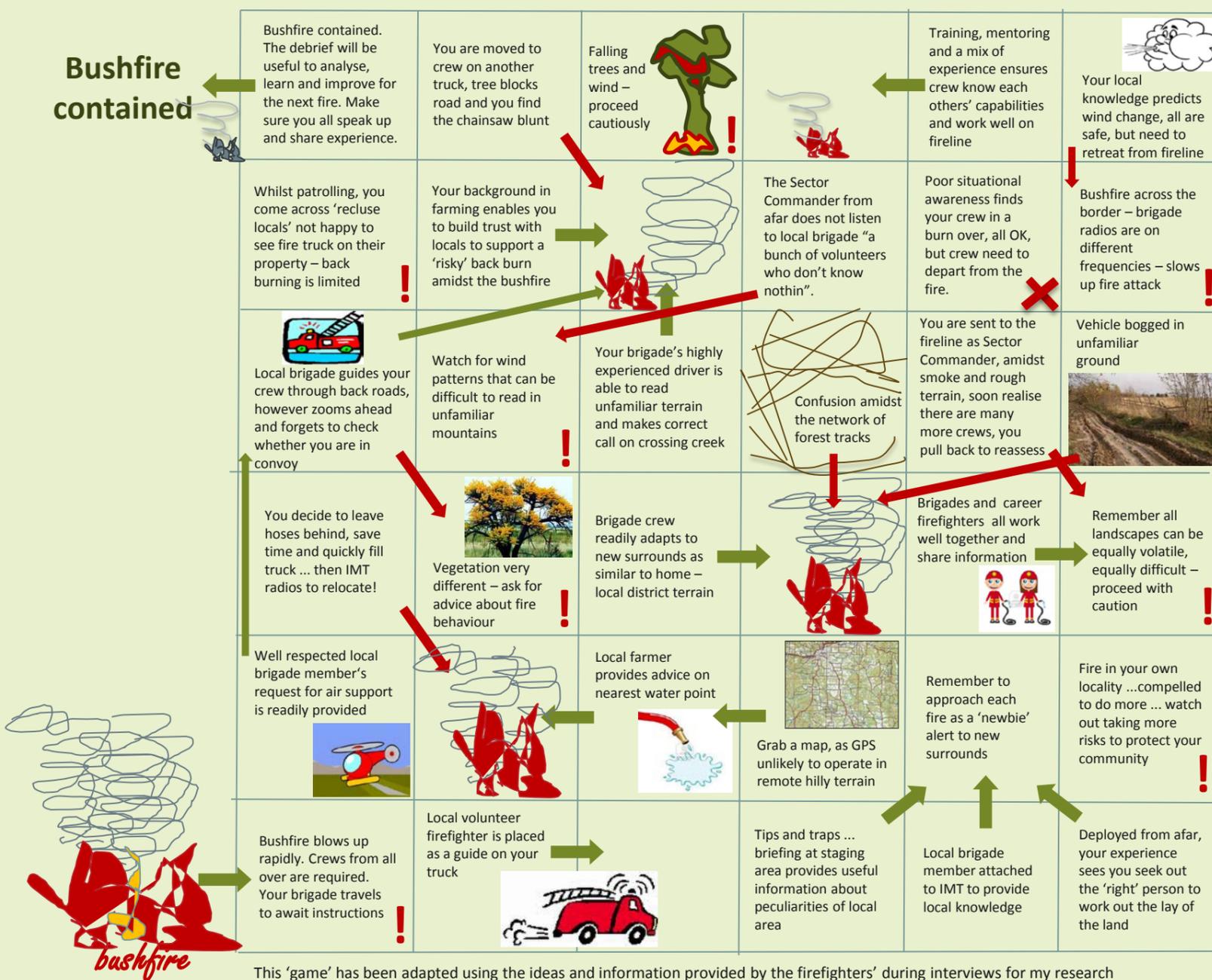




'LIE OF THE LAND' – FIREFIGHTERS FINDING PLACE IN THE BUSHFIRE LANDSCAPE

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I am investigating the relationship between bushfires, firefighters and understandings of what it means to fight fire in a 'local' or far away landscape. I am exploring whether firefighters use landscape knowledge to advantage, and if this assists in managing the fire. What happens when the command and control of firefighters' response is out of step with the dynamic ever-changing nature of fire and landscape and ultimately, does knowing the terrain matter?



This 'game' has been adapted using the ideas and information provided by the firefighters' during interviews for my research

During the autumn and winter of 2012, semi-structured interviews and focus groups were undertaken with over 50 Australian firefighters from selected fire management organisations and volunteer brigades in contrasting localities: the north-east coast of Tasmania, the urban-rural interface of Canberra, and the farmlands of the Wimmera in Victoria.