Eyre Peninsula Bushfire Fieldwork

10 January 2005

The Eyre Peninsula bushfires began on January 10, 2005. The fires were contained by emergency services, but weather conditions helped push the fires through containment lines on January 11. Wind speeds were 70 km/h and temperatures exceeded 40 degrees Celsius.

More than 145,000 hectares of land burnt. Forty-eight thousand hectares were around the townships of Wangary, Wanilla, North Shield, Pooinindie, Louth Bay, Greenpatch and Yallunda Flat near Port Lincoln.

Nine people were killed in the Eyre Peninsula bushfires and 110 people were injured. Current estimates of loss total $26,000,000 (EMA, 2005).

On January 17, a team from Geoscience Australia flew to Port Lincoln to assist with the post-bushfire research. Geoscience Australia worked with the South Australian Country Fire Service, South Australian Police and CSIRO to collect crucial data concerning building damage and fire behaviour.

Using Global Positioning System (GPS) units, digital cameras and palmtop computers with ArcPad GIS, Geoscience Australia recorded comprehensive information on buildings damaged and destroyed by the fires. Photographs taken were linked to a GIS database.

Other agencies are using the information gathered from the 2005 Eyre Peninsula Bushfires by Geoscience Australia for a variety of purposes. The data collected will assist with accurate modelling of future events and their consequences. Additionally, the data will help emergency managers, planners and engineers develop appropriate policies and regulations for future fire management.

Images

As part of the survey and research process, maps were produced and photographs were taken showing the aftermath of the Eyre Peninsula bushfire and Geoscience Australia's participation in the post-fire research.

Map showing the extent of the January 2005 bushfires and the location of houses destroyed or damaged (collected by Geoscience Australia). The information on houses destroyed and damaged is contained in a GIS database. This not only shows spatial data, but also the field attributes collected and photos for each data point.

Surveying the damage to a house in Charlton Gully, near Port Lincoln.

A destroyed heritage building in Green Patch, near Port Lincoln.

Interior of a destroyed heritage building in Green Patch, near Port Lincoln.

Close up of building damage in North Shields, near Port Lincoln.

CSIRO personnel surveying damage to a property in North Shields, near Port Lincoln.

Property damaged in North Shields, near Port Lincoln.

Cleaning up a building destroyed in Wanilla, near Port Lincoln.

Remains of a building destroyed in Wanilla, near Port Lincoln.

Interior of a building destroyed in Whites Flat, near Port Lincoln.

Personnel from the Country Fire Service (CFS) and CSIRO surveying the damage to a building destroyed in Whites Flat, near Port Lincoln.

Personnel from the SES cleaning up a building destroyed in Whites River, near Port Lincoln.