

What are the benefits of an enhanced decision support system against wildfires?

The case of beAWARE

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The challenge

- Wildfires are an increasing and continuously more dangerous phenomenon
- Droughts and wildfires show the most pronounced upward ²⁰ trend



Hydrological events (flood, mass movement)

Trends in different types of natural catastrophe worldwide, 1980–2012 (1980 levels set at 100%; Munich Re NatCatSERVICE)

 $Source: http://www.droughtmanagement.info/literature/EASAC_trends_extreme_weather_events_europe_2013.pdf$





Recent examples - Greece

- Mati (Greece) 2018:
 - 99 people dead
 - 164 people injured
 - 1.276 hectares destroyed
- Characteristics
 - Extremely strong winds (100-120 km/h locally)
 - Temperatures near 40 °C







Source: National Observatory of Athens





Issues faced

- In the case of Mati the problems that were faced based on reports were:
 - Difficulty in issuing a public alert in order to evacuate the area
 - Coordination and communication issues
 - There was no clear understanding the current status of the situation
 - Many people tried to evacuate using their cars and the narrow streets were jammed → Traffic jam



Recent examples - Portugal

- Pedrógão Grande (Portugal) 2017
 - 66 people dead
 - > 200 people injured
 - > 520.000 forest hectares destroyed



Source: AFP, REUTERS STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS



Satellite images show the fires (marked with red arrows) burning intensely yesterday, June 19. Image: NASA MODIS.

Source: http://www.severe-weather.eu/news/high-fire-hazard-across-large-parts-ofeurope-june-20/





Issues faced

- In the case of Pedrógão Grande the problems that were faced based on reports were:
 - Absence of an early warning system in place
 - Difficulty in issuing a public alert in order to evacuate the area
 - Coordination and communication issues
 - There was no clear understanding the current status of the situation
 - No pre-positioning of forces
 - No analysis of the evolution of the situation based on the available meteorological information





Recent examples – Sweden

- Sweden 2018
 - Total of 250 km² of forest area was affected



weden fire satellite MAP: Aeriel picture showing smoke billowing from the Sweden wildfires (Image: GETTY)). Source: https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/993021/sweden-fire-satellite-map-aerial-pictures-wildfire-norway-sweden



This map shows where fires were burning in Sweden Image: SOSAlarmSverige). Source: https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/993472/Sweden-fire-map-Sweden-wildfires-droughtheatwave/



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Benefits of Decision Support Systems

- In general, the benefits of a DSS can be summarized in:
 - Time saving
 - Early warning
 - Enhance effectiveness
 - Improve interpersonal communication
 - Offer a competitive advantage
 - Increase decision maker satisfaction
 - Promote learning
 - Increase organizational control
- The goal is to demonstrate how the above can support the management of wildfires



beAWARE concept

- beAWARE proposes a holistic approach to the realization of crisis management frameworks supporting all the phases in an emergency sequence
- beAWARE offers an integrated solution to provide early warnings, risk assessment, aggregated analysis of multimodal data and decision support to the authorities in order to plan and coordinate the most effective response with the available resources











PREPAREDNESS

PREVENTION



RESPONSE

beAWARE tools

- Alert based on meteorological Data (pre-emergency) Crisis Classification
- Multilingual Text Analysis
- Aggregate Multimodal Information
 - Weather Data
 - Sensor Data
 - Social Media
 - Multimedia
- Image Analysis Video Analysis Drones
- Information from sensors
- Task Management
- Report Generation
- PSAP





Multilingual Text Analysis

- Analysis from English, Greek, Italian and Spanish texts
 - Text from tweets
 - Text from mobile application (first responders/people in danger)
 - Text from automatic speech recognition output







Aggregate Multimodal Information

- Weather data •
 - Forecast & Current data
- Sensor data •
 - Sensor-thing server
 - Hydrological and hydraulic modelling
- Social media •
 - Collection of Tweets for Fire, Flood, Heatwave for English, Spanish, Greek and Italian

English Floods v

Multimedia •







Visual Analysis

- Image, Video and Audio Analysis
 - Crisis event detection in images and videos
 - Traffic analysis from static surveillance cameras
 - Automatic speech recognition component











Visual Analysis – use of drones





Visual Analysis – use of drones

- Automatic drone route planning using service parameters
- Autonomous drone piloting
- Automatic invocation of drone's on-board equipment (ex., camera)
- Collection of media and events produced by drone
- Data storage using beAWARE infrastructure
- Communication with media analysis components using beAWARE infrastructure
- Drone component dashboard for management and flight monitoring









Semantic Integration

- Reasoning based on multimodal input
- Incidents to PSAP
- **Clustering of incidents**
- Calculation of incidents' severity levels

xample: Floode Concept Incident

Flood

Human 08 Human 09

- Update of the safe locations status
- Identify the crisis type •



Flooded Via Carlo Scarpa

The Via Carlo Scarpa is flooded.

The Via Carlo Scarpa was flooded due to heavy rains. The powerhouse was suffered water damages and was shut down for safety reasons



Report Generation



- Any analysis output is an input to the Report Generation component
- Provide description/reports to the authority for an incident or for a cluster of incidents

Text generation output:

- The subway is flooded. There is a car trapped inside.
- A car is trapped in the flooded subway.
- A car is trapped in the subway, which is flooded.
- The subway, in which a car is trapped, is flooded.







Main Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)





- PSAP main environment
- PSAP dashboard





beAWARE

beAWARE



OVERVIEW MAP - | LOGIN |



Impact

- Security of people: beAWARE improves the way in which people interact with the authority
- Emergency working routines: the early warning, the DSS and the reasoning mechanism
- **Society:** new communication channels (social media)
- First responders: a larger number of emergencies can be detected more quickly and efficiently
- Policies: beAWARE contributes to the EU disaster management policies by proposing new strategies and technologies.





Next plans - In Field Demonstrations

 From Nov 2018, 3 field demonstrations will be carried out (one for each beAWARE prototype) with the participation of end users, decision makers and first responders





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Thank you!

