



National  
Operational  
Guidance

# Guidance

## Wildfires



**NFCC**  
Fire Central  
Programme Office

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## Wildfires

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This guidance on wildfires has been developed for fire and rescue services operating throughout the whole of the UK.

Fire and rescue services may also find it useful to refer to the Scottish Government's [Wildfire Operational Guidance](#) that was published in 2013. The publication was produced specifically for Scotland but it remains a good source of detailed information on wildfire operations and contains useful illustrations that can be used by all fire and rescue services in the UK for training purposes. The Scottish Government's publication also provides specific information on wildfire preparedness, pre-planning and partnership activities; these are important topics but are outside the scope of National Operational Guidance.

The following guidance for wildfires does not replace the Scottish Government's publication, but ensures that guidance on wildfire incidents is now available for fire and rescue services across the whole of the UK. It should also be noted that the two documents are compatible with one another; this guidance for wildfires focuses solely on wildfire operations, while the Scottish Government's publication addresses wildfire issues in a much broader context.



## Intraoperability and interoperability

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Given the potential size and scale of wildfire incidents, the guidance acknowledges that operational activity may involve more than one fire and rescue service and/or may also involve land management agencies and other rural sector stakeholders. Planning and preparation will help fire and rescue services to work effectively with adjoining fire and rescue services and other rural sector stakeholders.

Land owners and managers have local knowledge that may assist fire and rescue services attending a wildfire. Pre-planning should enable fire and rescue services to identify who to contact and how to contact them. Local land managers may be able to provide information about access, animals, livestock and visitors. They may also be able to provide specialist vehicles and equipment.

This guidance has been developed for UK fire and rescue services. However, it could also be used as a source of information for rural sector stakeholders, such as land managers, to gain an understanding of the fire and rescue service's operational activities.



## Legislation

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Fire and rescue services legislation

[Fire and Rescue Services Act](#)

[Fire and Rescue Services \(Northern Ireland\) Order](#)

[Fire and Rescue Services \(Emergencies\) Order \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

[Fire \(Scotland\) Act](#)

[Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act](#)

[Civil Contingencies Act](#)

[The Civil Contingencies Act \(Contingency Planning\) \(Scotland\) Regulations](#)

[Northern Ireland Civil Contingencies Framework](#)

[Emergency Workers \(Scotland\) Act](#)

[Emergency Workers \(Obstruction\) Act](#)

Health and safety legislation

[Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act](#)

[Health and Safety at Work etc. Act](#)

[The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations](#)

[Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations](#)

[Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations](#)

Land management and the countryside legislation

[Hill Farming Act](#)

[The Heather and Grass Burning Code \(England\)](#)

[The Heather and Grass etc. Burning \(Wales\) Regulations](#)



[The Heather and Grass Burning Code for Wales](#)

[The Muirburn Code \(Scotland\)](#)

Countryside Management Publications: Heather Moorland (Northern Ireland)

[Wildlife and Countryside Act](#)

[Nature Conservation \(Scotland\) Act](#)

[The Environment \(Northern Ireland\) Order](#)

[Wildlife and Natural Environment Act \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

[Wildlife and Natural Environment Act \(Scotland\)](#)

[Forestry Act \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

[Environmental Protection Act 1990](#)

[Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations](#)

[Environmental Damage \(Prevention and Remediation\) Regulations](#)

[Environmental Damage \(Prevention and Remediation\) \(Amendment\) Regulations](#)

[Environmental Damage \(Prevention and Remediation\) \(Amendment\) Regulations](#)

[Environmental Damage \(Prevention and Remediation\) \(England\) Regulations](#)

[Environmental Damage \(Prevention and Remediation\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations](#)

[Environmental Damage \(Prevention and Remediation\) \(Wales\) Regulations](#)

[Environmental Damage \(Prevention and Remediation\) \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations](#)

[Environmental Impact Assessment \(Forestry\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations](#)

[Environmental Impact Assessment \(Forestry\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

[Environmental Impact Assessment \(Forestry\) \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

[Environmental Impact Assessment \(Agriculture\) \(Wales\) Regulations](#)

[Environmental Impact Assessment \(Agriculture\) \(Northern Ireland\) Regulations](#)



[Environmental Impact Assessment \(Scotland\) Regulations](#)

[Environmental Impact Assessment \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations](#)

[Conservation \(Natural Habitats, etc.\) Regulations](#)

[Conservation \(Natural Habitats, etc.\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

[Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act](#)

[Roads \(Scotland\) Act](#)

[Highways Act](#)

[Highways \(Amendment\) Act](#)

Water and waste legislation

[Groundwater Regulations](#)

[Water Industry Act](#)

[Water Industry \(Scotland\) Act](#)

[Special Waste Regulations](#) (as amended)

England and Wales:

[Hazardous Waste \(England and Wales\) Regulations](#) (as amended)

Scotland:

[Water Environment \(controlled Activities\) \(Scotland\) Regulations](#)

[Sewerage \(Scotland\) Act](#) as amended

[Environmental Liability \(Scotland\) Regulations](#)

Northern Ireland:

[Hazardous Waste Regulations](#) (Northern Ireland) (as amended)

[Water](#) (Northern Ireland) Order

[Waste Management Regulations](#) (Northern Ireland)



[Environmental Liability \(Prevention and Remediation Regulations \(Northern Ireland\)\)](#)



## Risk management plan

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Each fire and rescue authority must develop their strategic direction through their risk management plan. To determine the extent of their firefighting capability, strategic managers will consider their statutory duties and the foreseeable risk within their area.

Work to identify risk and prepare operational plans should consider all stakeholders including rural sector partners, local emergency planning groups and the fire and rescue service risk management plan.



## Responsibility of fire and rescue services

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Fire and rescue services are responsible, under legislation and regulations, for developing policies and procedures and to provide information, instruction, training and supervision to their personnel about foreseeable hazards and the control measures used to reduce the risks arising from those hazards.

This guidance sets out to provide fire and rescue services with sufficient knowledge about the potential hazards their personnel could encounter when attending incidents. Fire and rescue services should ensure their policies, procedures and training cover all of the hazards and control measures contained within this guidance.