

House loss Black Saturday Key Topics:

economics [2]

- multi-hazard [3]
- risk analysis [4]

An analysis of building losses and human fatalities from natural disasters [5]

This study has informed community flood warning campaigns, emergency services training and national policy initiatives by investigating the circumstances of all flood fatalities in Australia from 1900 to 2015. It has also compare the impacts of disasters from more than 100 years ago with more recent events.

[10]

By exploring the socio-demographic and environmental factors surrounding the 1,859 flood fatalities over 115 years, the research found distinct trends in relation to gender, age, activity and the circumstances of the death. These trends were analysed in the context of changes to emergency management policy and practice over time.

# Project: detail Notabs

#### Research team

### Research leader



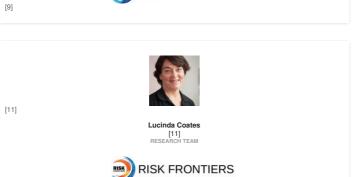
#### Research team







Prof John McAneney



RESEARCH TEAM

RISK FRONTIERS

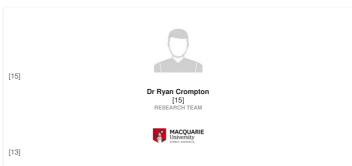


RESEARCH TEAM

RISK FRONTIERS

[9]







## End User representatives

[9]



















### Description

This study has informed community flood warning campaigns, emergency services training and national policy initiatives by investigating the circumstances of all flood fatalities in Australia from 1900 to 2015. It has also compare the impacts of disasters from more than 100 years ago with more recent events.

By exploring the socio-demographic and environmental factors surrounding the 1,859 flood fatalities over 115 years, the research found distinct trends in relation to gender, age, activity and the circumstances of the death. These trends were analysed in the context of changes to emergency management policy and practice over time.

The NSW State Emergency Service has used the findings of the research for its 'FloodSafe' community campaign and training, while the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services has used it to inform its 'If It's Flooded, Forget it'

campaign.

The results of this research have significantly contributed to investigations into preventing flood fatalities by the Prevention of Flood Related Fatalities Working Group of the Community Engagement Sub-committee of the Australia–New Zealand Emergency Management Committee. This working group comprised policy makers, practitioners and researchers involved in flood risk management from Australia and New Zealand.

Similar analysis has recently been completed for fatalities due to cyclones, earthquakes and severe storms across the same time period (1900 to 2015). At least 406 fatalities occurred, with three quarters due to severe storms. The majority of these fatalities have been males.

As well as fatalities, the project has also explored building damage, by hazard, across time and by state or territory. Historical losses have been adjusted for known societal changes (i.e. numbers of homes, the value of these homes and improvements in building codes and construction). While there is substantial variability across time, there is no statistically significant upward trend in the cost of natural hazards. This result implies that no signal has yet been detected to indicate that insured losses from causes other than societal changes (such as population changes and wealth growth) are increasing.

No single hazard dominates or is responsible for most insured building losses— hailstorms, cyclones, floods, earthquakes and bushfires all feature as the most damaging events in Australia.

Read the final report here. [32]

Download:

Analysis of building losses and human fatalities from natural disasters - project overview [33], 🗎 Overview of flood research findings [34]

#### Related News



Establishing a wider view of impact LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

[35]



CRC science making national impact FIRE, FIRE SEVERITY

[36]

18 NOV 2020

19 NOV 2019



New online - August 2019
DECISION MAKING, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[37]



Community engagement research picks up prizes COMMUNICATION, WARNINGS

[38]

22 AUG 2019

27 JUN 2019



National award for warnings research COMMUNICATION, FLOOD

[39]



Planning for catastrophe: an all-hazards, whole-of-community approach EARTHQUAKE, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

30 MAY 2019

27 MAY 2019



Science informing media EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FIRE

[41]



New online - December 2018

18 DEC 2018

13 FEB 2019



Looking back can prevent future flood deaths ECONOMICS, FLOOD

[43]



Preparing for the future focus of magazine CYCLONE, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[44]

12 DEC 2018



Research benefits flowing DECISION MAKING, FIRE

[45]



Animal research awarded ANIMALS, COMMUNICATION

06 DEC 2018



Flood research highlighted COMMUNITIES, FLOOD

[47]



The heat is on: but we've been there before SEVERE WEATHER

07 FEB 2018

11 JAN 2018



Looking back can prevent future flood deaths ECONOMICS, FLOOD

[49]



New online - November 2017

17 NOV 2017

18 DEC 2017



Lismore floods, did you stay or did you go? CYCLONE, DECISION MAKING

[51]



How to stop people entering floodwater DECISION MAKING, FLOOD

13 JUL 2017

21 JUL 2017

[52]



Disaster Risk Management: Insights from US Experience CYCLONE, MITIGATION

[53]

[54]



Floods and fires, volunteers and resilience

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, MULTI-HAZARD

02 JUN 2017

08 JUN 2017



Where, why and how are Australians dying in floods? COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION

[55]



History provides a lesson in preventing flood deaths DECISION MAKING, FLOOD

[56]

30 MAY 2017

26 APR 2017



Research informs flood safe campaign DECISION MAKING, EDUCATION

[57]



Watch our science EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, LAND MANAGEMENT

16 NOV 2016

30 JAN 2017



New online - September 2016

[59]



New online - July 2015

25 JUL 2016

14 SEP 2016



Important research insights ECONOMICS, FLOOD

[61]



New online - June 2016

16 JUN 2016

24 JUN 2016



Flood paper highly commended FLOOD, RISK ANALYSIS

[63]



Flood deaths are avoidable: don't go in the water DECISION MAKING, EDUCATION

08 JUN 2016

07 JUN 2016



Quick science in videos COMMUNICATION, DECISION MAKING

[65]

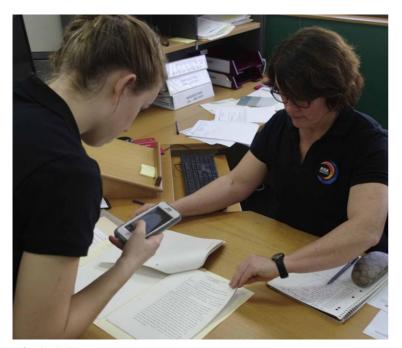


Succinct science is key FIRE SEVERITY, FLOOD

[66]

15 OCT 2015

14 OCT 2015



Searching for clues
DECISION MAKING, FLOOD



Major award for CRC researcher COMMUNITIES, RESILIENCE

[68]

15 JUL 2015

25 MAY 2015



Newsletter 3 - fatalities and building losses FLOOD, HEAT TRANSFER



Media get briefing on key research issues EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, MITIGATION

11 MAR 2015

13 FEB 2015



Research profiled in CRC magazine

[71]



A century of natural hazards - what are the costs?

ECONOMICS, MULTI-HAZARD

[72]

09 FEB 2015

23 JAN 2015



Newsletter 2 - fatalities and building losses

[73]



Newsletter 1 - fatalities and building losses FIRE IMPACTS, INFRASTRUCTURE

# **Publications**

29 OCT 2014

13 JUN 2014

Year	Туре	Citation
2023	Journal Article	Gissing, A. [8], Hamilton, K. [75], Smith, G. [76] & Peden, A. [77] Vehicle-related causes of flood fatalities [78]. Natural Hazard Science (2023). doi:https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199389407.01
2019	Journal Article	Fountain, L. [83], Tofa, M. [12], Haynes, K. [6], Taylor, M. [84] & Ferguson, S. [85] Older adults in disaster and emergency management: What are the priority research areas in Australia? [86]. In
2019	Journal Article	Gissing, A. [8], Opper, S. [91], Tofa, M. [12], Coates, L. [11] & McAneney, J. [10] Influence of road characteristics on flood fatalities in Australia [92]. Environmental Hazards 18, (2019). DOI [93] G
2019	Report	Coates, L. [11] et al. Flash flood fatalities in NSW, VIC, ACT and South East QLD from 1 January 2000 to 30 June 2017 [97]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2019). Google Scholar [98] BibTe
2018	Report	Tofa, M. [12] et al. Exploring the experiences of those who shelter in place during severe flooding [101]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazard CRC, 2018). Google Scholar [102] BibTeX [103] EndNote XI
2017	Conference Paper	Rumsewicz, M. [105] Research proceedings from the 2017 Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and AFAC Conference [106]. Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC & AFAC annual conference 2017 (6)
2017	Conference Paper	Haynes, K. [6], Tofa, M. [12], Gissing, A. [8], Coates, L. [11] & Roche, K. [110] Sheltering in place during flooding: a case study of ex cyclone Debbie [111]. AFAC17 (Bushfire and Natural Hazards
2017	Journal Article	Haynes, K. [6] et al. Exploring the circumstances surrounding flood fatalities in Australia—1900–2015 and the implications for policy and practice [115]. Environmental Science & Policy 76, 16
2017	Report	Coates, L. [11] et al. An analysis of human fatalities from cyclones, earthquakes and severe storms in Australia [32]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2017). Google Scholar [120] BibTeX [12]
2017	Report	Haynes, K. [6], Coates, L. [11] & Gissing, A. [8] An analysis of human fatalities and building losses from natural disasters: annual project report 2016-17 [123]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CF
2017	Report	McAneney, J. [10] et al. A natural hazard building loss profile for Australia: 1900-2015 [127]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2017). Google Scholar [128] BibTeX [129] EndNote XML [130]
2017	Report	Gissing, A. [8], Tofa, M. [12], Opper, S. [91] & Haynes, K. [6] Influence of road characteristics on flood fatalities in Australia [131]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2017). Google Scholar [94] B
2016	Conference Paper	Rumsewicz, M. [105] Research proceedings from the 2016 Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and AFAC conference [134]. Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC & AFAC annual conference 2016 (E
2016	Conference Paper	Rae, E. [138], Campbell, P. [139], Haynes, K. [6], Gissing, A. [8] & Coates, L. [11] Preventing flood related fatalities: a focus on people driving through floodwater [140]. AFAC16 (Bushfire and National Control of Contr
2016	Journal Article	Gissing, A. [8], Haynes, K. [6], Coates, L. [11] & Keys, C. [144] Motorist behaviour during the 2015 Shoalhaven floods [145]. Australian Journal of Emergency Management 31, (2016). Google Schola
2016	Report	Haynes, K. [6] et al. An analysis of human fatalities from floods in Australia 1900-2015 [149]. (2016). Google Scholar [150] BibTeX [151] EndNote XML [152]
2016	Report	Haynes, K. [6], Coates, L. [11] & van den Honert, R. [16] An analysis of human fatalities and building losses from natural disasters: Annual project report 2015-2016 [153]. (Bushfire and Natural
2015	Conference Paper	van den Honert, R. [16], Coates, L. [11], Haynes, K. [6] & Crompton, R. [15] Estimating the Impacts of Natural Hazards on Fatalities and Building Losses Conference Paper 2014 [157]. Bushfire a
2015	Conference Paper	Rumsewicz, M. [105] Research proceedings from the 2015 Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC & AFAC conference [161]. Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC & AFAC annual conference 2015 (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC)
2015	Conference Paper	Gissing, A. [8], Haynes, K. [6], Coates, L. [11] & Keys, C. [144] How do we reduce vehicle related deaths: exploring Australian flood fatalities 1900-2015 - non peer reviewed extended abstract
2015	Journal Article	Gissing, A. [8], Haynes, K. [6], Coates, L. [11] & Keys, C. [144] Reducing deaths from driving into floodwaters [169]. Crisis Response Journal 11, 66-67 (2015). Google Scholar [170] BibTeX [171] E
2015	Report	van den Honert, R. [16] An Analysis of Human Fatalities and Building Losses from Natural Disasters Annual Report 2014 [173]. (2015). Google Scholar [174] BibTeX [175] EndNote XML [176]
2015	Report	Haynes, K. [6] & Coates, L. [11] An analysis of building losses and human fatalities from natural disasters: Annual project report 2014-2015 [177]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2015). Go
2014	Journal Article	Okada, T. [181], Haynes, K. [6], Bird, D. [182], van den Honert, R. [16] & King, D. [183] Recovery and Resettlement following the 2011 flash flooding in Lockyer Valley [184]. International Journal of
2014	Journal Article	Coates, L. [11], Haynes, K. [6], O'Brien, J. [188], McAneney, J. [10] & de Oliveira, F. Dimer [189]. Exploring 167 years of vulnerability: An examination of extreme heat events in Australia 1844–20
4		)

# Presentations & Resources

DATE [195]	TITLE [196]	DOWNLOAD	KEY TOPICS
21 Mar 2014	An analysis of human fatalities and building losses from natural disasters [197]	₹ 250.37 KB	[199])(250:83 [2])infrastructure [199], risk analysis [4]
07 Aug 2014	Measuring the impacts of bushfires on human fatalities and building losses [200]	₹ 3.25 MB	[2@1]0/3@5riMB[202], fire [203]
08 Sep 2014	NSW RFS bushfire household assessment tool [204]	<b>₃</b> 3.62 MB	[205]c(8i.62 MB)ing [206], risk analysis [4]
08 Sep 2014	Measuring the impacts of natural hazards on human fatalities and building losses [207]	<b>1</b> .66 MB	[208] (1.66 MB)
27 Oct 2014	Estimating the impacts of natural hazards on property and building losses [209]		infrastructure [199], resilience [210]
15 Jan 2015	Fire Australia Summer 2014-15 [211]	<b>₁</b> 10.47 MB	[2 <b>12]</b>  ( <b>/1047/rMB)</b> [213], communities [214], multi-hazard [3]
10 Apr 2015	Human Fatalities and Building Losses 2015 NSW RAF Presentation [215]	<b>⊋</b> 2.3 MB	[21 <del>6]] (&amp;(8.0MB)</del> )e [199], multi-hazard [3]
20 Aug 2015	An analysis of building losses and human fatalities from natural disasters [217]	0 bytes	[2168]b(f0bryltes:[2], multi-hazard [3], risk analysis [4]
27 Aug 2015	Learning from the past, planning for the future [219]	₫ 166.29 KB	[220) (160) (2228), multi-hazard [3], risk analysis [4]
03 Sep 2015	An analysis of human fatalities from flood hazards in Australia 1900-2014 [222]	₁ 1.39 MB	[22/0]b(d [22/4])[B)sk analysis [4], risk management [225]
17 May 2016	An analysis of human fatalities from flood hazards in Australia, 1900-2015 [226]	<b>1</b> .78 MB	[227] (1g78) (1g
01 Sep 2016	An analysis of human fatalities from flood hazards in Australia,1900-2015 - Katharine Haynes [229]	<b>1</b> .28 MB	[230]u(da88rME31], flood [224], policy [232]
01 Sep 2016	Prevention of flood-related fatalities: a focus on driving through floodwater - Elspeth Rae [233]	₹ 2.26 MB	[2349c(&i26 MB)ing [206], education [231], flood [224]
12 Oct 2016	Overview of flood research findings - An analysis of building losses and human fatalities [235]	0 bytes	[236]o(6iloytes)king [206], flood [224], warnings [237]
13 Oct 2016	Where, why and how are Australians dying in floods? [238]	₹ 867.95 KB	[239]c(867,95dKB)g [206], flood [224], warnings [237]
18 Apr 2017	An Analysis of Building Losses and Human Fatalities from Natural Disasters [240]	₹ 5.22 MB	[24t]ɔ(5ɔ22dv[t]; multi-hazard [3], risk analysis [4]
30 May 2017	Fire Australia Issue Two 2017 [242]	₫ 5.11 MB	[24a]b(5[224] B)evere weather [244], volunteering [245]
07 Sep 2017	Sheltering during floods: experiences of residents and businesses in the Northern Rivers region [246]	₹ 760.42 KB	[247]n(760n#26K[2)14], flood [224], severe weather [244]
08 Oct 2020	How do road characteristics influence flood fatalities? [248]	₹ 820.34 KB	[249]n(820:34 KB) [250], decision making [206], flood [224]
25 Nov 2020	Looking back can prevent future flood deaths [251]		economics [2], flood [224], risk analysis [4]
4[			

# Posters



The heat is on... and has been for a while, new research shows

[252]

A paper analysing the historical impacts of extreme heatwaves in Australia has been one of the first outputs...



Estimating the Impacts of Natural Hazards on Property and Building Losses

[253]

To measure and understand the impacts of natural hazards in terms of the toll on human life and injuries, and...



Would You Drive Through Flood Water?

[254]

FLOOD [224], POLICY [232]

Floods are the second highest cause of death from natural hazard events in Australia following extreme heat...



Who wants to be a survivor?

[255]

DECISION MAKING [206], ECONOMICS [2]

This project is measuring and gaining a greater understanding of the impacts of natural hazards in terms of..



An analysis of human fatalities and building losses from natural disasters in Australia

[256]

ECONOMICS [2], MULTI-HAZARD [3]

Who is most at risk? Why? What are they doing? How have vulnerability and exposure trends changed over time? ...

### Linked Projects

Mapping and understanding bushfire and natural hazard vulnerability and risks at the institutional scale 12571

ECONOMICS AND STRATEGIC DECISIONS [258]

Prof Roger Jones Victoria University [259]

VICTORIA UNIVERSIT

[259]

Economics of natural hazards [260]

ECONOMICS AND STRATEGIC DECISIONS [258]

Dr Veronique Florec University of Western Australia [261]



[261]

Prof Holger Maier	
University of Adelaide	[263]

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# Optimising post-disaster recovery interventions in Australia

ICS AND STRATEGIC DECISIONS (258)

Prof Mehmet Ulubas eakin University [265]

( DEAKIN

#### Using realistic disaster scenario analysis to understand natural hazard impacts and emergency management requirements [266]

CENARIOS AND LOSS ANALYSIS [267]

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https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2016/new-online-july-2015 [61] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2016/new-online-june-2016 [63] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2016 [63] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2016 [63] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2016 [63] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/news/2016 [63] https://www.bnhcrc.com

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[81] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/export/biblex/8370 [82] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/export/xml/8370 [83] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/?f%5Bauthor%5D=1666 [84] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/bnh-5763 [87] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publica http://scholar.google.com/scholar?
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[89] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/export/biblex/5763 [90] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/export/sml/5763 [91] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/export/biblex/5763 [92] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/publications/biblio/export/sml/5763 [91] https://www.bnhcrc.com.au

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