



Ngarkat, South Australia, fire and smoke

- Key Topics:
- fire [2]
 - modelling [3]
 - propagation [4]


Fire spread prediction across fuel types [5]
This research tested two established reliable physics-based models—the Fire Dynamics Simulator and FIRESTAR3D—to simulate bushfire scenarios in three broad areas: sub-canopy wind flow, firebrand transport, and propagation of grass and forest fires. The team has made significant inroads into providing usable outputs as well as understanding various aspects of bushfire behaviour. This project was established to create a capability and capacity in Australia to conduct research and understand physical-based wildfire modelling approaches. There are several international groups developing these models, and it is imperative that Australia can interact and work alongside these researchers to translate the findings to the Australian context.

Project: detail Notabs

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Description

It is crucial for emergency and disaster management organisations to predict of the rate of spread and intensity of bushfires for operational planning, community warnings and the deployment of their resources.

In this project, the research team tested two established reliable physics-based models: Fire Dynamics Simulator (FDS) and FIRESTAR3D to simulate bushfire scenarios in three broad areas:

- (1) sub-canopy wind flow,
- (2) firebrand transport, and
- (3) propagation of grass and forest fires.

The team made significant inroads into providing usable outputs as well understanding various aspects of bushfire behaviour.

This project was also established to create a capability and capacity in Australia to conduct research and understand physical-based wildfire modelling approaches. There are several international groups developing these models, and it is imperative that Australia can interact and work alongside these researchers to translate the findings to the Australian context. Overall, this project has obtained greater insight into bushfire physics and outcomes are now being utilised to parameterise various phenomena for operational models.

[Read the final report here.](#) [42]

Related News



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[43]

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[44]



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21 MAY 2020

[45]



21 APR 2020

New online - April 2020
COMMUNICATION, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[46]



19 FEB 2020

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COMMUNICATION, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

[47]



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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, MODELLING

[52]



15 NOV 2018

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[53]



New online – October 2018

22 OCT 2018

[54]



Conference papers available online
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18 SEP 2018

[55]



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08 FEB 2017

[56]



New online - September 2016

14 SEP 2016

[57]



10 DEC 2014

Newsletter - Fire spread prediction
FIRE, FIRE IMPACTS

[58]



Fire in France

25 AUG 2014

[59]

Publications

Year	Type	Citation
2023	Journal Article	Innocent, J. [60], Sutherland, D. [10], Khan, N. [15] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Physics-based simulations of grassfire propagation on sloped terrain at field scale: flame dynamics, mode of fire propagation and firebrand generation [67]. <i>Environmental Modelling & Software</i> (2023). doi:10.1016/j.envsoft.2023.106707
2023	Journal Article	Sutherland, D. [10], Rashid, M. [14], Hilton, J. [66] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Implementation of spatially-varying wind adjustment factor for wildfire simulations [67]. <i>Environmental Modelling & Software</i> (2023). doi:10.1016/j.envsoft.2023.106707
2023	Journal Article	Khan, N. [15], Sutherland, D. [10] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Simulated behaviour of wildland fire spreading through idealised heterogeneous fuels [72]. <i>International Journal of Wildland Fire</i> (2023). doi:10.1071/ijf220001
2023	Journal Article	Hassan, A. [77], Accary, G. [78], Sutherland, D. [10] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Physics-based modelling of junction fires: Parametric study [79]. <i>International Journal of Wildland Fire</i> (2023). at <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/368111166>
2023	Journal Article	Innocent, J. [60], Sutherland, D. [10], Khan, N. [15] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Physics-based simulations of grassfire propagation on sloped terrain at field scale: motivations, model reliability, rate of firebrand generation and firebrand transport [80]. <i>Environmental Modelling & Software</i> (2023). doi:10.1016/j.envsoft.2023.106707
2022	Journal Article	Wickramasinghe, A. [36], Khan, N. [15] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Determining firebrand generation rate using physics-based modelling from experimental studies through inverse analysis [89]. <i>Fire Safety Journal</i> (2022). doi:10.1016/j.fss.2022.103601
2022	Journal Article	Wadhwani, R. [40], Sutherland, D. [10], Ooi, A. [94] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Firebrand transport from a novel firebrand generator: numerical simulation of laboratory experiments [95]. <i>International Journal of Wildland Fire</i> (2022). doi:10.1071/ijf210001
2022	Journal Article	Wadhwani, R. [40] <i>et al.</i> A review of firebrand studies on generation and transport [100]. <i>Fire Safety Journal</i> 134 , (2022). DOI [101] Google Scholar [102] BibTeX [103] EndNote XML [104]
2021	Journal Article	Sutherland, D. [10], Sharples, J. J. [105], Mell, W. [106] & Moinuddin, K. [6] A response to comments of Cruz et al. on: ‘Simulation study of grass fire using a physics-based model: striving towards numerical rigour and the effect of grass height on the rate of firebrand generation’ [107]. <i>Fire Safety Journal</i> (2021). doi:10.1016/j.fss.2021.103201
2021	Journal Article	Moinuddin, K. [6], Khan, N. [15] & Sutherland, D. [10] Numerical study on effect of relative humidity (and fuel moisture) on modes of grassfire propagation [112]. <i>Fire Safety Journal</i> (2021). doi:10.1016/j.fss.2021.103201
2021	Report	Rashid, M. [14] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Studying leaf area density based wind adjustment factor in Spark [117]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2021). Google Scholar [118] BibTeX [119] EndNote XML [120]
2021	Report	Khan, N. [15], Wickramasinghe, A. [36], Rashid, M. [14] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Fire spread across different fuel types: research and utilisation – final project report [42]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2021). Google Scholar [121] BibTeX [122] EndNote XML [123]
2020	Journal Article	Accary, G. [78] <i>et al.</i> Physics-Based Simulations of Flow and Fire Development Downstream of a Canopy [124]. <i>Atmosphere</i> 11 , (2020). DOI [125] Google Scholar [126] BibTeX [127] EndNote XML [128]
2020	Report	Moinuddin, K. [6], Khan, T. [129] & Sutherland, D. [10] Effect of relative humidity on grassfire propagation [130]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2020). Google Scholar [131] BibTeX [132] EndNote XML [133]
2020	Report	Wickramasinghe, A. [36], Khan, N. [15] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Physics-based simulation of firebrand and heat flux on structures in the context of AS3959 [134]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2020). Google Scholar [135] BibTeX [136] EndNote XML [137]
2020	Report	Rashid, M. [14], Hilton, J. [66], Khan, N. [15], Sutherland, D. [10] & Moinuddin, K. [6] A report on WRF software development (preliminary) [138]. (Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC, 2020). Google Scholar [139] BibTeX [140] EndNote XML [141]
2020	Report	Khan, N. [15], Sutherland, D. [10] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Recirculation regions downstream of a canopy on a hill [142]. (Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC, 2020). Google Scholar [143] BibTeX [144] EndNote XML [145]
2020	Report	Rashid, M. [14], Sutherland, D. [10] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Fire spread prediction across fuel types: annual report 2018-19 [146]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2020). Google Scholar [147] BibTeX [148] EndNote XML [149]
2020	Report	Khan, N. [15], Sutherland, D. [10] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Simulation of flows through canopies with varying atmospheric stability [150]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2020). Google Scholar [151] BibTeX [152] EndNote XML [153]
2019	Conference Paper	Moinuddin, K. [6] & Sutherland, D. [10] Simulations of radiation heat flux on a structure from a fire in an idealised shrubland [154]. <i>Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC Research Day AFAC19</i> (2019). Google Scholar [155] BibTeX [156] EndNote XML [157]
2019	Conference Paper	Parker, J. [159] & Allen, A. [160] Utilisation of fire spread simulators to assess power network fire risk [161]. <i>AFAC19 powered by INTERSCHUTZ - Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC Research Day</i> (2019). Google Scholar [162] BibTeX [163] EndNote XML [164]
2019	Journal Article	Sutherland, D. [10], Sharples, J. J. [105] & Moinuddin, K. [6] The effect of ignition protocol on grassfire development [165]. <i>International Journal of Wildland Fire</i> 29 , 70-80 (2019). DOI [166] Google Scholar [167] BibTeX [168] EndNote XML [169]
2019	Journal Article	Moinuddin, K. [6] & Sutherland, D. [10] Modelling of tree fires and fires transitioning from the forest floor to the canopy with a physics-based model [170]. <i>Mathematics and Computers in Simulation</i> (2019). doi:10.1016/j.mcs.2019.05.001
2019	Journal Article	Khan, N. [15], Sutherland, D. [10], Wadhwani, R. [40] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Physics-Based Simulation of Heat Load on Structures for Improving Construction Standards for Bushfire Prone Areas [171]. <i>International Journal of Wildland Fire</i> (2019). doi:10.1071/ijf180001
2019	Report	Khan, N. [15], Sutherland, D. [10], Philip, J. [13], Ooi, A. [8] & Moinuddin, K. [6] A preliminary report on simulation of flows through canopies with varying atmospheric stability [180]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2019). Google Scholar [181] BibTeX [182] EndNote XML [183]
2018	Conference Paper	George, N. [184], Philip, J. [13] & Ooi, A. [8] Direct Numerical Simulation of Confined Wall Plumes [185]. <i>21st Australasian Fluid Mechanics Conference</i> (2018). at <https://people.eng.unimelb.edu.au/nigelg/papers/2018/afmc18/afmc18.pdf>
2018	Conference Paper	Sutherland, D. [10], Wadhwani, R. [40], Philip, J. [13], Ooi, A. [8] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Simulations of the effect of canopy density profile on sub-canopy wind speed profiles [190]. <i>AFAC18</i> (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2018). Google Scholar [191] BibTeX [192] EndNote XML [193]
2018	Conference Paper	Bates, J. [194] Research proceedings from the 2018 Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and AFAC Conference [195]. <i>Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC & AFAC annual conference 2017</i> (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2018). Google Scholar [196] BibTeX [197] EndNote XML [198]
2018	Journal Article	Moinuddin, K. [6], Sutherland, D. [10] & Mell, W. [106] Simulation study of grass fire using a physics-based model: striving towards numerical rigour and the effect of grass height on the rate of firebrand generation [201]. <i>Fire Safety Journal</i> (2018). doi:10.1016/j.fss.2018.05.001
2018	Report	Sutherland, D. [10], Wadhwani, R. [40], Philip, J. [13], Ooi, A. [8] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Simulations of the effect of canopy density profile on sub-canopy wind speed profiles [204]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2018). Google Scholar [205] BibTeX [206] EndNote XML [207]
2018	Report	Sutherland, D. [10], Philip, J. [13], Ooi, A. [8] & Moinuddin, K. [6] Literature review: modelling and simulation of flow over tree canopies [207]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2018). Google Scholar [208] BibTeX [209] EndNote XML [210]
2018	Report	Moinuddin, K. [6], Roy, S. Singha [41], Sutherland, D. [10] & Khan, N. [15] Improvements to wind field generation in physics-based models to reduce spin-up time and to account for terrain, heat flux and firebrand generation [211]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2018). Google Scholar [212] BibTeX [213] EndNote XML [214]
2017	Conference Paper	Rumsewicz, M. [215] Research proceedings from the 2017 Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and AFAC Conference [216]. <i>Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC & AFAC annual conference 2017</i> (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2017). Google Scholar [217] BibTeX [218] EndNote XML [219]
2017	Conference Paper	Sutherland, D. [10], Moinuddin, K. [6] & Ooi, A. [8] Large-eddy simulation of neutral atmospheric surface layer flow over heterogeneous tree canopies [220]. <i>AFAC17</i> (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2017). Google Scholar [221] BibTeX [222] EndNote XML [223]
2017	Journal Article	Wadhwani, R. [40], Sutherland, D. [10], Moinuddin, K. [6] & Joseph, P. [224] Kinetics of pyrolysis of litter materials from pine and eucalyptus forests [225]. <i>Journal of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry</i> (2017). doi:10.1007/s10874-017-0700-1
2017	Journal Article	Wadhwani, R. [40], Sutherland, D. [10], Ooi, A. [8], Moinuddin, K. [6] & Thorpe, G. [12] Verification of a Lagrangian particle model for short-range firebrand transport [230]. <i>Fire Safety Journal</i> 91 , 1-12 (2017). doi:10.1016/j.fss.2017.05.001
2017	Report	Moinuddin, K. [6] & Sutherland, D. [10] Numerical modelling of fires on forest floor and canopy fires [235]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2017). Google Scholar [236] BibTeX [237] EndNote XML [238]
2016	Journal Article	MacDonald, M. [239], Chan, L. [240], Chung, D. [241], Hutchins, N. [242] & Ooi, A. [8] Turbulent flow over transitionally rough surfaces with varying roughness densities [243]. <i>Journal of Fluid Dynamics</i> (2016). doi:10.1016/j.jfd.2016.05.001
2016	Report	Moinuddin, K. [6], Sutherland, D. [10] & Thorpe, G. [12] Fire spread prediction across fuel types: Annual project report 2015-2016 [248]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2016). Google Scholar [249] BibTeX [250] EndNote XML [251]
2015	Presentation	Chung, D. [241] <i>et al.</i> The spread of fires in landscapes [252]. (2015). Google Scholar [253] BibTeX [254] EndNote XML [255]
2015	Report	Thorpe, G. [12] Fire spread prediction across fuel types: Annual project report 2014-2015 [256]. (Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, 2015). Google Scholar [257] BibTeX [258] EndNote XML [259]
2015	Report	Thorpe, G. [12] Fire Spread Across Fuel Types Annual Report 2014 [260]. (2015). Google Scholar [261] BibTeX [262] EndNote XML [263]

Presentations & Resources

DATE	TITLE	DOWNLOAD	KEY TOPICS
21 Mar 2014	Fire spread prediction across fuel types [266]	1.49 MB	fire [2], modelling [3], prescribed burning [268]
08 Sep 2014	Next generation models for predicting the behaviour of bushfires [269]	1.12 MB	fire [2], modelling [3]
27 Oct 2014	Next generation models for predicting the behaviour of bushfires [271]		fire [2], modelling [3]
04 Dec 2014	Challenges in physics based bushfire modelling [272]	885.16 KB	fire [2], modelling [3], severity [274], modelling [3]
22 Mar 2016	Severe and High Impact Weather - cluster overview [275]	0 bytes	fire [2], modelling [3], scenario analysis [277]
24 Oct 2016	Fire spread across fuel types [278]	3.44 MB	fire [2], modelling [3], fuel reduction [281], modelling [3]
25 Oct 2016	Next generation fire modelling [282]	1.35 MB	fire [2], modelling [3], fire severity [274], fire weather [284]
07 Jul 2017	Building bushfire predictive services capability [285]	9.97 MB	fire [2], modelling [3], weather [284], modelling [3]
07 Jul 2017	Building bushfire predictive services capability - Simon Heemstra [287]	0 bytes	fire [2], modelling [3], impacts [280], modelling [3]
07 Sep 2017	Large-eddy simulation of neutral atmospheric surface layer flow over heterogeneous tree canopies [289]	885.3 KB	fire [2], modelling [3], propagation [4]
07 Sep 2017	Mapping the efficacy of an Australian fuel reduction burn using Fuels3D point clouds [291]	1.6 MB	fire [2], modelling [3], prescribed burning [292]
31 Oct 2017	Fire spread across fuel types [293]	1.1 MB	fire [2], modelling [3], pasting [295], modelling [3]
18 Sep 2018	Simulations of the effect of canopy density profile on sub-canopy wind speed profiles [296]	1.08 MB	fire [2], modelling [3], reduction [281]
23 Nov 2018	Fire spread prediction across fuel types by physics-based modelling [298]	2.02 MB	fire [2], modelling [3], impacts [280], fuel reduction [281]
27 Aug 2019	Simulation Of Heat Fluxes On A Structure From A Fire In An Idealised Shrubland [300]	495.46 KB	fire [2], modelling [3], [302], fire [2]
17 Oct 2019	Fire Spread Across Fuel Types [303]	3.21 MB	fire [2], modelling [3], reduction [281]

Posters

TO ACCURATELY PREDICT THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE FIRE AND VEGETATION CANOPIES, ADVANCED METHODS WILL ALSO BE USED TO QUANTIFY THE STATE OF THERMAL RESISTANCE TO BURNING

Abstract

Introduction

Methods

Results

Conclusions

26 AUG 2014

Next generation models for predicting the behaviour of bushfires: Challenges and prospects

Bushfires occur on a scale that may be measured in kilometers. However, a challenge faced in developing next...

Abstract

Introduction

Methods

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18 AUG 2015

Flow Prediction Through Canopies

FIRE WEATHER [284], MODELLING [3]

A simple model of flow through a tree canopy and comparison with large-eddy simulations.

Abstract

Introduction

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18 AUG 2015

Refinement and Validation of Firebrand Transport Sub Model for a Physics Based Bushfire Prediction Model: Design of a Firebrand Generator

FIRE [2], MODELLING [3]

Firebrands are burning pieces of, for example, bark, leaf litter, and twigs. Firebrands can be transported by...

Abstract

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14 AUG 2016

Simulations of sub-canopy winds

REMOTE FIRE SEVERITY [274], SENSING [309]

Operational fire models rely on wind reduction factors to relate the standard meteorological measured or...

Abstract

Introduction

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26 JUN 2017

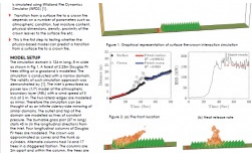
[310] 29 JUN 2017

Simulated rate-of-spread of a grassfire propagating under a tree canopy

[310]

FIRE [2], MODELLING [3]

Simulations of a fire entering, propagating under and leaving a tree canopy are conducted using FDS [1], a...



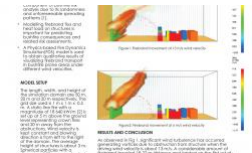
[311] 19 SEP 2018

Physics-based modelling of fires transitioning from the forest floor to the canopy

[311]

FIRE [2], MODELLING [3]

Can a physics-based model predict a transition from a surface fire to a crown fire?



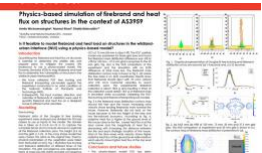
[312] 27 AUG 2019

Potential of modelling firebrand load on structure in Wildland Urban Interface

[312]

DECISION MAKING [302], IMPACTS [280]

Is it feasible to model firebrand load on structure using a physics-based model in WUI?



[313] 31 AUG 2020

Physics-based simulation of firebrand and heat flux on structures in the context of AS3959

[313]

FIRE [2]

Key findings: Validation of firebrand model in fire dynamic simulator with tree burning experimental data,...



[314] 31 AUG 2020

Dynamic wind reduction factor in predicting fire rate of spread

[314]

FUEL REDUCTION [281]

Key findings: Dynamic wind reduction factors have considerable effects on forest fires where variable canopy...

Linked Projects

Effectiveness of resources to supress bushfire: aerial and ground based
[315]

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY [316]

Dr Matt Plucinski
CSIRO [317]



[317]

Mapping bushfire hazard and impacts
[318]

BUSHFIRE PREDICTIVE SERVICES [319]

A/Prof Marta Yebra
Australian National University [320]



[320]

Fire surveillance and hazard mapping
[321]

BUSHFIRE PREDICTIVE SERVICES [319]

Prof Simon Jones
RMIT University [322]

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Dr Greg Penney
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[324]

SEVERE AND HIGH IMPACT WEATHER [326]

Dr Jeff Kepert
Bureau of Meteorology [327]



[327]

PRESCRIBED BURNING AND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT [329]

A/Prof Tina Bell
University of Sydney [330]



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