

## **Cyclones and space travel: emergency management leaders prepare for change**

### ***Australian emergency management leaders work together for resilience at AFAC18***

Australasia's biggest emergency management conference and exhibition, AFAC18 powered by INTERSCHUTZ is gearing up to equip the sector to thrive in an uncertain future.

The program features NASA Astronaut Mike Mullane, an inductee of the International Space Hall of Fame. Mullane's insights into successful teamwork, leadership and safety flow from a unique career, including his first-hand experience of the 1986 space shuttle Challenger tragedy.

"In hazardous operations, everybody counts. Leaders at all levels need to empower their team members to put their ideas and perspectives on the table. An attitude of, 'See something; Say something; Do something' can save lives," said Mullane.

Delegates will also hear from Craig Fugate, the distinguished former Administrator of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, on '*the seven deadly sins of emergency management*.'

"Disasters don't fit into what you think you are capable of doing," says Fugate. "We have to prepare for the unexpected, not what we are capable of responding to right now."

Other program highlights include:

- **Neil Burrows**, Senior Principal Research Scientist, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
- **Anna-Maria Arabia**, Chief Executive, Australian Academy of Science
- **Eric Yap**, Commissioner, Singapore Civil Defence Force
- **Dr Dana Born**, Co-Director, Centre for Public Leadership, Harvard Kennedy School of Government

AFAC18 powered by INTERSCHUTZ is running concurrently in 2018 with the inaugural Australian Disaster Resilience Conference, featuring:

- **Phil Rist**, Nywaigi Traditional Owner
- **Jane Hayward AM**, teaching Principal, Strathewen Primary School
- **Dr Megan McCarthy**, Macquarie University/Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC
- **Dr Rachel Armstrong**, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, WA

Kicking off with the annual Research Forum presented by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre, the event runs from 5-8 September 2018 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The AFAC18 conference program will explore how we can improve ourselves, and the emergency management and disaster resilience sector and how to survive and thrive in an ever-changing, complex environment.

For more information visit: <http://www.afaconference.com.au/>

The Australian Disaster Resilience Conference will explore the rise of resilience from the individual to the global – enhancing recovery by supporting community resilience.

For more information visit: <https://aidr.org.au/programs/australian-disaster-resilience-conference/>

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**Notes to editors:**

- Keynote speakers are available for interviews via the media contacts listed below
- Available for interview on request:
  - Stuart Ellis, CEO, Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authority Council (AFAC) and the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR)
  - Dr Richard Thornton, CEO, Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre
  - Harvey Stockbridge, Managing Director, Deutsche Messe
- Complimentary media passes are available, apply by sending name, position and publication to [jessica@zadroagency.com.au](mailto:jessica@zadroagency.com.au)

**Media contacts:**

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**Images:**

All images of AFAC17 can be found on the [AFAC Flickr page](#) and can be used royalty free.

1. Colonel Mike Mullane, retired NASA astronaut



2. Craig Fugate, former United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator



3. AFAC17 showfloor



**About AFAC18:**

**5 - 8 September | Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre**

**Changing lives in a changing world**

Emergency management is not an easy task and is not getting easier. With a growing population moving into new areas, our changing climate, bushfires, floods, cyclones, storms and heatwaves are impacting our lives in new ways. Innovating in the face of disruptions and developing our

people to successfully manage the organisations of the future is a key challenge. AFAC18 looks at change as the new normal, how collaboration and resilience is driving performance and the innovations in emergency management and disaster resilience that are helping our people to weather change.

Held over four action-packed days AFAC18 powered by INTERSCHUTZ will attract delegates and visitors from emergency and security services agencies, all levels of government, non-government organisations, the private sector, research and education institutions and community groups from Australia and worldwide.

The AFAC18 program is co-produced by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and will this year feature the inaugural Australian Disaster Resilience Conference, which will run concurrently with the AFAC18 program.

Themed “The rise of resilience: from the individual to the global,” the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference will explore national and global strategy and direction, as well as community resilience at the grassroots level. The conference will explore resilience as a dynamic, multi-faceted national imperative; encouraging active engagement and partnerships across sectors and at all levels. The conference will culminate in a forum on the future state of resilience in Australia.

AFAC18 powered by INTERSCHUTZ is a joint venture between AFAC and Deutsche Messe, trading in Australia as Hannover Fairs Pty Ltd.

### **Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC)**

Website: [www.afacconference.com.au/](http://www.afacconference.com.au/)

Facebook: [@AFACnews](https://www.facebook.com/AFACnews)

Twitter: [@AFACnews](https://twitter.com/AFACnews)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/australasian-fire-and-emergency-service-authorities-council>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu18IYmKgFcL27XBKF17Klw>

Hashtag: #AFAC18

### **Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC**

Facebook: [@bnhrcrc](https://www.facebook.com/bnhcrc)

Twitter: [@bnhrcrc](https://twitter.com/bnhcrc)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/bushfire-and-natural-hazards-crc-a0919043/>

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/bnhcrc](http://www.youtube.com/user/bnhcrc)

### **Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience**

Website: [www.aidr.org.au/adcrc](http://www.aidr.org.au/adcrc)

Facebook: [@AIDRnews](https://www.facebook.com/AIDRnews)

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LinkedIn: <https://au.linkedin.com/company/aidr>

Hashtag: #ADRC2018