



CASE STUDY:

## Human Factors in the field



# Firefighters and Loggers: COHFE



Zephyr's BioHarness™ has been put through its paces in the rugged back-country regions on New Zealand. The device is being used by the Centre for Human Factors Research (COHFE) in their research into the demands of rural firefighting and logging. Their research is aiming to improve the health and safety of rural firefighters and loggers by determining, under New Zealand operational conditions, the physiological workload of firefighting and logging tasks. Data is being collected in both controlled and real situations.

Critically, the research projects are utilising a novel suite of data collection equipment, including the BioHarness™ worn by the firefighters and loggers to record visual, physiological and geographical information relevant to their occupations.

*"We have used the BioHarness to monitor firefighters at real fires, loggers felling trees; ultimately these groups of people doing their general demanding jobs. We have used other products to record heart rate at fires and in forest operations but they have not been as reliable as the BioHarness. We used to be plagued by electrical interference corrupting our data. With the BioHarness, this is no longer the case".*

Richard Parker, Manager, COHFE

Research in the New Zealand logging sector has already resulted in the development of initiatives aimed at improving health and safety of New Zealand logging workers. Typical examples of such initiatives include guidance on personal behaviour such as ensuring adequate hydration, nutrition and rest breaks.

**The Centre for Human Factors and Ergonomics (COHFE)** is New Zealand's leading and largest ergonomics group, providing high quality ergonomics research, consultancy and educational services. This internationally recognised team works to improve the safety, health and performance of New Zealand people and organizations. COHFE is a research group within SCION, a Crown Research Institute.  
[www.scionresearch.com](http://www.scionresearch.com).

We chose the BioHarness™ because it was a hassle-free product that worked every time. Just switch it on, and it works for hours.

Richard Parker  
Manager, COHFE

To purchase your BioHarness™ simply visit [www.zephyr-technology.com](http://www.zephyr-technology.com). For more information, email [info@zephyr-technology.com](mailto:info@zephyr-technology.com) or phone +64 9 574 6523.

Zephyr™ [www.zephyr-technology.com](http://www.zephyr-technology.com)