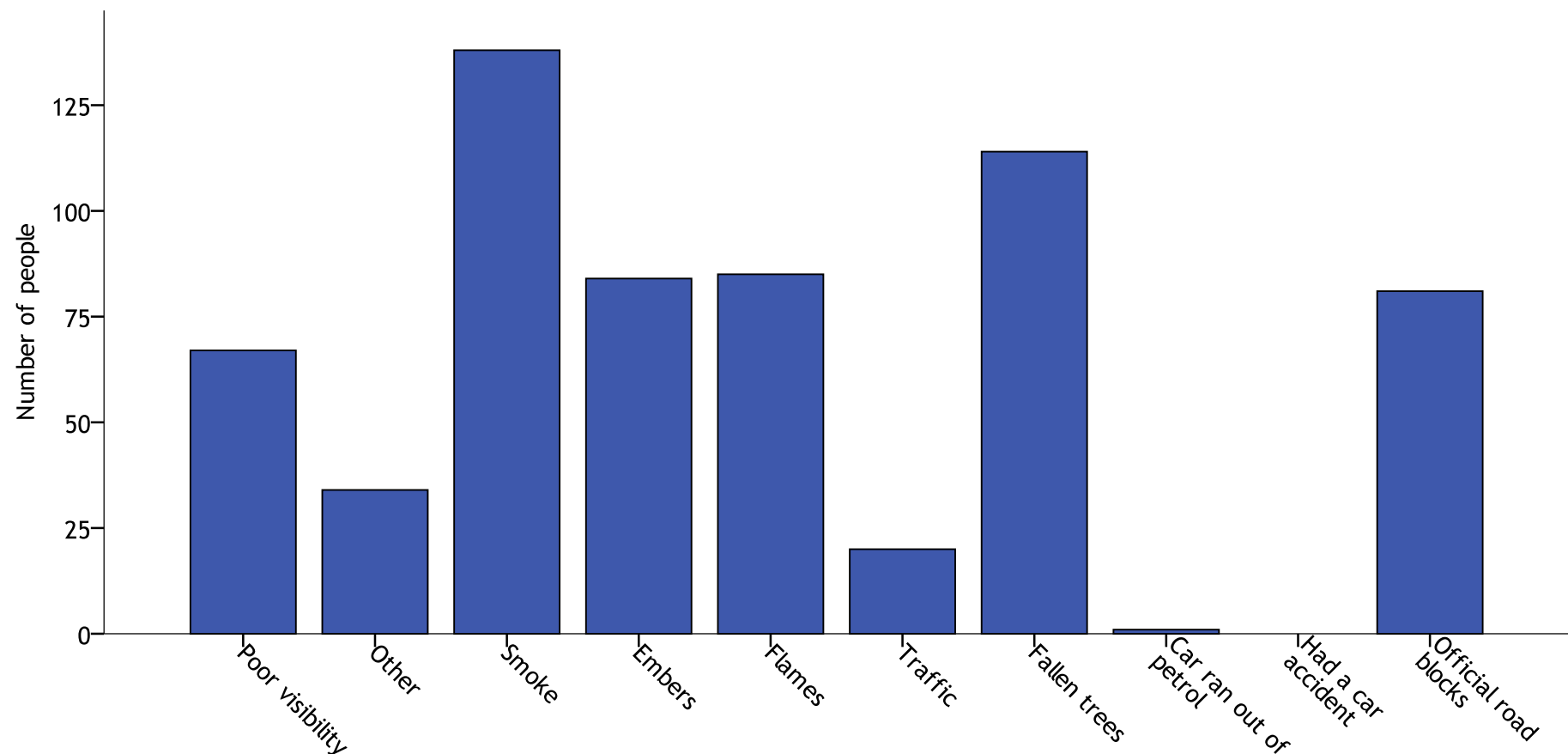
As was the case for those who left before or when the bushfire arrived (Q48), the main reason respondents (who had originally attempted to stay) returned was to see if their house had survived (43%). A significantly greater proportion of these residents (31% compared to 13%) returned to defend their house and property, presumably because many relocated to a house or somewhere else nearby (Q64) and were able to return soon after the fire has passed (Q67).



Q69. When returning, did you experience difficulties associated with any of the following? You may select more than one.

	Poor visibility	Smoke	Embers	Flames	Traffic	Fallen trees	Car ran out of petrol	Had a car accident	Official road blocks	Other	None of the above
Count	67	138	84	85	20	114	1	0	81	34	67
Percent	24.2%	49.8%	30.3%	30.7%	7.2%	41.2%	0.4%	0.0%	29.2%	12.3%	24.2%

These respondents reported experiencing a range of difficulties when returning to their homes and properties, including: smoke (50%); fallen trees (41%); embers (30%); flames (31%); and official roadblocks (29%).

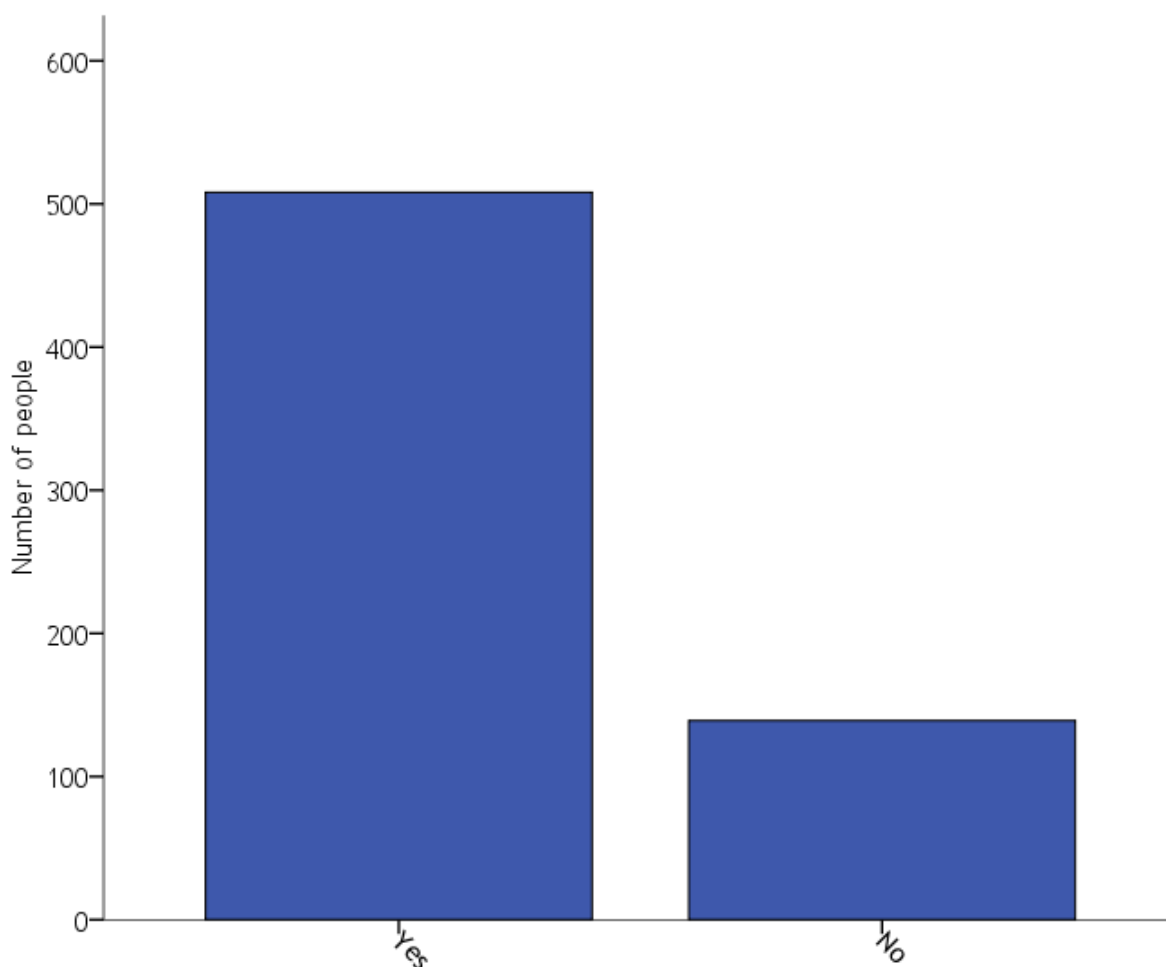


The following question only includes those who answered c, d, e, f, g, or h at question 37

Q70. If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb, would you take the same action in staying to protect your home and property?

	Yes	No	Total	Missing	Total
Count	508	139	647	52	699
Percent	72.7	19.9	92.6	7.4	100

The majority of respondents who stayed with their homes and properties (73%) declared their intention to stay and protect their home and property if there was a similar fire in the future. The remainder (20%) stated that they would *not* take the same action. Analysis of the qualitative responses will provide insights into the reasons why people would/would not take the same action in future fires.



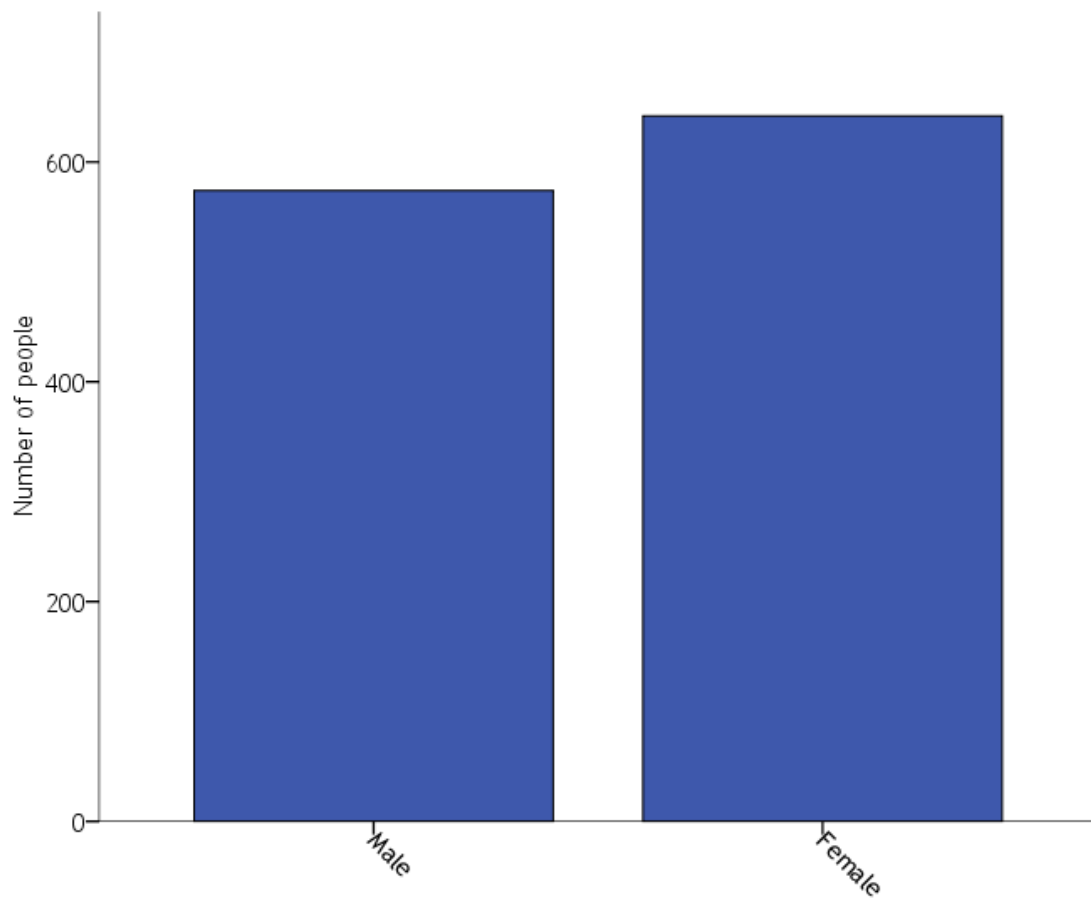
71. Please use the space below if you would like to add any comments about your experience of staying with your home or property during the bushfire.

This was an open ended question, the analysis of which is beyond the scope of this report.

Section 5. Information about you and your household

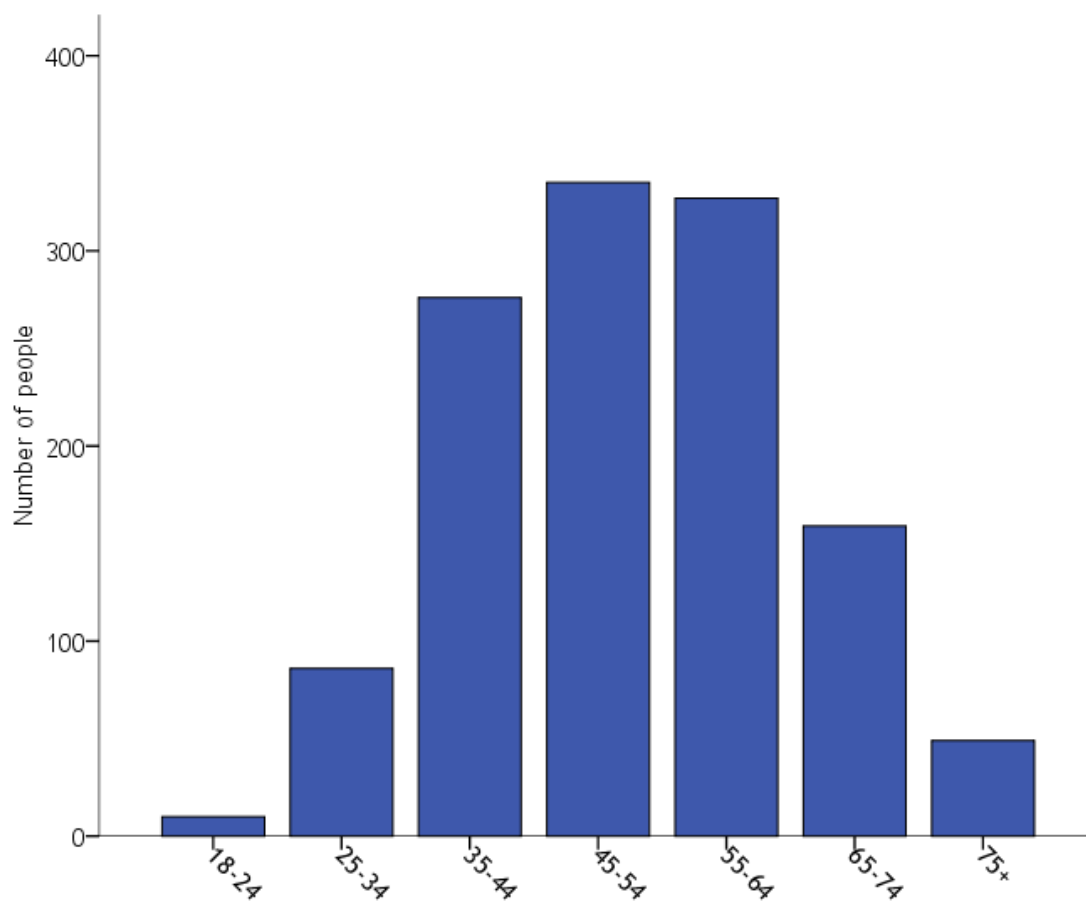
Q72. Are you male or female?

	Male	Female	Total	Missing	Total
Count	574	642	1216	98	1314
Percent	43.7	48.9	92.5	7.5	100



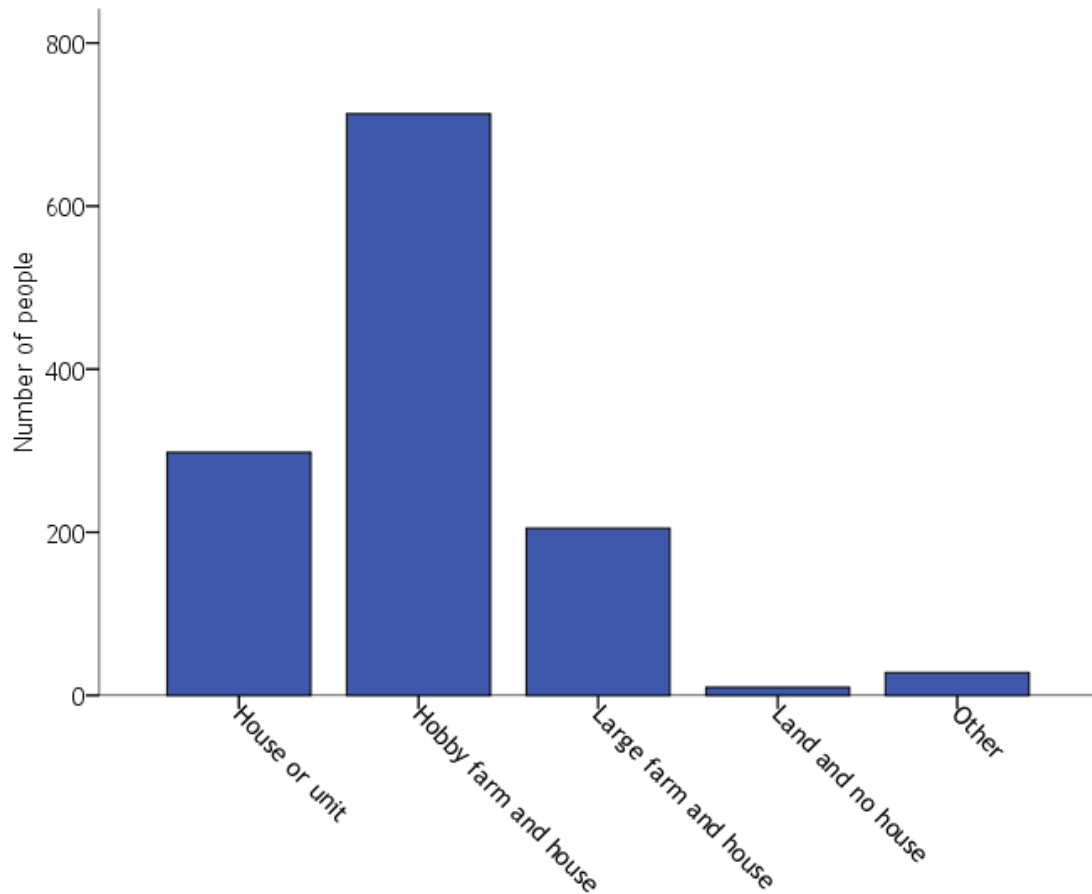
Q73. Which of the following age groups do you belong to?

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total	Missing	Total
Count	10	86	276	335	327	159	49	1242	72	1314
Percent	0.8	6.5	21.0	25.5	24.9	12.1	3.7	94.5	5.5	100



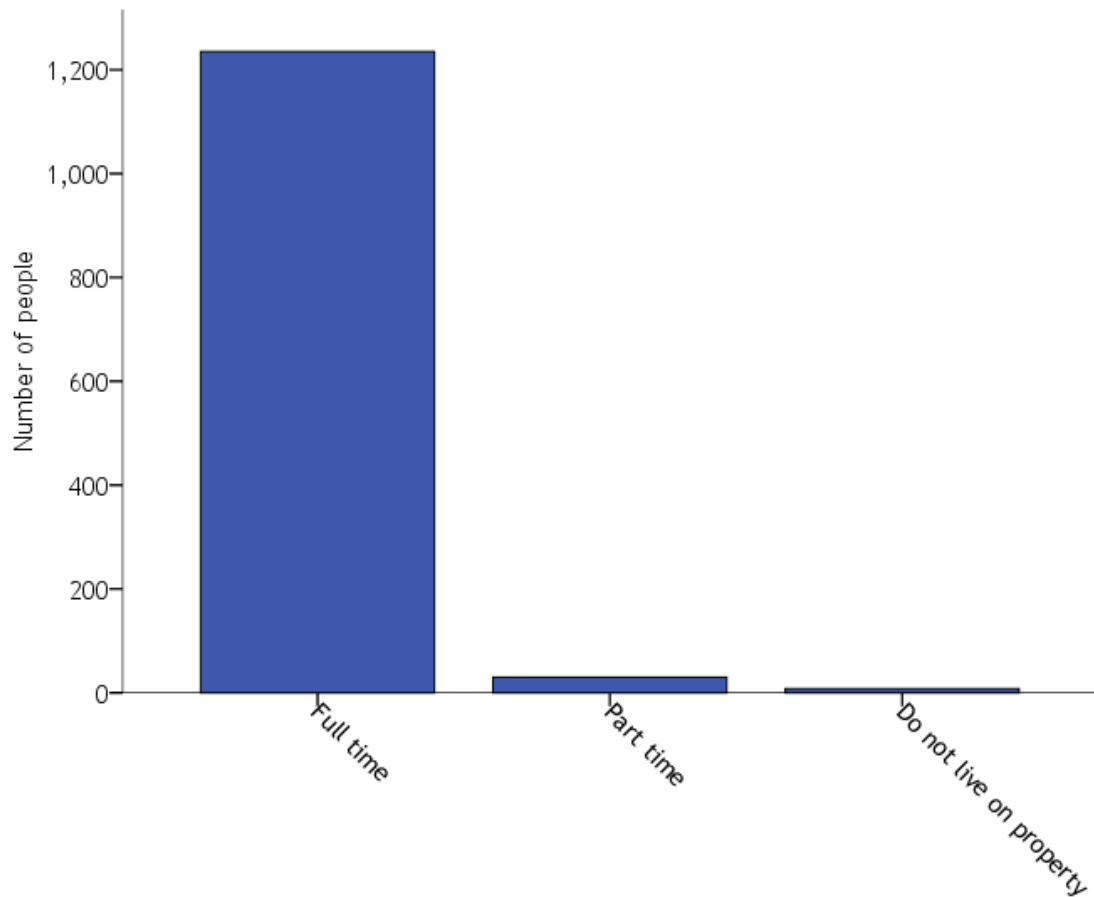
Q74. On February 7th, what type of property did you have?

	House or unit	Hobby farm and house	Large farm and house	Land and no house	Other	Total	Missing	Total
Count	298	713	205	10	28	1254	60	1314
Percent	22.7	54.3	15.6	0.8	2.1	95.4	4.6	100



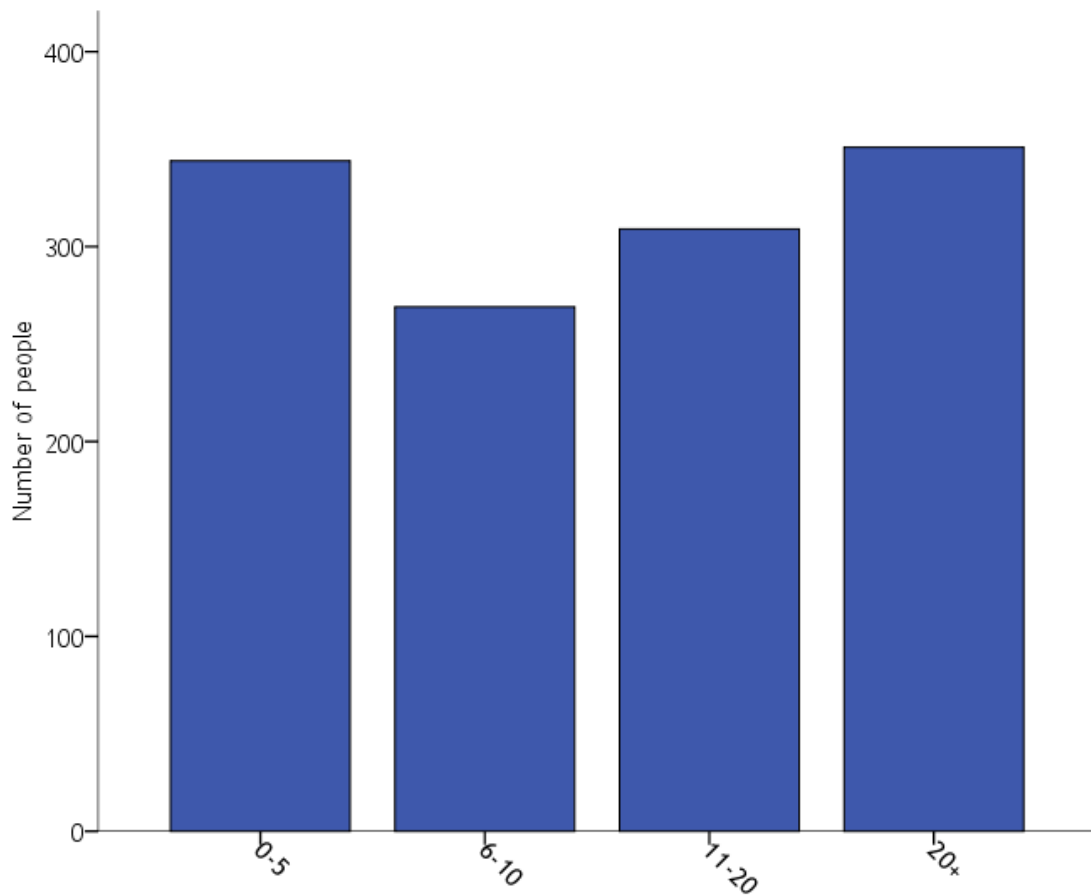
Q75. How much of your time were you spending living on this property?

	Full time	Part time	Do not live on property	Total	Missing	Total
Count	1235	30	8	1273	41	1314
Percent	94.0	2.3	0.6	96.9	3.1	100



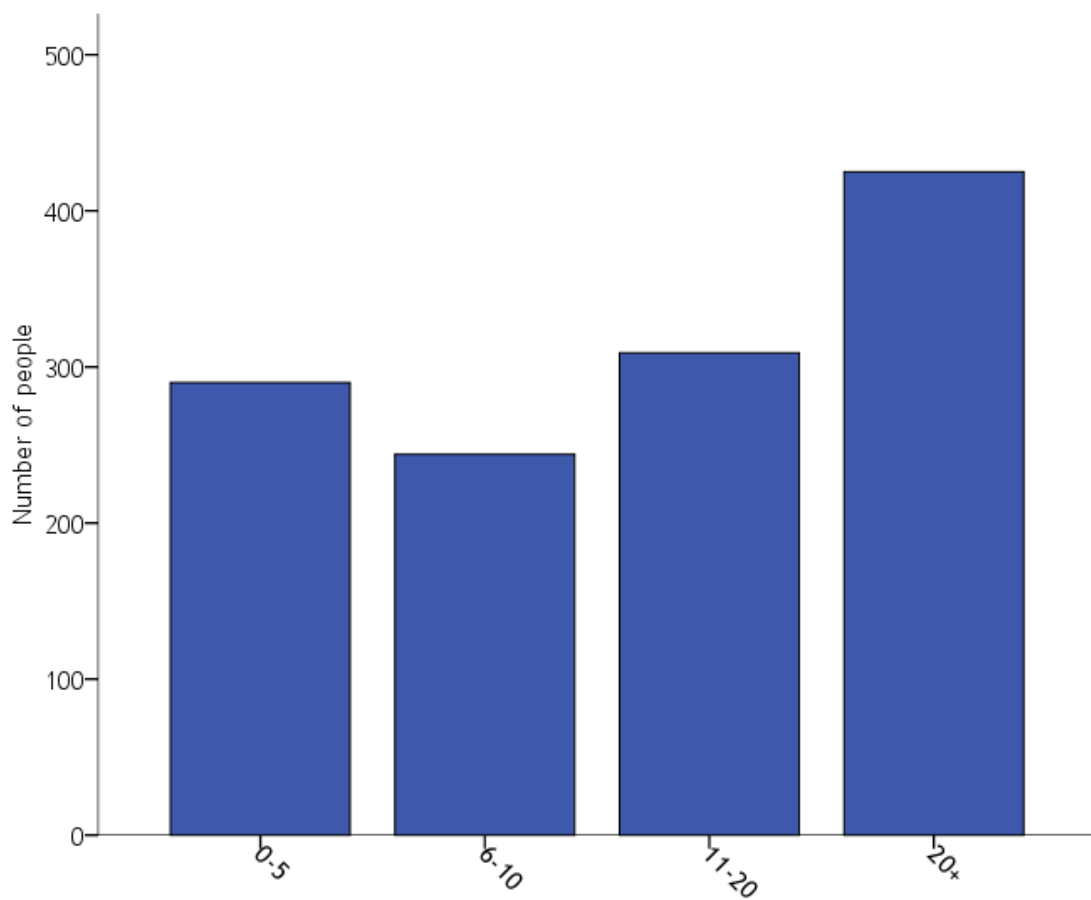
Q76. How long had you had this property? (Note that the category 20+ should read >20.)

	0-5	6-10	11-20	>20	Total	Missing	Total
Count	344	269	309	351	1273	41	1314
Percent	26.2	20.5	23.5	26.7	96.9	3.1	100



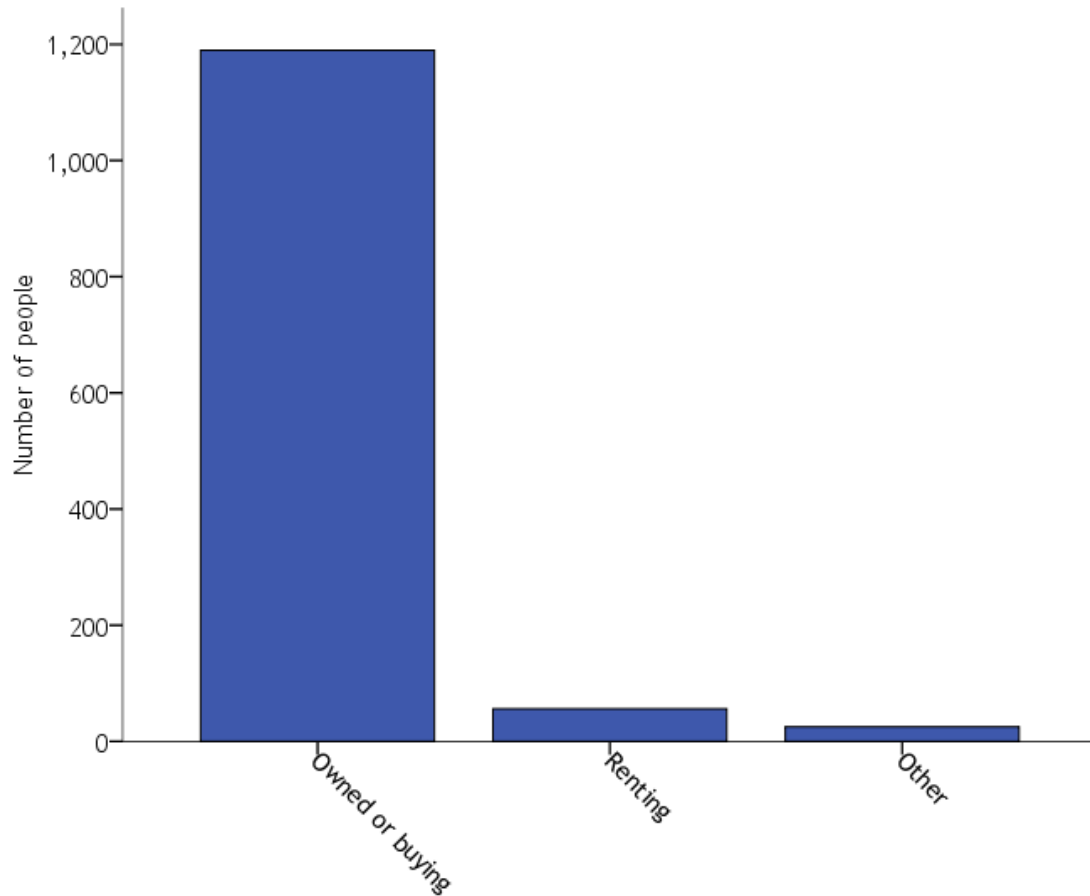
Q77. How long had you been living in this town or suburb? (Note that the category 20+ should read >20.)

	0-5	6-10	11-20	>20	Total	Missing	Total
Count	290	244	309	425	1268	46	1314
Percent	22.1	18.6	23.5	32.3	96.5	3.5	100



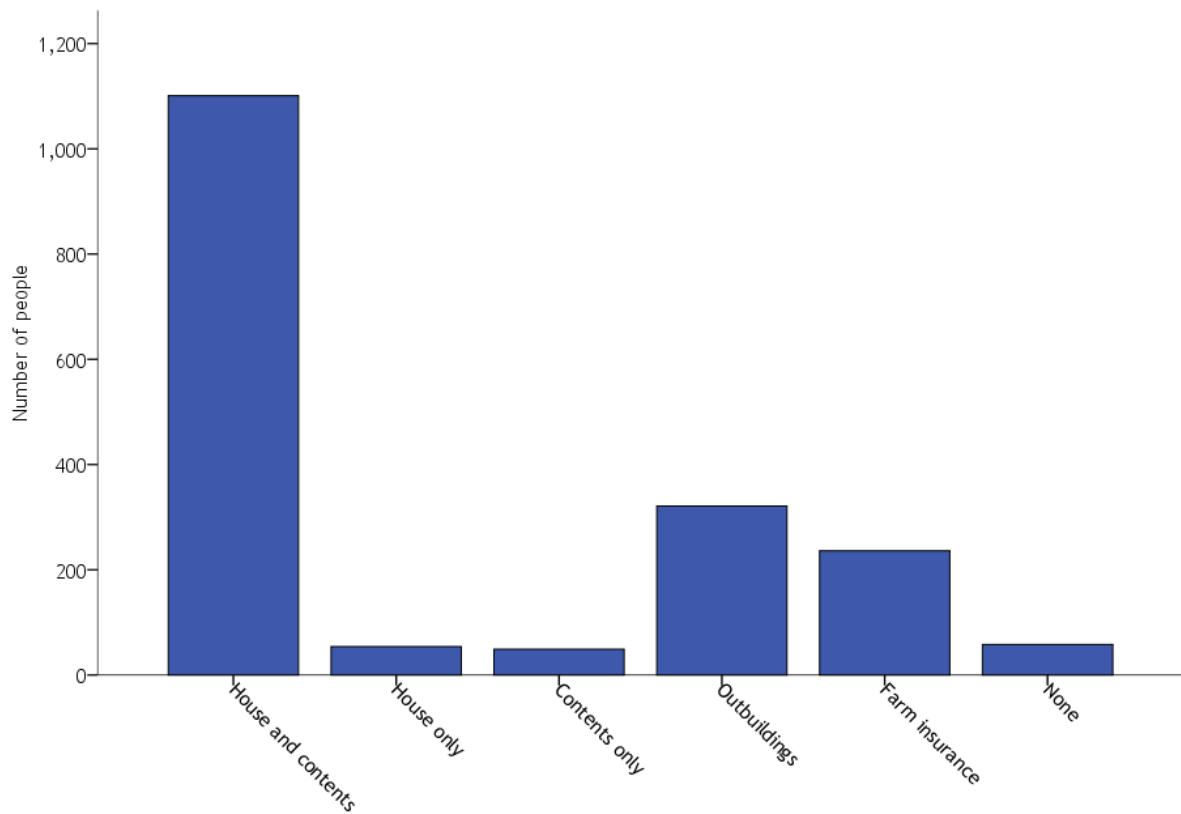
Q78. Did you own your property or were you renting?

	Owned or buying	Renting	Other	Total	Missing	Total
Count	1190	56	25	1271	43	1314
Percent	90.6	4.3	1.9	96.7	3.3	100



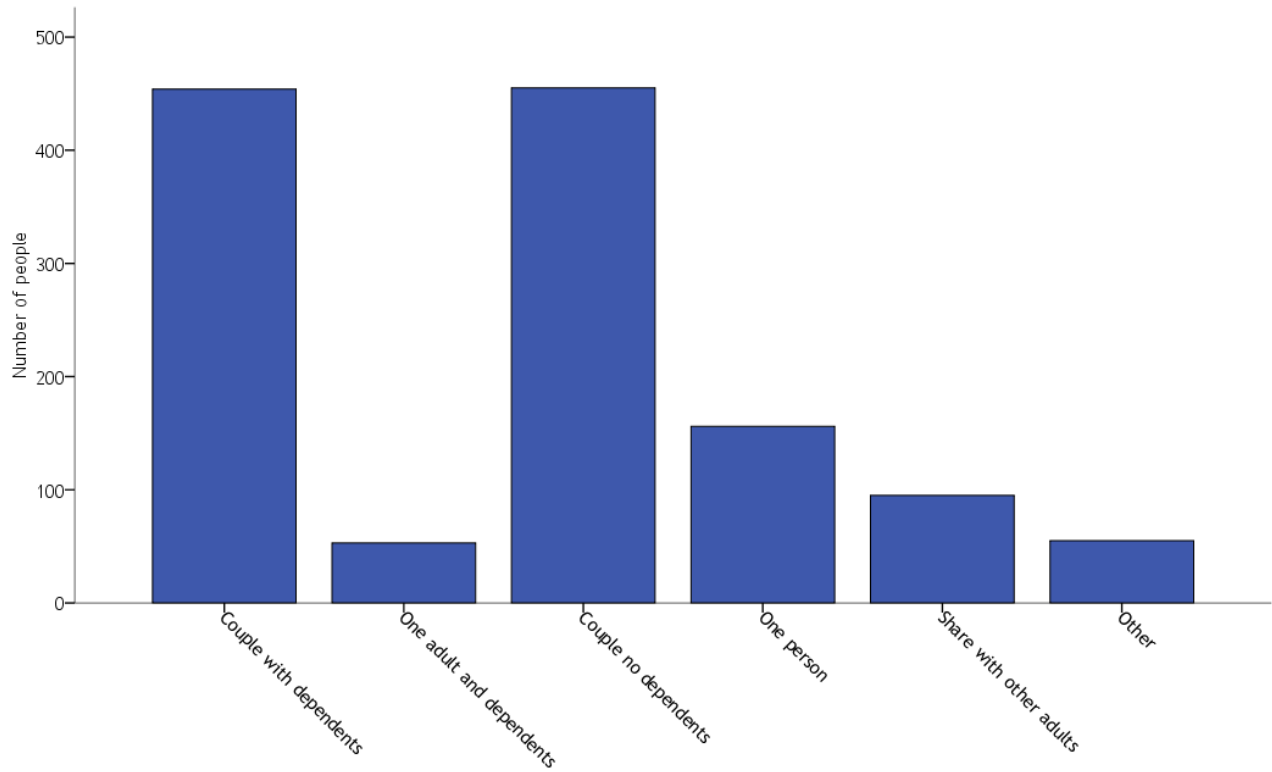
Q79. What kind of insurance did you have on February 7th 2009? You may select more than one.

	House and contents	House only	Contents only	Outbuildings	Farm insurance	None
Count	1101	54	49	321	236	58
Percent	83.8	4.1	3.7	24.4	18.0	4.4



Q80. What is the composition of your household?

	Couple with dependents	One adult and dependents	Couple no dependents	One person	Share with other adults	Other	Total	Missing	Total
Count	454	53	455	156	95	55	1268	46	1314
Percent	34.6	4.0	34.6	11.9	7.2	4.2	96.5	3.5	100

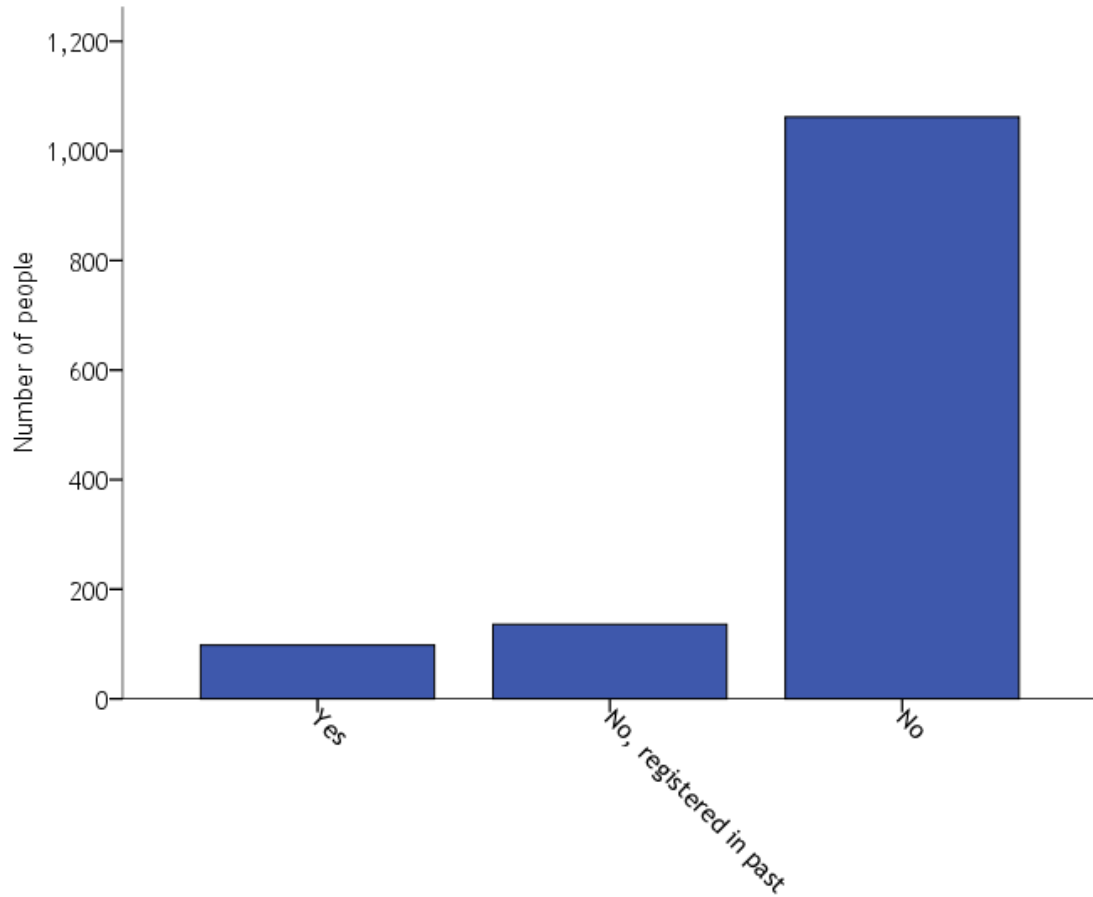


Q81. In the boxes below, please indicate how many children or dependents in each age category live in your household.

		Age Category			
		0-5	6-11	12-18	65+
Number of dependants	1	64.0% (110)	68.3% (125)	55.3% (157)	59.3% (35)
	2	34.9% (60)	27.3% (50)	33.1% (94)	37.3% (22)
	3	0.6% (1)	4.4% (8)	8.8% (25)	0.0% (0)
	4	0.6% (1)	0.0% (0)	2.1% (6)	3.4% (2)
	5	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.4% (1)	0.0% (0)
	6	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.4% (1)	0.0% (0)

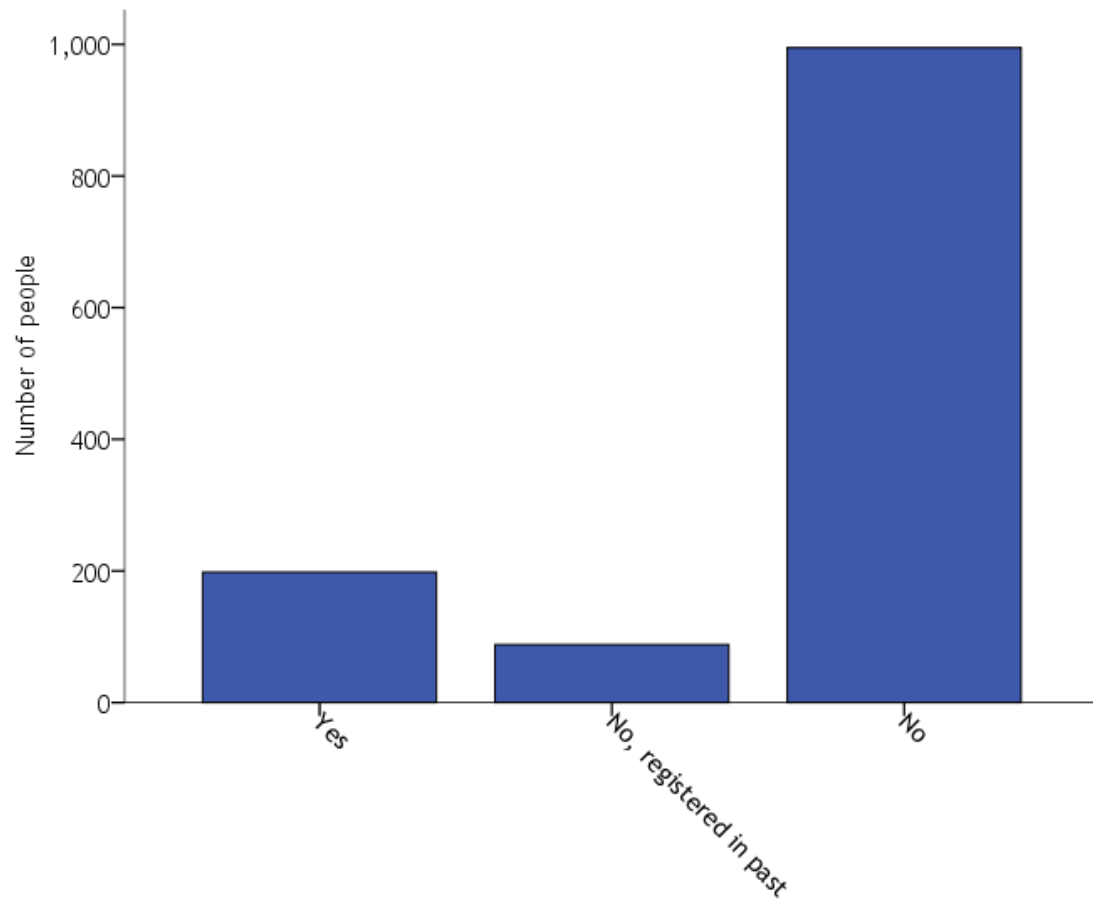
Q82. On February 7th were you registered as a CFA volunteer?

	Yes	No, registered in past	No	Total	Missing	Total
Count	98	136	1062	1296	18	1314
Percent	7.5	10.4	80.8	98.6	1.4	100



Q83. On February 7th were you a member of a CFA community fire guard group?

	Yes	No, registered in past	No	Total	Missing	Total
Count	198	88	995	1281	33	1314
Percent	15.1	6.7	75.7	97.5	2.5	100



chi-square tests of association

To assist in ascertaining any relationship between categorical (count) variables, a chi-square test of association is typically conducted. This test provides useful insight into the potential for associated variables; and if so associated, where this contribution to association is the greatest.

In order to assist in reading the information in the following tables, an example is shown below. The row labels (in green) refer to the possible responses to the item (in this case) *Q4 Was your house damaged or destroyed in the bushfire?* The column labels (in blue) refer to the possible responses to the item (in this case) *Q7.1 The actions I took before February 7th (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?).* This test assesses whether there is an association between the two variables, and uses a comparison of what was observed against what we would expect if there was no association.

To begin, consider the Count. This is the number of people who responded to both categories. In the case highlighted in brown and bold below, there were 95 people whose *House had no/minor damage and believed that the actions they took before February 7th did not contribute at all.*

The Expected (in light blue and italics) count represents the amount we should expect if there was no association between the two variables, that is, if the variables are independent or unrelated to each other. It is calculated using the following Expected = (row total x column total) / grand total, where the row total in our example is in orange, the column total is in light green and grand total is in purple double underlined.

The statistics reported in the top left hand corner (in pink) is the chi-square value (χ^2) and its associated p-value (p). The chi-square value is large when there is an association between the variables and tends towards zero when there is not. If there is as a large difference between what is counted and what is expected, this reveals a potential link between categories. When the p -value is reported at less than 0.05, we conclude that there is an association between the two variables.

Numbers highlighted in red underlined throughout the tables indicate where there is a large difference between the count and the expected count and the standardised residual is greater than 1; this is useful in ascertaining where greatest variation exists.

The p -value (significance value) represents where there is a significant association between the two variables. A significant association represented by $p < 0.05$ is found when there is one or more categories with a standardised residual of 1 or more. The more categories of this nature the greater the association.

$\chi^2 = 374.779$ $p < 0.001$		Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
House had no/minor damage	Count	95	131	142	<u>416</u>	4	788
	Expected	220.2	126.2	117.0	<u>305.6</u>	19.1	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	<u>240</u>	61	36	49	25	411
	Expected	<u>114.8</u>	65.8	61.0	159.4	9.9	

Total	Count	335	192	178	465	29	<u>1199</u>
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It is important to note that the chi-square test of association is a cross-sectional test which aids in determining possible relationships between variables. Great care must be taken in the interpretation of this data, and it is best viewed as an indicator of potential associations rather than proof of causal associations.

Section 1: How the bushfires affected your property

Q1. What is the postcode of your bushfire affected property?

Q1 by Q4 Was your house damaged or destroyed in the bushfire?

An association is apparent between local government areas (LGA) and the extent to which a home was damaged. An overrepresentation of homes with major damage or that were destroyed was found in the Murrindindi, Whittlesea and Latrobe areas. Yarra Ranges and Baw Baw shires had far fewer homes with major damage or that were destroyed than was expected. However, in all LGA's there were far more homes with none or minor damage.

$\chi^2 = 35.152$	$p < 0.001$	House had no/minor damage	House had major damage or was destroyed	Total
Murrindindi	Count	235	168	403
	Expected	260.2	142.8	
Yarra Ranges	Count	147	48	195
	Expected	125.9	69.1	
Mitchell	Count	107	62	169
	Expected	109.1	59.9	
Whittlesea	Count	84	57	141
	Expected	91.0	50.0	
Latrobe	Count	58	46	104
	Expected	67.1	36.9	
Baw Baw	Count	54	10	64
	Expected	41.3	22.7	
Other	Count	133	58	191
	Expected	123.3	67.7	
Total	Count	818	449	1267

*Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q6 Was the house damaged by wind at any time during the bushfire?

There was no association between the amount of damage caused to a home by wind and LGA.

$\chi^2 = 27.696$	$p = 0.067$	Before the fire	With the fire	After the fire	No	Total
Murrindindi	Count	8	25	2	117	152
	Expected	4.1	22.7	1.7	123.5	
Yarra Ranges	Count	0	4	1	77	82
	Expected	2.2	12.2	.9	66.6	
Mitchell	Count	2	8	1	53	64
	Expected	1.7	9.5	.7	52.0	
Whittlesea	Count	0	16	0	51	67
	Expected	1.8	10.0	.8	54.4	
Latrobe	Count	3	13	0	47	63
	Expected	1.7	9.4	.7	51.2	
Baw Baw	Count	0	3	0	22	25
	Expected	.7	3.7	.3	20.3	
Other	Count	1	9	2	58	70
	Expected	1.9	10.4	.8	56.9	
Total	Count	14	78	6	425	523

*Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q7.1 The actions I took before February 7th (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

There was no statistically significant association found between the extent to which actions on the day contributed to the outcome of a home and LGA. However, residents from Yarra Ranges, Whittlesea and Baw Baw believed that their actions before February 7 influenced the outcome of their home to a great extent, having an overrepresentation in this category despite it not being significant. Individuals from Murrindindi were more likely to believe that their actions did not contribute to the outcome of their home.

$\chi^2 = 34.120$	$p = 0.083$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
Murrindindi	Count	128	58	55	123	9	373
	Expected	103.1	60.8	55.5	144.5	9.1	
Yarra Ranges	Count	40	34	32	82	3	191
	Expected	52.8	31.1	28.4	74.0	4.7	
Mitchell	Count	45	31	23	52	6	157
	Expected	43.4	25.6	23.4	60.8	3.8	
Whittlesea	Count	27	23	23	58	5	136
	Expected	37.6	22.2	20.2	52.7	3.3	
Latrobe	Count	31	16	10	39	2	98
	Expected	27.1	16.0	14.6	38.0	2.4	
Baw Baw	Count	12	6	11	32	2	63
	Expected	17.4	10.3	9.4	24.4	1.5	
Other	Count	46	26	23	75	2	172
	Expected	47.6	28.0	25.6	66.6	4.2	
Total	Count	329	194	177	461	29	1190

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q7.2 My actions on the day (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

Residents from Murrindindi had an overrepresentation in the 'not at all' category, the only one for this question. They were more likely than residents of other LGA's to believe their actions on the day made no contribution to the outcome of their home. In comparison residents from Mitchell, Whittlesea and Baw Baw stated that their actions on the day contributed to a great extent to the outcome of their homes. Baw Baw exceeded the expected number in their community by 30%.

$\chi^2 = 69.461$	$p < 0.001$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
		Not at all					
Murrindindi	Count	164	40	28	126	11	369
	Expected	132.0	38.5	29.4	160.1	9.1	
Yarra Ranges	Count	68	15	22	85	3	193
	Expected	69.0	20.1	15.4	83.7	4.7	
Mitchell	Count	59	12	4	73	5	153
	Expected	54.7	15.9	12.2	66.4	3.8	
Whittlesea	Count	42	12	7	65	7	133
	Expected	47.6	13.9	10.6	57.7	3.3	
Latrobe	Count	38	11	7	41	1	98
	Expected	35.0	10.2	7.8	42.5	2.4	
Baw Baw	Count	6	8	9	39	0	62
	Expected	22.2	6.5	4.9	26.9	1.5	
Other	Count	45	25	17	83	2	172
	Expected	61.5	17.9	13.7	74.6	4.2	
Total	Count	422	123	94	512	29	1180

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q7.3 The help of family, friends or neighbours on the day (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

From this cross-tab we can identify that there is a significant association between LGA and help of family, friends and neighbours on the day. Residents from Murrindindi and Yarra Ranges were far less likely to state that the help of family, friends or neighbours influenced the outcome of their home than residents from Whittlesea and Latrobe.

$\chi^2 = 49.334$	$p = 0.002$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
Murrindindi	Count	205	33	31	87	7	363
	Expected	177.1	39.7	28.5	109.8	7.8	
Yarra Ranges	Count	105	23	13	45	2	188
	Expected	91.7	20.6	14.7	56.9	4.1	
Mitchell	Count	72	22	10	47	5	156
	Expected	76.1	17.1	12.2	47.2	3.4	
Whittlesea	Count	61	10	10	44	5	130
	Expected	63.4	14.2	10.2	39.3	2.8	
Latrobe	Count	40	13	4	36	3	96
	Expected	46.8	10.5	7.5	29.0	2.1	
Baw Baw	Count	21	8	9	22	0	60
	Expected	29.3	6.6	4.7	18.2	1.3	
Other	Count	62	18	14	70	3	167
	Expected	81.5	18.3	13.1	50.5	3.6	
Total	Count	566	127	91	351	25	1160

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q7.4 The construction of my home (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

Though the results of this cross-tab reveal no association between LGA and home construction, some categories still show a large over/under representation. Home construction was not considered a contributing factor of home outcome for respondents from the Murrindindi or Mitchell areas, with the count higher than the expected in the 'not at all' category. This was not the case in Latrobe where an overrepresentation was found in the 'to a great extent' category.

$\chi^2 = 33.454$ $p = 0.095$			To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
		Not at all					
Murrindindi	Count	149	60	58	78	22	367
	Expected	132.8	62.9	62.6	89.3	19.4	
Yarra Ranges	Count	64	34	37	48	4	187
	Expected	67.7	32.1	31.9	45.5	9.9	
Mitchell	Count	63	25	24	24	10	146
	Expected	52.8	25.0	24.9	35.5	7.7	
Whittlesea	Count	40	26	22	34	10	132
	Expected	47.8	22.6	22.5	32.1	7.0	
Latrobe	Count	25	16	18	31	6	96
	Expected	34.7	16.5	16.4	23.4	5.1	
Baw Baw	Count	21	9	16	15	1	62
	Expected	22.4	10.6	10.6	15.1	3.3	
Other	Count	56	28	22	51	8	165
	Expected	59.7	28.3	28.1	40.1	8.7	
Total	Count	418	198	197	281	61	1155

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q7.5 The position of my home (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

A strong association between LGA and home position was found in this cross-tab. Home position was considered *not* a significant factor to the outcome of homes in the Murrindindi area (where an overrepresentation of nearly 20% was found). This opinion was reversed for people of the Yarra Ranges and Latrobe areas, where it was believed that home position contributed to the level of damage to their home 'to a great extent'.

$\chi^2 = 47.061$	$p = 0.003$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
Murrindindi	Count	99	63	68	129	19	378
	Expected	80.2	71.9	69.6	140.9	15.4	
Yarra Ranges	Count	30	27	44	86	3	190
	Expected	40.3	36.1	35.0	70.8	7.7	
Mitchell	Count	34	37	27	41	11	150
	Expected	31.8	28.5	27.6	55.9	6.1	
Whittlesea	Count	29	21	23	52	7	132
	Expected	28.0	25.1	24.3	49.2	5.4	
Latrobe	Count	15	19	17	43	3	97
	Expected	20.6	18.4	17.9	36.1	4.0	
Baw Baw	Count	10	15	15	23	0	63
	Expected	13.4	12.0	11.6	23.5	2.6	
Other	Count	33	42	23	65	5	168
	Expected	35.7	31.9	30.9	62.6	6.8	
Total	Count	250	224	217	439	48	1178

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q7.6 Fire agencies fire fighting activities (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

A very strong association in opinion was apparent between LGA and fire agencies fire fighting activities. Three of the six LGAs in this test were more likely to state that the activities of fire agencies did not contribute to the outcome of their home. This is the only significant factor (for all of question 7) in which Whittlesea shows an overrepresentation - the residents clearly indicate *not at all*. Mitchell respondents were the only LGA to indicate that fire agencies activities had an impact on the outcome of their homes, though the majority of respondents still stated 'not at all'.

$\chi^2 = 102.828$	$p < 0.001$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
Murrindindi	Count	291	13	7	29	20	360
	Expected	259.6	22.8	16.3	45.4	16.0	
Yarra Ranges	Count	141	10	5	23	6	185
	Expected	133.4	11.7	8.4	23.3	8.2	
Mitchell	Count	95	13	9	30	5	152
	Expected	109.6	9.6	6.9	19.1	6.7	
Whittlesea	Count	104	7	4	9	7	131
	Expected	94.5	8.3	5.9	16.5	5.8	
Latrobe	Count	71	4	1	11	9	96
	Expected	69.2	6.1	4.3	12.1	4.3	
Baw Baw	Count	33	6	9	12	0	60
	Expected	43.3	3.8	2.7	7.6	2.7	
Other	Count	95	20	17	31	4	167
	Expected	120.4	10.6	7.5	21.0	7.4	
Total	Count	830	73	52	145	51	1151

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q7.7 Fire agencies fuel reduction activities (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

There was no association found between the *influence fire agencies fuel reduction activities on property* and respondents LGA's. In every LGA over 75% of respondents stated that fuel reduction activities did not contribute to the outcome of their home.

$\chi^2 = 27.215$	$p = 0.295$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
		Not at all					
Murrindindi	Count	274	24	9	33	21	361
	Expected	284.1	20.1	9.7	28.9	18.2	
Yarra Ranges	Count	153	5	9	13	8	188
	Expected	147.9	10.5	5.1	15.0	9.5	
Mitchell	Count	115	8	2	8	12	145
	Expected	114.1	8.1	3.9	11.6	7.3	
Whittlesea	Count	104	6	3	13	4	130
	Expected	102.3	7.2	3.5	10.4	6.6	
Latrobe	Count	81	3	4	6	5	99
	Expected	77.9	5.5	2.7	7.9	5.0	
Baw Baw	Count	53	3	0	3	1	60
	Expected	47.2	3.3	1.6	4.8	3.0	
Other	Count	125	15	4	16	7	167
	Expected	131.4	9.3	4.5	13.4	8.4	
Total	Count	905	64	31	92	58	1150

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q7.8 Fuel (e.g. trees, bushes, leaves on ground etc) (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

Fuel was seen as an influence *to a great extent* on damage to homes for residents of Yarra Ranges and Whittlesea. Murrindindi residents responded that this factor had no influence (*not at all*) on their home in greater numbers than expected: This contributes to the significant association found between the affect of fuel on the home outcome and LGA.

$\chi^2 = 38.813$	$p = 0.029$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
Murrindindi	Count	101	74	61	120	14	370
	Expected	76.5	84.8	65.0	135.1	8.6	
Yarra Ranges	Count	25	40	40	79	4	188
	Expected	38.9	43.1	33.0	68.7	4.4	
Mitchell	Count	35	33	22	56	3	149
	Expected	30.8	34.1	26.2	54.4	3.5	
Whittlesea	Count	21	28	23	57	2	131
	Expected	27.1	30.0	23.0	47.8	3.0	
Latrobe	Count	14	27	17	36	1	95
	Expected	19.6	21.8	16.7	34.7	2.2	
Baw Baw	Count	15	14	12	19	0	60
	Expected	12.4	13.7	10.5	21.9	1.4	
Other	Count	29	50	29	57	3	168
	Expected	34.7	38.5	29.5	61.4	3.9	
Total	Count	240	266	204	424	27	1161

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q7.9 Topography/Landscape (e.g. hills, valleys, rivers etc) (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

Topography/landscape had a significant association with LGA. Yarra Ranges and Mitchell residents were far more likely to state that the outcome of their home was influenced *to a great extent* by topography or landscape (and it was larger than expected).

$\chi^2 = 41.185$	$p = 0.016$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
Murrindindi	Count	76	73	84	105	27	365
	Expected	65.1	75.8	81.8	119.6	22.7	
Yarra Ranges	Count	17	37	48	76	10	188
	Expected	33.5	39.1	42.1	61.6	11.7	
Mitchell	Count	21	38	30	56	5	150
	Expected	26.8	31.2	33.6	49.1	9.3	
Whittlesea	Count	25	24	28	44	10	131
	Expected	23.4	27.2	29.4	42.9	8.1	
Latrobe	Count	12	20	23	33	8	96
	Expected	17.1	19.9	21.5	31.4	6.0	
Baw Baw	Count	13	12	20	14	3	62
	Expected	11.1	12.9	13.9	20.3	3.8	
Other	Count	43	37	27	52	9	168
	Expected	30.0	34.9	37.7	55.0	10.4	
Total	Count	207	241	260	380	72	1160

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q7.10 Temperature (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

There was no association between the LGA a respondent lives in and the temperature on February 7th. Residents of all LGAs overwhelmingly stated that temperature contributed to a great extent with over 70% selecting this option.

$\chi^2 = 29.652$	$p = 0.197$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
		Not at all					
Murrindindi	Count	33	17	25	272	20	367
	Expected	26.3	13.8	25.1	286.7	15.1	
Yarra Ranges	Count	16	6	14	144	8	188
	Expected	13.5	7.1	12.9	146.9	7.7	
Mitchell	Count	9	5	11	122	3	150
	Expected	10.8	5.6	10.3	117.2	6.2	
Whittlesea	Count	13	4	9	100	6	132
	Expected	9.5	5.0	9.0	103.1	5.4	
Latrobe	Count	1	2	8	79	8	98
	Expected	7.0	3.7	6.7	76.6	4.0	
Baw Baw	Count	1	3	2	53	1	60
	Expected	4.3	2.3	4.1	46.9	2.5	
Other	Count	11	7	11	144	2	175
	Expected	12.6	6.6	12.0	136.7	7.2	
Total	Count	84	44	80	914	48	1170

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q7.11 Wind (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

There was no association between LGA and the *wind* on February 7th. Nearly 80% of all respondents from each LGA stated that wind affected their homes 'to a great extent', thereby exhibiting no independency between categories.

$\chi^2 = 29.092$	$p = 0.217$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
		Not at all					
Murrindindi	Count	21	18	20	297	16	372
	Expected	15.7	15.4	22.0	305.7	13.2	
Yarra Ranges	Count	5	8	13	157	6	189
	Expected	8.0	7.8	11.2	155.3	6.7	
Mitchell	Count	4	6	9	129	5	153
	Expected	6.5	6.3	9.1	125.7	5.4	
Whittlesea	Count	10	7	8	103	5	133
	Expected	5.6	5.5	7.9	109.3	4.7	
Latrobe	Count	2	1	9	79	8	99
	Expected	4.2	4.1	5.9	81.3	3.5	
Baw Baw	Count	1	2	4	51	1	59
	Expected	2.5	2.4	3.5	48.5	2.1	
Other	Count	7	7	7	156	1	178
	Expected	7.5	7.4	10.5	146.3	6.3	
Total	Count	50	49	70	972	42	1183

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q7.12 Luck or chance (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

There was no association between respondents LGA and *luck or chance* on February 7th. Notably most respondents believed luck or chance was of greatest influence (*to a great extent*) in all LGAs.

$\chi^2 = 34.646$	$p = 0.077$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
		Not at all					
Murrindindi	Count	67	64	44	153	28	356
	Expected	60.2	71.4	46.1	157.1	21.2	
Yarra Ranges	Count	26	46	25	83	3	183
	Expected	30.9	36.7	23.7	80.8	10.9	
Mitchell	Count	22	26	24	69	13	154
	Expected	26.0	30.9	20.0	68.0	9.2	
Whittlesea	Count	28	21	13	58	6	126
	Expected	21.3	25.3	16.3	55.6	7.5	
Latrobe	Count	19	25	12	34	7	97
	Expected	16.4	19.5	12.6	42.8	5.8	
Baw Baw	Count	5	13	13	28	1	60
	Expected	10.1	12.0	7.8	26.5	3.6	
Other	Count	26	34	17	79	10	166
	Expected	28.1	33.3	21.5	73.3	9.9	
Total	Count	193	229	148	504	68	1142

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q24. Before the February 7th bushfire, how likely did you think it was that a bushfire could occur in your town or suburb?

Most people in the fire affected areas thought that it was likely a bushfire would occur in their area. Despite this there was an overrepresentation of people in the Baw Baw shire who believed it was unlikely a fire would occur in their area.

$\chi^2 = 57.353$	$p < 0.001$	Unlikely	Likely	Total
Murrindindi	Count	86	311	397
	Expected	85.8	311.2	
Yarra Ranges	Count	34	163	197
	Expected	42.6	154.4	
Mitchell	Count	26	140	166
	Expected	35.9	130.1	
Whittlesea	Count	17	123	140
	Expected	30.2	109.8	
Latrobe	Count	13	89	102
	Expected	22.0	80.0	
Baw Baw	Count	25	35	60
	Expected	13.0	47.0	
Other	Count	69	119	188
	Expected	40.6	147.4	
Total	Count	270	980	1250

Q1 by Q42 Where had you originally planned to go?

A strong association between LGA and where residents had originally planned to go is evident. We can see that while on the whole individuals mostly planned to go to a nearby town, there was an overrepresentation of people from Murrindindi who would go to an open arena. In Latrobe there were nearly no residents who would go somewhere other than a nearby town.

$\chi^2 = 45.152$	$p < 0.001$	Another house near by	Another building	Open arena	Nearby town	Total
Murrindindi	Count	14	4	31	92	141
	Expected	20.5	4.3	21.2	95.0	
Yarra Ranges	Count	9	2	10	38	59
	Expected	8.6	1.8	8.9	39.7	
Mitchell	Count	9	4	9	50	72
	Expected	10.5	2.2	10.8	48.5	
Whittlesea	Count	3	0	6	26	35
	Expected	5.1	1.1	5.3	23.6	
Latrobe	Count	4	1	4	44	53
	Expected	7.7	1.6	8.0	35.7	
Baw Baw	Count	4	0	1	13	18
	Expected	2.6	.5	2.7	12.1	
Other	Count	19	2	3	24	48
	Expected	7.0	1.5	7.2	32.3	
Total	Count	62	13	64	287	426

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q42 Where did you actually go?

A strong association between LGA and where residents actually went is evident. We can see that while on the whole individuals mostly went to a nearby town, there was an overrepresentation of people from Yarra Ranges who went to an open arena or another building.

$\chi^2 = 61.355$	$p < 0.001$	Another house near by	Another building	Open arena	Nearby town	Total
Murrindindi	Count	11	6	16	112	145
	Expected	20.0	6.2	11.7	107.0	
Yarra Ranges	Count	11	6	10	29	56
	Expected	7.7	2.4	4.5	41.3	
Mitchell	Count	7	2	3	58	70
	Expected	9.7	3.0	5.7	51.7	
Whittlesea	Count	5	2	1	29	37
	Expected	5.1	1.6	3.0	27.3	
Latrobe	Count	5	0	1	46	52
	Expected	7.2	2.2	4.2	38.4	
Baw Baw	Count	2	0	0	15	17
	Expected	2.3	.7	1.4	12.5	
Other	Count	17	2	3	21	43
	Expected	5.9	1.8	3.5	31.7	
Total	Count	58	18	34	310	420

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q47 How long after the fire passed through your town or suburb did you first attempt to return?

The highest proportions of people from all LGAs did not attempt to return to their properties until at least 12 hours after the fire had passed through the area. Still, there was a significant association between LGA and the length of time that passed before residents attempted to return home. This can be seen in the Yarra Ranges, Whittlesea and in Baw Baw where, even though slight, there were overrepresentations of people who returned earlier (less than 2 hours) to their properties.

$\chi^2 = 77.751$	$p < 0.001$	<1hr	1-2hrs	3-6hrs	7-12hrs	>12hrs	Total
Murrindindi	Count	10	6	8	19	145	188
	Expected	10.0	13.3	20.0	25.3	119.5	
Yarra Ranges	Count	8	3	9	10	49	79
	Expected	4.2	5.6	8.4	10.6	50.2	
Mitchell	Count	2	6	9	16	62	95
	Expected	5.0	6.7	10.1	12.8	60.4	
Whittlesea	Count	2	7	3	7	34	53
	Expected	2.8	3.8	5.6	7.1	33.7	
Latrobe	Count	1	5	7	12	35	60
	Expected	3.2	4.2	6.4	8.1	38.1	
Baw Baw	Count	3	3	4	4	9	23
	Expected	1.2	1.6	2.4	3.1	14.6	
Other	Count	4	10	20	8	25	67
	Expected	3.6	4.7	7.1	9.0	42.6	
Total	Count	30	40	60	76	359	565

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q50 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb would you take the same action in leaving?

There was no association between LGA and whether a respondent would take the same action in leaving. Interestingly, there were more people than expected in the Yarra Ranges who would change their plans if a similar fire were to occur. Comparatively, nearly no one in the Baw Baw shire would change their actions.

$\chi^2 = 5.346$	$p = 0.5$	Yes	No	Total
Murrindindi	Count	128	42	170
	Expected	128.8	41.2	170.0
Yarra Ranges	Count	46	22	68
	Expected	51.5	16.5	68.0
Mitchell	Count	61	19	80
	Expected	60.6	19.4	80.0
Whittlesea	Count	33	9	42
	Expected	31.8	10.2	42.0
Latrobe	Count	44	10	54
	Expected	40.9	13.1	54.0
Baw Baw	Count	16	2	18
	Expected	13.6	4.4	18.0
Other	Count	47	16	63
	Expected	47.7	15.3	63.0
Total	Count	375	120	495

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q73 Which of the following age groups do you belong to?

There was no significant association between these variables.

$\chi^2 = 40.382$	$p = 0.283$	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Murrindindi	Count	4	30	91	94	99	56	17	391
	Expected	3.2	27.3	87.6	105.9	104.0	48.8	14.1	
Yarra Ranges	Count	1	10	48	57	45	18	4	183
	Expected	1.5	12.8	41.0	49.6	48.7	22.8	6.6	
Mitchell	Count	1	11	29	46	55	17	4	163
	Expected	1.3	11.4	36.5	44.2	43.4	20.3	5.9	
Whittlesea	Count	1	10	37	45	29	10	2	134
	Expected	1.1	9.4	30.0	36.3	35.6	16.7	4.8	
Latrobe	Count	1	8	22	28	27	9	6	101
	Expected	.8	7.0	22.6	27.4	26.9	12.6	3.6	
Baw Baw	Count	1	4	13	20	16	8	1	63
	Expected	.5	4.4	14.1	17.1	16.8	7.9	2.3	
Other	Count	1	12	33	40	53	34	10	183
	Expected	1.5	12.8	41.0	49.6	48.7	22.8	6.6	
Total	Count	10	85	273	330	324	152	44	1218

Q1 by Q77. How long had you been living in this town or suburb?

Murrindindi had an overrepresentation of residents who had lived in the area for less than 10 years. In all other areas there were more people who had lived in the area for greater than 10 years. These two associations contributed to an overall significant statistical association between LGA and length of residency in their respective LGA.

$\chi^2 = 46.98$	$p < 0.001$	0-5	6-10	11-20	>20	Total
Murrindindi	Count	102	99	98	96	395
	Expected	91.0	76.3	96.0	131.7	395.0
Yarra Ranges	Count	52	34	43	64	193
	Expected	44.4	37.3	46.9	64.3	193.0
Mitchell	Count	37	36	41	53	167
	Expected	38.5	32.3	40.6	55.7	167.0
Whittlesea	Count	29	19	34	54	136
	Expected	31.3	26.3	33.1	45.3	136.0
Latrobe	Count	23	17	30	34	104
	Expected	23.9	20.1	25.3	34.7	104.0
Baw Baw	Count	15	10	12	25	62
	Expected	14.3	12.0	15.1	20.7	62.0
Other	Count	28	25	44	88	185
	Expected	42.6	35.7	45.0	61.7	185.0
Total	Count	286	240	302	414	1242

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q79. What kind of insurance did you have on February 7th 2009? You may select more than one. (Multiple Response)

An overrepresentation of residents from the Murrindindi area only had contents insurance. The Mitchell area had the most individuals without insurance; this was an overrepresentation. Baw Baw had a far greater number than expected of people with farm insurance. The majority of people had house and contents insurance. The lowest number of responses in each area corresponded to no insurance.

$\chi^2 = 92.815$	$p < 0.001$	House and contents	House only	Contents only	Outbuildings	Farm insurance	None	Total
Murrindindi	Count	343	18	22	83	46	15	527
	Expected	319.6	15.7	14.2	92.9	68.0	16.6	
Yarra Ranges	Count	170	11	3	57	43	5	289
	Expected	175.3	8.6	7.8	50.9	37.3	9.1	
Mitchell	Count	141	3	5	40	29	16	234
	Expected	141.9	7.0	6.3	41.2	30.2	7.4	
Whittlesea	Count	121	5	6	26	28	5	191
	Expected	115.8	5.7	5.2	33.7	24.6	6.0	
Latrobe	Count	95	4	2	24	12	1	138
	Expected	83.7	4.1	3.7	24.3	17.8	4.4	
Baw Baw	Count	49	3	3	19	23	5	102
	Expected	61.9	3.0	2.8	18.0	13.2	3.2	
Other	Count	158	9	7	64	48	9	295
	Expected	178.9	8.8	8.0	52.0	38.0	9.3	
Total	Count	1077	53	48	313	229	56	1776

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q82. On February 7th were you registered as a CFA volunteer?

A significant association was found between LGA and registration as a CFA volunteer. Mitchell had a significant overrepresentation of people who were registered or registered in the past. Baw Baw and Whittlesea had the smallest representations of people who were registered or had registered in the past.

$\chi^2 = 23.595$	$p = 0.023$	Yes	No, registered in past	No	Total
Murrindindi	Count	30	34	340	404
	Expected	30.3	42.1	331.7	
Yarra Ranges	Count	9	19	168	196
	Expected	14.7	20.4	160.9	
Mitchell	Count	18	24	127	169
	Expected	12.7	17.6	138.7	
Whittlesea	Count	3	12	125	140
	Expected	10.5	14.6	114.9	
Latrobe	Count	11	11	80	102
	Expected	7.6	10.6	83.7	
Baw Baw	Count	5	5	55	65
	Expected	4.9	6.8	53.4	
Other	Count	19	27	146	192
	Expected	14.4	20.0	157.6	
Total	Count	95	132	1041	1268

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q1 by Q83. On February 7th were you a member of a CFA community fire guard group?

Despite having a overrepresentation of people who were registered, or registered in the past as CFA volunteers, Mitchell had an overrepresentation of people who were not registered as a part of the CFA community fire guard group. Whittlesea had the opposite, where there were few people registered as a part of the volunteers, but many people were registered as a part of the community fire guard group.

$\chi^2 = 44.919$		$p < 0.001$		Yes	No, registered in past	No	Total
Murrindindi	Count	69	27	302	398		
	Expected	61.6	26.7	309.8			
Yarra Ranges	Count	45	11	137	193		
	Expected	29.9	12.9	150.2			
Mitchell	Count	5	17	146	168		
	Expected	26.0	11.3	130.8			
Whittlesea	Count	30	4	106	140		
	Expected	21.7	9.4	109.0			
Latrobe	Count	9	9	81	99		
	Expected	15.3	6.6	77.1			
Baw Baw	Count	12	2	50	64		
	Expected	9.9	4.3	49.8			
Other	Count	24	14	154	192		
	Expected	29.7	12.9	149.4			
Total	Count	194	84	976	1254		

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Q2. What year or decade was the house built?

Q2 by Q4 Was your house damaged or destroyed in the bushfire?

The year a home was built was associated with the level of damage suffered by homes. Newer homes, built in the last 30 years, were less likely to be damaged by the fires. All homes built prior to 1980 were over represented in *having major damage or being destroyed*.

$\chi^2 = 19.759$	$p < 0.001$	House had no/minor damage	House had major damage or was destroyed	Total
1860-1899	Count	7	8	15
	Expected	9.8	5.2	15.0
1900-1939	Count	38	25	63
	Expected	41.1	21.9	63.0
1940-1979	Count	234	169	403
	Expected	263.0	140.0	403.0
1980-2009	Count	501	213	714
	Expected	466.0	248.0	714.0
Total	Count	780	415	1195

Q2 by Q6 Was the house damaged by wind at any time during the bushfire?

There is no association between the year a home was built and the effect of wind on February 7th. Most people stated no wind damage.

$\chi^2 = 4.676$	$p = 0.862$	Before the fire	With the fire	After the fire	No	Total
1860-1899	Count	0	1	0	10	11
	Expected	.3	1.6	.1	9.0	11.0
1900-1939	Count	1	3	0	11	15
	Expected	.5	2.1	.2	12.2	15.0
1940-1979	Count	6	24	4	144	178
	Expected	5.4	25.3	2.1	145.2	178.0
1980-2009	Count	8	43	2	242	295
	Expected	8.9	42.0	3.5	240.6	295.0
Total	Count	15	71	6	407	499
	Expected	15.0	71.0	6.0	407.0	499.0

Q4. Was house damaged or destroyed in bushfire

Q4 by Q6 Was the house damaged by wind at any time during the bushfire?

There was no association between the house damaged or destroyed in the bushfire and amount of damage caused to a home by wind and by fire.

$\chi^2 = 5.955$	$p = 0.114$	Before the fire	With the fire	After the fire	No	Total
House had no/minor damage	Count	9	35	3	258	305
	Expected	8.7	44.6	3.5	248.3	305.0
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	6	42	3	171	222
	Expected	6.3	32.4	2.5	180.7	222.0
Total	Count	15	77	6	429	527

Q4 by Q7.1 The actions I took before February 7th (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

From this table we can determine that there was an association between the level of damage to an individual's home and their opinion of how the actions they took before February 7th impacted that outcome. When an individual's home was undamaged or had minor damage they indicated that they believed their actions taken before February 7th contributed to a great extent to that outcome. Very few people believed it had nothing to do with the outcome.

Individuals whose homes were destroyed or suffered major damage had an over representation of cases in the *not at all* category, showing their belief that actions taken before the fires had no impact on them losing their homes.

$\chi^2 = 374.779$	$p < 0.001$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
		Not at all					
House had no/minor damage	Count	95	131	142	416	4	788
	Expected	220.2	126.2	117.0	305.6	19.1	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	240	61	36	49	25	411
	Expected	114.8	65.8	61.0	159.4	9.9	
Total	Count	335	192	178	465	29	1199

Q4 by Q7.2 My actions on the day (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

This category had a very large chi-square value and a very small significance value indicating a strong association between the two variables. Individuals whose homes were undamaged, or had minor damage, believed that their actions on the day contributed to a great extent to that outcome. Individuals whose homes were destroyed or had major damage overwhelmingly stated that their actions on the day did not contribute to the outcome.

$\chi^2 = 318.086$	$p < 0.01$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
		Not at all					
House had no/minor damage	Count	156	82	70	461	6	775
	Expected	277.7	80.8	61.3	335.7	19.6	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	270	42	24	54	24	414
	Expected	148.3	43.2	32.7	179.3	10.4	
Total	Count	426	124	94	515	30	1189

Q4 by Q7.3 The help of family, friends or neighbours on the day

(To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

A large chi-square value and a small significance level indicate that there is a strong association between these two variables. Where a *house was undamaged or suffered minor damage* the *help of friends, family or neighbours* was higher than expected. When a home was *destroyed or had major damage* this help was viewed as having *little to no impact* on the outcome.

$\chi^2 = 264.538$	$p < 0.01$	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
House had no/minor damage	Count	253	100	81	324	3	761
	Expected	367.8	83.3	59.9	233.7	16.3	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	312	28	11	35	22	408
	Expected	197.2	44.7	32.1	125.3	8.7	
Total	Count	565	128	92	359	25	1169

Q4 by Q7.4 The construction of my home (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

While there was a significant association between the damage sustained by a home and the extent to which respondents believe the construction of their home contributed to this, it is not as obvious as in previous questions. The *no or minor damage* category had an over representation that home construction contributed to the outcome, however this is only by about 30 respondents.

$\chi^2 = 11.012$	$P = .026$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
House had no/minor damage	Count	250	129	140	191	37	747
	Expected	271.9	126.0	127.3	181.3	40.5	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	173	67	58	91	26	415
	Expected	151.1	70.0	70.7	100.7	22.5	
Total	Count	423	196	198	282	63	1162

Q4 by Q7.5 The position of my home (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

A large association was evident between these two variables. The position of an individual's home was thought to be a great influence on those whose homes suffered minor damage, or no damage.

$\chi^2 = 101.733$	$P < .001$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
Not at all							
House had no/minor damage	Count	102	142	165	330	23	762
	Expected	163.2	142.6	140.7	284.6	30.8	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	152	80	54	113	25	424
	Expected	90.8	79.4	78.3	158.4	17.2	
Total	Count	254	222	219	443	48	1186

Q4 by Q7.6 Fire agencies fire fighting activities (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

A moderate chi-square value and small significance level show that there is an association between these two variables. When a home was *undamaged or had minor damage*, the surveyed individuals indicated that fire fighting activities were attributable higher than expected, however it should be noted that the majority still respondent resoundingly *not at all*.

$\chi^2 = 35.581$	$P < .001$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
		Not at all					
House had no/minor damage	Count	526	55	41	111	19	752
	Expected	542.2	47.4	33.8	94.8	33.8	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	309	18	11	35	33	406
	Expected	292.8	25.6	18.2	51.2	18.2	
Total	Count	835	73	52	146	52	1158

Q4 by Q7.7 Fire agencies fuel reduction activities (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

Individuals from homes that were *undamaged or sustained minor damage* believed that fuel reduction activities had nothing to do with the outcome. Individuals from homes that were destroyed implied that fuel reduction activities contributed substantially more than expected in the categories of “*To a great extent*” or “*Don’t know/unsure*”. It is important to note that the majority of respondents still selected *not at all*.

$\chi^2 = 75.68$	$P < .001$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
House had no/minor damage	Count	633	39	22	28	23	745
	Expected	585.8	40.6	20.6	59.9	38.0	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	276	24	10	65	36	411
	Expected	323.2	22.4	11.4	33.1	21.0	
Total	Count	909	63	32	93	59	1156

Q4 by Q7.8 Fuel (e.g. trees, bushes, leaves on ground etc) (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

A significant association between fuel and home damage was found, however on inspection of the table the association is not largely over or under represented in any category. The differences between count and Expected are all less than 20 respondents. This suggests that individuals were unclear to a certain extent as to how much fuel contributed to the outcome for their home. In general minor damage or less thought that it had some or a moderate effect on the outcome. Respondents with major damage or greater were split over the fuel having no contribution or contributing to a great extent.

$\chi^2 = 11.875$	$P = .018$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
House had no/minor damage	Count	146	180	142	263	12	743
	Expected	156.6	170.0	129.2	270.0	17.2	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	100	87	61	161	15	424
	Expected	89.4	97.0	73.8	154.0	9.8	
Total	Count	246	267	203	424	27	1167

Q4 by Q7.9 Topography/Landscape (e.g. hills, valleys, rivers etc)

(To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

Those who had *little or no damage* to their home were fairly evenly divided in opinion as to whether topography or landscape contributed to the outcome. However, large scale damage to a home yielded a large proportion stating the topography contributed to a great extent or not at all.

$\chi^2 = 21.492$	$P < .001$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
House had no/minor damage	Count	126	156	196	224	43	745
	Expected	133.5	154.6	166.1	244.7	46.0	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	83	86	64	159	29	421
	Expected	75.5	87.4	93.9	138.3	26.0	
Total	Count	209	242	260	383	72	1166

Q4 by Q7.10 Temperature (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

A significant association between temperature and damage to home was found. An under representation of temperature contributing *to a great extent* is found for individuals whose homes suffered *little impact* from the fires. It is interesting to note however, that this category was overwhelmingly chosen by this category of individuals, despite the under representation. Similarly, respondents in the major damage or destroyed category were over-represented in temperature contributed to a great extent.

$\chi^2 = 61.583$	$P < .001$	Not at all	To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
House had no/minor damage	Count	79	38	56	531	36	740
	Expected	53.4	27.0	49.6	579.9	30.1	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	6	5	23	393	12	439
	Expected	31.6	16.0	29.4	344.1	17.9	
Total	Count	85	43	79	924	48	1179

Q4 by Q7.11 Wind (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

The association between wind and amount of damage to home is significant. Over three quarters of both categories of respondents chose that wind contributed to a great extent to the damage sustained by their home. Notably, the significance is due to the over representation of responses in the *to a great extent* by *damage/destroyed* category.

$\chi^2 = 35.154$	$P < .001$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
House had no/minor damage	Count	42	44	53	586	28	753
	Expected	31.6	31.0	43.6	620.3	26.5	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	8	5	16	396	14	439
	Expected	18.4	18.0	25.4	361.7	15.5	
Total	Count	50	49	69	982	42	1192

Q4 by Q7.12 Luck or chance (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

Luck or chance was significantly associated with level of damage to a respondent's home. Those with *minor damage or an undamaged home* had an over representation in the '*to a great extent*' category, indicating they believed it had a large influence on the outcome.

$\chi^2 = 99.316$	$P < .001$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
House had no/minor damage	Count	99	179	105	354	15	752
	Expected	131.6	150.5	96.2	330.5	43.2	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	102	51	42	151	51	397
	Expected	69.4	79.5	50.8	174.5	22.8	
Total	Count	201	230	147	505	66	1149

The following questions refer only to those who stayed on their property (answered c, d, e, f, g or h at question 37).

Q4 by Q56. How safe did you feel while staying at your house?

The amount of damage a home sustained was associated with how safe a person felt while staying on their property. As anticipated, those with none or minor damage to their home felt safe, where as those who sustained major damage or had their home destroyed felt unsafe.

$\chi^2 = 36.578$	$P < 0.001$	Safe	Neither safe or unsafe	Unsafe	Total
House had no/minor damage	Count	181	204	128	513
	Expected	161.5	195.4	156.0	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	24	44	70	138
	Expected	43.5	52.6	42.0	
Total	Count	205	248	198	651

Q4 by Q61. Why did you leave your house or property? You may select more than one. (Multiple Response)

A great number of people whose homes had major damage or were destroyed left because their house was on fire. The largest proportion of people left because they felt that it was too dangerous to stay. Another common outcome was that people had fire in the immediate vicinity and left.

$\chi^2 = 120.643$	$P < .001$	Smelled smoke near by	Flames near by	Fire in immediate vicinity	To get things to defend	Emergency services said to	Friends, relatives, neighbours said to	Too dangerous	Sustained an injury	Remove household members from danger	Fire fighting equipment failed	House caught on fire	Other	Total
House had no/minor damage	Count	19	36	40	11	10	17	51	2	32	26	1	56	301
	Expected	14.7	32.1	37.5	7.1	7.1	16.8	54.3	4.3	32.6	33.1	22.8	38.6	
House had major damage or was destroyed	Count	8	23	29	2	3	14	49	6	28	35	41	15	253
	Expected	12.3	26.9	31.5	5.9	5.9	14.2	45.7	3.7	27.4	27.9	19.2	32.4	
Total	Count	27	59	69	13	13	31	100	8	60	61	42	71	554

Q6 Was the house damaged by wind at any time during the bushfire?

Q6 by Q7.11 Wind (To what extent do you think the following factors influenced how the fire affected your home and/or property?)

$\chi^2 = 27.139$	$p = 0.04$		To some extent	To a moderate extent	To a great extent	Don't know/Unsure	Total
		Not at all					
Before the fire	Count	0	1	0	12	1	14
	Expected	.4	.4	.6	12.2	.4	
With the fire	Count	2	1	3	71	1	78
	Expected	2.0	2.3	3.4	67.9	2.5	
After the fire	Count	0	0	0	5	0	5
	Expected	.1	.1	.2	4.4	.2	
No	Count	11	19	21	349	7	407
	Expected	10.2	11.9	17.5	354.4	13.0	
Don't know	Count	5	0	7	190	14	216
	Expected	5.4	6.3	9.3	188.1	6.9	
Total	Count	18	21	31	627	23	720

* Q1. Other includes Alpine, Benella, East Gippsland, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Horsham, Loddon, Moorabool, Nillumbik, St Arnaud, Towong and Wellington

Section 2: Information and Warnings

Q10. In the 12 months before the February 7th bushfire, did you get any information about how to prepare your household for bushfires from any of the following sources?

Q10 by Q26 Which of the following best describes your level of planning for bushfires BEFORE February 7th? (Multiple Choice)

Those who did not receive any information of how to prepare for the bushfires were overrepresented in the categories of having no plans or being undecided in what they should do. Individuals who received information of how to prepare from television were overrepresented in the categories of 'Knew I should consider it but didn't' and 'Considered it and was still deciding'. Most residents had made a firm plan of what they were going to do. Most frequently the information came from ABC radio and the CFA workbook.

$\chi^2 = 46.996$	$p < 0.001$	Never thought about it	Knew I should consider it but didn't	Considered it and was still deciding	Considered it and decided to do nothing	Decided what to do and was planning it	Had a firm plan	Other	Total
ABC Radio	Count	4	8	19	9	61	304	14	419
	Expected	5.5	9.6	16.7	9.1	56.5	310.2	11.4	
Other Radio	Count	1	2	6	4	9	60	2	84
	Expected	1.1	1.9	3.4	1.8	11.3	62.2	2.3	
Emergency personnel	Count	1	2	8	3	29	160	2	205
	Expected	2.7	4.7	8.2	4.4	27.7	151.8	5.6	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	1	9	13	7	48	214	13	305
	Expected	4.0	7.0	12.2	6.6	41.2	225.8	8.3	
CFA website	Count	0	4	8	4	27	159	3	205
	Expected	2.7	4.7	8.2	4.4	27.7	151.8	5.6	
CFA community meetings	Count	3	6	9	3	53	296	7	377
	Expected	4.9	8.6	15.1	8.2	50.9	279.1	10.2	
CFA fireguard	Count	0	2	3	3	23	187	6	224
	Expected	2.9	5.1	9.0	4.8	30.2	165.8	6.1	
CFA workbook	Count	3	2	8	5	58	323	8	407
	Expected	5.3	9.3	16.3	8.8	54.9	301.3	11.1	
DSE website	Count	0	3	0	2	11	60	2	78
	Expected	1.0	1.8	3.1	1.7	10.5	57.7	2.1	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	1	1	1	0	3	29	0	35
	Expected	0.5	0.8	1.4	0.8	4.7	25.9	1.0	
Television	Count	9	18	26	12	61	298	8	432
	Expected	5.7	9.9	17.3	9.3	58.3	319.8	11.7	
Other	Count	2	2	7	3	19	102	12	147
	Expected	1.9	3.4	5.9	3.2	19.8	108.8	4.0	
Did not get any information	Count	15	11	14	11	10	68	6	135
	Expected	1.8	3.1	5.4	2.9	18.2	99.9	3.7	
Total	Count	40	70	122	66	412	2260	83	3053

Q10 by Q27 At the beginning of last summer, which of the following did you think you were MOST LIKELY to do if a bushfire occurred in your town or suburb? Select ONE only.

Residents who received information of how to prepare from the CFA fireguard were most likely to stay throughout the fire. There was an overrepresentation of people who received information from the television who would wait and see before deciding whether to stay or go. An overrepresentation also existed for those who did not receive any information who indicated that they had not thought about their plans.

$\chi^2 = 46.996$	$p < 0.001$	Stay through fire	Stay and leave if threat	Wait and see	Wait for emergency services	Leave as soon as fire threatens	No at home on high fire danger days	Hadn't thought about it	Other	Total
ABC Radio	Count	230	64	34	6	55	11	2	14	416
	Expected	208.1	75.8	34.9	5.9	69.7	8.9	1.5	11.3	
Other Radio	Count	32	18	11	2	14	1	0	0	78
	Expected	39.0	14.2	6.5	1.1	13.1	1.7	0.3	2.1	
Emergency personnel	Count	101	37	18	2	33	6	0	7	204
	Expected	102.1	37.2	17.1	2.9	34.2	4.3	0.7	5.5	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	138	62	24	1	60	6	1	10	302
	Expected	151.1	55.0	25.3	4.3	50.6	6.4	1.1	8.2	
CFA website	Count	106	40	13	4	38	4	0	6	211
	Expected	105.6	38.4	17.7	3.0	35.3	4.5	0.8	5.7	
CFA community meetings	Count	197	68	26	5	62	9	1	10	378
	Expected	189.1	68.9	31.7	5.3	63.3	8.1	1.4	10.3	
CFA fireguard	Count	137	34	16	1	25	2	0	7	222
	Expected	111.1	40.4	18.6	3.1	37.2	4.7	0.8	6.0	
CFA workbook	Count	211	70	26	4	73	11	0	13	408
	Expected	204.1	74.3	34.2	5.7	68.3	8.7	1.5	11.1	
DSE website	Count	37	18	5	0	15	2	0	3	80
	Expected	40.0	14.6	6.7	1.1	13.4	1.7	0.3	2.2	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	12	8	1	1	10	1	0	2	35
	Expected	17.5	6.4	2.9	0.5	5.9	0.7	0.1	1.0	
Television	Count	170	94	56	7	83	10	0	9	429
	Expected	214.6	78.2	36.0	6.0	71.8	9.1	1.5	11.7	
Other	Count	91	22	12	3	18	2	0	2	150
	Expected	75.0	27.3	12.6	2.1	25.1	3.2	0.5	4.1	
Did not get any information	Count	65	21	14	7	25	0	7	0	139
	Expected	69.5	25.3	11.7	2.0	23.3	3.0	0.5	3.8	
Total	Count	1527	556	256	43	511	65	11	83	3052

Q10 by Q29.1 Cleared leaves, twigs and long grass for a distance of about 20-30m around the house (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

A quarter of people who obtained their information from the CFA website took no action in clearing leaves, twigs and long grass from around their home.

$\chi^2 = 98.981$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	329	0	71	5	405
	Expected	325.4	3.2	69.5	6.9	
Other Radio	Count	62	0	15	3	80
	Expected	64.3	0.6	13.7	1.4	
Emergency personnel	Count	171	1	35	2	209
	Expected	167.9	1.7	35.9	3.6	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	243	2	50	6	301
	Expected	241.8	2.4	51.6	5.1	
CFA website	Count	145	2	51	3	201
	Expected	161.5	1.6	34.5	3.4	
CFA community meetings	Count	289	6	65	6	366
	Expected	294.0	2.9	62.8	6.2	
CFA fireguard	Count	184	2	40	3	229
	Expected	184.0	1.8	39.3	3.9	
CFA workbook	Count	326	4	69	6	405
	Expected	325.4	3.2	69.5	6.9	
DSE website	Count	59	0	17	2	78
	Expected	62.7	0.6	13.4	1.3	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	26	0	8	1	35
	Expected	28.1	0.3	6.0	0.6	
Television	Count	330	4	65	11	410
	Expected	329.4	3.3	70.3	7.0	
Other	Count	128	1	21	1	151
	Expected	121.3	1.2	25.9	2.6	
Did not get any information	Count	115	2	7	2	126
	Expected	101.2	1.0	21.6	2.1	

Total	Count	2407	24	514	51	2996
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Q10 by Q29.2 Removed bushes close to the house and cut back overhanging tree branches (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 41.206$	$P = 0.374$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	227	4	14	66	311
	Expected	233.0	2.5	15.2	60.3	
Other Radio	Count	50	1	3	14	68
	Expected	50.9	0.6	3.3	13.2	
Emergency personnel	Count	115	1	11	32	159
	Expected	119.1	1.3	7.8	30.8	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	173	0	10	53	236
	Expected	176.8	1.9	11.5	45.7	
CFA website	Count	135	1	10	23	169
	Expected	126.6	1.4	8.3	32.8	
CFA community meetings	Count	206	3	16	55	280
	Expected	209.8	2.3	13.7	54.3	
CFA fireguard	Count	131	1	9	31	172
	Expected	128.9	1.4	8.4	33.3	
CFA workbook	Count	239	2	18	55	314
	Expected	235.2	2.6	15.3	60.9	
DSE website	Count	48	0	2	11	61
	Expected	45.7	0.5	3.0	11.8	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	23	0	1	4	28
	Expected	21.0	0.2	1.4	5.4	
Television	Count	245	3	11	55	314
	Expected	235.2	2.6	15.3	60.9	
Other	Count	87	2	5	24	118
	Expected	88.4	1.0	5.8	22.9	
Did not get any information	Count	68	1	4	29	102
	Expected	76.4	0.8	5.0	19.8	
Total	Count	1747	19	114	452	2332

Q10 by Q29.3 Used landscaping or the layout of garden to reduce the fire risk (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Though there was only a minor association found between information source and when preparations were made, it is interesting to note that there was an overrepresentation of people who got information from emergency personnel and using the layout of their garden on February 7 to reduce the fire risk.

$\chi^2 = 60.047$	$P = 0.017$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	247	4	10	39	300
	Expected	241.3	4.3	7.4	47.0	
Other Radio	Count	48	2	2	6	58
	Expected	46.7	0.8	1.4	9.1	
Emergency personnel	Count	124	6	3	21	154
	Expected	123.9	2.2	3.8	24.1	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	169	2	3	34	208
	Expected	167.3	3.0	5.1	32.6	
CFA website	Count	122	1	5	23	151
	Expected	121.5	2.2	3.7	23.7	
CFA community meetings	Count	196	5	7	45	253
	Expected	203.5	3.6	6.2	39.7	
CFA fireguard	Count	135	0	5	30	170
	Expected	136.7	2.4	4.2	26.7	
CFA workbook	Count	239	4	7	44	294
	Expected	236.5	4.2	7.2	46.1	
DSE website	Count	44	0	0	9	53
	Expected	42.6	0.8	1.3	8.3	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	22	1	0	4	27
	Expected	21.7	0.4	0.7	4.2	
Television	Count	234	3	8	48	293
	Expected	235.7	4.2	7.2	45.9	
Other	Count	94	2	1	11	108
	Expected	86.9	1.5	2.6	16.9	
Did not get any information	Count	65	1	2	25	93
	Expected	74.8	1.3	2.3	14.6	
Total	Count	1739	31	53	339	2162

Q10 by Q29.4 Moved combustible materials such as firewood and wooden garden furniture away from the house (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

More people than expected to the action of moving combustible materials away from the house before and on February 7 when they procured information from radio other than ABC. There were also more people than expected who did not take this action when they used the CFA website for information.

$\chi^2 = 104.86$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	190	67	43	26	326
	Expected	182.4	74.9	44.6	24.1	
Other Radio	Count	29	10	9	9	57
	Expected	31.9	13.1	7.8	4.2	
Emergency personnel	Count	93	36	27	12	168
	Expected	94.0	38.6	23.0	12.4	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	126	60	28	15	229
	Expected	128.2	52.6	31.4	16.9	
CFA website	Count	91	41	35	10	177
	Expected	99.1	40.6	24.2	13.1	
CFA community meetings	Count	165	83	40	28	316
	Expected	176.9	72.6	43.3	23.3	
CFA fireguard	Count	106	43	32	12	193
	Expected	108.0	44.3	26.4	14.2	
CFA workbook	Count	188	89	51	18	346
	Expected	193.6	79.4	47.4	25.5	
DSE website	Count	38	20	8	4	70
	Expected	39.2	16.1	9.6	5.2	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	25	5	2	1	33
	Expected	18.5	7.6	4.5	2.4	
Television	Count	173	73	36	25	307
	Expected	171.8	70.5	42.0	22.7	
Other	Count	87	22	15	7	131
	Expected	73.3	30.1	17.9	9.7	
Did not get any information	Count	54	11	8	13	86
	Expected	48.1	19.7	11.8	6.3	
Total	Count	1365	560	334	180	2439

Q10 by Q29.5 Cleared gutters of leaves (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

An association was found between where residents obtained information about preparation and if they took action to clean their gutters. Those who utilised the CFA website had an overrepresentation of people who did not take this action.

$\chi^2 = 67.324$	$P = 0.003$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	312	18	62	16	408
	Expected	309.2	17.4	64.0	17.4	
Other Radio	Count	65	1	12	2	80
	Expected	60.6	3.4	12.6	3.4	
Emergency personnel	Count	157	12	33	6	208
	Expected	157.6	8.9	32.6	8.9	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	233	13	34	10	290
	Expected	219.8	12.4	45.5	12.4	
CFA website	Count	140	9	46	13	208
	Expected	157.6	8.9	32.6	8.9	
CFA community meetings	Count	269	17	62	14	362
	Expected	274.3	15.4	56.8	15.4	
CFA fireguard	Count	155	9	44	11	219
	Expected	166.0	9.3	34.4	9.3	
CFA workbook	Count	306	13	65	19	403
	Expected	305.4	17.2	63.2	17.2	
DSE website	Count	58	2	13	5	78
	Expected	59.1	3.3	12.2	3.3	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	29	3	4	0	36
	Expected	27.3	1.5	5.6	1.5	
Television	Count	311	18	56	15	400
	Expected	303.1	17.0	62.8	17.0	
Other	Count	115	3	21	7	146
	Expected	110.6	6.2	22.9	6.2	
Did not get any information	Count	91	8	12	8	119
	Expected	90.2	5.1	18.7	5.1	
Total	Count	2241	126	464	126	2957

Q10 by Q29.6 Installed gutter protection (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

An association was found between these two items. Notably, slightly more people than expected installed gutter protection on and prior to February 7 when listening to radio other than the ABC for information. Most people prepared for this before Feb 7, and very few people did not install any gutter protection.

$\chi^2 = 69.13$	$P = 0.002$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	85	14	5	24	128
	Expected	85.4	11.6	4.4	26.6	
Other Radio	Count	9	2	1	11	23
	Expected	15.3	2.1	0.8	4.8	
Emergency personnel	Count	55	8	2	14	79
	Expected	52.7	7.2	2.7	16.4	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	62	7	3	14	86
	Expected	57.4	7.8	3.0	17.9	
CFA website	Count	44	7	4	15	70
	Expected	46.7	6.4	2.4	14.5	
CFA community meetings	Count	88	16	5	24	133
	Expected	88.7	12.1	4.6	27.6	
CFA fireguard	Count	45	6	1	13	65
	Expected	43.4	5.9	2.2	13.5	
CFA workbook	Count	96	13	6	19	134
	Expected	89.4	12.2	4.6	27.8	
DSE website	Count	17	1	1	4	23
	Expected	15.3	2.1	0.8	4.8	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	11	1	1	2	15
	Expected	10.0	1.4	0.5	3.1	
Television	Count	82	8	2	28	120
	Expected	80.0	10.9	4.1	24.9	
Other	Count	25	4	2	11	42
	Expected	28.0	3.8	1.4	8.7	
Did not get any information	Count	20	0	0	20	40
	Expected	26.7	3.6	1.4	8.3	
Total	Count	639	87	33	199	958

Q10 by Q29.7 Covered underfloor spaces to prevent embers and flame entering (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association between these two items.

$\chi^2 = 37.351$	$P = 0.545$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	55	15	1	150	221
	Expected	67.7	14.1	2.4	136.8	
Other Radio	Count	11	4	1	23	39
	Expected	12.0	2.5	0.4	24.1	
Emergency personnel	Count	40	7	2	72	121
	Expected	37.1	7.7	1.3	74.9	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	50	15	2	101	168
	Expected	51.5	10.7	1.8	104.0	
CFA website	Count	39	6	1	69	115
	Expected	35.3	7.3	1.2	71.2	
CFA community meetings	Count	68	16	3	134	221
	Expected	67.7	14.1	2.4	136.8	
CFA fireguard	Count	46	6	2	77	131
	Expected	40.2	8.3	1.4	81.1	
CFA workbook	Count	78	12	4	136	230
	Expected	70.5	14.6	2.5	142.4	
DSE website	Count	17	2	1	28	48
	Expected	14.7	3.1	0.5	29.7	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	9	1	0	12	22
	Expected	6.7	1.4	0.2	13.6	
Television	Count	55	15	1	132	203
	Expected	62.2	12.9	2.2	125.7	
Other	Count	28	3	0	63	94
	Expected	28.8	6.0	1.0	58.2	
Did not get any information	Count	15	4	0	35	54
	Expected	16.6	3.4	0.6	33.4	
Total	Count	511	106	18	1032	1667

Q10 by Q29.8 Covered all gaps and vents to reduce the risk of embers entering the house or cavities (e.g. roof, wall, etc.) (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Most respondents covered all gaps and vents, with an overrepresentation of residents performing this action both on and prior to February 7 when preparation information was given by emergency personnel.

$\chi^2 = 69.41$	$P = 0.002$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	91	39	3	43	176
	Expected	85.3	43.1	5.7	41.9	
Other Radio	Count	18	11	2	7	38
	Expected	18.4	9.3	1.2	9.0	
Emergency personnel	Count	38	20	3	32	93
	Expected	45.1	22.8	3.0	22.1	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	46	36	2	32	116
	Expected	56.2	28.4	3.8	27.6	
CFA website	Count	59	26	6	16	107
	Expected	51.8	26.2	3.5	25.5	
CFA community meetings	Count	75	49	7	38	169
	Expected	81.9	41.4	5.5	40.2	
CFA fireguard	Count	56	26	4	21	107
	Expected	51.8	26.2	3.5	25.5	
CFA workbook	Count	95	47	5	34	181
	Expected	87.7	44.3	5.9	43.1	
DSE website	Count	28	9	1	6	44
	Expected	21.3	10.8	1.4	10.5	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	12	2	1	5	20
	Expected	9.7	4.9	0.7	4.8	
Television	Count	72	37	5	43	157
	Expected	76.1	38.4	5.1	37.4	
Other	Count	39	14	2	18	73
	Expected	35.4	17.9	2.4	17.4	
Did not get any information	Count	12	8	2	20	42
	Expected	20.3	10.3	1.4	10.0	
Total	Count	641	324	43	315	1323

Q10 by Q29.9 Obtained and prepared fire fighting equipment (e.g. hoses and a pump) (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Three times as many people than were expected obtained and prepared fire fighting equipment on February 7 when they did not receive any information on how to prepare.

$\chi^2 = 81.553$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	234	19	44	10	307
	Expected	231.1	17.7	46.8	11.5	
Other Radio	Count	33	6	12	0	51
	Expected	38.4	2.9	7.8	1.9	
Emergency personnel	Count	122	4	18	7	151
	Expected	113.6	8.7	23.0	5.6	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	156	12	35	8	211
	Expected	158.8	12.1	32.2	7.9	
CFA website	Count	115	7	22	3	147
	Expected	110.6	8.5	22.4	5.5	
CFA community meetings	Count	212	15	39	15	281
	Expected	211.5	16.2	42.8	10.5	
CFA fireguard	Count	144	7	29	4	184
	Expected	138.5	10.6	28.1	6.9	
CFA workbook	Count	241	12	39	10	302
	Expected	227.3	17.4	46.0	11.3	
DSE website	Count	43	4	7	3	57
	Expected	42.9	3.3	8.7	2.1	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	17	0	5	0	22
	Expected	16.6	1.3	3.4	0.8	
Television	Count	178	20	49	13	260
	Expected	195.7	15.0	39.6	9.7	
Other	Count	91	5	20	2	118
	Expected	88.8	6.8	18.0	4.4	
Did not get any information	Count	48	14	12	6	80
	Expected	60.2	4.6	12.2	3.0	
Total	Count	1634	125	331	81	2171

Q10 by Q29.10 Obtained and prepared equipment such as ladder, buckets and mops to put out spot fires (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

A third of those who received information of how to prepare from television and two-fifths of those who did not procure any information took action on February 7 to obtain equipment to put out spot fires. Nearly all residents who used the Victorian Bushfire information line had prepared the equipment prior to February 7.

$\chi^2 = 89.392$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	187	85	59	8	339
	Expected	176.6	90.2	62.9	9.3	
Other Radio	Count	31	23	10	1	65
	Expected	33.9	17.3	12.1	1.8	
Emergency personnel	Count	93	45	31	6	175
	Expected	91.2	46.6	32.5	4.8	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	107	68	42	5	222
	Expected	115.7	59.1	41.2	6.1	
CFA website	Count	97	35	41	5	178
	Expected	92.7	47.4	33.0	4.9	
CFA community meetings	Count	163	77	59	8	307
	Expected	159.9	81.7	56.9	8.5	
CFA fireguard	Count	108	43	39	3	193
	Expected	100.5	51.3	35.8	5.3	
CFA workbook	Count	177	87	69	9	342
	Expected	178.2	91.0	63.4	9.4	
DSE website	Count	40	16	10	3	69
	Expected	35.9	18.4	12.8	1.9	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	24	1	4	2	31
	Expected	16.2	8.2	5.7	0.9	
Television	Count	140	101	49	13	303
	Expected	157.9	80.6	56.2	8.3	
Other	Count	63	33	27	1	124
	Expected	64.6	33.0	23.0	3.4	
Did not get any information	Count	37	33	11	3	84
	Expected	43.8	22.3	15.6	2.3	

Total	Count	1267	647	451	67	2432
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Q10 by Q29.11 Installed seals and/or draft protectors around windows and doors (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was an association between where residents obtained information on how to prepare and when they took action installing seals around doors and windows.

$\chi^2 = 60.943$	$P = 0.014$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	113	30	7	18	168
	Expected	117.3	26.1	6.0	18.6	
Other Radio	Count	29	5	2	1	37
	Expected	25.8	5.7	1.3	4.1	
Emergency personnel	Count	60	11	3	13	87
	Expected	60.8	13.5	3.1	9.6	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	68	23	3	12	106
	Expected	74.0	16.4	3.8	11.7	
CFA website	Count	78	16	5	9	108
	Expected	75.4	16.8	3.9	12.0	
CFA community meetings	Count	106	26	4	21	157
	Expected	109.6	24.4	5.6	17.4	
CFA fireguard	Count	68	16	4	10	98
	Expected	68.4	15.2	3.5	10.8	
CFA workbook	Count	132	25	3	19	179
	Expected	125.0	27.8	6.4	19.8	
DSE website	Count	32	5	1	1	39
	Expected	27.2	6.0	1.4	4.3	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	14	1	1	2	18
	Expected	12.6	2.8	0.6	2.0	
Television	Count	119	23	4	17	163
	Expected	113.8	25.3	5.8	18.0	
Other	Count	45	13	6	8	72
	Expected	50.3	11.2	2.6	8.0	
Did not get any information	Count	32	5	3	11	51
	Expected	35.6	7.9	1.8	5.6	
Total	Count	896	199	46	142	1283

Q10 by Q29.12 Installed a sprinkler system on or around the house (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association between these two items.

$\chi^2 = 47.477$	$P = 0.165$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	102	14	11	14	141
	Expected	101.9	14.6	10.6	13.9	
Other Radio	Count	17	6	5	4	32
	Expected	23.1	3.3	2.4	3.2	
Emergency personnel	Count	52	6	6	6	70
	Expected	50.6	7.2	5.3	6.9	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	73	11	8	12	104
	Expected	75.2	10.7	7.9	10.2	
CFA website	Count	65	9	4	5	83
	Expected	60.0	8.6	6.3	8.2	
CFA community meetings	Count	94	14	5	15	128
	Expected	92.5	13.2	9.7	12.6	
CFA fireguard	Count	65	10	8	4	87
	Expected	62.9	9.0	6.6	8.6	
CFA workbook	Count	106	10	11	9	136
	Expected	98.3	14.0	10.3	13.4	
DSE website	Count	26	3	1	5	35
	Expected	25.3	3.6	2.6	3.4	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	10	1	0	1	12
	Expected	8.7	1.2	0.9	1.2	
Television	Count	88	13	12	13	126
	Expected	91.1	13.0	9.5	12.4	
Other	Count	40	3	4	7	54
	Expected	39.0	5.6	4.1	5.3	
Did not get any information	Count	18	8	4	8	38
	Expected	27.5	3.9	2.9	3.7	
Total	Count	756	108	79	103	1046

Q10 by Q29.13 Installed shutters (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

No significant association was found between these items, with a small response rate.

$\chi^2 = 31.785$	$P = 0.787$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	13	2	1	30	46
	Expected	11.9	2.1	1.0	31.0	
Other Radio	Count	2	0	0	6	8
	Expected	2.1	0.4	0.2	5.4	
Emergency personnel	Count	6	1	0	14	21
	Expected	5.5	0.9	0.4	14.2	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	11	1	0	22	34
	Expected	8.8	1.5	0.7	22.9	
CFA website	Count	7	1	0	16	24
	Expected	6.2	1.1	0.5	16.2	
CFA community meetings	Count	10	4	2	34	50
	Expected	13.0	2.2	1.0	33.7	
CFA fireguard	Count	7	1	1	14	23
	Expected	6.0	1.0	0.5	15.5	
CFA workbook	Count	11	0	2	23	36
	Expected	9.3	1.6	0.8	24.3	
DSE website	Count	2	1	0	8	11
	Expected	2.9	0.5	0.2	7.4	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	2	0	0	2	4
	Expected	1.0	0.2	0.1	2.7	
Television	Count	7	2	0	32	41
	Expected	10.6	1.8	0.9	27.7	
Other	Count	6	1	1	10	18
	Expected	4.7	0.8	0.4	12.1	
Did not get any information	Count	3	1	0	15	19
	Expected	4.9	0.9	0.4	12.8	
Total	Count	87	15	7	226	335

Q10 by Q29.14 Prepared a kit of personal protective clothing for each member of the household (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

From three different information sources (other radio; friends, family or neighbours; television) there was an overrepresentation of individuals who prepared protective clothing on February 7.

$\chi^2 = 140.22$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	171	61	15	12	259
	Expected	165.5	63.1	18.4	11.9	
Other Radio	Count	19	18	3	0	40
	Expected	25.6	9.7	2.8	1.8	
Emergency personnel	Count	92	28	11	9	140
	Expected	89.5	34.1	10.0	6.5	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	102	58	11	6	177
	Expected	113.1	43.1	12.6	8.2	
CFA website	Count	97	26	12	4	139
	Expected	88.8	33.9	9.9	6.4	
CFA community meetings	Count	161	60	16	9	246
	Expected	157.2	59.9	17.5	11.3	
CFA fireguard	Count	117	26	15	5	163
	Expected	104.2	39.7	11.6	7.5	
CFA workbook	Count	185	47	18	7	257
	Expected	164.3	62.6	18.3	11.9	
DSE website	Count	34	9	2	5	50
	Expected	32.0	12.2	3.6	2.3	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	14	6	0	1	21
	Expected	13.4	5.1	1.5	1.0	
Television	Count	106	73	19	11	209
	Expected	133.6	50.9	14.9	9.6	
Other	Count	54	23	4	5	86
	Expected	55.0	21.0	6.1	4.0	
Did not get any information	Count	26	14	5	11	56
	Expected	35.8	13.6	4.0	2.6	
Total	Count	1178	449	131	85	1843

Q10 by Q29.15 Obtained a battery-powered radio (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

A significant association was found between these items.

$\chi^2 = 62.355$	$P = 0.01$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	260	10	15	6	291
	Expected	252.6	14.1	15.2	9.1	
Other Radio	Count	33	5	0	2	40
	Expected	34.7	1.9	2.1	1.3	
Emergency personnel	Count	119	10	6	7	142
	Expected	123.3	6.9	7.4	4.5	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	155	10	8	8	181
	Expected	157.1	8.8	9.4	5.7	
CFA website	Count	133	6	9	1	149
	Expected	129.3	7.2	7.8	4.7	
CFA community meetings	Count	211	17	14	11	253
	Expected	219.6	12.3	13.2	7.9	
CFA fireguard	Count	146	4	13	3	166
	Expected	144.1	8.1	8.6	5.2	
CFA workbook	Count	264	11	16	3	294
	Expected	255.2	14.3	15.3	9.2	
DSE website	Count	47	3	2	2	54
	Expected	46.9	2.6	2.8	1.7	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	21	0	0	0	21
	Expected	18.2	1.0	1.1	0.7	
Television	Count	188	12	13	8	221
	Expected	191.8	10.7	11.5	6.9	
Other	Count	77	6	4	5	92
	Expected	79.9	4.5	4.8	2.9	
Did not get any information	Count	62	2	3	6	73
	Expected	63.4	3.5	3.8	2.3	
Total	Count	1716	96	103	62	1977

Q10 by Q29.16 Stored important documents and possessions off-site or in a fire safe compartment (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

A significant association was found between these items.

$\chi^2 = 71.272$	$P = 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	124	53	10	9	196
	Expected	124.3	51.6	13.2	7.0	
Other Radio	Count	29	8	4	1	42
	Expected	26.6	11.1	2.8	1.5	
Emergency personnel	Count	70	24	8	2	104
	Expected	65.9	27.4	7.0	3.7	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	84	39	8	3	134
	Expected	85.0	35.3	9.0	4.8	
CFA website	Count	64	25	7	4	100
	Expected	63.4	26.3	6.7	3.6	
CFA community meetings	Count	119	50	15	5	189
	Expected	119.8	49.7	12.7	6.7	
CFA fireguard	Count	65	25	9	4	103
	Expected	65.3	27.1	6.9	3.7	
CFA workbook	Count	124	41	14	5	184
	Expected	116.7	48.4	12.4	6.6	
DSE website	Count	29	7	3	4	43
	Expected	27.3	11.3	2.9	1.5	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	15	6	1	0	22
	Expected	13.9	5.8	1.5	0.8	
Television	Count	118	59	8	8	193
	Expected	122.4	50.8	13.0	6.9	
Other	Count	39	19	6	4	68
	Expected	43.1	17.9	4.6	2.4	
Did not get any information	Count	26	20	3	2	51
	Expected	32.3	13.4	3.4	1.8	
Total	Count	906	376	96	51	1429

Q10 by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

Levels of preparedness were rated as high for residents who obtained information from the CFA fireguard. Those who procured their information from television were far more likely to rate their preparation as average or low. And a third of those who did not receive any information rated their preparation as low.

$\chi^2 = 209.66$	$P < 0.001$	High	Average	Low	Total
ABC Radio	Count	231	160	53	444
	Expected	224.5	162.8	56.8	
Other Radio	Count	39	38	10	87
	Expected	44.0	31.9	11.1	
Emergency personnel	Count	116	89	15	220
	Expected	111.2	80.6	28.1	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	148	125	45	318
	Expected	160.8	116.6	40.7	
CFA website	Count	124	64	31	219
	Expected	110.7	80.3	28.0	
CFA community meetings	Count	205	149	37	391
	Expected	197.7	143.3	50.0	
CFA fireguard	Count	145	75	12	232
	Expected	117.3	85.0	29.7	
CFA workbook	Count	228	152	52	432
	Expected	218.4	158.4	55.2	
DSE website	Count	47	30	6	83
	Expected	42.0	30.4	10.6	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	24	11	3	38
	Expected	19.2	13.9	4.9	
Television	Count	183	193	73	449
	Expected	227.0	164.6	57.4	
Other	Count	89	54	23	166
	Expected	83.9	60.8	21.2	
Did not get any information	Count	54	44	53	151
	Expected	76.3	55.4	19.3	
Total	Count	1633	1184	413	3230

Q11. In the 12 months before the February 7th bushfire, did you get any information about what to do during a bushfire from any of the following?

Q11 by Q26 Which of the following best describes your level of planning for bushfires BEFORE February 7th? (Multiple Choice)

Those who did not receive any information of what to do during a bushfire bushfires were overrepresented in the categories of having no plans or being undecided in what they should do. Individuals who received information of what to do from television were overrepresented in the categories of 'Knew I should consider it but didn't' and 'Considered it and was still deciding'. Most residents had made a firm plan of what they were going to do. Most frequently the information came from ABC radio, television and the CFA workbook.

$\chi^2 = 319.9$	$p < 0.001$	Never thought about it	Knew I should consider it but didn't	Considered it and was still deciding	Considered it and decided to do nothing	Decided what to do and was planning it	Had a firm plan	Other	Total
ABC Radio	Count	2	7	12	7	52	259	13	352
	Expected	5.0	8.0	14.6	7.4	46.0	261.4	9.6	
Other Radio	Count	1	0	5	4	8	44	1	63
	Expected	0.9	1.4	2.6	1.3	8.2	46.8	1.7	
Emergency personnel	Count	1	3	7	3	21	133	3	171
	Expected	2.4	3.9	7.1	3.6	22.3	127.0	4.7	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	1	3	9	6	37	174	10	240
	Expected	3.4	5.4	10.0	5.1	31.3	178.2	6.5	
CFA website	Count	0	1	0	2	20	118	1	142
	Expected	2.0	3.2	5.9	3.0	18.5	105.5	3.9	
CFA community meetings	Count	2	5	12	2	48	270	7	346
	Expected	4.9	7.8	14.4	7.3	45.2	257.0	9.4	
CFA fireguard	Count	0	1	3	2	22	174	6	208
	Expected	3.0	4.7	8.6	4.4	27.2	154.5	5.7	
CFA workbook	Count	3	3	10	5	56	309	7	393
	Expected	5.6	8.9	16.3	8.3	51.3	291.9	10.7	
DSE website	Count	0	1	0	1	2	34	2	40
	Expected	0.6	0.9	1.7	0.8	5.2	29.7	1.1	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	0	1	1	0	2	14	1	19
	Expected	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.4	2.5	14.1	0.5	
Television	Count	5	17	26	8	46	222	6	330
	Expected	4.7	7.5	13.7	7.0	43.1	245.1	9.0	
Other	Count	2	2	5	5	8	89	3	114
	Expected	1.6	2.6	4.7	2.4	14.9	84.7	3.1	
Did not get any information	Count	20	15	18	10	18	94	11	186
	Expected	2.6	4.2	7.7	3.9	24.3	138.1	5.1	
Total	Count	37	59	108	55	340	1934	71	2604

Q11 by Q27 At the beginning of last summer, which of the following did you think you were MOST LIKELY to do if a bushfire occurred in your town or suburb? Select ONE only.

More people than expected would stay throughout the fire when they obtained information of what to do during a bushfire from CFA community meetings. More than double the number of people expected would wait and see when they received information from radio other than the ABC. Interestingly most people who did not receive any information of what to do during a bushfire would stay through the fire, though there was an overrepresentation from this category of people who would 'Leave as soon as fire threatens', 'Wait for emergency services' or 'Hadn't thought about it'.

$\chi^2 = 199.11$	$p < 0.001$	Stay through fire	Stay and leave if threat	Wait and see	Wait for emergency services	Leave as soon as fire threatens	No at home on high fire danger days	Hadn't thought about it	Other	Total
ABC Radio	Count	187	57	35	6	50	9	1	9	354
	Expected	177.5	63.9	32.5	4.6	58.5	7.3	1.8	8.1	
Other Radio	Count	27	8	12	1	11	1	0	0	60
	Expected	30.1	10.8	5.5	0.8	9.9	1.2	0.3	1.4	
Emergency personnel	Count	83	28	19	2	28	4	0	5	169
	Expected	84.7	30.5	15.5	2.2	27.9	3.5	0.8	3.9	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	119	44	22	1	45	6	1	7	245
	Expected	122.8	44.2	22.5	3.2	40.5	5.0	1.2	5.6	
CFA website	Count	73	30	8	2	24	4	0	3	144
	Expected	72.2	26.0	13.2	1.9	23.8	3.0	0.7	3.3	
CFA community meetings	Count	189	61	26	6	54	8	0	8	352
	Expected	176.5	63.5	32.3	4.6	58.2	7.2	1.7	8.0	
CFA fireguard	Count	128	33	13	1	20	3	0	6	204
	Expected	102.3	36.8	18.7	2.6	33.7	4.2	1.0	4.7	
CFA workbook	Count	210	72	29	4	65	7	0	10	397
	Expected	199.0	71.6	36.4	5.1	65.6	8.2	2.0	9.1	
DSE website	Count	18	9	2	0	9	2	0	2	42
	Expected	21.1	7.6	3.9	0.5	6.9	0.9	0.2	1.0	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	7	7	1	0	6	1	0	1	23
	Expected	11.5	4.1	2.1	0.3	3.8	0.5	0.1	0.5	
Television	Count	129	76	44	4	64	7	1	5	330
	Expected	165.4	59.5	30.3	4.3	54.5	6.8	1.6	7.5	
Other	Count	63	23	11	0	11	2	2	4	116
	Expected	58.2	20.9	10.6	1.5	19.2	2.4	0.6	2.6	
Did not get any information	Count	84	26	19	7	47	0	8	0	191
	Expected	95.8	34.5	17.5	2.5	31.6	3.9	0.9	4.4	
Total	Count	1317	474	241	34	434	54	13	60	2627

Q11 by Q29.1 Cleared leaves, twigs and long grass for a distance of about 20-30m around the house (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

An overrepresentation of residents who procured information of what to do during a bushfire from the CFA website took no action in clearing around their home.

$\chi^2 = 96.34$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	282	0	55	4	341
	Expected	275.7	3.5	56.7	5.1	
Other Radio	Count	47	1	9	2	59
	Expected	47.7	0.6	9.8	0.9	
Emergency personnel	Count	139	2	26	1	168
	Expected	135.8	1.7	28.0	2.5	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	191	5	40	6	242
	Expected	195.7	2.5	40.3	3.6	
CFA website	Count	105	1	36	0	142
	Expected	114.8	1.4	23.6	2.1	
CFA community meetings	Count	269	6	63	3	341
	Expected	275.7	3.5	56.7	5.1	
CFA fireguard	Count	166	1	42	2	211
	Expected	170.6	2.1	35.1	3.1	
CFA workbook	Count	317	4	67	5	393
	Expected	317.8	4.0	65.4	5.8	
DSE website	Count	32	0	7	0	39
	Expected	31.5	0.4	6.5	0.6	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	15	0	5	0	20
	Expected	16.2	0.2	3.3	0.3	
Television	Count	257	4	46	8	315
	Expected	254.7	3.2	52.4	4.7	
Other	Count	99	0	16	2	117
	Expected	94.6	1.2	19.5	1.7	
Did not get any information	Count	151	2	14	5	172
	Expected	139.1	1.7	28.6	2.6	
Total	Count	2070	26	426	38	2560

Q11 by Q29.2 Removed bushes close to the house and cut back overhanging tree branches (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 45.636$	$P = 0.216$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	206	4	11	50	271
	Expected	205.2	2.3	13.2	50.3	
Other Radio	Count	37	0	1	9	47
	Expected	35.6	0.4	2.3	8.7	
Emergency personnel	Count	101	0	8	25	134
	Expected	101.5	1.1	6.5	24.9	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	149	0	9	43	201
	Expected	152.2	1.7	9.8	37.3	
CFA website	Count	98	1	7	15	121
	Expected	91.6	1.0	5.9	22.4	
CFA community meetings	Count	196	5	16	46	263
	Expected	199.2	2.2	12.8	48.8	
CFA fireguard	Count	119	1	10	29	159
	Expected	120.4	1.3	7.8	29.5	
CFA workbook	Count	233	3	14	57	307
	Expected	232.5	2.6	15.0	56.9	
DSE website	Count	26	0	1	6	33
	Expected	25.0	0.3	1.6	6.1	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	11	0	2	2	15
	Expected	11.4	0.1	0.7	2.8	
Television	Count	189	0	11	43	243
	Expected	184.0	2.0	11.9	45.1	
Other	Count	74	1	6	15	96
	Expected	72.7	0.8	4.7	17.8	
Did not get any information	Count	96	2	3	36	137
	Expected	103.7	1.1	6.7	25.4	
Total	Count	1535	17	99	376	2027

Q11 by Q29.3 Used landscaping or the layout of garden to reduce the fire risk (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

An association was found between where information was gained from of what to do during in a bushfire and the use of landscaping to reduce fire risk. Most residents took this action prior to February 7.

$\chi^2 = 72.353$	$P = 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	215	2	8	27	252
	Expected	204.1	3.6	6.4	37.8	
Other Radio	Count	37	0	2	4	43
	Expected	34.8	0.6	1.1	6.5	
Emergency personnel	Count	107	5	3	19	134
	Expected	108.6	1.9	3.4	20.1	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	144	3	5	28	180
	Expected	145.8	2.6	4.6	27.0	
CFA website	Count	86	1	2	16	105
	Expected	85.1	1.5	2.7	15.8	
CFA community meetings	Count	189	5	7	34	235
	Expected	190.4	3.4	6.0	35.3	
CFA fireguard	Count	122	0	6	28	156
	Expected	126.4	2.2	4.0	23.4	
CFA workbook	Count	240	3	6	41	290
	Expected	234.9	4.2	7.4	43.5	
DSE website	Count	22	0	0	6	28
	Expected	22.7	0.4	0.7	4.2	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	13	1	0	2	16
	Expected	13.0	0.2	0.4	2.4	
Television	Count	176	3	5	37	221
	Expected	179.0	3.2	5.6	33.2	
Other	Count	82	2	2	6	92
	Expected	74.5	1.3	2.3	13.8	
Did not get any information	Count	90	2	2	34	128
	Expected	103.7	1.8	3.3	19.2	
Total	Count	1523	27	48	282	1880

Q11 by Q29.4 Moved combustible materials such as firewood and wooden garden furniture away from the house (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was a significant association between sources of information respondents used for what to do during a bushfire and moving combustible materials.

$\chi^2 = 132.44$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	162	55	39	21	277
	Expected	156.2	62.9	37.7	20.2	
Other Radio	Count	23	8	7	3	41
	Expected	23.1	9.3	5.6	3.0	
Emergency personnel	Count	76	28	24	12	140
	Expected	79.0	31.8	19.0	10.2	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	105	53	29	9	196
	Expected	110.5	44.5	26.7	14.3	
CFA website	Count	65	25	30	6	126
	Expected	71.1	28.6	17.1	9.2	
CFA community meetings	Count	152	77	33	22	284
	Expected	160.2	64.5	38.6	20.7	
CFA fireguard	Count	96	43	30	10	179
	Expected	100.9	40.7	24.3	13.1	
CFA workbook	Count	185	87	45	16	333
	Expected	187.8	75.6	45.3	24.3	
DSE website	Count	20	10	5	2	37
	Expected	20.9	8.4	5.0	2.7	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	15	2	2	1	20
	Expected	11.3	4.5	2.7	1.5	
Television	Count	145	55	22	20	242
	Expected	136.5	55.0	32.9	17.7	
Other	Count	67	16	9	5	97
	Expected	54.7	22.0	13.2	7.1	
Did not get any information	Count	71	17	10	26	124
	Expected	69.9	28.2	16.9	9.1	
Total	Count	1182	476	285	153	2096

Q11 by Q29.5 Cleared gutters of leaves (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 48.12$	$P = 0.15$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	260	15	53	15	343
	Expected	262.8	14.6	51.6	14.0	
Other Radio	Count	49	1	9	1	60
	Expected	46.0	2.6	9.0	2.5	
Emergency personnel	Count	135	13	24	3	175
	Expected	134.1	7.4	26.3	7.2	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	178	13	32	10	233
	Expected	178.5	9.9	35.0	9.5	
CFA website	Count	105	3	28	8	144
	Expected	110.3	6.1	21.6	5.9	
CFA community meetings	Count	253	15	56	12	336
	Expected	257.5	14.3	50.5	13.8	
CFA fireguard	Count	145	8	40	10	203
	Expected	155.5	8.6	30.5	8.3	
CFA workbook	Count	299	16	60	18	393
	Expected	301.1	16.7	59.1	16.1	
DSE website	Count	34	0	6	2	42
	Expected	32.2	1.8	6.3	1.7	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	18	1	3	0	22
	Expected	16.9	0.9	3.3	0.9	
Television	Count	242	15	38	13	308
	Expected	236.0	13.1	46.3	12.6	
Other	Count	100	0	13	4	117
	Expected	89.6	5.0	17.6	4.8	
Did not get any information	Count	129	8	20	8	165
	Expected	126.4	7.0	24.8	6.8	
Total	Count	1947	108	382	104	2541

Q11 by Q29.6 Installed gutter protection (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

An association was found between these two items. Most people prepared for this before Feb 7, and very few people did not install any gutter protection.

$\chi^2 = 65.705$	$P = 0.005$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	72	14	5	21	112
	Expected	74.3	10.5	4.3	23.0	
Other Radio	Count	8	2	1	9	20
	Expected	13.3	1.9	0.8	4.1	
Emergency personnel	Count	45	8	2	15	70
	Expected	46.4	6.5	2.7	14.4	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	47	6	2	16	71
	Expected	47.1	6.6	2.7	14.6	
CFA website	Count	37	3	2	5	47
	Expected	31.2	4.4	1.8	9.6	
CFA community meetings	Count	81	16	5	23	125
	Expected	82.9	11.7	4.8	25.6	
CFA fireguard	Count	42	4	2	12	60
	Expected	39.8	5.6	2.3	12.3	
CFA workbook	Count	93	12	6	18	129
	Expected	85.5	12.1	4.9	26.4	
DSE website	Count	11	1	0	1	13
	Expected	8.6	1.2	0.5	2.7	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	6	1	2	2	11
	Expected	7.3	1.0	0.4	2.3	
Television	Count	62	6	2	23	93
	Expected	61.7	8.7	3.6	19.1	
Other	Count	24	3	1	5	33
	Expected	21.9	3.1	1.3	6.8	
Did not get any information	Count	25	2	2	21	50
	Expected	33.2	4.7	1.9	10.3	
Total	Count	553	78	32	171	834

Q11 by Q29.7 Covered underfloor spaces to prevent embers and flame entering (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association found between these two items.

$\chi^2 = 33.713$	$P = 0.709$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	49	11	2	130	192
	Expected	59.7	12.1	2.1	118.1	
Other Radio	Count	9	3	1	20	33
	Expected	10.3	2.1	0.4	20.3	
Emergency personnel	Count	35	5	0	61	101
	Expected	31.4	6.3	1.1	62.1	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	42	10	3	77	132
	Expected	41.0	8.3	1.5	81.2	
CFA website	Count	33	4	1	49	87
	Expected	27.0	5.5	1.0	53.5	
CFA community meetings	Count	59	15	3	131	208
	Expected	64.6	13.1	2.3	128.0	
CFA fireguard	Count	45	6	2	72	125
	Expected	38.8	7.9	1.4	76.9	
CFA workbook	Count	71	14	3	133	221
	Expected	68.7	13.9	2.5	136.0	
DSE website	Count	12	2	0	15	29
	Expected	9.0	1.8	0.3	17.8	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	5	1	0	4	10
	Expected	3.1	0.6	0.1	6.2	
Television	Count	43	10	1	98	152
	Expected	47.2	9.6	1.7	93.5	
Other	Count	22	2	0	47	71
	Expected	22.1	4.5	0.8	43.7	
Did not get any information	Count	20	7	0	44	71
	Expected	22.1	4.5	0.8	43.7	
Total	Count	445	90	16	881	1432

Q11 by Q29.8 Covered all gaps and vents to reduce the risk of embers entering the house or cavities (e.g. roof, wall, etc.) (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

An association was found between sources of information of what to do during a bushfire and when action was taken to cover gaps and vents. Very few people did not take this action.

$\chi^2 = 67.87$	$P = 0.003$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	83	27	3	37	150
	Expected	74.9	35.6	4.2	35.2	
Other Radio	Count	10	8	1	6	25
	Expected	12.5	5.9	0.7	5.9	
Emergency personnel	Count	39	16	2	25	82
	Expected	40.9	19.5	2.3	19.3	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	42	33	2	24	101
	Expected	50.4	24.0	2.9	23.7	
CFA website	Count	40	15	6	14	75
	Expected	37.4	17.8	2.1	17.6	
CFA community meetings	Count	68	45	7	37	157
	Expected	78.4	37.3	4.4	36.9	
CFA fireguard	Count	59	21	4	19	103
	Expected	51.4	24.5	2.9	24.2	
CFA workbook	Count	84	48	4	35	171
	Expected	85.3	40.6	4.8	40.2	
DSE website	Count	16	3	0	4	23
	Expected	11.5	5.5	0.7	5.4	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	9	2	0	2	13
	Expected	6.5	3.1	0.4	3.1	
Television	Count	56	27	1	33	117
	Expected	58.4	27.8	3.3	27.5	
Other	Count	31	9	0	9	49
	Expected	24.5	11.6	1.4	11.5	
Did not get any information	Count	28	15	2	21	66
	Expected	32.9	15.7	1.9	15.5	
Total	Count	565	269	32	266	1132

Q11 by Q29.9 Obtained and prepared fire fighting equipment (e.g. hoses and a pump) (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

The number of people who did not receive any information on what to do during a bushfire but still obtained fire fighting equipment on February 7 was four times the number expected.

$\chi^2 = 116.87$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	200	9	40	8	257
	Expected	193.9	11.7	41.5	9.9	
Other Radio	Count	26	1	8	0	35
	Expected	26.4	1.6	5.7	1.3	
Emergency personnel	Count	96	3	20	9	128
	Expected	96.5	5.8	20.7	4.9	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	118	8	37	7	170
	Expected	128.2	7.7	27.5	6.6	
CFA website	Count	87	1	19	2	109
	Expected	82.2	5.0	17.6	4.2	
CFA community meetings	Count	203	11	39	12	265
	Expected	199.9	12.1	42.8	10.2	
CFA fireguard	Count	130	4	30	5	169
	Expected	127.5	7.7	27.3	6.5	
CFA workbook	Count	231	11	42	10	294
	Expected	221.8	13.4	47.5	11.3	
DSE website	Count	24	1	3	2	30
	Expected	22.6	1.4	4.9	1.2	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	11	0	3	0	14
	Expected	10.6	0.6	2.3	0.5	
Television	Count	136	12	35	11	194
	Expected	146.3	8.8	31.4	7.5	
Other	Count	77	3	13	1	94
	Expected	70.9	4.3	15.2	3.6	
Did not get any information	Count	70	21	13	5	109
	Expected	82.2	5.0	17.6	4.2	
Total	Count	1409	85	302	72	1868

Q11 by Q29.10 Obtained and prepared equipment such as ladder, buckets and mops to put out spot fires (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Those who did not receive any information of what to do during a bushfire were just as likely to prepare spot fire equipment on February 7 and prior to that day.

$\chi^2 = 109.08$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	150	66	55	6	277
	Expected	145.9	69.3	53.8	8.0	
Other Radio	Count	25	13	7	2	47
	Expected	24.8	11.8	9.1	1.4	
Emergency personnel	Count	75	33	26	8	142
	Expected	74.8	35.6	27.6	4.1	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	88	54	43	5	190
	Expected	100.1	47.6	36.9	5.5	
CFA website	Count	73	17	32	3	125
	Expected	65.8	31.3	24.3	3.6	
CFA community meetings	Count	151	76	56	7	290
	Expected	152.7	72.6	56.3	8.3	
CFA fireguard	Count	102	36	37	3	178
	Expected	93.7	44.6	34.6	5.1	
CFA workbook	Count	178	86	66	7	337
	Expected	177.5	84.4	65.5	9.7	
DSE website	Count	21	6	5	3	35
	Expected	18.4	8.8	6.8	1.0	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	14	0	3	1	18
	Expected	9.5	4.5	3.5	0.5	
Television	Count	113	71	38	9	231
	Expected	121.6	57.8	44.9	6.6	
Other	Count	59	18	21	1	99
	Expected	52.1	24.8	19.2	2.8	
Did not get any information	Count	49	46	16	5	116
	Expected	61.1	29.0	22.5	3.3	
Total	Count	1098	522	405	60	2085

Q11 by Q29.11 Installed seals and/or draft protectors around windows and doors (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association between these variables.

$\chi^2 = 48.279$	$P = 0.147$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	99	25	5	12	141
	Expected	96.8	22.5	5.7	16.0	
Other Radio	Count	14	4	1	1	20
	Expected	13.7	3.2	0.8	2.3	
Emergency personnel	Count	49	10	4	13	76
	Expected	52.2	12.1	3.1	8.6	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	61	21	3	8	93
	Expected	63.8	14.8	3.8	10.6	
CFA website	Count	57	6	4	9	76
	Expected	52.2	12.1	3.1	8.6	
CFA community meetings	Count	93	24	3	21	141
	Expected	96.8	22.5	5.7	16.0	
CFA fireguard	Count	62	15	5	9	91
	Expected	62.5	14.5	3.7	10.3	
CFA workbook	Count	125	27	5	17	174
	Expected	119.5	27.8	7.0	19.8	
DSE website	Count	14	1	1	2	18
	Expected	12.4	2.9	0.7	2.0	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	8	1	1	1	11
	Expected	7.6	1.8	0.4	1.3	
Television	Count	81	23	4	13	121
	Expected	83.1	19.3	4.9	13.8	
Other	Count	40	9	4	4	57
	Expected	39.1	9.1	2.3	6.5	
Did not get any information	Count	46	8	4	14	72
	Expected	49.4	11.5	2.9	8.2	
Total	Count	749	174	44	124	1091

Q11 by Q29.12 Installed a sprinkler system on or around the house (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association between these variables.

$\chi^2 = 48.696$	$P = 0.137$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	89	12	7	11	119
	Expected	85.1	12.7	8.4	12.7	
Other Radio	Count	11	4	2	3	20
	Expected	14.3	2.1	1.4	2.1	
Emergency personnel	Count	37	4	5	10	56
	Expected	40.1	6.0	4.0	6.0	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	61	12	8	12	93
	Expected	66.5	9.9	6.6	9.9	
CFA website	Count	44	5	2	5	56
	Expected	40.1	6.0	4.0	6.0	
CFA community meetings	Count	94	14	6	12	126
	Expected	90.2	13.5	8.9	13.5	
CFA fireguard	Count	64	5	7	5	81
	Expected	58.0	8.7	5.7	8.7	
CFA workbook	Count	103	11	11	8	133
	Expected	95.2	14.2	9.4	14.2	
DSE website	Count	13	2	0	5	20
	Expected	14.3	2.1	1.4	2.1	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	10	1	0	1	12
	Expected	8.6	1.3	0.8	1.3	
Television	Count	67	12	6	11	96
	Expected	68.7	10.3	6.8	10.3	
Other	Count	30	4	4	5	43
	Expected	30.8	4.6	3.0	4.6	
Did not get any information	Count	26	11	6	9	52
	Expected	37.2	5.6	3.7	5.6	
Total	Count	649	97	64	97	907

Q11 by Q29.13 Installed shutters (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

No significant association was found between these items, with a small response rate.

$\chi^2 = 42.347$	$P = 0.329$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	12	2	1	22	37
	Expected	10.1	1.4	0.9	24.7	
Other Radio	Count	2	0	0	5	7
	Expected	1.9	0.3	0.2	4.7	
Emergency personnel	Count	6	0	0	19	25
	Expected	6.8	0.9	0.6	16.7	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	9	1	0	20	30
	Expected	8.2	1.1	0.7	20.0	
CFA website	Count	4	0	0	11	15
	Expected	4.1	0.6	0.4	10.0	
CFA community meetings	Count	12	3	2	31	48
	Expected	13.1	1.8	1.1	32.0	
CFA fireguard	Count	6	0	1	13	20
	Expected	5.4	0.7	0.5	13.3	
CFA workbook	Count	12	0	2	24	38
	Expected	10.3	1.4	0.9	25.3	
DSE website	Count	1	0	0	5	6
	Expected	1.6	0.2	0.1	4.0	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	2	0	0	0	2
	Expected	0.5	0.1	0.0	1.3	
Television	Count	4	2	0	25	31
	Expected	8.4	1.2	0.7	20.7	
Other	Count	4	2	1	6	13
	Expected	3.5	0.5	0.3	8.7	
Did not get any information	Count	6	1	0	15	22
	Expected	6.0	0.8	0.5	14.7	
Total	Count	80	11	7	196	294

Q11 by Q29.14 Prepared a kit of personal protective clothing for each member of the household (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There cross-tabulation analysis yielded a result of significance. Notably, there was an over-representation of people who received information of how to prepare from friends, family or neighbours or television and preparing a personal clothing kit on February 7.

$\chi^2 = 129.47$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	143	48	14	8	213
	Expected	137.6	51.7	15.0	8.7	
Other Radio	Count	14	7	1	0	22
	Expected	14.2	5.3	1.6	0.9	
Emergency personnel	Count	71	28	9	9	117
	Expected	75.6	28.4	8.3	4.8	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	89	52	10	4	155
	Expected	100.1	37.6	10.9	6.3	
CFA website	Count	76	20	7	1	104
	Expected	67.2	25.2	7.3	4.3	
CFA community meetings	Count	155	53	15	6	229
	Expected	147.9	55.6	16.2	9.4	
CFA fireguard	Count	106	24	16	4	150
	Expected	96.9	36.4	10.6	6.1	
CFA workbook	Count	181	49	19	8	257
	Expected	166.0	62.3	18.1	10.5	
DSE website	Count	17	4	0	2	23
	Expected	14.9	5.6	1.6	0.9	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	10	3	0	0	13
	Expected	8.4	3.2	0.9	0.5	
Television	Count	80	56	9	7	152
	Expected	98.2	36.9	10.7	6.2	
Other	Count	53	15	5	4	77
	Expected	49.7	18.7	5.4	3.2	
Did not get any information	Count	30	26	7	12	75
	Expected	48.4	18.2	5.3	3.1	
Total	Count	1025	385	112	65	1587

Q11 by Q29.15 Obtained a battery-powered radio (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Residents who procured information of what to do during a bushfire from emergency personnel had an overrepresentation of people who obtained battery powered radios prior to and on February 7.

$\chi^2 = 59.951$	$P = 0.017$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	219	9	13	7	248
	Expected	214.3	11.0	14.0	8.8	
Other Radio	Count	25	1	0	1	27
	Expected	23.3	1.2	1.5	1.0	
Emergency personnel	Count	92	6	5	10	113
	Expected	97.6	5.0	6.4	4.0	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	127	8	10	9	154
	Expected	133.0	6.8	8.7	5.4	
CFA website	Count	99	4	6	0	109
	Expected	94.2	4.8	6.2	3.9	
CFA community meetings	Count	199	15	13	10	237
	Expected	204.8	10.5	13.4	8.4	
CFA fireguard	Count	141	3	13	2	159
	Expected	137.4	7.0	9.0	5.6	
CFA workbook	Count	254	11	17	4	286
	Expected	247.1	12.6	16.2	10.1	
DSE website	Count	24	1	0	1	26
	Expected	22.5	1.1	1.5	0.9	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	15	0	0	0	15
	Expected	13.0	0.7	0.8	0.5	
Television	Count	140	10	12	7	169
	Expected	146.0	7.5	9.6	6.0	
Other	Count	67	3	5	4	79
	Expected	68.3	3.5	4.5	2.8	
Did not get any information	Count	65	4	2	5	76
	Expected	65.7	3.4	4.3	2.7	
Total	Count	1467	75	96	60	1698

Q11 by Q29.16 Stored important documents and possessions off-site or in a fire safe compartment (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Residents who did not receive any information of what to do during a bushfire had an overrepresentation of people who stored documents on February 7.

$\chi^2 = 77.356$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb 7	On Feb 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb 7	Total
ABC Radio	Count	109	40	8	7	164
	Expected	106.2	41.9	10.5	5.4	
Other Radio	Count	22	6	2	0	30
	Expected	19.4	7.7	1.9	1.0	
Emergency personnel	Count	63	19	6	2	90
	Expected	58.3	23.0	5.8	2.9	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	77	33	9	3	122
	Expected	79.0	31.2	7.8	4.0	
CFA website	Count	54	13	5	4	76
	Expected	49.2	19.4	4.9	2.5	
CFA community meetings	Count	118	46	15	3	182
	Expected	117.9	46.5	11.6	6.0	
CFA fireguard	Count	64	22	9	3	98
	Expected	63.5	25.0	6.3	3.2	
CFA workbook	Count	116	44	11	4	175
	Expected	113.4	44.7	11.2	5.7	
DSE website	Count	16	3	0	2	21
	Expected	13.6	5.4	1.3	0.7	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	12	3	1	0	16
	Expected	10.4	4.1	1.0	0.5	
Television	Count	92	50	8	7	157
	Expected	101.7	40.1	10.0	5.1	
Other	Count	31	11	3	4	49
	Expected	31.7	12.5	3.1	1.6	
Did not get any information	Count	37	30	3	2	72
	Expected	46.6	18.4	4.6	2.4	
Total	Count	811	320	80	41	1252

Q11 by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

Information gained from the CFA fireguard lead to residents rating their level of preparedness as high. This was not the case for people who obtained information on what to do during a bushfire from television or did not receive any information where there was an overrepresentation of people who rated their level of preparedness as low.

$\chi^2 = 209.66$	$P < 0.001$	High	Average	Low	Total
ABC Radio	Count	185	140	47	372
	Expected	188.2	135.8	48.0	
Other Radio	Count	31	25	11	67
	Expected	33.9	24.5	8.7	
Emergency personnel	Count	94	78	9	181
	Expected	91.5	66.1	23.4	
Friends, family or neighbours	Count	128	97	30	255
	Expected	129.0	93.1	32.9	
CFA website	Count	93	45	13	151
	Expected	76.4	55.1	19.5	
CFA community meetings	Count	190	137	35	362
	Expected	183.1	132.1	46.8	
CFA fireguard	Count	133	72	10	215
	Expected	108.7	78.5	27.8	
CFA workbook	Count	219	147	52	418
	Expected	211.4	152.6	54.0	
DSE website	Count	26	15	2	43
	Expected	21.7	15.7	5.6	
Vic Bushfire Info Line	Count	15	6	2	23
	Expected	11.6	8.4	3.0	
Television	Count	143	138	64	345
	Expected	174.5	125.9	44.6	
Other	Count	74	38	16	128
	Expected	64.7	46.7	16.5	
Did not get any information	Count	67	71	66	204
	Expected	103.2	74.5	26.3	
Total	Count	1398	1009	357	2764

Q13. How did you FIRST find out that the February 7th bushfire was in your town or suburb?

Categories were combined for Q13 as follows:

Media consists of 'Heard from radio announcement', 'Learned from the internet' and 'Saw television announcement'

Direct contact consists of 'Told by family, friends or neighbours' and 'Told by emergency personnel'

Physical signs of fire consists of 'Smelled or saw smoke', 'Saw fire approaching', 'Saw embers landing near house' and 'Saw fire burning near the house'

Q13 by Q17 Which official source was the MOST IMPORTANT in helping you to respond to the bushfire?

A near association was found between *source of first fire knowledge* and the *most important official source of information*. Respondents who found out about the fire through media channels were more likely to respond that the most important official source used to respond to the threat was the radio.

$\chi^2 = 12.519$	$P = 0.051$	Radio (ABC and other)	Emergency personnel	Website (CFA and DSE)	CFA Community meeting	Total
Media	Count	40	1	5	6	52
	Expected	35.4	7.9	4.4	4.4	
Direct contact	Count	50	18	7	9	84
	Expected	57.1	12.8	7.1	7.1	
Physical signs of fire	Count	80	19	9	6	114
	Expected	77.5	17.3	9.6	9.6	
Total	Count	170	38	21	21	250

*Q17. Television and Victorian Bushfire Information line were not included in this analysis as the total count was less than 5

Q17 Which official source was the MOST IMPORTANT in helping you to respond to the bushfire?

Q17 by Q18 Was the information you received about the LOCATION of the fire clear enough for you to understand the danger to your household?

A large significant association was found between the *most important official source of information* and the *clarity of information received* about the location of the bushfire. Despite respondents largely indicating that radio was the most important source for bushfire response, there was an overrepresentation that this source provided unclear/*no information* about the location of the fire.

When *emergency personnel* or the *CFA community meetings* were identified as the most important source, it was stated that the information gained from these sources about the location of the fire was *clear*. It was found that double the amount of people indicated the websites gave unclear information as to what was expected.

$\chi^2 = 33.839$	$P < 0.001$	Clear	Unclear	No information	Total
Radio (ABC and other)	Count	128	58	47	233
	Expected	144.8	47.4	40.8	233.0
Emergency personnel	Count	48	2	10	60
	Expected	37.3	12.2	10.5	60.0
Website (CFA and DSE)	Count	12	10	3	25
	Expected	15.5	5.1	4.4	25.0
CFA Community meeting	Count	32	2	2	36
	Expected	22.4	7.3	6.3	36.0
Total	Count	220	72	62	354

*Q17. Television and Victorian Bushfire Information line were not included in this analysis as the total count was less than 5

Q17 by Q19 Was the information you received about the SEVERITY of the fire clear enough for you to understand the danger to your household?

A highly significant association was found between *the most important official source of information* and the *clarity of information received about the severity of the bushfire*. Despite respondents indicating that the radio was the most important source for bushfire response, there was an overrepresentation in the *No information and Unclear* categories.

When emergency personnel or the CFA community meetings were identified as the most important source, it was stated that the information gained from these sources about the severity of the fire was *clear* slightly above expectation.

$\chi^2 = 36.302$	$P < 0.001$	Clear	Unclear	No information	Total
Radio (ABC and other)	Count	118	50	62	230
	Expected	135.4	41.4	53.2	230.0
Emergency personnel	Count	50	2	10	62
	Expected	36.5	11.2	14.3	62.0
Website (CFA and DSE)	Count	8	8	7	23
	Expected	13.5	4.1	5.3	23.0
CFA Community meeting	Count	30	3	2	35
	Expected	20.6	6.3	8.1	35.0
Total	Count	206	63	81	350

*Q17. Television and Victorian Bushfire Information line were not included in this analysis as the total count was less than 5

Q17 by Q20 Did you receive the warning in enough time to respond to the bushfire safely?

This cross-tab reveals that there was a significant association between *the most important official source of information* and the *amount of time in which it gave to respond to the threat*. When information about the fire was gained from *emergency personnel* respondents were overrepresented in the *just enough* category, suggesting respondents struggled for time to respond. Information gained from the website, despite a small sample size, was nearly double the amount of people that were expected, stating they had *not enough* time to respond. CFA community meetings were the only source of information that gave respondents ample amount of time to respond to the bushfire threat well beyond expectation.

$\chi^2 = 25.84$		$P < 0.001$			
		Ample	Just enough	Not enough	Total
Radio (ABC and other)	Count	89	71	60	220
	Expected	96.5	68.7	54.8	
Emergency personnel	Count	22	25	12	59
	Expected	25.9	18.4	14.7	
Website (CFA and DSE)	Count	9	3	9	21
	Expected	9.2	6.6	5.2	
CFA Community meeting	Count	26	5	2	33
	Expected	14.5	10.3	8.2	
Total	Count	146	104	83	333

*Q17. Television and Victorian Bushfire Information line were not included in this analysis as the total count was less than 5

Q17 by Q21 How long AFTER you got the warning did the fire reach your house or property?

It was found that an association existed between the most important *official source of information* and the *length of time it took for the bushfire to reach the respondents property*. Warnings from emergency personnel or the website were most likely to result in respondents having less than an hour to respond to the fire threat. Those who attended the CFA community meetings had greater than 2 hours to respond to the bushfire threat.

$\chi^2 = 39.448$	$P < 0.001$	Less than an hour	30 mins to 2 hours	More than 2 hours	The fire did not reach my house	Total
Radio (ABC and other)	Count	46	55	82	13	196
	Expected	49.5	49.5	85.1	11.9	
Emergency personnel	Count	20	16	15	3	54
	Expected	13.6	13.6	23.5	3.3	
Website (CFA and DSE)	Count	8	3	6	2	19
	Expected	4.8	4.8	8.3	1.2	
CFA Community meeting	Count	1	1	26	0	28
	Expected	7.1	7.1	12.2	1.7	
Total	Count	75	75	129	18	297

*Q17. Television and Victorian Bushfire Information line were not included in this analysis as the total count was less than 5

Q18. Was the information you received about the LOCATION of the fire clear enough for you to understand the danger to your household?

Q18 by Q19 Was the information you received about the SEVERITY of the fire clear enough for you to understand the danger to your household?

As expected, a significant association existed between those who received *clear/unclear/no information about the location* of the fire also had *clear/unclear/no information about the severity of the fire*. Interestingly, there were still some people who despite receiving clear information about the location of the fire indicated they were given no information regarding its severity.

$\chi^2 = 286.481$		$P < 0.001$		Clear	Unclear	No information	Total
Clear	Count	244	13	30	287		
	Expected	165.3	49.0	72.7			
Unclear	Count	18	51	28	97		
	Expected	55.9	16.6	24.6			
No information	Count	11	17	62	90		
	Expected	51.8	15.4	22.8			
Total	Count	273	81	120	474		

Q20. Did you receive the warning in enough time to respond to the bushfire safely?

Q20 by Q21 How long AFTER you got the warning did the fire reach your house or property?

A large association was found *between the amount of warning a respondent received and the length of time it took for the fire to reach their property*. Respondents who had *ample* time to respond to the bushfire threat stated the fire arrived at their property *more than 2 hours later*. Respondents who had *just enough* time to respond to the bushfire threat had the fire arrive at their property *between 30 minutes and 2 hours later*. Respondents who had *not enough* time to respond to the bushfire threat had the fire arrive at their property *less than 30 minutes later*.

$\chi^2 = 164.387$		$P < 0.001$	Less than 30 minutes	30 mins to 2 hours	More than 2 hours	The fire did not reach my house	Total
Ample	Count		8	35	120	11	174
	Expected		52.0	44.5	66.4	11.1	
Just enough	Count		51	51	29	8	139
	Expected		41.5	35.6	53.0	8.9	
Not enough	Count		65	20	12	7	104
	Expected		31.1	26.6	39.7	6.7	
Don't know	Count		2	2	0	1	5
	Expected		1.5	1.3	1.9	.3	
Total	Count		126	108	161	27	422

Section 3: Before the bushfire

Q24. Before the February 7th bushfire, how likely did you think it was that a bushfire could occur in your town or suburb?

Q24 by Q25 Before the February 7th bushfire, how significant did you think the threat from bushfires was to life and property in your town or suburb?

In this cross-tabulation, we would expect an association, as those who believed a threat to their town was likely would probably also believe that there was a threat to life and property. Any dissonance between the responses to these two questions is of interest. Around 1/5 of respondents revealed this dissonance which indicates that of those that rated it *unlikely* a bushfire would occur, 1/5th felt the danger was *High*; and of those that rated a bushfire *likely* to occur, 1/5th felt the danger was *Low* to life and property.

$\chi^2 = 384.776$		$P < 0.001$			
		Low	High	Total	
Unlikely	Count	217	53	270	
	Expected	84.6	185.4		
Likely	Count	175	806	981	
	Expected	307.4	673.6		
Total	Count	392	859	1251	

*'Had not thought about it' was not included in this analysis as the total count was less than 5

Q24 by Q26 Which of the following best describes your level of planning for bushfires BEFORE February 7th?

Those that believed a threat to their town was *unlikely* were over-represented in being *under-prepared* (i.e. no plan). However those that thought a threat was *likely* were over-represented in having a *firm plan*. Clearly, those who believed a fire likely to be a threat also planned for bushfires before the day, however those that thought a fire unlikely did not plan as expected. There is a clear association between opinion of a bushfire threat and peoples actions in terms of planning before February 7th.

$\chi^2 = 172.516$	$P < 0.001$	Never thought about it	Knew I should consider it but didn't	Considered it and was still deciding	Considered it and decided to do nothing	Decided what to do and was planning it	Had a firm plan	Total
Unlikely	Count	25	19	22	24	34	122	246
	Expected	6.2	8.3	13.7	6.8	34.8	176.2	
Likely	Count	4	20	42	8	129	703	906
	Expected	22.8	30.7	50.3	25.2	128.2	648.8	
Total	Count	29	39	64	32	163	825	1152

Q24 by Q27 At the beginning of last summer, which of the following did you think you were MOST LIKELY to do if a bushfire occurred in your town or suburb? Select ONE only.

A little over half of those that thought that bushfire was *likely* to threaten their town had planned to *stay throughout the fire*. Interestingly, around the same proportion that thought a bushfire *unlikely* to threaten their town were also most likely to *stay throughout the fire* at the beginning of last summer.

$\chi^2 = 22.809$	$P = 0.001$	Stay throughout fire	Stay and leave if threatened	Wait and see fire	Wait for emergency services	Leave as soon as fire threatens	No at home on high fire danger days	Hadn't thought about it	Total
Unlikely	Count	121	44	29	10	39	6	7	256
	Expected	131.5	44.9	23.3	5.3	44.0	4.8	2.2	
Likely	Count	477	160	77	14	161	16	3	908
	Expected	466.5	159.1	82.7	18.7	156.0	17.2	7.8	
Total	Count	598	204	106	24	200	22	10	1164

Q24 by Q29.1 Cleared leaves, twigs and long grass for a distance of about 20-30m around the house (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

A revealing finding from this table is that 1 in 7 respondents that thought that bushfire was *likely* to threaten their town *had not taken any action* to clear leaves, twigs and long grass. Notably, a large majority of respondents who thought a bushfire *unlikely* also *took action* to clear leaves, twigs and long grass.

$\chi^2 = 9.523$	$P = 0.023$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	203	2	27	9	241
	Expected	201.4	2.1	33.5	4.0	
Likely	Count	753	8	132	10	903
	Expected	754.6	7.9	125.5	15.0	
Total	Count	956	10	159	19	1144

Q24 by Q29.2 Removed bushes close to the house and cut back overhanging tree branches (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 5.017$	$P = 0.171$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	124	3	8	46	181
	Expected	135.3	2.4	7.3	35.9	
Likely	Count	540	9	28	130	707
	Expected	528.7	9.6	28.7	140.1	
Total	Count	664	12	36	176	888

Q24 by Q29.3 Used landscaping or the layout of garden to reduce the fire risk (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

An association was found between likelihood and landscaping and layout. A large majority of respondents who thought a bushfire *unlikely* also *took action* to use the landscape or layout to reduce fire risk.

$\chi^2 = 13.025$	$P = 0.003$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	120	5	5	40	170
	Expected	135.1	2.1	3.6	29.2	
Likely	Count	527	5	12	100	644
	Expected	511.9	7.9	13.4	110.8	
Total	Count	647	10	17	140	814

Q24 by Q29.4 Moved combustible materials such as firewood and wooden garden furniture away from the house (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was a significant association between respondents that thought that bushfire was likely/unlikely to threaten their town and moved combustible materials. This association is due to the overrepresentation of those who selected *likely* and *taking no action* on moving materials; and those that felt a bushfire *Unlikely* and *did* move materials.

$\chi^2 = 13.339$	$P = 0.004$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	103	36	8	24	171
	Expected	98.5	38.4	18.5	15.6	
Likely	Count	415	166	89	58	728
	Expected	419.5	163.6	78.5	66.4	
Total	Count	518	202	97	82	899

Q24 by Q29.5 Cleared gutters of leaves (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 2.924$	$P = 0.404$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	170	13	32	14	229
	Expected	177.4	10.5	30.8	10.3	
Likely	Count	694	38	118	36	886
	Expected	686.6	40.5	119.2	39.7	
Total	Count	864	51	150	50	1115

Q24 by Q29.6 Installed gutter protection (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

An association was found between these two items. Notably, slightly more people than expected (who deemed a bushfire *likely* to threaten their town) installed gutter protection. Most people prepared for this before Feb 7, and very few people did not install any gutter protection.

$\chi^2 = 8.386$	$P = 0.039$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	39	9	5	21	74
	Expected	48.3	6.7	2.4	16.7	
Likely	Count	184	22	6	56	268
	Expected	174.7	24.3	8.6	60.3	
Total	Count	223	31	11	77	342

Q24 by Q29.7 Covered underfloor spaces to prevent embers and flame entering (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Most respondents covered underfloor spaces, with only 8 of 588 not taking this action. Most respondents undertook this action on or before Feb 7. The association that exists between these two items is due to an over-representation of people that thought a bushfire *unlikely* and took *action* on Feb 7.

$\chi^2 = 10.989$	$P = 0.012$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	23	15	1	77	116
	Expected	33.5	8.5	1.6	72.4	
Likely	Count	147	28	7	290	472
	Expected	136.5	34.5	6.4	294.6	
Total	Count	170	43	8	367	588

Q24 by Q29.8 Covered all gaps and vents to reduce the risk of embers entering the house or cavities (e.g. roof, wall, etc.) (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Most respondents covered all gaps and vents, with only 16 of 456 not taking this action at some point. The dispersion on actions is interesting, with under half covering these gaps before the day, and slightly over half undertaking this action on Feb 7 or prior to and on Feb 7.

$\chi^2 = 14.933$	$P = 0.002$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	30	26	0	34	90
	Expected	40.9	23.3	3.2	22.7	
Likely	Count	177	92	16	81	366
	Expected	166.1	94.7	12.8	92.3	
Total	Count	207	118	16	115	456

Q24 by Q29.9 Obtained and prepared fire fighting equipment (e.g. hoses and a pump) (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Two-thirds of respondents that stated it was *unlikely* that a bushfire would occur in their town had obtained fire fighting equipment prior to Feb 7. Similarly, those who felt it *likely*, slightly under 5/6th of people had also purchased fire-fighting equipment. The association here is predominately due to those considering a fire in their town *unlikely/likely* purchasing equipment on the day.

$\chi^2 = 22.785$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	102	23	19	9	153
	Expected	115.8	10.6	21.1	5.5	
Likely	Count	508	33	92	20	653
	Expected	494.2	45.4	89.9	23.5	
Total	Count	610	56	111	29	806

Q24 by Q29.10 Obtained and prepared equipment such as ladder, buckets and mops to put out spot fires (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Of respondents that stated it was *unlikely* that a bushfire was likely to occur in their town a large number were overrepresented in obtaining *equipment on the day*. The association here is predominately due to those considering a fire in their town *unlikely* purchasing equipment *on the day* and those *likely* purchasing it *before*.

$\chi^2 = 21.123$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	65	76	28	8	177
	Expected	88.5	53.7	29.5	5.3	
Likely	Count	382	195	121	19	717
	Expected	358.5	217.3	119.5	21.7	
Total	Count	447	271	149	27	894

Q24 by Q29.11 Installed seals and/or draft protectors around windows and doors (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Of respondents that stated it was *unlikely* that a bushfire likely to occur in their town a large number were overrepresented in obtaining *equipment on the day*. The association here is predominately due to those considering a fire in their town *unlikely* purchasing equipment *on the day* and those *likely* purchasing it *before*.

$\chi^2 = 10.56$	$P = 0.014$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	43	17	3	19	82
	Expected	55.0	12.9	2.5	11.6	
Likely	Count	264	55	11	46	376
	Expected	252.0	59.1	11.5	53.4	
Total	Count	307	72	14	65	458

Q24 by Q29.12 Installed a sprinkler system on or around the house (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Approximately 83% of respondents to this question were people that thought a bushfire *likely*. The association here is predominately due to those considering a fire in their town *unlikely* installing sprinkler system *on the day or before*. Small numbers for *unlikely* make this association less reliable.

$\chi^2 = 10.352$	$P = 0.016$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	38	13	7	10	68
	Expected	48.5	7.3	5.1	7.1	
Likely	Count	240	29	22	31	322
	Expected	229.5	34.7	23.9	33.9	
Total	Count	278	42	29	41	390

Q24 by Q29.13 Installed shutters (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

No significant association was found between these items, with a small response rate.

$\chi^2 = 3.033$	$P = 0.387$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	5	1	0	26	32
	Expected	7.8	1.5	.5	22.3	
Likely	Count	26	5	2	63	96
	Expected	23.3	4.5	1.5	66.8	
Total	Count	31	6	2	89	128

Q24 by Q29.14 Prepared a kit of personal protective clothing for each member of the household (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There cross-tabulation analysis yielded a result that tends towards significance. Notably, there was an over-representation of people that thought a bushfire *unlikely* and prepared a kit *on the day*.

$\chi^2 = 7.849$	$P = 0.055$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	54	40	7	8	109
	Expected	66.0	30.2	7.1	5.7	
Likely	Count	338	139	35	26	538
	Expected	326.0	148.8	34.9	28.3	
Total	Count	392	179	42	34	647

Q24 by Q29.15 Obtained a battery-powered radio (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

No significant association was found between these items.

$\chi^2 = 2.841$	$P = 0.421$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	100	9	4	6	119
	Expected	102.2	5.9	5.8	5.1	119.0
Likely	Count	503	26	30	24	583
	Expected	500.8	29.1	28.2	24.9	583.0
Total	Count	603	35	34	30	702

Q24 by Q29.16 Stored important documents and possessions off-site or in a fire safe compartment (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

No significant association was found between these items.

$\chi^2 = 5.831$	$P = 0.12$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Unlikely	Count	52	41	3	5	101
	Expected	59.8	32.1	5.2	4.0	
Likely	Count	248	120	23	15	406
	Expected	240.2	128.9	20.8	16.0	
Total	Count	300	161	26	20	507

Q24 by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

People that thought a bushfire *likely* rated their preparedness *high*, and those thought a bushfire *unlikely* rated their preparedness *average to low* well above expectation. This is a highly significant finding, again highlighting the association between expectations of threat and preparedness for bushfire.

$\chi^2 = 49.841$	$P < 0.001$	High	Average	Low	Total
Unlikely	Count	79	121	72	272
	Expected	127.8	98.7	45.6	
Likely	Count	510	334	138	982
	Expected	461.2	356.3	164.4	
Total	Count	589	455	210	1254

Q25. Before the February 7th bushfire, how significant did you think the threat from bushfires was to life and property in your town or suburb?

Q25 by Q26 Which of the following best describes your level of planning for bushfires BEFORE February 7th?

People that thought a bushfire a *low threat* were significantly under-represented in *had a firm plan* and over-represented in *never/didn't/nothing/still deciding*. A large number of respondents that thought the threat *high* also *had a firm plan*, well above expectation.

$\chi^2 = 171.802$	$P < 0.001$	Never thought about it	Knew I should consider it but didn't	Considered it and was still deciding	Considered it and decided to do nothing	Decided what to do and was planning it	Had a firm plan	Total
Low	Count	29	29	37	24	58	186	363
	Expected	9.5	12.0	20.0	10.5	51.7	259.3	
High	Count	1	9	26	9	105	632	782
	Expected	20.5	26.0	43.0	22.5	111.3	558.7	
Total	Count	30	38	63	33	163	818	1145

Q25 by Q27 At the beginning of last summer, which of the following did you think you were MOST LIKELY to do if a bushfire occurred in your town or suburb? Select ONE only.

People that thought a bushfire a *low threat* were significantly under-represented in *stay throughout the fire* and over-represented in *stay and leave if threatened/wait and see/wait for emergency services*. A large number of respondents that thought the threat *high* also *stay throughout the fire* or *leave as soon as fire threatens* above expectation. Interestingly, of those that thought the threat *low*, 45% planned to *stay*, whilst of those that thought the threat *high*, 55% planned to *stay*.

$\chi^2 = 41.416$	$P < 0.001$	Stay throughout fire	Stay and leave if threatened	Wait and see fire	Wait for emergency services	Leave as soon as fire threatens	No at home on high fire danger days	Hadn't thought about it	Total
Low	Count	170	78	49	13	53	5	10	378
	Expected	194.4	65.8	35.3	7.9	63.8	7.2	3.6	
High	Count	424	123	59	11	142	17	1	777
	Expected	399.6	135.2	72.7	16.1	131.2	14.8	7.4	
Total	Count	594	201	108	24	195	22	11	1155

Q25 by Q29.1 Cleared leaves, twigs and long grass for a distance of about 20-30m around the house (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

The association here is due to the low count differences in clearing leaves *prior to and on Feb 7* for *low* threat expectations.

$\chi^2 = 11.991$	$P = 0.008$			Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
		Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7			
Low	Count	282	3	38	12	335
	Expected	280.3	3.2	45.7	5.8	
High	Count	595	7	105	6	713
	Expected	596.7	6.8	97.3	12.2	
Total	Count	877	10	143	18	1048

Q25 by Q29.2 Removed bushes close to the house and cut back overhanging tree branches (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

Significantly more people than expected who viewed the threat of bushfire as low cleared bushed and overhanging tree branches prior to and on February 7. Those who felt the threat was high performed this task before February 7.

$\chi^2 = 13.135$	$P = 0.004$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	173	5	9	73	260
	Expected	191.3	3.2	10.5	54.9	
High	Count	426	5	24	99	554
	Expected	407.7	6.8	22.5	117.1	
Total	Count	599	10	33	172	814

Q25 by Q29.3 Used landscaping or the layout of garden to reduce the fire risk (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

People that thought a bushfire a *low threat* were significantly over-represented in using landscaping to reduce fire risk *prior to and on Feb 7*.

$\chi^2 = 8.679$		$P = 0.034$				
		Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	171	5	4	52	232
	Expected	184.5	3.1	4.6	39.8	
High	Count	427	5	11	77	520
	Expected	413.5	6.9	10.4	89.2	
Total	Count	598	10	15	129	752

Q25 by Q29.4 Moved combustible materials such as firewood and wooden garden furniture away from the house (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

People that thought a bushfire a *low threat* were significantly over-represented in moving combustible materials *prior to and on Feb 7*. There was an over-representation also in *high threat* and *action not taken*; this may be indicative of people that either did not need to do anything or felt that doing this was not possible or unhelpful

$\chi^2 = 10.111$		$P = 0.018$				
		Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	129	58	14	29	230
	Expected	130.0	52.7	24.9	22.4	
High	Count	335	130	75	51	591
	Expected	334.0	135.3	64.1	57.6	
Total	Count	464	188	89	80	821

Q25 by Q29.5 Cleared gutters of leaves (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association found.

$\chi^2 = 0.657$	$P = 0.883$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	238	16	46	13	313
	Expected	242.0	14.5	43.0	13.5	313.0
High	Count	549	31	94	31	705
	Expected	545.0	32.5	97.0	30.5	705.0
Total	Count	787	47	140	44	1018

Q25 by Q29.6 Installed gutter protection (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

No association was found.

$\chi^2 = 6.34$	$P = 0.096$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	49	9	6	24	88
	Expected	56.5	7.5	3.1	20.9	
High	Count	154	18	5	51	228
	Expected	146.5	19.5	7.9	54.1	
Total	Count	203	27	11	75	316

Q25 by Q29.7 Covered underfloor spaces to prevent embers and flame entering (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

People that thought a bushfire a *low threat* were significantly over-represented in moving combustible materials *prior to and on Feb 7*. There was an over-representation also in *high threat* and *prior to Feb 7*; this may be indicative of the preparedness of those expecting a *high* threat.

$\chi^2 = 15.488$	$P = 0.001$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	29	18	1	114	162
	Expected	45.0	11.9	2.4	102.6	
High	Count	122	22	7	230	381
	Expected	106.0	28.1	5.6	241.4	
Total	Count	151	40	8	344	543

Q25 by Q29.8 Covered all gaps and vents to reduce the risk of embers entering the house or cavities (e.g. roof, wall, etc.) (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

People that thought a bushfire a *low threat* were significantly over-represented in covering gaps and vents *prior to and on Feb 7*.

$\chi^2 = 8.457$	$P = 0.037$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	45	33	2	40	120
	Expected	53.7	31.7	4.5	30.1	
High	Count	148	81	14	68	311
	Expected	139.3	82.3	11.5	77.9	
Total	Count	193	114	16	108	431

Q25 by Q29.9 Obtained and prepared fire fighting equipment (e.g. hoses and a pump) (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

People that thought a bushfire a *low threat* were significantly over-represented in obtaining fire fighting equipment *prior to and on Feb 7*. There was an over-representation also in *high threat* and *prior to Feb 7*.

$\chi^2 = 15.865$		$P = 0.001$				
		Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	144	25	30	11	210
	Expected	158.8	14.2	29.6	7.4	
High	Count	415	25	74	15	529
	Expected	400.2	35.8	74.4	18.6	
Total	Count	559	50	104	26	739

Q25 by Q29.10 Obtained and prepared equipment such as ladder, buckets and mops to put out spot fires (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

People that thought a bushfire a *low threat* were significantly over-represented in preparing *on Feb 7*. There was an over-representation also in *high threat* and *Prior to Feb 7*; this seems indicative of people that thought a high threat important in terms of action to prepare.

$\chi^2 = 18.54$	$P < 0.001$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	94	96	38	8	236
	Expected	117.7	72.1	39.8	6.3	
High	Count	314	154	100	14	582
	Expected	290.3	177.9	98.2	15.7	
Total	Count	408	250	138	22	818

Q25 by Q29.11 Installed seals and/or draft protectors around windows and doors (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 4.467$	$P = 0.2$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	65	24	3	20	112
	Expected	73.8	19.0	3.3	16.0	
High	Count	207	46	9	39	301
	Expected	198.2	51.0	8.7	43.0	
Total	Count	272	70	12	59	413

Q25 by Q29.12 Installed a sprinkler system on or around the house (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 1.944$	$P = 0.574$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	55	10	7	12	84
	Expected	59.9	8.8	6.2	9.2	
High	Count	198	27	19	27	271
	Expected	193.1	28.2	19.8	29.8	
Total	Count	253	37	26	39	355

Q25 by Q29.13 Installed shutters (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 2.737$		$P = 0.434$					
		Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total	
Low	Count	6	2	0	28	36	
	Expected	8.7	1.5	.6	25.2		
High	Count	23	3	2	56	84	
	Expected	20.3	3.5	1.4	58.8		
Total	Count	29	5	2	84	120	

Q25 by Q29.14 Prepared a kit of personal protective clothing for each member of the household (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

People that thought a bushfire a *low threat* were significantly over-represented in preparing *on Feb 7 (or prior and on)*. There was an over-representation also in *high threat* and *Prior to Feb 7*; this seems indicative of people that thought a *high threat* important in terms of action to prepare.

$\chi^2 = 15.873$		$P = 0.001$				
		Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	70	56	9	11	146
	Expected	88.7	40.5	9.6	7.2	
High	Count	289	108	30	18	445
	Expected	270.3	123.5	29.4	21.8	
Total	Count	359	164	39	29	591

Q25 by Q29.15 Obtained a battery-powered radio (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

There was no association between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 2.592$	$P = 0.459$	Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	140	11	10	9	170
	Expected	146.1	8.8	8.5	6.7	
High	Count	409	22	22	16	469
	Expected	402.9	24.2	23.5	18.3	
Total	Count	549	33	32	25	639

Q25 by Q29.16 Stored important documents and possessions off-site or in a fire safe compartment (Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires?)

People that thought a bushfire a *low threat* were significantly over-represented in preparing *on Feb 7*. There was an over-representation also in *high threat* and *Prior to Feb 7*; this seems indicative of people that thought a high threat possible taking action to prepare in advance.

$\chi^2 = 8.547$		$P = 0.036$				
		Prior to Feb. 7	On Feb. 7	Action not taken	Prior to and on Feb. 7	Total
Low	Count	66	57	6	5	134
	Expected	78.2	43.9	7.3	4.7	
High	Count	203	94	19	11	327
	Expected	190.8	107.1	17.7	11.3	
Total	Count	269	151	25	16	461

Q25 by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

People that thought a bushfire a *low threat* were significantly over-represented in *average and low* preparedness for Feb 7. There was an over-representation also in *high threat* and *High* preparedness. Notably, 57% of *high threat* rated themselves *highly* prepared, whereas only 28% of *low threat* rated themselves *highly* prepared.

$\chi^2 = 97.055$		$P < 0.001$	High prep.	Average	Low prep.	Total
Low	Count		102	159	108	369
	Expected		173.1	132.2	63.7	
High	Count		431	248	88	767
	Expected		359.9	274.8	132.3	
Total	Count		533	407	196	1136

Q26. Which of the following best describes your level of planning for bushfires BEFORE February 7th?

Q26 by Q27 At the beginning of last summer, which of the following did you think you were MOST LIKELY to do if a bushfire occurred in your town or suburb?

People that *had a firm plan* were over-represented in *stay throughout the fire*, which is to be expected. Proportionally, 57% of those that *had a firm plan*, and 49% of those that *decided what to do and was planning it*; and 48% of those *considered it and decided to do nothing* had thought they would be most *likely to stay throughout the fire*.

$\chi^2 = 205.645$	$P < 0.001$	Stay throughout fire	Stay and leave if threatened	Wait and see fire	Wait for emergency services	Leave as soon as fire threatens	No at home on high fire danger days	Hadn't thought about it	Total
Never thought about it	Count	6	6	2	4	8	1	5	32
	Expected	16.3	5.6	3.0	.7	5.6	.5	.3	
Knew I should consider it but didn't	Count	9	11	7	0	10	0	2	39
	Expected	19.9	6.8	3.6	.8	6.8	.6	.4	
Considered it and was still deciding	Count	16	19	11	5	7	0	0	58
	Expected	29.6	10.1	5.4	1.3	10.1	.9	.6	
Considered it and decided to do nothing	Count	14	3	8	2	1	0	1	29
	Expected	14.8	5.1	2.7	.6	5.1	.5	.3	
Decided what to do and was planning it	Count	77	32	21	5	18	3	1	157
	Expected	80.1	27.4	14.6	3.4	27.4	2.5	1.6	
Had a firm plan	Count	430	118	48	8	140	14	2	760
	Expected	387.9	132.7	70.5	16.4	132.7	12.3	7.5	
Other	Count	15	5	6	0	10	0	0	36
	Expected	18.4	6.3	3.3	.8	6.3	.6	.4	
Total	Count	567	194	103	24	194	18	11	1111

Q26 by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

People that *had a firm plan* were over-represented in *high* preparedness, which is to be expected. A clear pattern in response is evident, with the *low* preparedness relating to *low* preparation.

$\chi^2 = 378.55$	$P < 0.001$	High	Average	Low	Total
Never thought about it	Count	0	8	24	32
	Expected	15.1	11.3	5.6	
Knew I should consider it but didn't	Count	3	9	27	39
	Expected	18.4	13.7	6.9	
Considered it and was still deciding	Count	3	23	29	55
	Expected	25.9	19.4	9.7	
Considered it and decided to do nothing	Count	6	16	7	29
	Expected	13.7	10.2	5.1	
Decided what to do and was planning it	Count	27	92	36	155
	Expected	73.1	54.5	27.3	
Had a firm plan	Count	470	223	56	749
	Expected	353.3	263.6	132.1	
Other	Count	7	14	14	35
	Expected	16.5	12.3	6.2	
Total	Count	516	385	193	1094

Q27 At the beginning of last summer, which of the following did you think you were MOST LIKELY to do if a bushfire occurred in your town or suburb?

Q27 by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

Those that thought they were most likely to *stay throughout the fire* were over-represented in the *high* preparedness, again as we would expect. Of those that stated they *would leave as soon as the fire threatens*, there was a clear over-representation of *low* preparedness.

$\chi^2 = 224.332$	$P < 0.001$	High	Average	Low	Total
Stay throughout fire	Count	391	158	49	598
	Expected	278.0	213.6	106.3	
Stay and leave if threatened	Count	67	98	39	204
	Expected	94.9	72.9	36.3	
Wait and see fire	Count	24	53	32	109
	Expected	50.7	38.9	19.4	
Wait for emergency services	Count	5	9	10	24
	Expected	11.2	8.6	4.3	
Leave as soon as fire threatens	Count	48	85	68	201
	Expected	93.5	71.8	35.7	
No at home on high fire danger days	Count	8	12	2	22
	Expected	10.2	7.9	3.9	
Hadh't thought about it	Count	1	3	8	12
	Expected	5.6	4.3	2.1	
Total	Count	544	418	208	1170

Q27 by Q36. Were there members of your household who needed looking after during the fire? You may select more than one. (Multiple Response)

A significant association was found between those who needed care during the fire and what people would most likely do in the event of a bushfire. In most cases no one needed care during the fire, and there was an overrepresentation of people who would stay throughout the fire in this category. The group that had the highest frequency of care were infants and children. This group was overrepresented where people were most likely to leave as soon as the fire threatened.

$\chi^2 = 87.954$	$P < 0.001$	Infants or children	Elderly persons	Disabled persons	Ill persons	Persons who became sick	Other	No one needed care	Total
Stay throughout fire	Count	118	30	10	15	33	33	334	573
	Expected	150.3	27.0	12.5	12.0	28.6	38.0	304.7	
Stay and leave if threatened	Count	58	8	3	3	13	12	80	177
	Expected	46.4	8.4	3.9	3.7	8.8	11.7	94.1	
Wait and see fire	Count	23	3	2	2	2	8	54	94
	Expected	24.7	4.4	2.0	2.0	4.7	6.2	50.0	
Wait for emergency services	Count	8	1	1	1	1	2	11	25
	Expected	6.6	1.2	0.5	0.5	1.2	1.7	13.3	
Leave as soon as fire threatens	Count	68	8	5	2	4	15	78	180
	Expected	47.2	8.5	3.9	3.8	9.0	11.9	95.7	
No at home on high fire danger days	Count	5	1	0	0	0	2	11	19
	Expected	5.0	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.3	10.1	
Hadn't thought about it	Count	1	0	2	0	1	0	5	9
	Expected	2.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.6	4.8	
Other	Count	8	1	1	0	1	1	13	25
	Expected	6.6	1.2	0.5	0.5	1.2	1.7	13.3	
Total	Count	289	52	24	23	55	73	586	1102

Q27 by Q50. If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb would you take the same action in leaving?

More people than expected that indicated they planned to stay throughout the fire at the beginning of last summer would not take the same course of action again if in a similar situation. This created a significant association between the two variables. Overall most people would not do anything different.

$\chi^2 = 27.295$	$P < 0.001$	Yes	No	Total
Stay throughout fire	Count	48	33	81
	Expected	61.9	19.1	
Stay and leave if threatened	Count	86	20	106
	Expected	81.0	25.0	
Wait and see fire	Count	42	15	57
	Expected	43.6	13.4	
Wait for emergency services	Count	8	7	15
	Expected	11.5	3.5	
Leave as soon as fire threatens	Count	139	31	170
	Expected	130.0	40.0	
No at home on high fire danger days	Count	20	1	21
	Expected	16.1	4.9	
Hadn't thought about it	Count	4	0	4
	Expected	3.1	.9	
Other	Count	10	3	13
	Expected	9.9	3.1	
Total	Count	357	110	467

Q27 by Q79. What kind of insurance did you have on February 7th 2009? You may select more than one.

Residents who have outbuildings and farm insurance have more people than expected who were most likely to stay throughout the fire. Interestingly, no one with this kind of insurance had not thought about what to do if a bushfire threatened their property. Those with contents only insurance were most likely to leave as soon as the fire threatens.

$\chi^2 = 164.569$	$P < 0.001$	House and contents	House only	Contents only	Outbuildings	Farm insurance	None	Total
Stay throughout fire	Count	520	25	8	191	158	24	926
	Expected	559.8	26.2	25.1	164.5	119.2	31.2	
Stay and leave if threatened	Count	172	13	11	45	28	4	273
	Expected	165.0	7.7	7.4	48.5	35.1	9.2	
Wait and see fire	Count	89	3	6	20	11	7	136
	Expected	82.2	3.9	3.7	24.2	17.5	4.6	
Wait for emergency services	Count	20	1	0	2	1	3	27
	Expected	16.3	0.8	0.7	4.8	3.5	0.9	
Leave as soon as fire threatens	Count	169	5	19	31	13	13	250
	Expected	151.1	7.1	6.8	44.4	32.2	8.4	
No at home on high fire danger days	Count	19	0	1	4	3	1	28
	Expected	16.9	0.8	0.8	5.0	3.6	0.9	
Hadh't thought about it	Count	9	0	0	0	0	3	12
	Expected	7.3	0.3	0.3	2.1	1.5	0.4	
Other	Count	26	1	1	8	4	2	42
	Expected	25.4	1.2	1.1	7.5	5.4	1.4	
Total	Count	1024	48	46	301	218	57	1694

Q27 by Q80. What is the composition of your household?

The household composition with the highest frequency of people who would stay throughout the fire is couples with no dependents. Couples or single adults with dependents have an overrepresentation of people who would stay and leave if threatened.

$\chi^2 = 27.295$	$P < 0.001$	Couple with dependents	One adult and dependents	Couple no dependents	One person	Share with other adults	Other	Total
Stay throughout fire	Count	188	15	248	58	46	35	590
	Expected	209.5	24.4	214	71.8	43.4	26.9	
Stay and leave if threatened	Count	90	13	50	26	17	6	202
	Expected	71.7	8.4	73.3	24.6	14.9	9.2	
Wait and see fire	Count	36	7	36	15	9	4	107
	Expected	38	4.4	38.8	13	7.9	4.9	
Wait for emergency services	Count	10	1	6	4	1	2	24
	Expected	8.5	1	8.7	2.9	1.8	1.1	
Leave as soon as fire threatens	Count	78	11	65	28	11	5	198
	Expected	70.3	8.2	71.8	24.1	14.6	9	
No at home on high fire danger days	Count	4	1	9	5	2	1	22
	Expected	7.8	0.9	8	2.7	1.6	1	
Hadn't thought about it	Count	2	0	7	1	1	0	11
	Expected	3.9	0.5	4	1.3	0.8	0.5	
Other	Count	12	1	8	7	0	1	29
	Expected	10.3	1.2	10.5	3.5	2.1	1.3	
Total	Count	420	49	429	144	87	54	1183

Q27 by Q82. On February 7th were you registered as a CFA volunteer?

Of those who would stay throughout the fire, there was an overrepresentation of people who were registered or had registered in the past as a CFA volunteer. 95% of people who were not registered as a CFA volunteer would leave as soon as a fire threatened.

$\chi^2 = 61.085$	$P < 0.001$	Yes	No, registered in past	No	Total
Stay throughout fire	Count	60	83	457	600
	Expected	44.2	63.6	492.2	
Stay and leave if threatened	Count	7	20	179	206
	Expected	15.2	21.8	169	
Wait and see fire	Count	11	10	90	111
	Expected	8.2	11.8	91.1	
Wait for emergency services	Count	0	0	25	25
	Expected	1.8	2.6	20.5	
Leave as soon as fire threatens	Count	1	10	191	202
	Expected	14.9	21.4	165.7	
No at home on high fire danger days	Count	2	1	19	22
	Expected	1.6	2.3	18	
Hadh't thought about it	Count	1	1	10	12
	Expected	0.9	1.3	9.8	
Other	Count	7	3	20	30
	Expected	2.2	3.2	24.6	
Total	Count	89	128	991	1208

Q27 by Q83. On February 7th were you a member of a CFA community fire guard group?

Many more people than expected who were members of the CFA community fire guard group would stay throughout a fire. The majority of those who were most likely to leave as soon as a fire threatens were not members of the CFA community fire guard group.

$\chi^2 = 50.806$	$P < 0.001$	Yes	No, registered in past	No	Total
Stay throughout fire	Count	124	41	426	591
	Expected	91.0	40.6	459.4	
Stay and leave if threatened	Count	24	19	163	206
	Expected	31.7	14.1	160.1	
Wait and see fire	Count	13	8	88	109
	Expected	16.8	7.5	84.7	
Wait for emergency services	Count	0	0	25	25
	Expected	3.8	1.7	19.4	
Leave as soon as fire threatens	Count	13	11	178	202
	Expected	31.1	13.9	157.0	
No at home on high fire danger days	Count	2	3	17	22
	Expected	3.4	1.5	17.1	
Hadh't thought about it	Count	0	0	12	12
	Expected	1.8	.8	9.3	
Other	Count	8	0	20	28
	Expected	4.3	1.9	21.8	
Total	Count	184	82	929	1195

Q29. Which of the following had you done to prepare for bushfires? Please indicate whether the action was taken prior to February 7th or on the day of the fire.

Q29.1 Cleared leaves, twigs and long grass for a distance of about 20-30m around the house by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

Those that thought they were most likely to *not clear leaves* were over-represented in the *high* preparedness, again as we would expect. Most respondents prepared before the day and not on the day.

$\chi^2 = 21.253$	$P = 0.002$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	421	323	143	887
	Expected	431.4	319.1	136.5	
On Feb. 7	Count	3	4	4	11
	Expected	5.3	4.0	1.7	
Action not taken	Count	86	46	10	142
	Expected	69.1	51.1	21.9	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	5	8	6	19
	Expected	9.2	6.8	2.9	
Total	Count	515	381	163	1059

Q29.2 Removed bushes close to the house and cut back overhanging tree branches by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

Most respondents prepared before the day and not on the day.

$\chi^2 = 17.092$	$P = 0.009$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	322	217	67	606
	Expected	319.3	209.1	77.6	
On Feb. 7	Count	9	1	0	10
	Expected	5.3	3.5	1.3	
Action not taken	Count	21	8	4	33
	Expected	17.4	11.4	4.2	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	80	57	34	171
	Expected	90.1	59.0	21.9	
Total	Count	432	283	105	820

Q29.3 Used landscaping or the layout of garden to reduce the fire risk by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

Most respondents prepared before the day and not on the day.

$\chi^2 = 25.946$	$P < 0.001$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	347	193	56	596
	Expected	327.6	202.1	66.3	
On Feb. 7	Count	4	6	0	10
	Expected	5.5	3.4	1.1	
Action not taken	Count	11	3	1	15
	Expected	8.2	5.1	1.7	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	53	54	27	134
	Expected	73.7	45.4	14.9	
Total	Count	415	256	84	755

Q29.4 Moved combustible materials such as firewood and wooden garden furniture away from the house by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

In comparison to the previous few questions, more people moved materials on Feb 7 than in previous questions.

$\chi^2 = 21.405$	$P = 0.002$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	260	165	52	477
	Expected	267.4	159.8	49.8	
On Feb. 7	Count	107	60	21	188
	Expected	105.4	63.0	19.6	
Action not taken	Count	65	19	2	86
	Expected	48.2	28.8	9.0	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	35	35	12	82
	Expected	46.0	27.5	8.6	
Total	Count	467	279	87	833

Q29.5 Cleared gutters of leaves by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

No significant association was found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 6.353$	$P = 0.385$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	387	292	123	802
	Expected	396.3	289.1	116.6	
On Feb. 7	Count	22	19	7	48
	Expected	23.7	17.3	7.0	
Action not taken	Count	80	42	15	137
	Expected	67.7	49.4	19.9	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	21	19	5	45
	Expected	22.2	16.2	6.5	
Total	Count	510	372	150	1032

Q29.6 Installed gutter protection by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

No significant association was found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 3.804$	$P = 0.703$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	113	67	23	203
	Expected	114.6	65.3	23.1	
On Feb. 7	Count	19	7	1	27
	Expected	15.2	8.7	3.1	
Action not taken	Count	7	3	1	11
	Expected	6.2	3.5	1.2	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	40	25	11	76
	Expected	42.9	24.5	8.6	
Total	Count	179	102	36	317

Q29.7 Covered underfloor spaces to prevent embers and flame entering by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

No significant association was found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 7.295$	$P = 0.294$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	101	42	9	152
	Expected	90.1	46.7	15.1	
On Feb. 7	Count	23	13	4	40
	Expected	23.7	12.3	4.0	
Action not taken	Count	5	3	0	8
	Expected	4.7	2.5	.8	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	193	109	41	343
	Expected	203.4	105.5	34.1	
Total	Count	322	167	54	543

Q29.8 Covered all gaps and vents to reduce the risk of embers entering the house or cavities (e.g. roof, wall, etc.) by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

No significant association was found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 3.777$	$P = 0.707$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	132	53	10	195
	Expected	129.1	54.2	11.7	
On Feb. 7	Count	75	30	7	112
	Expected	74.1	31.1	6.7	
Action not taken	Count	12	3	0	15
	Expected	9.9	4.2	.9	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	67	34	9	110
	Expected	72.8	30.6	6.6	
Total	Count	286	120	26	432

Q29.9 Obtained and prepared fire fighting equipment (e.g. hoses and a pump) by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

A large number of respondents that obtained fire fighting equipment *prior to Feb 7* rated their preparedness *higher* than expected. Notably, over-representation for *Average and Low* preparedness was found for those that prepared *on Feb 7* or *Prior to and on Feb 7*.

$\chi^2 = 53.098$	$P < 0.001$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	357	160	45	562
	Expected	342.8	169.1	50.1	
On Feb. 7	Count	14	29	9	52
	Expected	31.7	15.6	4.6	
Action not taken	Count	75	19	6	100
	Expected	61.0	30.1	8.9	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	6	15	6	27
	Expected	16.5	8.1	2.4	
Total	Count	452	223	66	741

Q29.10 Obtained and prepared equipment such as ladder, buckets and mops to put out spot fires by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

A large number of respondents that obtained ladders, buckets and mops *prior to Feb 7* rated their preparedness *higher* than expected. Over-representation for *Average and Low* preparedness was found for those that prepared on *Feb 7*.

$\chi^2 = 43.54$	$P < 0.001$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	256	128	24	408
	Expected	236.1	134.0	37.9	
On Feb. 7	Count	108	106	36	250
	Expected	144.7	82.1	23.2	
Action not taken	Count	96	29	11	136
	Expected	78.7	44.7	12.6	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	14	6	5	25
	Expected	14.5	8.2	2.3	
Total	Count	474	269	76	819

Q29.11 Installed seals and/or draft protectors around windows and doors by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

No significant association was found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 8.256$	$P = 0.22$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	178	66	27	271
	Expected	175.8	70.1	25.1	
On Feb. 7	Count	44	21	3	68
	Expected	44.1	17.6	6.3	
Action not taken	Count	10	1	0	11
	Expected	7.1	2.8	1.0	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	34	18	8	60
	Expected	38.9	15.5	5.6	
Total	Count	266	106	38	410

Q29.12 Installed a sprinkler system on or around the house by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

No significant association was found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 8.929$	$P = 0.178$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	175	60	19	254
	Expected	171.9	64.4	17.7	
On Feb. 7	Count	24	12	2	38
	Expected	25.7	9.6	2.6	
Action not taken	Count	22	4	0	26
	Expected	17.6	6.6	1.8	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	22	15	4	41
	Expected	27.8	10.4	2.9	
Total	Count	243	91	25	359

Q29.13 Installed shutters by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

No significant association was found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 5.476$	$P = 0.484$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	22	4	2	28
	Expected	18.8	7.6	1.6	
On Feb. 7	Count	5	1	0	6
	Expected	4.0	1.6	.3	
Action not taken	Count	2	0	0	2
	Expected	1.3	.5	.1	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	53	28	5	86
	Expected	57.8	23.3	4.9	
Total	Count	82	33	7	122

Q29.14 Prepared a kit of personal protective clothing for each member of the household by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

A large number of respondents that prepared personal protective equipment *prior to Feb 7* rated their preparedness *higher* than expected; and over-representation for *Average and Low* preparedness was found for those that prepared on *Feb 7*.

$\chi^2 = 52.037$	$P < 0.001$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	272	84	9	365
	Expected	240.3	103.3	21.4	
On Feb. 7	Count	79	64	20	163
	Expected	107.3	46.1	9.6	
Action not taken	Count	29	9	1	39
	Expected	25.7	11.0	2.3	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	13	12	5	30
	Expected	19.7	8.5	1.8	
Total	Count	393	169	35	597

Q29.15 Obtained a battery-powered radio by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

No significant association was found between these questions.

$\chi^2 = 2.129$	$P = 0.907$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	311	175	67	553
	Expected	311.6	174.6	66.8	
On Feb. 7	Count	19	13	3	35
	Expected	19.7	11.1	4.2	
Action not taken	Count	19	7	5	31
	Expected	17.5	9.8	3.7	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	15	9	3	27
	Expected	15.2	8.5	3.3	
Total	Count	364	204	78	646

Q29.16 Stored important documents and possessions off-site or in a fire safe compartment by Q30 How would you rate your preparedness for the February 7th bushfire?

A large number of respondents that stored important documents *prior to Feb 7* rated their preparedness *higher* than expected. Over-representation for *Average and Low* preparedness was found for those that prepared on *Feb 7*.

$\chi^2 = 14.259$	$P = 0.027$	High	Average	Low	Total
Prior to Feb. 7	Count	157	92	22	271
	Expected	142.4	99.6	29.0	
On Feb. 7	Count	65	65	24	154
	Expected	80.9	56.6	16.5	
Action not taken	Count	16	8	1	25
	Expected	13.1	9.2	2.7	
Prior to and on Feb 7	Count	8	7	3	18
	Expected	9.5	6.6	1.9	
Total	Count	246	172	50	468

Section 4: During the Bushfire - part 1

Q36. Were there members of your household who needed looking after during the fire? You may select more than one.

Q36 by Q61. Why did you leave your house or property? You may select more than one.

From the significant association between those who needed looking after during the fire and why residents left their property there was only one overrepresentation. This was that more people than expected left their property to remove infants or children from danger.

$\chi^2=200.41$	$P < 0.001$	Smelled smoke near by	Flames near by	Fire in immediate vicinity	To get things to defend	Emergency services said to	Friends, relatives, neighbours said to	Too dangerous	Sustained an injury	Remove household members from danger	Fire fighting equipment failed	House caught on fire	Other	Total
Infants or children	Count	9	19	21	5	3	10	27	2	28	18	11	23	176
	Expected	9.5	18.9	20.6	4.2	4.9	10.4	31.3	2.6	19.9	18.9	12.1	22.5	
Elderly persons	Count	2	3	2	1	2	2	6	1	2	2	0	2	25
	Expected	1.3	2.7	2.9	0.6	0.7	1.5	4.5	0.4	2.8	2.7	1.7	3.2	
Disabled persons	Count	0	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	11
	Expected	0.6	1.2	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	2.0	0.2	1.2	1.2	0.8	1.4	
Ill persons	Count	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	9
	Expected	0.5	1.0	1.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.6	0.1	1.0	1.0	0.6	1.2	
Persons who became sick	Count	3	3	5	1	0	3	5	2	3	4	4	3	36
	Expected	1.9	3.9	4.2	0.9	1.0	2.1	6.4	0.5	4.1	3.9	2.5	4.6	
Other	Count	5	4	5	1	1	2	10	2	10	6	3	13	62
	Expected	3.3	6.7	7.2	1.5	1.7	3.7	11.0	0.9	7.0	6.7	4.3	7.9	
No one needed care	Count	10	27	29	4	8	11	44	0	16	27	18	26	220
	Expected	11.8	23.7	25.7	5.3	6.1	13.1	39.2	3.3	24.9	23.7	15.1	28.2	
Total	Count	29	58	63	13	15	32	96	8	61	58	37	69	539

Q37. Which one of the following best describes what YOU did DURING the bushfire?

The following questions refer only to those who left on their property (answered a or b at question 37).

Q37 a. Left before the fire arrived in my town or suburb

Q37 b. Left when the fire arrived in my town or suburb

Q37 by Q38. On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'very early' and 5 is 'very late', when did you leave your home or property?

Those who left before the fire arrived rated their timing of leaving as very early or early, while those who left when the fire arrived rated their timing as late or very late.

$\chi^2 = 200.406$	$P = 0.002$	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Left before the fire arrived	Count	101	43	51	47	14	256
	Expected	52.9	25.7	46	67.2	64.2	
Left when the fire arrived	Count	6	9	42	89	116	262
	Expected	54.1	26.3	47	68.8	65.8	
Total	Count	107	52	93	136	130	518

Q37 (a & b) by Q42 Where had you originally planned to go?

There was an association between when individuals *left their property* and where they had planned to go. Most people who left before the fire arrived intended to go to a *nearby town*. Though there was a similar result for those who left when the fire arrived, there was also an overrepresentation of people who would go to another house nearby or open area.

$\chi^2 = 15.398$	$P = 0.002$	Another house nearby	Another building	Open arena	Nearby town	Total
Left before the fire arrived	Count	16	4	13	132	165
	Expected	23.9	5.1	21.4	114.6	165.0
Left when the fire arrived	Count	40	8	37	136	221
	Expected	32.1	6.9	28.6	153.4	221.0
Total	Count	56	12	50	268	386

Q37 (a & b) by Q43 When you left, where did you actually go?

An association is evident between where people went on the day of the bushfires and when they left their homes. Most people went to a nearby town, and this was overrepresented for people that *left before the fire arrived*. Respondents who *left when the fire arrived* had an overrepresentation in that they went to *another house nearby*.

$\chi^2 = 21.144$	$P < 0.001$	Another house nearby	Another building	Open arena	Nearby town	Total
Left before the fire arrived	Count	11	7	5	144	167
	Expected	22.4	6.6	11.4	126.6	
Left when the fire arrived	Count	40	8	21	144	213
	Expected	28.6	8.4	14.6	161.4	
Total	Count	51	15	26	288	380

Q37 (a & b) by Q44 How did you get there?

There is no association between when a respondent left their home and how they got to their destination. Very few people left by any transportation other than their own car, irrespective of when they left.

$\chi^2 = 0.341$	$P = 0.559$	In my car	Other	Total
Left before the fire arrived	Count	191	10	201
	Expected	189.6	11.4	
Left when the fire arrived	Count	240	16	256
	Expected	241.4	14.6	
Total	Count	431	26	457

*Other includes someone else's car, foot, emergency services and any other transportation (including motorbikes, trucks and planes)

Q37 (a & b) by Q45 When you left your house or property, did you feel that the danger was...?

There was an association between when a resident left their home and the level of fire danger they felt. Respondents who *left before the fire arrived* had an overrepresentation in feeling that the fire danger level was *moderate and low*. Those who *left when the fire arrived* overwhelmingly rated the fire danger as *high*.

$\chi^2 = 49.28$	$P < 0.001$	High	Moderate	Low	Total
Left before the fire arrived	Count	173	37	48	258
	Expected	205.2	23.4	29.4	
Left when the fire arrived	Count	239	10	11	260
	Expected	206.8	23.6	29.6	
Total	Count	412	47	59	518

Q37 (a & b) by Q47 How long after the fire passed through your town or suburb did you first attempt to return?

An association does not exist between when an individual left their property and the length of time before they attempted to returned. Despite this there was still some overrepresentation where those who left before the fire arrived were more likely to attempt to go home less than an hour after the fire had passed through.

$\chi^2 = 15.24$		$P = 0.004$		<1hr	1-2hrs	3-6hrs	7-12hrs	>12hrs	Total
Left before the fire arrived	Count		16	13	21	32	177	259	
	Expected		9.7	18.5	27.7	31.3	171.8		
Left when the fire arrived	Count		3	23	33	29	158	246	
	Expected		9.3	17.5	26.3	29.7	163.2		
Total	Count		19	36	54	61	335	505	

Q37 (a & b) by Q50 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb would you take the same action in leaving?

A significant discrepancy is found between when an individual left their property and whether or not they would take the same action again. Those who *left before the fire arrived* would *take the same course of action again*. And, although most people who left when the fire arrived would also take the same action again, there were more people than expected who would change their actions.

$\chi^2 = 8.274$	$P = 0.004$	Yes	No	Total
Left before the fire arrived	Count	209	48	257
	Expected	195.2	61.8	
Left when the fire arrived	Count	176	74	250
	Expected	189.8	60.2	
Total	Count	385	122	507

Q40. To the best of your knowledge, how long before the fire arrived in your town or suburb did you leave?

Q40 (a & b) by Q45 When you left your house or property, did you feel that the danger was...?

This cross-tab shows a significant association between a persons estimation of when the fire arrived in their suburb and the level of fire danger they felt when they left the property. Those who *left more than four hours* before the fire arrived in their suburb had an overrepresentation in the *moderate and low* categories. Individuals who left *less than 4 hours* before the fire arrived overwhelmingly stated that the fire danger was *high*.

$\chi^2 = 72.49$ $P < 0.001$		High	Moderate	Low	Total
>4hrs	Count	42	19	27	88
	Expected	69.7	8.0	10.3	
2-4hrs	Count	109	13	17	139
	Expected	110.1	12.6	16.3	
10 mins - 2hrs	Count	114	7	7	128
	Expected	101.4	11.6	15.0	
<10mins	Count	128	6	7	141
	Expected	111.7	12.8	16.5	
Total	Count	393	45	58	496

Q40 (a & b) by Q47 How long after the fire passed through your town or suburb did you first attempt to return?

There is no association between a respondent's estimation of when the fire arrived in their town or suburb and when they attempted to return to their home. In all categories, most people attempted to return greater than 12 hours after the fire.

$\chi^2 = 13.6$	$P = 0.327$	<1hr	1-2hrs	3-6hrs	7-12hrs	>12hrs	Total
<4hrs	Count	7	8	8	10	56	89
	Expected	3.1	6.6	9.4	10.9	58.9	
2-4hrs	Count	4	10	15	19	91	139
	Expected	4.9	10.4	14.7	17.0	92.0	
10 mins - 2hrs	Count	5	5	13	18	82	123
	Expected	4.3	9.2	13.0	15.1	81.4	
<10mins	Count	1	13	15	12	90	131
	Expected	4.6	9.8	13.9	16.0	86.7	
Total	Count	17	36	51	59	319	482

Q40 (a & b) by Q50 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb would you take the same action in leaving?

The time after a person left their property before the fire arrived and whether or not they would repeat the same actions in similar circumstances are significantly associated. Most interestingly, people who left with less than 10 minutes before the bushfire arrived showed a greater likelihood in *not* doing it again.

$\chi^2 = 13.042$	$P = 0.005$	Yes	No	Total
>4hrs	Count	66	23	89
	Expected	67.1	21.9	
2-4hrs	Count	117	20	137
	Expected	103.3	33.7	
10 mins - 2hrs	Count	92	31	123
	Expected	92.8	30.2	
<10mins	Count	90	45	135
	Expected	101.8	33.2	
Total	Count	365	119	484

Q42. Where had you originally planned to go?

Q42 by Q43 When you left, where did you actually go?

An association is expected between where respondents had planned to go and where they actually went, and in this case the expectation was met. Most residents were able to go to the location they had originally planned.

$\chi^2 = 309.987$	$P < 0.001$	Another house nearby	Another building	Open arena	Nearby town	Total
Another house nearby	Count	33	1	1	9	44
	Expected	5.8	1.5	3.2	33.5	
Another building	Count	1	5	0	4	10
	Expected	1.3	.3	.7	7.6	
Open arena	Count	2	3	17	24	46
	Expected	6.0	1.6	3.4	35.0	
Nearby town	Count	9	3	7	224	243
	Expected	31.9	8.5	17.7	184.9	
Total	Count	45	12	25	261	343

Q42 by Q44 How did you get there?

There was no association between where people had originally planned to go and how they got there.

$\chi^2 = 4.025$	$P = 0.259$	In my car	Other	Total
Another house nearby	Count	52	4	56
	Expected	53.1	2.9	
Another building	Count	10	2	12
	Expected	11.4	.6	
Open arena	Count	48	2	50
	Expected	47.4	2.6	
Nearby town	Count	254	12	266
	Expected	252.1	13.9	
Total	Count	364	20	384

*Other includes someone else's car, foot, emergency services and any other transportation (including motorbikes, trucks and planes)

Q42 by Q45 When you left your house or property, did you feel that the danger was...?

There was no association between where respondents had originally planned to go and how threatening they felt the fire was.

$\chi^2 = 4.423$		$P = 0.62$		High	Moderate	Low	Total
Another house nearby	Count	48	4	4	56		
	Expected	48.1	3.5	4.4			
Another building	Count	10	1	1	12		
	Expected	10.3	.8	.9			
Open arena	Count	44	5	1	50		
	Expected	42.9	3.1	3.9			
Nearby town	Count	226	14	24	264		
	Expected	226.7	16.6	20.7			
Total	Count	328	24	30	382		

Q42 by Q50 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb would you take the same action in leaving?

There was no association between where individuals had originally planned to go and whether they would take the same action again.

$\chi^2 = 1.562$	$P = 0.668$	Yes	No	Total
Another house nearby	Count	41	14	55
	Expected	43.6	11.4	
Another building	Count	9	2	11
	Expected	8.7	2.3	
Open arena	Count	37	12	49
	Expected	38.8	10.2	
Nearby town	Count	206	49	255
	Expected	201.9	53.1	
Total	Count	293	77	370

Q42 by Q73 Which of the following age groups do you belong to?

The association between where individuals had originally planned to go and age is significant. Those between 25 and 44 had mostly planned to go to another house nearby. Those who originally planned to an open arena were most frequently aged between 55 and 64.

$\chi^2 = 33.835$	$P = 0.013$	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Another house nearby	Count	1	9	23	9	8	4	1	55
	Expected	0.6	5.3	13.9	12.7	12.6	6.7	3.2	
Another building	Count	0	2	1	2	3	2	2	12
	Expected	0.1	1.1	3	2.8	2.7	1.5	0.7	
Open arena	Count	0	1	6	13	20	6	3	49
	Expected	0.5	4.7	12.4	11.3	11.2	6	2.9	
Nearby town	Count	3	24	65	63	55	34	16	260
	Expected	2.8	24.9	65.7	60.2	59.5	31.8	15.2	
Total	Count	4	36	95	87	86	46	22	376

Q43. When you left, where did you actually go?

Q43 by Q44 How did you get there?

There was no association between where respondents had gone to escape the fire and how threatening they felt the fire was.

$\chi^2 = 0.758$		$P = 0.859$		In my car	Other	Total
Another house nearby	Count	47	4	51		
	Expected	48.2	2.8			
Another building	Count	14	1	15		
	Expected	14.2	.8			
Open arena	Count	25	1	26		
	Expected	24.6	1.4			
Nearby town	Count	273	15	288		
	Expected	272.1	15.9			
Total	Count	359	21	380		

*Other includes someone else's car, foot, emergency services and any other transportation (including motorbikes, trucks and planes)

Q43 by Q45 When you left your house or property, did you feel that the danger was...?

There was no association between where respondents had gone to escape the fire and how threatening they felt the fire was.

$\chi^2 = 6.253$		$P = 0.395$		High	Moderate	Low	Total
Another house nearby	Count	41	4	5	50		
	Expected	41.6	3.7	4.6			
Another building	Count	12	2	1	15		
	Expected	12.5	1.1	1.4			
Open arena	Count	22	4	0	26		
	Expected	21.7	1.9	2.4			
Nearby town	Count	239	18	29	286		
	Expected	238.2	21.2	26.6			
Total	Count	314	28	35	377		

Q43 by Q47 How long after the fire passed through your town or suburb did you first attempt to return?

An association was found between where residents went when they left their homes on February 7th and when they attempted to return. The main finding from this table is that people who were in other houses nearby were more likely to try and return earlier (less than 12 hours after the fire passed through).

$\chi^2 = 37.839$	$P < 0.001$	<1hr	1-2hrs	3-6hrs	7-12hrs	>12hrs	Total
Another house nearby	Count	0	10	9	9	21	49
	Expected	.5	2.9	4.8	6.4	34.3	
Another building	Count	0	0	1	1	13	15
	Expected	.2	.9	1.5	2.0	10.5	
Open arena	Count	0	2	3	0	16	21
	Expected	.2	1.3	2.1	2.8	14.7	
Nearby town	Count	4	10	23	38	206	281
	Expected	3.1	16.9	27.6	36.9	196.5	
Total	Count	4	22	36	48	256	366

Q43 by Q50 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb would you take the same action in leaving?

There was no association between where individuals had gone to escape the fire and whether they would take the same action again.

$\chi^2 = 6.253$	$P = 0.395$	Yes	No	Total
Another house nearby	Count	43	7	50
	Expected	39.5	10.5	
Another building	Count	10	5	15
	Expected	11.8	3.2	
Open arena	Count	14	9	23
	Expected	18.1	4.9	
Nearby town	Count	221	56	277
	Expected	218.6	58.4	
Total	Count	288	77	365

Q43 by Q73 Which of the following age groups do you belong to?

There was no significant association for this test.

$\chi^2 = 14.162$	$P = 0.718$	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Another house nearby	Count	1	4	20	8	10	4	2	49
	Expected	.9	4.5	12.3	10.6	11.8	6.0	2.9	
Another building	Count	0	1	4	5	3	0	2	15
	Expected	.3	1.4	3.8	3.2	3.6	1.8	.9	
Open arena	Count	1	2	6	4	6	4	2	25
	Expected	.5	2.3	6.3	5.4	6.0	3.0	1.5	
Nearby town	Count	5	27	63	63	70	37	16	281
	Expected	5.3	25.8	70.6	60.8	67.6	34.2	16.7	
Total	Count	7	34	93	80	89	45	22	370

Q43 by Q82. On February 7th were you registered as a CFA volunteer?

There was no significant association between these variables.

$\chi^2 = 4.609$	$P = 0.595$	Yes	No, registered in past	No	Total
Another house nearby	Count	3	3	45	51
	Expected	1.5	3.4	46.1	
Another building	Count	1	2	12	15
	Expected	.4	1.0	13.6	
Open arena	Count	0	2	24	26
	Expected	.8	1.7	23.5	
Nearby town	Count	7	18	260	285
	Expected	8.3	18.9	257.8	
Total	Count	11	25	341	377

Q43 by Q83. On February 7th were you a member of a CFA community fire guard group?

There was no significant association between these variables.

$\chi^2 = 1.349$	$P = 0.969$	High	Moderate	Low	Total
Another house nearby	Count	5	3	42	50
	Expected	5.2	4.0	40.8	
Another building	Count	1	1	13	15
	Expected	1.6	1.2	12.2	
Open arena	Count	4	2	20	26
	Expected	2.7	2.1	21.2	
Nearby town	Count	29	24	232	285
	Expected	29.6	22.7	232.7	
Total	Count	39	30	307	376

Q44. How did you get there?

Q44 by Q45 When you left your house or property, did you feel that the danger was...?

There was no association between how individuals travelled to their destination and their perception of the fire danger.

$\chi^2 = 0.699$	$P = 0.705$	High	Moderate	Low	Total
In my car	Count	362	29	36	427
	Expected	362.9	29.2	34.9	
Other	Count	23	2	1	26
	Expected	22.1	1.8	2.1	
Total	Count	385	31	37	453

*Other includes someone else's car, foot, emergency services and any other transportation (including motorbikes, trucks and planes)

Q44 by Q47 How long after the fire passed through your town or suburb did you first attempt to return?

There was no association between how individuals travelled to their destination and the length of time that had passed before they attempted to return.

$\chi^2 = 7.501$	$P = 0.823$	<1hr	1-2hrs	3-6hrs	7-12hrs	>12hrs	Total
In my car	Count	10	31	43	50	281	415
	Expected	9.5	31.3	42.7	50.3	281.1	
Other	Count	0	2	2	3	15	22
	Expected	.5	1.7	2.3	2.7	14.9	
Total	Count	10	33	45	53	296	437

*Other includes someone else's car, foot, emergency services and any other transportation (including motorbikes, trucks and planes)

Q44 by Q50 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb would you take the same action in leaving?

There was no association between how individuals travelled to their destination and whether they would take the same course of action again.

$\chi^2 = 4.493$ $P = 0.213$		Yes	No	Total
In my car	Count	324	89	413
	Expected	323.0	90.0	
Other	Count	17	6	23
	Expected	18.0	5.0	
Total	Count	341	95	436

*Other includes someone else's car, foot, emergency services and any other transportation (including motorbikes, trucks and planes)

Q45 When you left your house or property, did you feel that the danger was...?

Q45 by Q47 How long after the fire passed through your town or suburb did you first attempt to return?

There was no association between the level of fire threat felt and when an individual attempted to return home. However, there were 5 more people than expected that attempted to return within an hour of the fire passing through. Still, most of the people who thought the fire danger was low waited more than 12 hours before returning to their properties.

$\chi^2 = 7.501$	$P = 0.823$	<1hr	1-2hrs	3-6hrs	7-12hrs	>12hrs	Total
High	Count	9	30	43	48	266	396
	Expected	14.3	28.7	42.2	48.6	262.1	
Moderate	Count	2	2	6	8	24	42
	Expected	1.5	3.0	4.5	5.2	27.8	
Low	Count	7	4	4	5	39	59
	Expected	2.1	4.3	6.3	7.2	39.1	
Total	Count	18	36	53	61	329	497

Q45 by Q50 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb would you take the same action in leaving?

The counts in this cross-tab nearly exactly match the expected counts, making this test highly insignificant.

$\chi^2 = 0.516$		$P = 0.773$		Yes	No	Total
High	Count			303	90	393
	Expected			300.3	92.7	
Moderate	Count			32	11	43
	Expected			32.9	10.1	
Low	Count			41	15	56
	Expected			42.8	13.2	
Total	Count			376	116	492

Q47 How long after the fire passed through your town or suburb did you first attempt to return?

Q47 by Q50 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb would you take the same action in leaving?

A significant interaction exists between when respondents attempted to return and whether they would take the same actions in similar circumstances. When attempts were made to return early (less than two hours after the fire had passed through) there was an overrepresentation that respondents would take a different course of action. Particularly where people attempted to return less than an hour after it had passed, 50% would change their minds.

$\chi^2 = 11.131$	$P = 0.025$	Yes	No	Total
<1hr	Count	9	9	18
	Expected	13.7	4.3	
1-2hrs	Count	21	11	32
	Expected	24.4	7.6	
3-6hrs	Count	37	14	51
	Expected	38.9	12.1	
7-12hrs	Count	44	14	58
	Expected	44.3	13.7	
>12hrs	Count	256	66	322
	Expected	245.7	76.3	
Total	Count	367	114	481

Q47 by Q48. Why did you return? You may select more than one. (Multiple Response)

There was a significant association between how long people waited to return to their properties and the reason they returned. People who attempted to return to their properties less than 6 hours after the fire had passed though stated they had done so to defend their property.

$\chi^2 = 122.883$	$P < 0.001$	I felt the threat had passed	To defend my house and property	To see if my house survived	Check on safety of friends and family	Check on safety of livestock	Concerned about looting	Other	Total
<1hr	Count	2	9	10	6	10	1	4	42
	Expected	4.5	2.9	14.8	5.1	6.6	4.8	3.3	
1-2hrs	Count	10	14	24	12	15	8	2	85
	Expected	9.1	5.9	29.9	10.4	13.3	9.7	6.6	
3-6hrs	Count	18	16	38	15	15	12	5	119
	Expected	12.8	8.2	41.9	14.6	18.6	13.6	9.3	
7-12hrs	Count	15	8	52	20	27	18	1	141
	Expected	15.1	9.8	49.6	17.3	22.1	16.1	11.0	
>12hrs	Count	62	22	227	69	89	75	66	610
	Expected	65.5	42.2	214.8	74.6	95.4	69.7	47.7	
Total	Count	107	69	351	122	156	114	78	997

Section 4. During the Bushfire - part 2

Q37. Which one of the following best describes what YOU did DURING the bushfire?

The following questions refer only to those who stayed on their property (answered c, d, e, f, g or h at question 37).

Q37 c. Stayed and actively defended the house and property

Q37 d. Began defending the house and property from the fire but left when they felt the danger was too great

Q37 e. Stayed to actively defend the house or property, but the fire never arrived

The three items below were collapsed into the category *No defence but sheltered on the property*.

Q37 f. Did not actively defend the house and property but stayed throughout the fire and sheltered in the house

Q37 g. Did not actively defend the house and property but stayed throughout the fire and sheltered in a structure (other than the house) or vehicle

Q37 h. Did not actively defend the house and property but stayed throughout the fire and took refuge somewhere outside

Q37 by Q51 What was the main reason you stayed with your home or property during the bushfire?

A significant association exists between what individuals did during the bushfire and the reason they stayed with their property. Those who stayed on their property without defending it felt it was too late to leave or their attempts to leave failed. Only 12 of the 31 people who stayed and did not defend stated they wanted to protect their property.

$\chi^2 = 157.844$	$P < 0.001$	Protect house, property and/or livestock	Too late to leave	Attempts to leave were unsuccessful	Total
Stayed and defended	Count	412	43	5	460
	Expected	402.8	43.7	13.6	
Started to defend but left	Count	94	6	1	101
	Expected	88.4	9.6	3.0	
Stayed and defended but no fire	Count	17	2	0	19
	Expected	16.6	1.8	.6	
No defence, but sheltered on property	Count	12	7	12	31
	Expected	27.1	2.9	.9	
Total	Count	535	58	18	611

*Q51 'Stayed because the fire never reached my house or property', 'Stayed because fire or emergency services advised me to stay' and 'Stayed because relatives, friends or neighbours advised me to stay' were not included in this analysis as the total count was less than 5

Q37 by Q56 How safe did you feel while staying at your house?

The association between what people did during the bushfire and how safe they felt in their home was significant. In particular, those who felt safe were likely to be those who stayed and actively defended. Those who started to defend but left felt unsafe on their property. If individuals stayed to defend but the fire never arrived they were most likely to feel safe, however 5 of the 22 in this category felt unsafe. Those who did not defend but sheltered on their property had a large overrepresentation as feeling unsafe.

$\chi^2 = 90.437$	$P < 0.001$	Safe	Neither safe or unsafe	Unsafe	Total
Stayed and defended	Count	180	199	106	485
	Expected	151.8	184.3	148.9	
Started to defend but left	Count	10	33	69	112
	Expected	35.1	42.6	34.4	
Stayed and defended but no fire	Count	11	6	5	22
	Expected	6.9	8.4	6.8	
No defence, but sheltered on property	Count	5	12	22	39
	Expected	12.2	14.8	12.0	
Total	Count	206	250	202	658

Q37 by Q57 A Could do what was required to protect yourself and others? (As the fire approached your property on February 7th, how confident were you that you...)

The actions that people took on February 7th are significantly associated with the confidence people had to protect themselves and others. Those who stayed and defended felt confident they could do what was required; only 10 out of 476 people had no confidence in their abilities to protect. Those who started to defend but left had more people than expected state that they weren't confident in their ability to protect themselves and others. Most people who stayed without defending, were not confident that they could do what was required to protect themselves and others.

$\chi^2 = 103.134$	$P < 0.001$	Very confident	Confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Total
Stayed and defended	Count	140	279	47	10	476
	Expected	122.5	256.6	67.1	29.9	
Started to defend but left	Count	20	45	29	19	113
	Expected	29.1	60.9	15.9	7.1	
Stayed and defended but no fire	Count	5	12	3	1	21
	Expected	5.4	11.3	3.0	1.3	
No defence, but sheltered on property	Count	3	16	13	11	43
	Expected	11.1	23.2	6.1	2.7	
Total	Count	168	352	92	41	653

Q37 by Q57 B Could do what was required to protect your house and property? (As the fire approached your property on February 7th, how confident were you that you...)

The actions that people took on February 7th are significantly associated with the confidence people had to protect their property. Those who stayed and defended felt confident they could do what was required to protect their property. Those who started to defend but left had an overrepresentation of people who weren't confident in their ability to protect their property. No one who stayed without defending felt very confident they could do what was required to protect themselves and others. In fact, over 80% of respondents indicated they were not confident, creating a large overrepresentation in this category.

$\chi^2 = 178.886$		$P < 0.001$	Very confident	Confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Total
Stayed and defended	Count		100	274	81	13	468
	Expected		84.1	242.8	94.3	46.8	
Started to defend but left	Count		12	40	31	26	109
	Expected		19.6	56.5	22.0	10.9	
Stayed and defended but no fire	Count		3	11	6	1	21
	Expected		3.8	10.9	4.2	2.1	
No defence, but sheltered on property	Count		0	7	11	24	42
	Expected		7.5	21.8	8.5	4.2	
Total	Count		115	332	129	64	640

Q37 by Q57 C Would get help from other people? (e.g. neighbours, friends) (As the fire approached your property on February 7th, how confident were you that you...)

No statistical association was found between people's actions on February 7th and their confidence they would receive help from other people. The majority of each category for what respondents did during the bushfire indicated they were not confident they would get help.

$\chi^2 = 15.907$	$P = 0.069$	Very confident	Confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Total
Stayed and defended	Count	28	71	87	273	459
	Expected	29.6	73.9	88.7	266.8	
Started to defend but left	Count	6	14	24	58	102
	Expected	6.6	16.4	19.7	59.3	
Stayed and defended but no fire	Count	4	7	5	6	22
	Expected	1.4	3.5	4.3	12.8	
No defence, but sheltered on property	Count	2	8	4	24	38
	Expected	2.4	6.1	7.3	22.1	
Total	Count	40	100	120	361	621

Q37 by Q57 D Would get help from fire or emergency services? (As the fire approached your property on February 7th, how confident were you that you...)

No association was found between what people did during the bushfires and confidence in getting help from emergency services. Similarly to the previous question, respondents overwhelmingly stated they were not confident that they would receive any help.

$\chi^2 = 5.349$	$P = 0.803$	Very confident	Confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Total
Stayed and defended	Count	15	52	76	318	461
	Expected	17.6	52.0	82.1	309.3	
Started to defend but left	Count	6	13	21	64	104
	Expected	4.0	11.7	18.5	69.8	
Stayed and defended but no fire	Count	1	3	5	13	22
	Expected	.8	2.5	3.9	14.8	
No defence, but sheltered on property	Count	2	3	10	27	42
	Expected	1.6	4.7	7.5	28.2	
Total	Count	24	71	112	422	629

Q37 by Q60 Did you leave your property at any stage during the fire?

Those who *stayed and defended* mostly *did not* leave their property at any stage during the fire. As expected people who started to defend but moved from their property, left during the fire. Respondents who didn't defend but stayed on their property were more likely to have left at some stage than not.

$\chi^2 = 275.455$	$P < 0.001$	Yes	No	Total
Stayed and defended	Count	88	409	497
	Expected	171.3	325.7	
Started to defend but left	Count	112	4	116
	Expected	40.0	76.0	
Stayed and defended but no fire	Count	6	15	21
	Expected	7.2	13.8	
No defence, but sheltered on property	Count	28	17	45
	Expected	15.5	29.5	
Total	Count	234	445	679

This following questions were only answered by those who answered 'yes' at question 60.

Q37 by Q63 Where was the fire when you left your house or property?

Most people who left their property at some stage during the fire left when the fire was on their property. The exception consisted of those who stayed to defend without the fire reaching their property left when the fire was 100-500m away.

$\chi^2 = 24.137$	$P = 0.004$	On my property	<100m	100-500m	>500m	Total
Stayed and defended	Count	36	18	4	7	65
	Expected	34.1	15.1	9.1	6.7	
Started to defend but left	Count	50	22	17	9	98
	Expected	51.4	22.8	13.8	10.1	
Stayed and defended but no fire	Count	0	0	3	0	3
	Expected	1.6	.7	.4	.3	
No defence, but sheltered on property	Count	11	3	2	3	19
	Expected	10.0	4.4	2.7	2.0	
Total	Count	97	43	26	19	185

Q37 by Q64 When you left, where did you go?

Respondents who stayed to defend and left their property during the fire mainly went to another house nearby. If individuals had started to defend but left they were most likely to go to a nearby town.

$\chi^2 = 33.494$	$P < 0.001$	Another house nearby	Another building	Open arena	Nearby town	Total
Stayed and defended	Count	33	2	6	5	46
	Expected	21.9	3.2	6.4	14.5	
Started to defend but left	Count	20	6	9	36	71
	Expected	33.8	5.0	9.9	22.3	
Stayed and defended but no fire	Count	4	0	0	2	6
	Expected	2.9	.4	.8	1.9	
No defence, but sheltered on property	Count	11	2	5	2	20
	Expected	9.5	1.4	2.8	6.3	
Total	Count	68	10	20	45	143

Q37 by Q65 How safe did you feel when travelling to your chosen location?

People who stayed and defended were evenly represented in terms of how they felt when travelling to their destination, though they were overrepresented in feeling safe. Those who started to defend but left overwhelmingly felt unsafe travelling to the new destination, as did those who used no defence but sheltered on their property. Those who stayed to defend without the fire arriving felt safe travelling.

$\chi^2 = 23.352$	$P = 0.001$	Safe	Neither safe or unsafe	Unsafe	Total
Stayed and defended	Count	28	26	26	80
	Expected	20.6	21.3	38.2	
Started to defend but left	Count	17	26	61	104
	Expected	26.7	27.7	49.6	
Stayed and defended but no fire	Count	4	2	0	6
	Expected	1.5	1.6	2.9	
No defence, but sheltered on property	Count	7	4	17	28
	Expected	7.2	7.4	13.4	
Total	Count	56	58	104	218

Q37 by Q67 When did you return to your property?

For respondents who stayed to defend their property but left at some stage had an overrepresentation of returning before the fire or during the fire. All of those, except one, who stayed to defend but had no fire left and returned to their property before the fire arrived. People who left their property after providing no defence did not return before or during the bushfire, but were more likely to wait at least 3 hours before returning.

$\chi^2 = 73.842$	$P < 0.001$	Before the fire	During the fire	1-2hrs	3-6hrs	7-12hrs	>12hrs	Total
Stayed and defended	Count	5	6	10	6	5	9	41
	Expected	2.9	2.6	9.0	8.4	6.4	11.8	
Started to defend but left	Count	0	3	18	16	12	24	73
	Expected	5.1	4.6	15.9	14.9	11.3	21.1	
Stayed and defended but no fire	Count	5	0	0	0	0	1	6
	Expected	.4	.4	1.3	1.2	.9	1.7	
No defence, but sheltered on property	Count	0	0	3	7	5	7	22
	Expected	1.5	1.4	4.8	4.5	3.4	6.4	
Total	Count	10	9	31	29	22	41	142

Q37 by Q70 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb, would you take the same action in staying to protect your home and property?

There is a strong association between what people did during the bushfire and whether they would take the same course of action again. Those who *stayed and defended* had an over-representation in that they *would take the same course of action again*. Those who *started to defend but left* had a majority of people who would do the same again, however there was an *overrepresentation* of people who would do something different. People who put up no defence but sheltered on their properties stated with the majority that they would not take the same actions next time.

$\chi^2 = 72.043$	$P < 0.001$	Yes	No	Total
Stayed and defended	Count	409	67	409
	Expected	373.7	102.3	
Started to defend but left	Count	63	42	63
	Expected	82.4	22.6	
Stayed and defended but no fire	Count	17	4	17
	Expected	16.5	4.5	
No defence, but sheltered on property	Count	19	26	19
	Expected	35.3	9.7	
Total	Count	508	139	647

Q51 What was the main reason you stayed with your home or property during the bushfire?

Q51 by Q56 How safe did you feel while staying at your house?

People who felt it was *too late to leave* their property or *failed in their attempts to leave* felt *unsafe* while in their home during the bushfire. Individuals who actively defended their property had an overrepresentation of feeling safe, though the majority felt neither safe nor unsafe.

$\chi^2 = 38.855$	$P < 0.001$	Safe	Neither safe or unsafe	Unsafe	Total
Protect house, property and/or livestock	Count	184	202	130	516
	Expected	168.5	196.6	150.9	516.0
Too late to leave	Count	8	18	31	57
	Expected	18.6	21.7	16.7	57.0
Attempts to leave were unsuccessful	Count	0	4	11	15
	Expected	4.9	5.7	4.4	15.0
Total	Count	192	224	172	588

*Q51 'Stayed because the fire never reached my house or property', 'Stayed because fire or emergency services advised me to stay' and 'Stayed because relatives, friends or neighbours advised me to stay' were not included in this analysis as the total count was less than 5

Q51 by Q57 A Could do what was required to protect yourself and others? (As the fire approached your property on February 7th, how confident were you that you...)

For those who *stayed to protect their property*, most *felt confident* that they could protect themselves and others. People who stayed because it was *too late to leave* or because *their attempts to leave were unsuccessful* did not have confidence that they could protect themselves or others.

$\chi^2 = 63.866$	$P < 0.001$	Very confident	Confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Total
Protect house, property and/or livestock	Count	150	285	58	17	510
	Expected	138.6	277.2	67.1	27.0	
Too late to leave	Count	7	30	12	8	57
	Expected	15.5	31.0	7.5	3.0	
Attempts to leave were unsuccessful	Count	2	3	7	6	18
	Expected	4.9	9.8	2.4	1.0	
Total	Count	159	318	77	31	585

Q51 by Q57 B Could do what was required to protect your house and property? (As the fire approached your property on February 7th, how confident were you that you...)

Confidence to protect homes and properties was felt by those *who had stayed on their property* to do that specific task. This was not the case for people who had other reasons for staying (too late to leave and attempts to leave were unsuccessful) as they lacked confidence in their abilities to perform this task.

$\chi^2 = 76.97$	$P < 0.001$	Very confident	Confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Total
Protect house, property and/or livestock	Count	108	277	86	30	501
	Expected	98.1	265.4	92.8	44.7	
Too late to leave	Count	4	24	14	11	53
	Expected	10.4	28.1	9.8	4.7	
Attempts to leave were unsuccessful	Count	0	2	6	10	18
	Expected	3.5	9.5	3.3	1.6	
Total	Count	112	303	106	51	572

Q51 by Q57 C Would get help from other people? (e.g. neighbours, friends) (As the fire approached your property on February 7th, how confident were you that you...)

There was no association between the main reasons for staying on a property and confidence level of receiving help from other people.

$\chi^2 = 6.761$	$P = 0.343$	Very confident	Confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Total
Protect house, property and/or livestock	Count	34	74	101	276	485
	Expected	32.4	77.9	97.2	277.5	
Too late to leave	Count	3	13	8	28	52
	Expected	3.5	8.4	10.4	29.8	
Attempts to leave were unsuccessful	Count	0	2	2	13	17
	Expected	1.1	2.7	3.4	9.7	
Total	Count	37	89	111	317	554

Q51 by Q57 D Would get help from fire or emergency services? (As the fire approached your property on February 7th, how confident were you that you...)

The counts for this cross-tab virtually match the expected values exactly making this test non-significant.

$\chi^2 = 1.933$	$P = 0.926$	Very confident	Confident	Not very confident	Not confident at all	Total
Protect house, property and/or livestock	Count	17	63	89	322	491
	Expected	16.7	60.6	89.6	324.1	
Too late to leave	Count	1	4	9	36	50
	Expected	1.7	6.2	9.1	33.0	
Attempts to leave were unsuccessful	Count	1	2	4	11	18
	Expected	.6	2.2	3.3	11.9	
Total	Count	19	69	102	369	559

Q51 by Q60 Did you leave your property at any stage during the fire?

Those who stayed to protect their property mostly did not leave their property at any stage during the fire. If respondent's attempts to leave were unsuccessful they were less likely to have left their property at any stage during the fire.

$\chi^2 = 8.362$	$P = 0.015$	Yes	No	Total
Protect house, property and/or livestock	Count	162	367	529
	Expected Count	170.5	358.5	
Too late to leave	Count	22	36	58
	Expected Count	18.7	39.3	
Attempts to leave were unsuccessful	Count	11	7	18
	Expected Count	5.8	12.2	
Total	Count	195	410	605

This following questions were only answered by those who answered 'yes' at question 60.

Q51 by Q63 Where was the fire when you left your house or property?

There was no association between the main reason for staying on a property and where the fire was when individuals left the property.

$\chi^2 = 3.806$	$P = 0.703$	On my property	<100m	100-500m	>500m	Total
Protect house, property and/or livestock	Count	68	27	23	12	130
	Expected	67.1	29.0	20.7	13.2	
Too late to leave	Count	9	5	2	3	19
	Expected	9.8	4.2	3.0	1.9	
Attempts to leave were unsuccessful	Count	4	3	0	1	8
	Expected	4.1	1.8	1.3	.8	
Total	Count	81	35	25	16	157

Q51 by Q64 When you left, where did you go?

Those who left their property at some stage during the fire and had stayed to protect their property were equally likely to go to another house nearby or a nearby town, though they were overrepresented in going to another town. If a person felt it was too late to leave or failed in attempts to leave then they would be most likely to go to another house nearby.

$\chi^2 = 15.646$	$P = 0.016$	Another house nearby	Another building	Open arena	Nearby town	Total
Protect house, property and/or livestock	Count	39	6	12	39	96
	Expected	45.6	5.7	12.2	32.5	
Too late to leave	Count	13	0	3	1	17
	Expected	8.1	1.0	2.2	5.8	
Attempts to leave were unsuccessful	Count	4	1	0	0	5
	Expected	2.4	.3	.6	1.7	
Total	Count	56	7	15	40	118

Q51 by Q65 How safe did you feel when travelling to your chosen location?

An association was found between reasons for staying on a property and level of safety felt when leaving the property. When staying to protect property people felt safe in travelling to another location. If it was too late to leave or attempts to leave failed then respondents felt unsafe in their travels.

$\chi^2 = 15.943$	$P = 0.003$				
		Safe	Neither safe or unsafe	Unsafe	Total
Protect house, property and/or livestock	Count	48	41	59	148
	Expected	40.3	39.5	68.2	
Too late to leave	Count	1	4	16	21
	Expected	5.7	5.6	9.7	
Attempts to leave were unsuccessful	Count	0	3	8	11
	Expected	3.0	2.9	5.1	
Total	Count	49	48	83	180

Q51 by Q70 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb, would you take the same action in staying to protect your home and property?

When the main reason for staying was to protect the property respondents were very likely to want to take the same action again, whereas those who stayed because it was too late to leave or were unsuccessful at leaving were highly unlikely to do the same thing again.

$\chi^2 = 101.524$	$P < 0.001$	Yes	No	Total
Protect house, property and/or livestock	Count	436	67	503
	Expected	405.9	97.1	
Too late to leave	Count	26	30	56
	Expected	45.2	10.8	
Attempts to leave were unsuccessful	Count	2	14	16
	Expected	12.9	3.1	
Total	Count	464	111	575

Q56 How safe did you feel while staying at your house?

Q56 by Q60 Did you leave your property at any stage during the fire?

As expected, those who felt safe on their properties did not leave during the fire, whereas those who felt unsafe left at some stage.

$\chi^2 = 105.433$	$P < 0.001$	Yes	No	Total
Safe	Count	40	165	205
	Expected	69.2	135.8	
Neither safe or unsafe	Count	75	173	248
	Expected	83.7	164.3	
Unsafe	Count	105	94	199
	Expected	67.1	131.9	
Total	Count	220	432	652

This following questions were only answered by those who answered 'yes' at question 60.

Q56 by Q63 Where was the fire when you left your house or property?

There was no association between how safe a person felt on their property and how far away the fire was when they left the property.

$\chi^2 = 8.209$	$P = 0.223$	On my property	<100m	100-500m	>500m	Total
Safe	Count	13	6	6	2	27
	Expected	14.4	6.3	3.5	2.8	
Neither safe or unsafe	Count	25	12	9	9	55
	Expected	29.4	12.8	7.2	5.6	
Unsafe	Count	56	23	8	7	94
	Expected	50.2	21.9	12.3	9.6	
Total	Count	94	41	23	18	176

Q56 by Q64 When you left, where did you go?

There was no association between how safe a person felt on their property and where they went when they left the property.

$\chi^2 = 5.889$	$P = 0.435$	Another house nearby	Another building	Open arena	Nearby town	Total
Safe	Count	16	1	3	4	24
	Expected	10.9	1.8	3.5	7.8	
Neither safe or unsafe	Count	19	3	6	16	44
	Expected	20.1	3.2	6.5	14.2	
Unsafe	Count	27	6	11	24	68
	Expected	31.0	5.0	10.0	22.0	
Total	Count	62	10	20	44	136

Q56 by Q65 How safe did you feel when travelling to your chosen location?

A strong association was found between how safe a person felt on their property and how safe they felt when travelling to a new destination. Those who felt *safe/neither/unsafe* on their property had the same feeling when travelling.

$\chi^2 = 42.211$	$P < 0.001$	Safe	Neither safe or unsafe	Unsafe	Total
Safe	Count	20	7	9	36
	Expected	9.5	9.3	17.2	
Neither safe or unsafe	Count	16	25	29	70
	Expected	18.4	18.1	33.5	
Unsafe	Count	18	21	60	99
	Expected	26.1	25.6	47.3	
Total	Count	54	53	98	205

Q56 by Q67 When did you return to your property?

An association exists between how safe a person felt on their property and when they returned to their property after leaving during the bushfire. When an individual felt safe they returned to the property before the fire arrived. Very few people who felt *unsafe* returned *during the fire*, and none returned before it occurred.

$\chi^2 = 36.991$	$P < 0.001$	Before the fire	During the fire	1-2hrs	3-6hrs	7-12hrs	>12hrs	Total
Safe	Count	7	1	6	3	1	3	12
	Expected	1.8	1.6	5.3	4.9	3.4	7.1	
Neither safe or unsafe	Count	3	6	5	8	9	13	17
	Expected	3.4	3.0	9.7	9.0	6.4	13.1	
Unsafe	Count	0	2	18	16	9	23	20
	Expected	4.8	4.4	14.0	13.1	9.2	18.9	
Total	Count	10	9	29	27	19	39	49

Q56 by Q70 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb, would you take the same action in staying to protect your home and property?

People who felt *safe* or *neither safe or unsafe* indicated that in the event of a similar situation they would take the same actions as in this instance. Those who felt *unsafe* had an overrepresentation of people who would change their actions.

$\chi^2 = 67.763$		$P < 0.001$		Yes	No	Total
Safe	Count			182	16	198
	Expected			155.4	42.6	
Neither safe or unsafe	Count			192	39	231
	Expected			181.3	49.7	
Unsafe	Count			111	78	189
	Expected			148.3	40.7	
Total	Count			485	133	618

Q57 As the fire approached your property on February 7th, how confident were you that you...

Q57 A Could do what was required to protect yourself and others? by Q58. Did you receive help from any of the following sources when staying with your house? You may select more than one. (Multiple Response)

There was an association between an individual's level of confidence in protecting themselves and others, and receiving help.

$\chi^2 = 38.593$	$P < 0.001$	Other household members	Family friends or neighbours	Emergency services	Other	None of the above	Total
Very confident	Count	86	76	21	13	36	232
	Expected	85.9	76.7	20.9	12.3	36.3	
Confident	Count	186	169	47	28	61	491
	Expected	181.7	162.4	44.2	26.0	76.8	
Not very confident	Count	44	39	9	4	23	119
	Expected	44.0	39.4	10.7	6.3	18.6	
Not confident at all	Count	13	10	3	2	19	47
	Expected	17.4	15.5	4.2	2.5	7.3	
Total	Count	329	294	80	47	139	889

Q57 B Could do what was required to protect your house and property? by Q58 Did you receive help from any of the following sources when staying with your house? You may select more than one. (Multiple Response)

There was an association between an individual's level of confidence in protecting their property and receiving help. Those who did not feel confident that they could do enough to protect their property had an overrepresentation that they did not receive any help from other sources. Residents who were confident had help from other household members.

$\chi^2 = 49.863$	$P < 0.001$	Other household members	Family friends or neighbours	Emergency services	Other	None of the above	Total
Very confident	Count	55	55	16	6	23	155
	Expected	57.3	51.4	13.6	8.0	24.8	
Confident	Count	180	158	41	27	61	467
	Expected	172.5	154.8	40.8	24.2	74.7	
Not very confident	Count	68	54	15	10	26	173
	Expected	63.9	57.3	15.1	9.0	27.7	
Not confident at all	Count	18	21	4	2	29	74
	Expected	27.3	24.5	6.5	3.8	11.8	
Total	Count	321	288	76	45	139	869

Q57 C Would get help from other people? by Q58. Did you receive help from any of the following sources when staying with your house? You may select more than one. (Multiple Response)

A strong association was found between level of confidence of receiving help from other people and the sources people received help from. Residents who were confident that they would get help from others had an association with receiving help from family, friends or neighbours. Those who weren't confident in getting help had more people than expected who received no help from any source.

$\chi^2 = 187.714$	$P < 0.001$	Other household members	Family friends or neighbours	Emergency services	Other	None of the above	Total
Very confident	Count	20	37	5	2	3	67
	Expected	25.0	22.1	5.9	3.5	10.5	
Confident	Count	52	85	15	6	4	162
	Expected	60.4	53.4	14.3	8.6	25.3	
Not very confident	Count	65	57	18	9	22	171
	Expected	63.8	56.3	15.1	9.1	26.8	
Not confident at all	Count	180	101	37	28	104	450
	Expected	167.8	148.2	39.7	23.8	70.4	
Total	Count	317	280	75	45	133	850

Q57 D Would get help from fire or emergency services? by Q58. Did you receive help from any of the following sources when staying with your house? You may select more than one. (Multiple Response)

Most individuals had no confidence that they would be provided with help from emergency services. Those who had confidence they would receive help actually did with a greater than expected frequency. Surprisingly, residents who were not very confident that they would be provided with help had an overrepresentation of help from emergency services.

$\chi^2 = 121.867$	$P < 0.001$	Other household members	Family friends or neighbours	Emergency services	Other	None of the above	Total
Very confident	Count	8	16	11	0	3	38
	Expected	13.9	12.6	3.4	2.0	6.1	
Confident	Count	38	38	23	5	10	114
	Expected	41.8	37.7	10.1	6.0	18.4	
Not very confident	Count	55	57	27	9	20	168
	Expected	61.7	55.6	14.8	8.8	27.1	
Not confident at all	Count	215	174	15	31	106	541
	Expected	198.6	179.1	47.8	28.3	87.3	
Total	Count	316	285	76	45	139	861

Q60 Did you leave your property at any stage during the fire?

Q60 by Q70 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb, would you take the same action in staying to protect your home and property?

More people than expected who did not leave their property during the fires indicated that they would not remain on their property given similar circumstances occurred again. Those who did leave their property were more likely than expected to indicate that given similar circumstances they would leave their property again.

			Take same action?		
$\chi^2 = 67.763$		$P < 0.001$	Yes	No	Total
Left property?	No	Count	141	74	215
		Expected	169.8	45.2	
	Yes	Count	362	60	422
		Expected	333.2	88.8	
Total		Count	503	134	637

Q61. Why did you leave your house or property? You may select more than one. (Multiple Response)

Q61 by Q63 Where was the fire when you left your house or property?

When a resident left their property because they smelt smoke there were more people than expected who had the fire greater than 100 metres from their property. This was also true of the residents who had flames near their property. Of those who left because the fire was in the immediate vicinity, over half had the fire between 100 and 500 metres of the property.

Most of those who felt it was too dangerous to stay (56%) and left had the fire on their property. All of the residents who left their property because they sustained an injury had the fire on their property. A large proportion of residents who left to remove household members from danger had the fire on their property. However, there was an overrepresentation of people who left for the same reason when the fire was more than 500 metres away. All but 1 person who left because their home caught on fire left when the fire was on their property.

$\chi^2 = 93.388$	$P < 0.001$	On my property	<100m	100-500m	>500m	Total
Smelled smoke near by	Count	6	8	6	5	25
	Expected	9.3	4.4	2.3	1.4	
Flames near by	Count	22	15	12	3	52
	Expected	19.3	9.2	4.8	3.0	
Fire in immediate vicinity	Count	27	23	11	4	65
	Expected	24.2	11.6	6.0	3.8	
To get things to defend	Count	7	1	1	1	10
	Expected	3.7	1.8	0.9	0.6	
Emergency services said to	Count	4	3	2	2	11
	Expected	4.1	2.0	1.0	0.6	
Friends, relatives, neighbours said to	Count	11	9	4	3	27
	Expected	10.0	4.8	2.5	1.6	
Too dangerous	Count	53	21	11	10	95
	Expected	35.3	16.9	8.8	5.5	
Sustained an injury	Count	8	0	0	0	8
	Expected	3.0	1.4	0.7	0.5	
Remove household members from danger	Count	31	14	3	7	55
	Expected	20.5	9.8	5.1	3.2	
Fire fighting equipment failed	Count	33	13	4	3	53
	Expected	19.7	9.4	4.9	3.1	
House caught on fire	Count	31	0	1	0	32
	Expected	11.9	5.7	3.0	1.8	

Total	Count	161	77	40	25	433
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Q63 Where was the fire when you left your house or property?

Q63 by Q65 How safe did you feel when travelling to your chosen location?

There was no association between the location of the fire when people left and how safe they felt travelling to a new location.

$\chi^2 = 3.505$	$P = 0.743$	Safe	Neither safe or unsafe	Unsafe	Total
On my property	Count	19	24	52	95
	Expected	21.6	24.3	49.1	
<100m	Count	9	9	22	40
	Expected	9.1	10.2	20.7	
100-500m	Count	7	9	10	26
	Expected	5.9	6.6	13.4	
>500m	Count	6	4	9	19
	Expected	4.3	4.9	9.8	
Total	Count	41	46	93	180

Q63 by Q70 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb, would you take the same action in staying to protect your home and property?

There was no association between the location of the fire when people left and whether they would take the same actions again in a similar situation.

$\chi^2 = 1.213$	$P = 0.75$	Yes	No	Total
On my property	Count	60	32	92
	Expected	58.8	33.2	92.0
<100m	Count	21	16	37
	Expected	23.6	13.4	37.0
100-500m	Count	16	7	23
	Expected	14.7	8.3	23.0
>500m	Count	11	6	17
	Expected	10.9	6.1	17.0
Total	Count	108	61	169
	Expected	108.0	61.0	169.0

Q64 When you left, where did you go?

Q64 by Q65 How safe did you feel when travelling to your chosen location?

There was no association between where people went to when they left and how safe they felt getting there.

$\chi^2 = 7.478$	$P = 0.279$	Safe	Neither safe or unsafe	Unsafe	Total
Another house nearby	Count	23	17	28	68
	Expected	18.7	18.2	31.1	68.0
Another building	Count	1	5	4	10
	Expected	2.7	2.7	4.6	10.0
Open arena	Count	7	4	9	20
	Expected	5.5	5.4	9.2	20.0
Nearby town	Count	8	12	24	44
	Expected	12.1	11.8	20.1	44.0
Total	Count	39	38	65	142
	Expected	39.0	38.0	65.0	142.0

Q64 by Q67 When did you return to your property?

When respondents went to another house nearby they were the most likely to return *during the fire* or *before the fire*. If individuals went to an open arena or a nearby town then they were most likely to return over 12 hours later.

$\chi^2 = 36.991$	$P < 0.001$	Before the fire	During the fire	1-2hrs	3-6hrs	7-12hrs	>12hrs	Total
Another house nearby	Count	6	6	13	12	4	8	49
	Expected	3.3	3.7	10.3	9.3	7.0	15.4	
Another building	Count	0	1	2	2	2	2	9
	Expected	0.6	0.7	1.9	1.7	1.3	2.8	
Open arena	Count	0	0	4	1	1	9	15
	Expected	1.0	1.1	3.1	2.9	2.1	4.7	
Nearby town	Count	1	1	3	5	8	14	32
	Expected	2.1	2.4	6.7	6.1	4.6	10.1	
Total	Count	7	8	22	20	15	33	105

Q64 by Q70 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb, would you take the same action in staying to protect your home and property?

There was no association between where people went when they left their properties and whether or no they would take the same course of action again in a similar situation.

$\chi^2 = 4.094$	$P = 0.252$	Yes	No	Total
Another house nearby	Count	44	19	63
	Expected	39.8	23.2	
Another building	Count	6	4	10
	Expected	6.3	3.7	
Open arena	Count	9	11	20
	Expected	12.6	7.4	
Nearby town	Count	25	15	40
	Expected	25.3	14.7	
Total	Count	84	49	133

Q65 How safe did you feel when travelling to your chosen location?

Q65 by Q66. When leaving, did you experience difficulties associated with any of the following? You may select more than one. (Multiple Response)

Of those who felt safe when travelling to their chosen destination there was an overrepresentation of people who experienced no difficulties getting there. There were also more people than expected who had difficulties with official road blocks.

$\chi^2 = 236.39$	$P < 0.001$	Poor visibility	Smoke	Embers	Flames	Traffic	Fallen trees	Car ran out of petrol	Had a car accident	Official road blocks	Other	None of the above	Total
Safe	Count	13	24	17	17	6	7	0	0	11	3	18	84
	Expected	15.0	20.3	16.4	15.5	6.5	10.1	0.3	0.6	3.9	2.8	3.3	
Neither safe or unsafe	Count	30	44	33	28	9	15	0	3	12	5	4	159
	Expected	28.4	38.3	31.0	29.3	12.3	19.2	0.5	1.2	7.3	5.2	6.2	
Unsafe	Count	77	94	81	79	37	59	2	2	8	14	4	429
	Expected	76.6	103.4	83.6	79.2	33.2	51.7	1.3	3.2	19.8	14.0	16.6	
Total	Count	120	162	131	124	52	81	2	5	31	22	26	672

Q65 by Q67 When did you return to your property?

An association was found between feelings of safety when travelling to a new location and the time of return to the property. If people felt safe they were the most likely to return to their properties before the fire arrived.

$\chi^2 = 21.839$ $P = 0.016$		Before the fire	During the fire	1-2hrs	3-6hrs	7-12hrs	>12hrs	Total
Safe	Count	7	3	11	7	8	6	42
	Expected	2.8	2.8	9.1	8.2	6.5	12.5	
Neither safe or unsafe	Count	2	4	8	6	8	9	37
	Expected	2.5	2.5	8.0	7.3	5.8	11.0	
Unsafe	Count	1	3	13	16	7	29	69
	Expected	4.7	4.7	14.9	13.5	10.7	20.5	
Total	Count	10	10	32	29	23	44	148

Q65 by Q70 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb, would you take the same action in staying to protect your home and property?

Opposing views of whether the same actions would be taken again were held by those who felt safe and unsafe when travelling to a new location creating a significant association. Those who felt safe would take the same course of action while those who felt unsafe would do something different.

$\chi^2 = 13.83$	$P = 0.001$	Yes	No	Total
Safe	Count	46	12	58
	Expected	37.4	20.6	
Neither safe or unsafe	Count	40	16	56
	Expected	36.1	19.9	
Unsafe	Count	50	47	97
	Expected	62.5	34.5	
Total	Count	136	75	211

Q67 When did you return to your property?

Q67 by Q68. Why did you return? You may select more than one. (Multiple Response)

Residents who returned to their property before or during the fire most frequently returned to defend their home and property. If returning later than 7 hours after the fire had passed residents were mainly going back to see if their house had survived. When people returned more than 12 hours after the fire had passed there was an overrepresentation of people who had returned to check on the safety of livestock or who were concerned about looting.

$\chi^2 = 92.228$	$P < 0.001$	I felt the threat had passed	To defend my house and property	To see if my house survived	Check on safety of friends and family	Check on safety of livestock	Concerned about looting	Other	Total
Before the fire	Count	0	9	1	2	1	1	0	14
	Expected	1.5	2.2	2.6	0.9	1.3	0.7	0.8	
During the fire	Count	4	9	5	3	3	0	0	24
	Expected	2.6	3.8	4.5	1.5	2.2	1.2	1.3	
1-2hrs	Count	9	11	12	5	5	3	6	51
	Expected	5.6	8.0	9.5	3.2	4.7	2.6	2.8	
3-6hrs	Count	11	8	17	4	9	5	6	60
	Expected	6.6	9.4	11.2	3.7	5.5	3.1	3.3	
7-12hrs	Count	6	6	16	3	7	5	3	46
	Expected	5.0	7.2	8.6	2.9	4.2	2.4	2.5	
>12hrs	Count	8	4	28	3	15	15	6	79
	Expected	8.6	12.4	14.7	4.9	7.2	4.0	4.3	
Total	Count	30	43	51	17	25	14	15	274

Q67 by Q70 If there was another similar fire in your town or suburb, would you take the same action in staying to protect your home and property?

There was no association between when a respondent returned to their property and whether or not they would take the same course of action.

$\chi^2 = 9.748$		$P = 0.083$		Yes	No	Total
Before the fire	Count			9	1	10
	Expected			6.5	3.5	
During the fire	Count			8	1	9
	Expected			5.8	3.2	
1-2hrs	Count			22	8	30
	Expected			19.4	10.6	
3-6hrs	Count			16	13	29
	Expected			18.8	10.2	
7-12hrs	Count			13	9	22
	Expected			14.3	7.7	
>12hrs	Count			24	18	42
	Expected			27.2	14.8	
Total	Count			92	50	142