



Wildfire Prevention Manual – Chapter 1

Strategic Aims

As emphasised in the introduction, there is a growing problem with wildfires in the UK. This problem is worsened not only because wildfire incidents tend to occur concurrently in different locations (causing an issue with resilience), but also because of the general lack of awareness of the hazards these incidents pose to the safety of communities, individuals and firefighters. Whilst there are Services / organisations that are aware of the risk and who have effective solutions in place, the problem is a national one and an agreed framework does not exist for literature and information to be shared by those who want to manage the problem, but do not have their own resources in place to be able to address it.

The first aim of this document therefore is to provide a toolbox of wildfire prevention activities that can be used, dependent upon the available resources within each Fire Service, partnership or organisation.

The problems Services, Organisations and Communities face are compounded by the fact that wildfires can be sporadic, as frequency depends on weather conditions, land use and time of year. If you live or work in a part of the UK that has not yet experienced a wildfire, it does not mean that the problem will not exist at some time in the future. For this reason, it is important to have not only an effective prevention programme in place, but also an effective partnership framework in which to operate and deliver it.

The second aim of this document therefore is to encourage Fire and Rescue Services to form effective partnerships to ensure the optimal delivery of prevention initiatives prior to any wildfire occurring

The operational principles of wildfire firefighting and control are common globally – wildfire prevention should aspire to the same. It may be that many prevention initiatives already undertaken by FRS and their partners are adaptable to the prevention of wildfire. Where new initiatives as highlighted in this manual, or elsewhere, are taken on their application should be adapted to meet the needs of the type of community it seeks to serve.

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