

Session 3: Large-scale Evacuation Modelling Applied to Wildfires End-user Requirements

The main objective of this research was to document large-scale evacuation model requirements (i.e. features to be incorporated into these models) that could assist Incident Commanders to make informed decisions across planning and live emergency contexts. To do so, several experienced emergency authorities, particularly in the field of wildfires, were interviewed. Other objectives included to establish an understanding of how evacuation is currently managed during wildfire scenarios and of what tools are used to support risk-informed decision making, as well as to identify potential training and operational applications of evacuation modelling tools.

Targeted participants of the interviews included emergency authorities that during and prior to disaster events are responsible for assessing, planning and advising safe and efficient evacuation practices to the population in danger. They are considered as potential end-users of evacuation modelling tools, and as such it is crucial that they have at their disposal reliable decision support tools adapted to their operational needs, especially in crisis situations where people's lives are at risk. Thus, documenting their contribution helped to identify key requirements for the development of evacuation modelling tools geared to assist in operational decision-making. Moreover, valuable insights from the participants likewise included their experiences, lessons learned, and perspectives from former emergency evacuation situations.