

EP-040014

A psycho-environmental analysis of a forest fire: emotions, risk perception and changes in bonds with the place

M.C. Hidalgo (1), B. Hernández (2) & F. Negrín (2)

(1) University of Málaga, (2) University of La Laguna

Objectives: To analyze the effects of a forest fire on emotions, risk perception, perceived restorativeness, place attachment and place identity.



Where: Parque Nacional de Garajonay, La Gomera, Canary Islands, Biosphere Reserve

When: August, 2012

Who: A quarter of the population were evacuated

Participants: 266 people, 42,5% men, 57,5% women
Mean age: 43,69 years

Results:

Fig. 1: Feelings after the fire

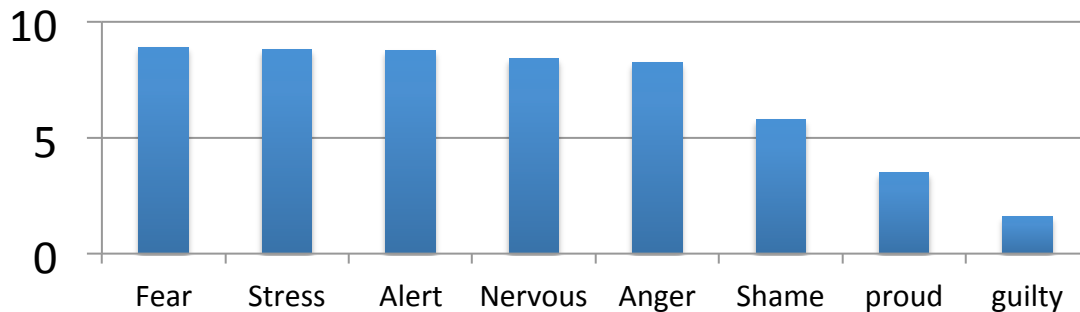
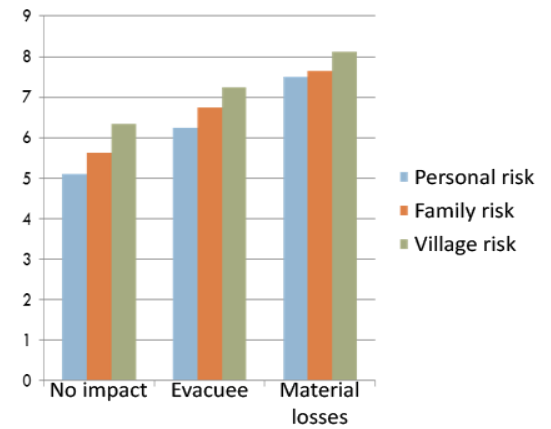


Fig. 2: Risk perception



Results:

Fig. 3: Bonds with the place

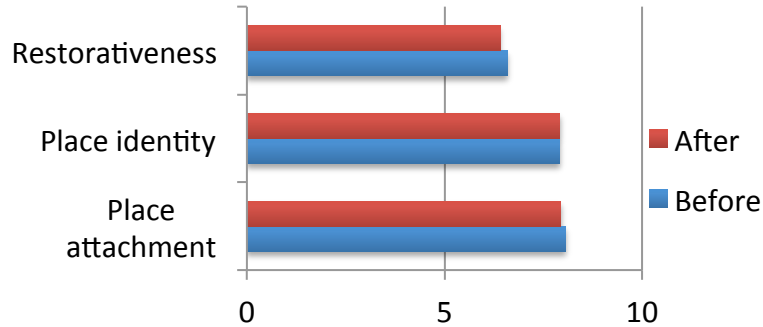


Table 1: Mean comparison (t Student)

	Mean before fire	Mean after fire	t	p
Restorativeness	6,60	6,41	3,61	.000
Place identity	7,91	7,92	-0,16	.868
Place attachment	8,06	7,94	2,35	.019

Conclusions:

1. The main emotions after the fire were fear, stress, alert, nervous and anger
2. Risk perception increased with impact and personal distance
3. Place identity didn't change after the disaster
4. Place attachment and Perceived restorativeness decreased after the fire