The mental health impact of Australia’s bushfire crisis

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Photograph by Jacob Carracher
• What you need to know about the 2019/2020 Australian bushfires

• The timing and intensity of the fires were unprecedented
• What has happened so far?

• Dozens of fires erupted in New South Wales, Australia, prompting the government to declare a state of emergency in November 2019.
• Fires rapidly spread across all states to become some of the most devastating on record.
• What has happened so far?

• Dozens of fires erupted in New South Wales, Australia, prompting the government to declare a state of emergency in November 2019.
• Fires rapidly spread across all states to become some of the most devastating on record.
• And now?

• The fires in New South Wales, the state most affected, were finally declared “contained” on February 13th. “After what’s been a truly devastating fire season for both firefighters and residents who’ve suffered through so much this season ... We can really focus on helping people rebuild,” - New South Wales Rural Fire Service deputy commissioner Rob Rogers
• And then…
• The smoke!
• The smoke!
• The smoke!

Due to the Excessive Smoke and Poor air Quality
We have closed the store.

Sorry for any inconvenience.

♥ The Staff of Forever New.
Collective trauma is real, and could hamper Australian communities’ bushfire recovery

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The impact on volunteers

Supporting the well-being of volunteers on the bushfire frontlines

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In: 2019-20 climate bushfire emergency, disasters, extreme weather events, Global health and climate change, mental health, rural and remote health, trauma
To improve firefighters’ mental health, we can’t wait for them to reach out – we need to ‘reach in’
• But wait…here comes the pandemic!
• It’s all about perspective!