

AWAKE, SMOKY AND HOT – 2011 PROJECT UPDATE

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Overview

To investigate the effects of sleep disruption, smoke and heat exposure on firefighters’ physical and mental work performance, 200 firefighters will complete a three-day simulated fireground tour comprising three consecutive fireground ‘shifts’. A valid and relevant simulation of fireground activities requires a number of steps. **This poster outlines our progress through these steps in 2011.**

Step	Why is this step important?	Progress
Engagement with subject matter experts	Gain valuable insight into the Industry	Completed
Physical & cognitive task design	Relevant, realistic tasks promote valid results	Completed – awaiting verification
Task verification	Ensure our tasks really are reflective of those performed on fireground	Scheduled for mid-September 2011
Task sequencing	Ensure every firefighter performs the same physical tasks the same number of times in any testing period	Completed
Pilot testing	Allows researchers to practice protocols and troubleshoot	Completed
Reliability testing	Ensures the tasks elicit results that are reliable and reproducible	Conclude end of September 2011
Data collection	Help inform operational decisions about environmental hazards	Begins in October 2011

"The research will explore the interplay between the environmental hazards our firefighters face each shift and is likely to produce outcomes that are practical and more relevant to our working environment"

Robyn Pearce, Director – Human Services, Tasmania Fire Service