**Invitation to participate in research**

**Impact of repeated smoke exposure on eyes [HC 220837]**

Researchers at UNSW are conducting a project to investigate whether repeated bushfire smoke exposure increases risk of problems at the eye surface. We are seeking two groups to participate in this research study. These are:

(i) bushfire firefighters (current, retired, volunteer or employed) and

(ii) staff who are employed with bushfire emergency services organisations but do not have any firefighting experience.

The research study is looking recruit people who meet the following criteria:

1. 18 years of age or older
2. Able to read and comprehend English and give informed consent as demonstrated by signing a record of informed consent
3. Able to travel to University of New South Wales, Randwick Campus (Sydney) for a single 1-hour visit

Exclusion criteria for those who are not eligible to participate in the study include:

1. Use of any therapeutic eye drop (eg steroid, anti-infective drops) in the week prior to the study
2. Have any significant medical condition including auto-immune or inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren’s syndrome, lupus, diabetes.
3. Have a significant eye surface disease such as HSV keratitis, chronic conjunctivitis
4. Use of contact lenses in the week prior to the study visit
5. Currently pregnant or given birth within 3 months of the first study visit
6. History of corneal refractive surgery
7. Current smokers or history of smoking in the last 12 months

Additional exclusion criteria for non-firefighting group:

1. Have had exposure to any type of smoke from working in a firefighting capacity (current , previous, volunteer or employed)

You will receive a $20 supermarket voucher for your participation, which will help provide new knowledge on whether repeated exposure to smoke has an impact on eye health.

Participation in this research is optional and voluntary. Participation will require you to visit University of New South Wales, Randwick (Sydney) campus for a single visit of up to 60 minutes.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please complete the consent forms which can be found here:

* **Firefighters:** <https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3xglm0CxPjWf3Wm>
* **Non-firefighters:** <https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_77NwS2jIwjnX7bU>

Our research team will be in touch with you to arrange your participation once the signed forms are received.

If you have any questions, please contact [suki.jaiswal@unsw.edu.au](mailto:suki.jaiswal@unsw.edu.au)