

Fatigue Management in the Emergency Management Context

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In this project fatigue management has been evaluated in the emergency management context, particularly in relation to New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) emergency management activities. Fatigue is a significant problem in emergencies, and particularly long time frame emergencies like animal and plant pest and disease emergencies. However, much of the fatigue management research has been undertaken in areas other than emergency management, so it is not well known how well this fits into the emergency management context. To investigate this issue, fatigue management policies were accessed directly from

emergency agencies across Australia. In the absence of sufficient of these, the focus was broadened to include other related industries whose guidelines were accessed from the web. A content analysis was undertaken to review the documents. The research revealed that the complex interactions between fatigue issues are not well understood and that fatigue management has been developed in other fields and not tested for its appropriateness in the complex emergency management context. This study showed that a flexible risk management approach, rather than prescriptive management approach, is most appropriate to the often complex, multi-agency, long time framed emergencies that NSW DPI manages. The scarcity of information in the emergency management context highlights the need for future studies in better determining interrelationships and interactions between fatigue factors and testing fatigue management systems in emergencies to evaluate their effectiveness in the emergency management context.

**To obtain a copy of the full report please contact:
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INTERESTING WEBSITES:

NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON ADVANCING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR CULTURALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

www.diversitypreparedness.org

This website of the National Resource Center in the US serves as a central clearinghouse of resources and an information exchange portal to facilitate communication, networking and collaboration to improve preparedness, build resilience and eliminate disparities for culturally diverse communities across all phases of an emergency.

It is intended for a broad audience including individuals, communities, government, emergency planners, emergency managers, first responders, health care providers, public health professionals, researchers, businesses and policymakers interested in preparedness for diverse populations.

The site currently includes:

- A catalog of annotated and cross-referenced resources, programs and projects by a range of topics, languages, and communities.
- Links to full-text sources, including peer-reviewed journal articles, training and education content, resource guides, measurement and evaluation tools, translated materials and other publications.
- Links to federal, state and local government, as well as private sector, academic and community-based programs and websites devoted to preparing culturally diverse populations for emergencies.
- A database of translated materials cataloged by multiple languages and cultural communities.
- Powerful search options, including a keyword search, advanced search and browse function.



- An option to submit resources as well as information on new and emerging programs related to preparedness of culturally diverse communities.
- A monthly e-newsletter featuring the latest publications, resources and events as well as promising practices, success stories, lessons learned, innovations, and policies.

The Center also has plans for an online discussion forum for the exchange of ideas and information, including experiences, lessons learned, promising practices and strategies, success stories, new resources, innovations, policies, and events. It also is in the throes of developing an online member directory of experts and professionals working to integrate culturally diverse communities across into preparedness planning and action.