

Firefighter Risk & Resilience Study Newsletter - Spring 2019



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“Holy Grail” of Firefighter Safety



<https://www.scoopnest.com/s/Wildfire%20Management%20Technology%20Advancement%20Act/>; <https://psmag.com/environment/only-a-rethink-can-prevent-forest-fires>

On February 2, 2019, U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), secured passage in the Senate of the *Wildfire Management Technology Advancement Act of 2017*, which would modernize firefighter safety on a national scale. The bill was approved unanimously by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, of which Cantwell is the former ranking member. While it still has to be approved by the House of Representatives, this initial unanimous vote is a good sign.

This bill has been called the “Holy Grail” of firefighter safety because it aims to give firefighters and firefighting agencies the most state-of-the-art tools in detection and location of wildfires, as well as tracking the firefighters responding to the wildfire. *The Wildfire Management Technology Advancement Act* increases firefighter safety in many ways, such as requiring the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service to provide immediate GPS

locations for crews positioned on wildfires. It would also require the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems to watch and map wildfires in real time. This bill would implement a system to assemble a team of responders in proportional size to the complexity, intensity, and activity of a wildfire. Real time situational awareness will reduce lag time for firefighters so they can know where the fire is and where the resources are in a timely manner.

The bill additionally calls for the analysis of trends in injuries among firefighters so that future trainings can be designed and implemented to prevent further injuries and death. Decisions made by state and federal agencies would also be analyzed in order to track costs and catch issues, big or small, that endanger firefighter's lives.

This system is unique in that all data will be available in real time to supervisors and decision makers alike, and leadership can see the location of their personnel in relation to

the fire as well as the current location of the fire itself.

By increasing awareness of all facets of a wildfire, less firefighters will be injured by a wildfire in a surprise location or a misjudgment of Firefighters' exact location. For example, a report on the Mendocino Complex of Fires explains that the firefighters were unsure of where the fire was, which ultimately led to six firefighters becoming entrapped and needed a rescue that took a long time to come.

This technology has been available for years, used most commonly by the military to monitor both the enemy and their own troops. By expanding this technology to fire service, firefighters' lives will be better protected. A more transparent, organized system will help keep major mistakes from happening, and will ultimately save more lives.

<https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-bill-to-bring-state-of-the-art-technology-to-firefighters-across-the-country-passes-senate>

<https://wildfiretoday.com/2019/02/10/21-issues-frequently-identified-in-firefighter-entrapment-reports/#comment-113851>

<https://wildfiretoday.com/2018/10/03/legislation-advances-to-move-toward-the-holy-grail-of-wildland-firefighter-safety/>

What's New at the WRI?

The WRI welcomes two new therapists!

DeAngela Bynum

DeAngela joined the Warriors Research Institute (WRI) in September 2018 after graduating with honors from Tarleton State University. She earned her Bachelor of Social Work degree in May of 2018 and is currently in the Tarleton State University Masters of Social Work program. Prior to working with WRI, she volunteered at the Waco Police Department in the Victim Services Unit. She is also a part of the peer support team for Behind The Badge, promoting the emotional and psychological health of the officers who work for Waco PD and their families.

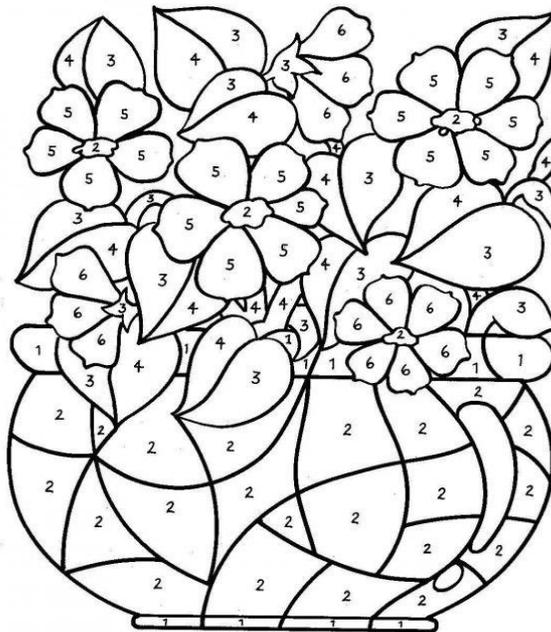
DeAngela is a native Texan, but as a child of a military family she grew up in multiple states. She returned to Texas in her early 20s and has lived in Waco for the past 6 years. In her personal time, DeAngela enjoys reading, camping outdoors with her family and woodworking.

Hyeji Na

Hyeji joined the Warriors Research Institute (WRI) team in October 2018. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at Emory University and is currently working on her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Baylor University. Prior to joining the WRI, Hyeji completed clinical practica at the Baylor Psychology Clinic, Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Medical Rehabilitation Center, Bill Logue Juvenile Justice Center, and the Baylor University Counseling Center in Waco, TX, and completed her predoctoral internship at the Veterans Affairs North Texas Health Care System in Dallas, TX.

Hyeji's clinical interests include health promotion, disease prevention, and positive psychology interventions. Hyeji's research experience includes projects evaluating the use of hypnotherapeutic interventions on various medical and psychological concerns, such as tobacco use, hot flashes, sleep problems, and enhancing well-being. In her spare time, Hyeji enjoys various forms of exercise, laughing with her friends and family, exploring places near and far, and listening to audiobooks on 2x speed (try it!).

Color By Number!



- 1 = Red
- 2 = Yellow
- 3 = Light Green
- 4 = Dark Green
- 5 = Blue
- 6 = Purple

Citation: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/153122456063627393>

Spotlight on Service

In our newsletters, we highlight firefighter service outside the line of duty from the cities in our study. In this newsletter, we focus on Fairfax, VA.



Fairfax County Fire and Rescue

<https://ffxfirerescue.wordpress.com/2019/02/11/free-training-classes-for-community-emergency-response-team-2/>

Free Training Classes for Community Emergency Response Teams in Fairfax, Virginia.

The primary goal of the Fire and Rescue Department of Fairfax, Virginia is to keep their community safe from harm. Currently, the Fire and Rescue Department is teaching their community how to keep themselves, and each other safe in emergency situations by offering free training classes to any interested civilian on how to be a part of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

CERTs are trained on disaster preparedness for emergencies that may affect their community and are also trained in basic response skills such as: fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. These teams fill an important role during times that professional emergency responders may not be immediately available. CERTs support the

emergency responders by taking an active role in emergency preparedness projects within their community. CERTs are trained in basic response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

The vision of the Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department is to train residents to be able to keep not only themselves safe during an emergency situation, but to be a resource to their family, their neighbors and their neighborhood. CERTs are not used during single incident emergencies such as car accidents or house fires. Instead, they are trained to respond to mass casualty/ major disasters such as hurricanes, major flooding, etc.

CERT members are trained by the Fire and Rescue Department to operate for up to three days without outside help, using materials that would be found in their environment. They are also instructed on radio techniques, disaster psychology,

proper use of fire extinguishers, and first aid. This training is easily accessible to any interested member of the community, as there are no specific physical strength or agility requirements.

The firefighters of Fairfax are devoted to being on scene for any emergency that may befall their community, however, this is not always going to be possible. During mass casualty events, emergency response teams are often spread thin, and civilians need to come together as a community to stay safe. The Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department has implemented these Community Emergency Response Teams so that members of the community can rely on each other and stay safe during any possible disaster.

Source: <https://ffxfirerescue.wordpress.com/2019/02/11/free-training-classes-for-community-emergency-response-team-2/>; <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems/community-emergency-response-team-cert>

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Moving? Changing your phone number?

If so, please let us know so we can
update our information.

Contact Jordan Strack at:

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**Follow us on
Twitter!**

@Suzygulliverphd



Don't forget that you can contact us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year!