

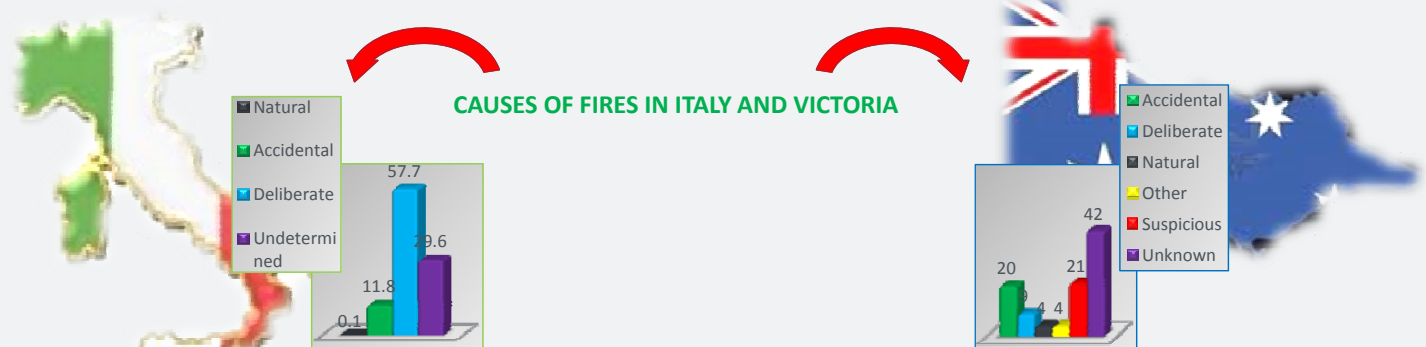
The Complex Network within Bushfire Investigation Strategy

An international comparative analysis of communicational dynamics between post-bushfire investigative Departments

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- Understanding Risk -



Central questions

- How do organizations deal with post bushfire investigation and what is their remit?
- What are the conditions that enable or prevent effective collaboration within bushfire investigation?
- How does professional communication within and between organizations lead to a successful complex collaboration?
- How can organizations structure themselves to deal effectively with a post bushfire investigation? Is there an international dimension to such investigation actions?

Methodology

I will conduct a thematic exploration of the extent and quality of professional communication among five fire investigative departments, taken as five different case studies: Victoria Police, DSE and CFA in Victoria; NIAB and NIA in Italy. Through this explanatory, exploratory and descriptive case study method (Yin, 2003), I will be able to draw out my key outcomes to my research questions, while bringing together an international network that will continue to learn from each other and to improve on its own cooperative and systemic way of working.

Overview

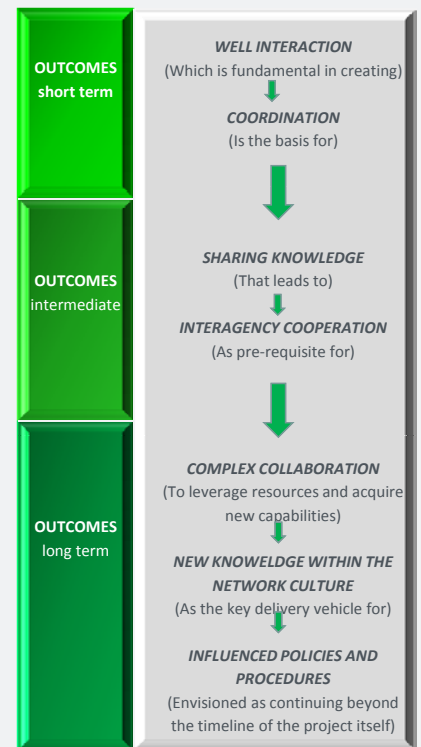
Worldwide, almost 90% of all bushfires can be attributed to humans, for actions that are either unintentional or malicious, while natural causes have an ever less relevance (Provincia di Genova, 2003; Willis, 2004; Bryant, 2008).

The issue

The crucial point is that 40% of all fires attended across Australia do not have a cause assigned by the responding fire and police agencies. And the situation is not so different all around the world. In order to improve efficacy and efficiency in understanding and predicting the complex interactions of fire behaviour, data collection should be shared across agencies and state boundaries. Nonetheless, it is still difficult to find evidence of national- and international-level collaboration-building efforts between and across sectors.

Aim

Through an 'international' comparative analysis between the main post bushfire investigative departments, this project aims to identify strengths and weaknesses of their sharing of knowledge. All of this will be analyzed through the lens of the professional communication, seen as one of the most relevant facilitator of inter-organizational coordinated bushfire investigation activities.



References

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