



Are we prepared for catastrophic disasters?

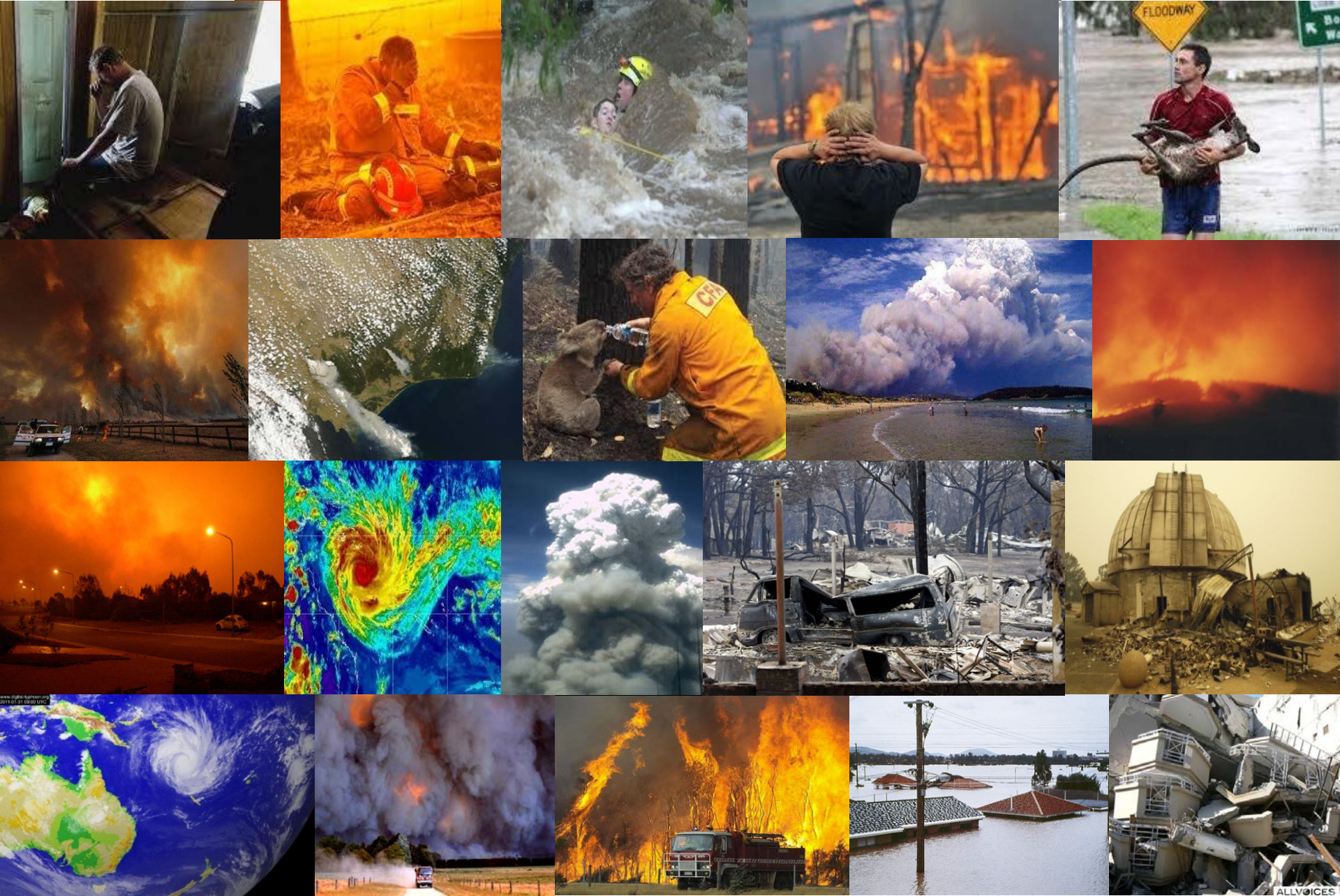
How a change in thinking might change the outcome

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We can't solve catastrophe but we can get better at it!



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Emergency Management Australia

DISASTERS

How a Change in Thinking Might Change the Inevitability of Disasters

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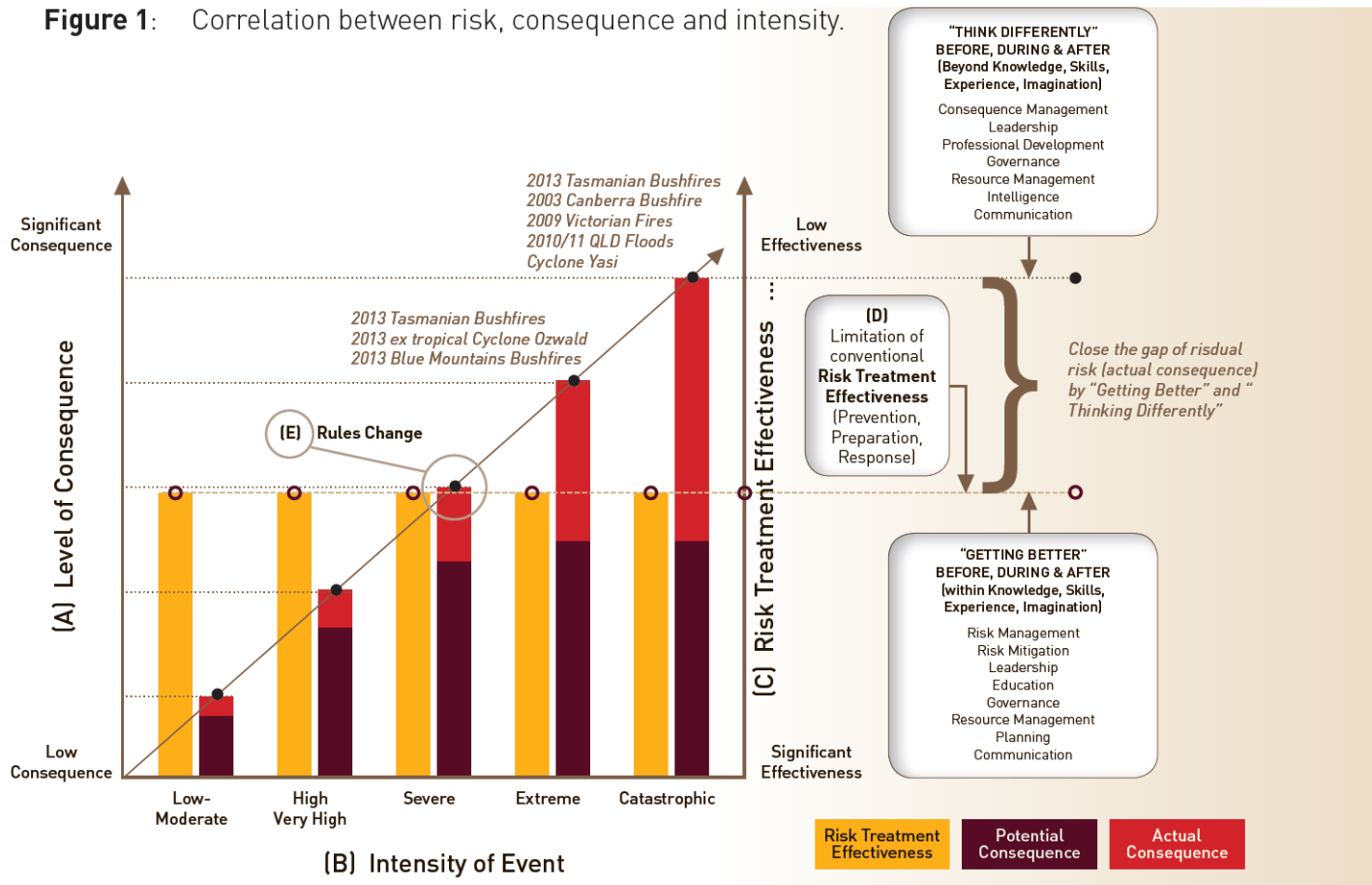
DISASTERS

Improving our capability to better plan for, respond to and recover from severe to catastrophic level disasters | MAY 2015



Understanding our point of limitation

Figure 1: Correlation between risk, consequence and intensity.





Thinking differently

- Accepting inevitability
- Changing the way we think about residual risk
 - Least likely/most consequential – little thought/a lot of thought!
 - Rarity might reduce risk but it does not reduce consequence
- Implementing practical measures
 - Paint the picture; Tell the story; Find the problems; Propose the solutions
 - The US Experience (Seattle / Anchorage)
- Establishing an ethical premise for leadership
 - Trust (symbol of uniform / ultimate measure of success)
 - Unity
 - Humility
 - Compassion (the ultimate mission)
 - Forgiveness
- National Vulnerability Profile
- National Mitigation Strategy



The national program of work: National capabilities to protect Australian communities (in collaboration with AFAC)

- National Fire Danger Rating System (Phase II)
- Emergency Alert
- National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC)
- Tsunami Warning Centre
- National Resource Sharing Centre
- National Situational Awareness Tool (NSAT)
- National Statement of Capability for Fire and Emergency Services
- Capability Roadmap for Enhancing Emergency Management in Australia 2016
- Commissioners and Chief Officers Strategic Committee (CCOSC)
- Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)
- Arrangements for Interstate Assistance (AIA)
- International Agreement with Canadian Government



Image by the Bureau of Meteorology



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Questions/comments?



Dean Symons Photography