

HOUSEHOLDERS' 'BLACK SATURDAY' BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL DECISIONS

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THE 7 FEBRUARY 2009—'BLACK SATURDAY'—VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES:

Extreme fire weather warnings six days before.
On the day: 45°+ temperatures; RHs < 10%; +100kph winds.



Aftermath:

- 172 deaths
- 2000+ homes destroyed
- 5,000+ homeless



The Bushfire CRC Research Task Force:
Teams to the eight worst affected fire areas



METHODOLOGY

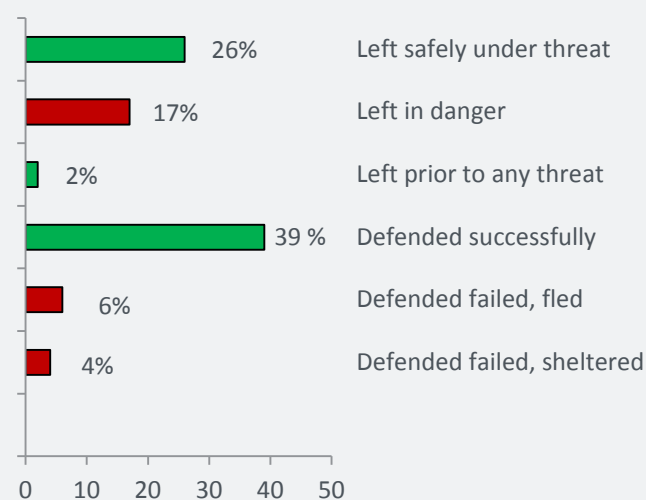
496 interviews were transcribed (39 householders were not at home on the day 'by chance').

- Content-analysis of the transcripts using *nVivo* software: codings/ratings.
- Quantitative analyses using *SPSS* software.

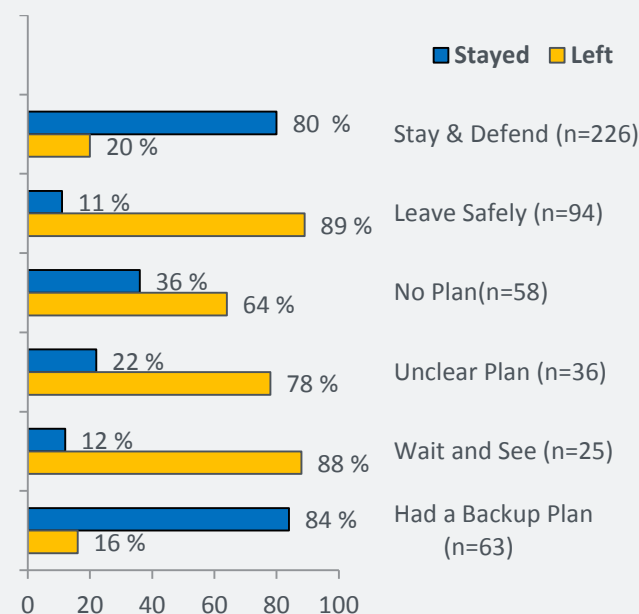
RESULTS

457 householders made bushfire survival decisions.

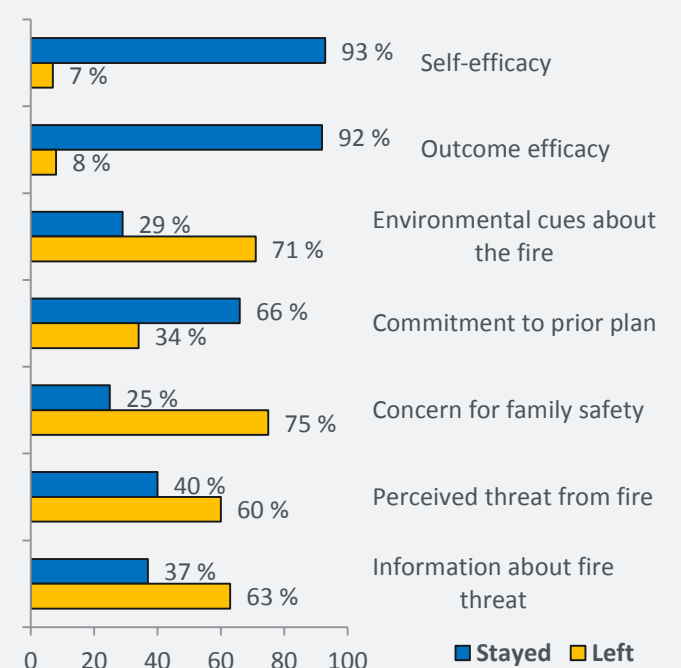
1. Actions/Outcomes (n = 457):



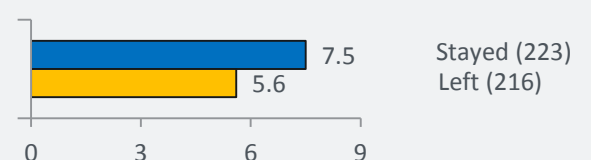
2. Actions/Intentions (n = 457):



3. Relative importance of decision influences –stayed vs left:



4. Mean Bushfire Survival Readiness Ratings (n=439)



CONCLUSIONS

Stayed and Defended

(Most engaged with bushfire risk)

- Prized home/property
- Planned and prepared
- Expected to succeed.

Left Under Threat

(Few engaged with bushfire risk)

- Lower levels of planning/preparation
- Reacted to emerging threat
 - Perceived danger
 - Concern for family.

COMPLETE REPORT

<http://www.bushfirecrc.com/publications/citation/bf-3160>