

MEDIA RELEASE

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Fire experts gather in Adelaide this week

As we head into the next bushfire season across southern Australia senior fire and emergency management staff and leading international researchers will meet next week to discuss the major issues now confronting the industry.

The first International Bushfire Research Conference 2008, incorporating the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council and the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre Annual Conference 2008, will showcase the research currently underway to address these issues.

Fire – Environment and Society: from Research into Practice will be attended by more than 1000 delegates from across Australia's fire and emergency management industry and the fire research community. A broad program of speakers has been developed with presentations from experts from around Australia and internationally.

Topics for discussion include:

- Aerial fire fighting
- Firefighter fitness
- Climate change, weather, drought and fire
- Building losses in bushfires
- Smoke exposure
- Carbon emissions from bushfires
- Community awareness and warnings
- Prescribed burning risks and benefits
- Firefighting technology

The conference will also see the official launch of the AFAC Knowledge Web. The Knowledge Web is the industry's new knowledge sharing website for use by fire, land management and State Emergency Service organisations in Australia and New Zealand. The Knowledge Web is a joint AFAC and Bushfire CRC project.

The conference is being held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from Monday 1 September to Wednesday 3 September.

For more details go to the conference website:

www.fire2008.org

For further information or interviews with speakers contact:

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