

New Technologies for Future Learning - Providing training options in fire behaviour training

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The Bushfire CRC's coordinated research program works to enhance the science that underpins the practices of fire and land management agencies across Australia. Effective training is a key component to integrating new research outcomes into practices in the field. This presentation outlines a new PHD project which aims to examine approaches to the delivery and development of training for fire behaviour. It uses specific examples of new fire modelling tools and understandings in fire mitigation and management.

New approaches to training are critical in contemporary workplaces where there are new demands for adaptive and innovative work practices. Flexible and responsive high quality learning approaches are particularly needed in work settings, such as in fire and land management agencies, whose practitioners comprise diverse skill sets and a wide range of educational and practical experiences and, in many cases, a geographically dispersed work force. Towards this end, insights emerging from adult learning theories and the possibilities of new instructional design tools using multi-media applications provide new opportunities for practitioner communities and adult and vocational educators.

After assessing the strengths and weaknesses of existing training approaches and examining current literature and research into best practices in adult learning and training, using educational technologies, this project aims to develop training and learning models specific to the industry. Working alongside trainers and educators, the project will seek to design, deliver and test new educational training resources and strategies. An understanding of effective models and approaches will provide insights to assist trainers to design more engaging and effective learning experience for a wide variety of learners.

This presentation provides:

- ❖ A brief introduction to the adult learning landscape in Australia and overseas
- ❖ Outlines and provides specific examples of how learning technologies can enhance training
- ❖ Provides a synopsis of the questions that will drive this research
- ❖ Looks at current best practices and describes possible scenarios for developing resources in fire behaviour