

Special Issue

Wildland Fire Suppression and Fuel Management: Accidents, Near Accidents and Stress Issues

Message from the Guest Editor

The purpose of this Special Issue is to assess accidents and near misses in forest fuel and fire management jobs. Wildfire fatalities remain a significant problem in different regions of the world. There is a robust inter-annual variability regarding tragic misfortunes. However, it is paradoxical that there is not a clear reduction in these accidents even though we invest heavily in training, equipment and improved work procedures. It is very possible that we are not identifying the causes of accidents with the necessary detail and that we favor quick and non-innovative solutions. Different studies have used (and merged) data originating from national databases on accidents that caused these deaths. Those works have documented and analyzed probable relationships with the number and type of fatalities. There is a gap among knowledge about heat strain, its mitigation strategies and the level of actual implementation of these practices in the workplace. We need to improve heat strain management and implement operational directives for acclimatization and active cooling interventions. We are failing to improve human safety.

Guest Editor

Dr. Domingo M. Molina-Terrén

Department of Crops and Forest Sciences, University of Lleida, Av. Rovira Roure 191, 25198 Lleida, Spain

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Forests
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
forests@mdpi.com

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Prof. Dr. Giacomo Alessandro Gerosa

Department of Mathematics and Physics, Catholic University of Brescia,
I-25121 Brescia, Italy

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