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## **SA company BioCentral Laboratories exporting firefighting liquid BlazeTamer380 to the world**

Ben Hyde, The Advertiser  
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A SOUTH Australian company is taking to the world a liquid that significantly boosts the firefighting ability of water and is set to help protect us this bushfire season.

BioCentral Laboratories' BlazeTamer380 product is being exported to five states in the US, trialled in Portugal and France and is in use in at least two other Australian states.

The product, which is used in aerial firefighting, binds water molecules together, increasing the viscosity and making it less likely to evaporate between being dropped from a plane or helicopter and reaching the flames.

“Rather than evaporating or steaming off in individual droplets, they are bound together so you get a highly accelerated absorption of energy, which extinguishes the fire very quickly and reduces rekindle,” BioCentral Laboratories managing director John Stepancic said.

“If you compare it to water, you can lose up to 25 to 35 per cent of water depending on conditions just through evaporation before it hits the ground.

“When you add BlazeTamer it punches through that heat zone and all of it hits the ground.



📷 BioCentral Laboratories general manager Melissa Brooks at the Thebarton factory, with BlazeTamer380. Pic: Tom Huntley

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“The feedback we’ve got is that they don’t have to go back and drop in the

same area to knock out the fire, they can move on.

Mr Stepancic said the product was found to be 44 per cent more effective than water in a completely controlled environment.

“But when you’re dealing with fires out in the open that are totally unpredictable, what you see is the performance of it grows exponentially,” he said.

Following years of trials, the product is now being used more widely in active firefighting.

The Country Fire Service has trialled the product among a range of foams and gels it uses for aerial firefighting.

CFS aviation operations manager David Pearce said the organisation had decided last month to begin using the product in South Australia.

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“In denser fuel and on days of higher humidity, the gels (such as BlazeTamer) are better than foam,” he said.

“The CFS has made a decision in the past three weeks to use their product.”

BioCentral Laboratories will hold a presentation on BlazeTamer380 during the two-day Aerial Firefighting Asia Pacific conference, which starts at Glenelg today.



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