Understanding the need for, availability of, and interpretation of information by the public during large scale hazard events.

Katherine Akers 1,2
1 Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, Victoria
2 Massey University, New Zealand

In partnership with Fire and Emergency New Zealand, QuakeCoRE, GNS Science and the ECLIPSE supervolcano project, this PhD project is looking at the challenges facing specific communities and populations in accessing and understanding emergency information during large scale hazard events.

Research Questions
• What common communication principles can be identified for effective communication across diverse audiences during large scale hazard events?
• How does information contribute to community resilience?
• What are the features and attributes of trusted information sources and channels?
• What aspects influence whether all members of the public receive and understand hazard warning information during large scale hazard events?

This project will investigate whether the co-production of risk mitigation solutions – through participatory outreach approaches with schools and the wider community – can enable these sectors of the public to become change agents to effectively interpret, manage and mitigate the threats associated with large-scale hazard events.

For more information, please email k.akers@massey.ac.nz

The project study area: Taupō Volcanic Zone in New Zealand’s central North Island. Image credit: GNS Science