



## Managing Forest Fire Smoke and Impacts on Health in an Era of Escalating Fire Risk

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### Message from the Guest Editors

The frequency and severity of forest fires is already increasing and is predicted to continue to do so in the foreseeable future. On a global scale, it has been estimated that each year, 340,000 deaths are attributable to forest fire smoke. Due to climate and type of vegetation in Australia, forest fires occur every year, resulting in large population centres being exposed, making it an important public health problem in Australia and in many countries around the world. Smoke is also emitted during prescribed or planned burning; this is the purposeful application of fire to reduce fuel loads to reduce the risk of forest fires.

It is essential to understand the most effective way to manage the health impacts of forest fire smoke exposure. To address this, the Centre for Air pollution, energy and health Research (CAR) will hold a workshop on “Managing Smoke in an Era of Escalating Fire Risk” in Sydney, Australia on 8–9 October 2020. This *IJERPH* Special Issue is being developed in partnership with the conference, and presenters are invited to publish their papers in this Special Issue.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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