

An International Dialogue to Inform an Update to the Canadian Total Cost of Fire

Date: Friday, May 1, 2020, 2:15 pm – 4:30 pm (immediately following conclusion of IAFSS 2020)

Cost: Free of charge. Light refreshments will be provided.

Call for Participation:

This dialogue aligns with the scoping phase of a new research project to revisit and reassess the total cost of fire in Canada, which was last updated in 1995. The focus of this dialogue is end-user needs for a total-cost-of-fire estimation system or tool, and how these influence input data and methodologies. This dialogue will follow on from our paper, “Comparison of Component Categorizations used in International Total Cost of Fire Estimates”, that will be presented at the IAFSS conference.

The dialogue session is anticipated to begin with a thought-provoking presentation, followed by invited discussion where sharing of opinions and experiences is welcomed, and concluding with a short debrief.

To register your interest in participating, please email Cecilia.Lam@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca with the subject line “Total Cost of Fire Dialogue”.

What we hear during this dialogue will help inform the basis for planning the larger research project and form part of the ongoing engagement of stakeholders and potential collaborators for the future phases of this project. Further details on the research project follow below.

Research project summary and scope:

We are spearheading a research project to revisit and reassess the total cost of fire in Canada (last updated in 1995 [1]). As part of the initial scoping phase of this project (funded by National Research Council Canada), we would like to engage interested conference participants (both Canadian and international) in a dialogue to identify the most useful components to be included in a system or tool to estimate the total cost of fire. Sharing of opinions and experiences of estimation approaches for these cost components is welcomed. This discussion will help inform the basis for the selection of key cost components and methodologies, and support ongoing stakeholder engagement in the future phases of this project.

The IAFSS conference is an ideal forum for this dialogue because of the diversity of subject matter experts who will be in attendance that would complement the range of topics that a total cost of fire project encompasses. In addition, there is potential for use by this community of the outcomes of this project. There is also alignment of the project in support of the IAFSS Agenda 2030 for a Fire Safe World. Our paper entitled “Comparison of Component Categorizations used in International Total Cost of Fire Estimates” will be presented at the conference. The presentation is intended to provide an introduction to the topic and to showcase initial work that is underway, setting a foundation for the dialogue.

The dialogue will consider both a Canadian context and an international context. The Canadian context will target identification of potential end-user needs, interests and available data for input. The international context will provide valuable information on previous experience and current efforts related to estimating a national total cost of fire. These might include discussion around developments in methodologies by different countries; availability of and/or ability to access input data; alignment with intended applications by end users; and other limitations, successes and lessons learned related to assessment of the total cost of fire. The dialogue will also provide an excellent opportunity to identify areas for strategic alignment with current efforts that could strengthen and enhance potential international use and alignment of this estimation tool.

[1] P. Schaenman, J. Stern and R. Bush, Total cost of fire in Canada: an initial estimate, National Research Council Canada, 1995. <https://doi.org/10.4224/20386274>.

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