



# Innovation and Fire Safety

Good ideas to great solutions

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# Outline

- About AFAC
- Good innovation practice
- Barriers to innovation
- Examples



# About AFAC

AFAC is the Australian and New Zealand National Council for fire and emergency services.

Working for our members to build through them, safer, more resilient communities.



# AFAC Membership

Our members support Australian and New Zealand communities through mitigation and response phases of emergency management and the transition to recovery.

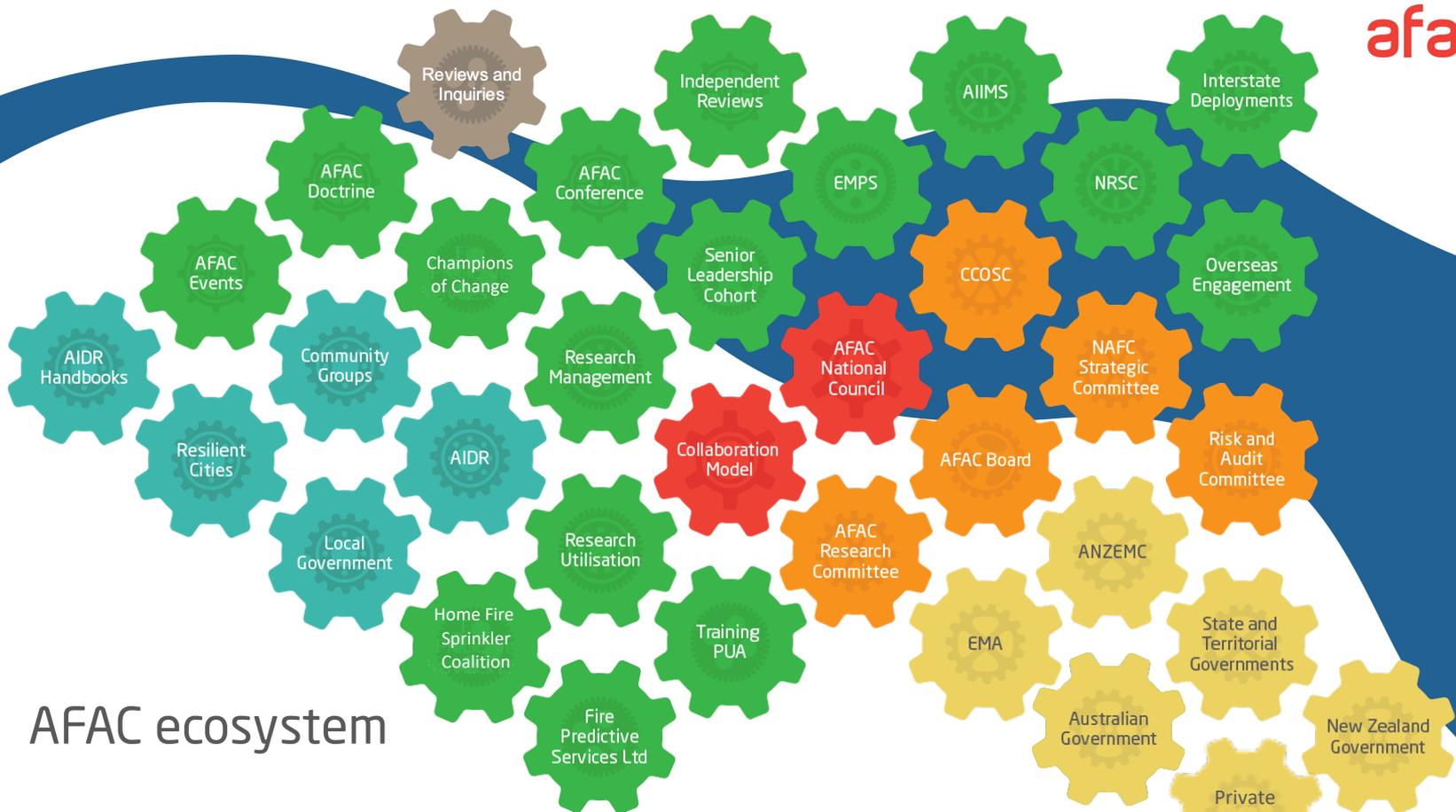
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Members

22

Affiliates





AFAC ecosystem

# Innovation

Something different that makes things better



**FIRE**  
AUSTRALIA 2022  
Conference & Tradeshow



# Innovative organisations

- Assume things can be better
- Understand customer needs
- Collaborate across and outside the organisation
- Success needs experimentation, rapid iteration and frequent failure
- Empower people to take considered risks, voice alternate views and seek resources



Build a clear problem statement – understand your ‘customer’  
- their hopes and dreams – both what they say and what you infer

- Chase the things that keep them up at night
- Leave things that have no value
- Examine from different perspectives



## Connect and collaborate

- Inside and outside your organisation
- Create the environment that promotes connection
- Look to other sectors  
- e.g. Henry Ford and the production line





# Barriers to progress

- Fear
- Inertia
- Short term thinking
- Loss of connection with the customer
- Not have a mechanism to bring the – innovation to market



# Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition



# Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

- Industry collaboration resulting in innovation.
- Engages SMEs from a wide range of fields contributing to building products and opportunities contributing to the nation's resilience from community to policy level.
- Handbook development includes stakeholders that develop national thought leadership on important resilience topics.
- e.g. The Urban Disaster Resilience Handbook.

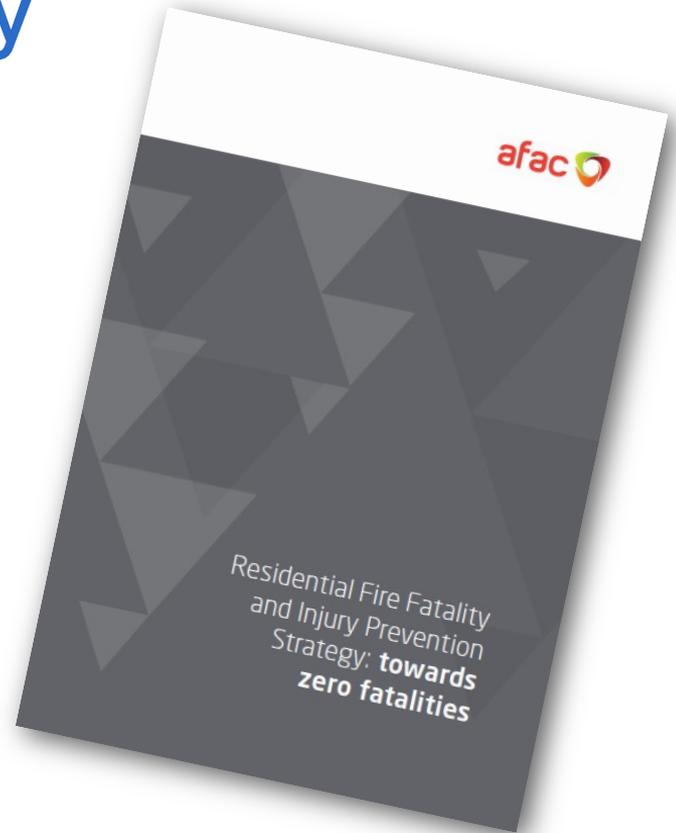


Australian Institute for  
**Disaster Resilience**

# AFAC Residential Fire Fatality and Injury Prevention Strategy

Between 2005 and 2019 there had been no research undertaken to capture residential fire fatality data at the national level.

- The strategy develops recommendations from the 2019 study across two key areas of action:
  - Developing and maintaining national fire fatality and injury datasets
  - Strengthening partnership approaches to reduce residential fire risk.



# Fire Research Testing in Battery Electric Vehicles

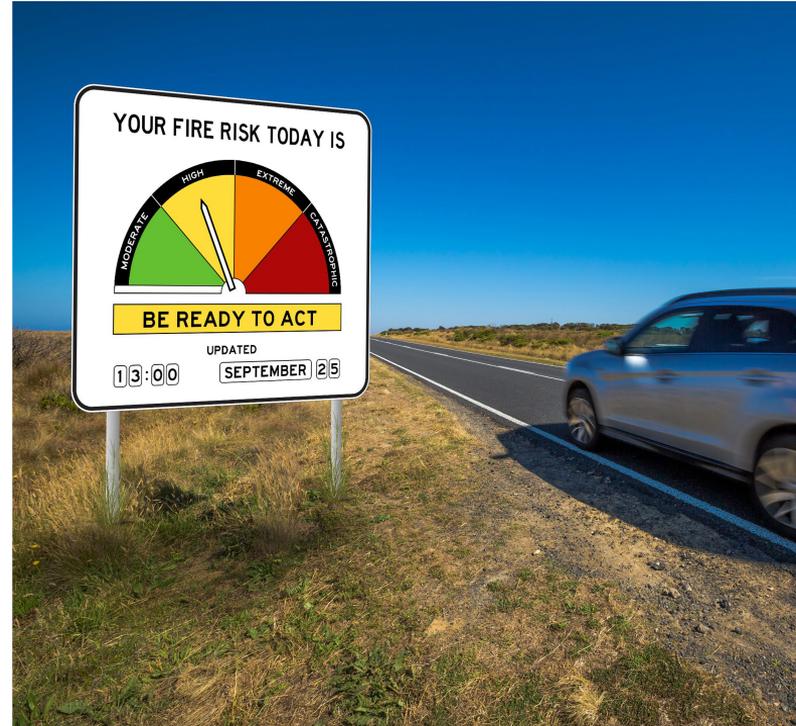
- The pace of emerging technology has compelled research into their performance under different abuse scenarios
- Developing new standards to support community and firefighter safety



Credit: FPAA

# Australian Fire Danger Rating System

- A new truly national system
- Designed with the community in mind
- Innovation comes from its modular nature



# Engagement strategy for migrants and new arrivals

## Adelaide

- Partnering for success
- New migrants provided with important fire safety information when learning English.



# How can we embrace the challenges

- Make it easy, make it fun
- Provide the power to innovate and implement
- Align the innovation to the organisational goals.
- Align organisations
- Move agencies to think dynamically about their strategic thinking - leadership



# References

Anthony, S.D. 2019. *Breaking Down the Barriers to Innovation* HBR May-June 2019