

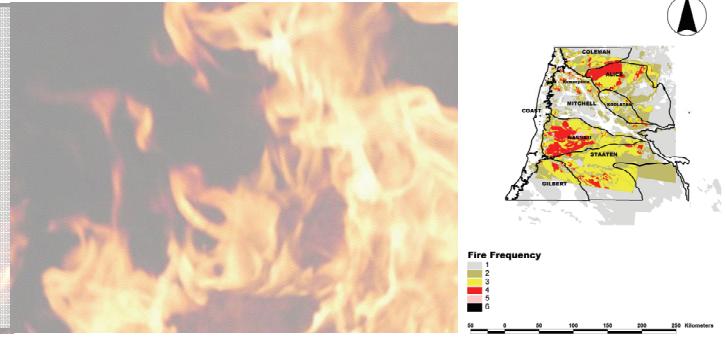
COMMUNITY PROFILING FRAMEWORK

Alison Cottrell

Understanding Communities Project, Bushfire CRC & Centre for Disaster Studies, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland

<http://www.tesag.jcu.edu.au/CDS/index.htm>

A **Community Profiling Framework** is to be trialled in desktop activities over the next year to scope community risk, vulnerability, resources and capacity to deal with bushfires. Much of this information is already collected by fire agencies but when combined with data about communities and community engagement techniques will provide a useful tool for integrating information necessary to provide enhanced service delivery and result in communities which are safer and more resilient to bushfires. At this point it is focused on the brigade level to determine usefulness at the operational level, but has implications for the broader organization.



Operational Information



This section includes data mainly on the **organization itself**: brigade members and their contact details; roles; links with other people and organizations willing to assist in the event of a fire; the resources a brigade has; maps of the area covered by the brigade; and the types of activities the brigade does.

Fire Preparation & History



Identifies **where and when** fires have occurred in the past, and where and when controlled burning activities have been undertaken. Mapping also identifies areas of important social and physical infrastructure. Mapping can be anything from a 'mud-map' through to a sophisticated and computerized GIS.

Community Profile



Communities are highly varied and brigades need to have a clear understanding of **who lives in the community**, the best way to contact them, and how they can help with bushfire preparedness, response and mitigation. Who are the key groups in the community who: need to be contacted when controlled burns are planned; have recently moved into the community; need special types of information, for example commuters or families with young children? And how do we contact them and engage with them effectively?

Increased community safety and resilience to bushfire