

hospitals. The project included development of a model to forecast future fire occurrence based on regional climate model predictions for the San Diego County region. In addition to developing a better understanding of the connection between wildland fire and respiratory illness, the project has provided support for San Diego County to improve their syndromic surveillance capacity and infrastructure through the addition of new hospitals.

Some Thoughts on the Cognitive Sciences and Decision Making in the Fire Service

Patrick Withen, USFS

This poster will offer some thoughts on how the application of the current state of the cognitive sciences can be applied to decision making in the fire services. One common model of decision making in the fire services is the recognition primed decision making model (RPD). A typical RPD is passive rather than active in that the solution, from the point of view of the decision maker, is simply recognized in an insightful moment. The cognitive sciences interpret most consciousness as passive rather than active, but at times active cognition may improve such decisions. Another common topic in the fire services' analysis of decision making is attention. Decision making is recognized as being based on selective attention, since all the factors can never be taken into account. Strong decisions are depicted as those which select the correct features to be cognizant of. Weak decisions are depicted as those which select less important features. The cognitive sciences offer some insights into improving the selections in selective attention. Finally, the RPD model posits that a person's "slides" or fire experience is the basis on which many decisions are made. Decision makers are said to compare their various "slides" or experiences and then chose the one which most closely matches the current situation. Then they use that "slide" as a model for their decisions. The cognitive sciences elucidation of the feature comparison model, the prototype approach, and the exemplar approach are useful in both selecting and interpreting RPD type "slides".

Tips, Techniques and Suggestions for Improving Learning from Escaped Prescribed Fire Reviews

Anne Black, Rocky Mountain Research Station; Dave Thomas, Renoveling; Jennifer Ziegler, Valparaiso University; Jim Saveland, Rocky Mountain Research Station

In 2011, we held five 2-day workshops at various locations around the US as part of a Joint Fire Science Program project to understand 'learning from escaped prescribed fire reviews'. Each workshop drew an interagency audience with representation from all facets of fire management, from ground personnel to local line officers, regional, and national positions. Over the course of these 10 days of discussion, we developed a rich dataset and conceptual models to describe the existing and potential learning cycle in wildland fire

In this poster, we will present practical and concrete results from the workshops and our qualitative analysis. Each workshop spent some time discussing what works and what doesn't in the current structure of reviews, and what could be changed to improve learning from events. In addition to these recommendations, we captured stories of effective local practices that may be useful or thought-provoking for others. We will use the poster space to highlight major themes and local practices that may be easily adopted by conference attendees.

Torchbearers for a New Fire Management Paradigm: Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE)