

Community Information

Case Study

On 7 February 2009, the Black Saturday Bushfires in the Australian State of Victoria impacted the town of Bendigo, destroying 61 houses and killing one person. These fires would go on to become the worst in Australian history killing 173 and destroying over 3500 buildings.

Inquiries following these fires, resulted in a number of changes to fire management in Victoria including the introduction, in 2016, of the VicEmergency app to provide information to the community in the event of emergencies.



A community member reacts to the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires.

In 2017, nineteen members of the Bendigo community who were impacted by the Black Saturday Fire were asked to compare the information available to them through the VicEmergency app with that available through zirkarta. 100 percent indicated that the information provided by zirkarta was better than that provided through VicEmergency.

Zirkarta provides the community with mapped information in the event of fires to help them answer:

- Where is it?
- Where is it going?
- How long do I have?
- What do I do?

Importantly, and in contrast to VicEmergency, this information is provided in real-time.

The community are the real first responders in emergencies and they deserve to be provided with the same standard of information as all other first responders.

Results of a survey of the community information provided by Zirkarta compared to VicEmergency.

