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The Vulnerable People in Emergencies Policy: Hiding vulnerable persons in plain sight
2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission

FINAL REPORT
SUMMARY

THE HON. BERNARD TEAGUE AO - CHAIRPERSON
RONALD MCCLEOD AM - COMMISSIONER
SUSAN PASCOE AM - COMMISSIONER

ORDERED TO BE PRINTED
July 2010

By Authority
Government Printer for the State of Victoria
PP No. XX - Session 2009-10
Frail &/or Impaired

Unable to comprehend

No personal or community support

Vulnerable People in Emergencies Policy

November 2012
Version 1.0

Australian & New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference
Diagram 1. Vulnerable People in Emergencies Policy Scope
Reframing responsibility-sharing for bushfire risk management in Australia after Black Saturday

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In the context of risk, the concept of responsibility incorporates the notion to undertake actions to manage risk. However, differences in judgement aspects of risk management often lead to social conflict. This paper uses ‘management’ to highlight how judgements of the obligations of different ways of framing responsibility-sharing. It then uses the heuristic to examine Australia’s deadliest bushfire (wildfire) event, known as Black Saturday. It argues responsibility-sharing away from an emphasis on the self-reliance of at-risk communities and government emergency management agencies. This is particularly the case when more vulnerable people are at risk. This position runs counter to an international trend in post-risk management on at-risk communities. However, the Commission’s analysis is across government and between government and communities, but is weaker across the interface and where the factors underlying vulnerability are concerned.

Keywords: Black Saturday; risk management; shared responsibility; Victorian 2009 Bushfire Royal Commission; wildfire
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Slide Images

- Slide 1: Crowd Scene retrieved from iStockphoto.com/A-Digit
- Slide 2: Black Saturday Bushfire by Jason South retrieved from www.royalcommission.vic.gov.au
- Slide 3: Maryville after Black Saturday fires by Julian Smith retrieved from www.abc.net.au
- Slide 5: Hands retrieved from www.loricarrassociates.com
- Slide 7: 3D people retrieved from 123rf.com/Corina Rosu
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- Slide 9: Crowd Scene retrieved from iStockphoto.com/A-Digit
- Slide 10: Fire risk maps retrieved from www.bushfirehazardsolutions.com
- Slide 11: Hazard graphics retrieved from iStockphoto.com/bubone and crowd scene retrieved from clker.com/Tim
- Slide 14: Crowd scene and business man retrieved from iStockphoto.com/A-Digit
- Slide 16: Screen shot of McLennan & Handmer (2012, p. 1) article and No Help Zone sign photo retrieved from www.redbull.com
- Slide 19: Planning meeting retrieved from 123rf.com
- Slide 20: Crowd scenes retrieved from clker.com/Tim with 3D people and binocular man retrieved from 123rf.com/Corina Rosu
References


References


