



How Do We Prepare for Wildfires? – A Fire Service Perspective

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What is a Wildfire?

“Any uncontrolled vegetation fire which requires a decision, or action, regarding suppression”

- Involves a geographical area of 1 hectare or more
- Has a sustained flame length of 1.5 metres or more
- Requires a committed resource of 4 or more FRS appliances/resources
- Requires resources to be committed for 6 hours or more
- Presents a serious threat to life, environment, property and infrastructure





Data and Risk

Numbers of reported Wildfire over the last few years

2026 – 1300+

2025 – 1016

2024 – 200

2023 – 293

2022 – 994



What does this show? Change in numbers of fires, size of fires and damage.

Causes of Wildfires – the issue with current advice.

The difference between 'normal' years and 2022.

Impact on communities; more fires in the Rural Urban Interface (RUI) has direct impact on communities.

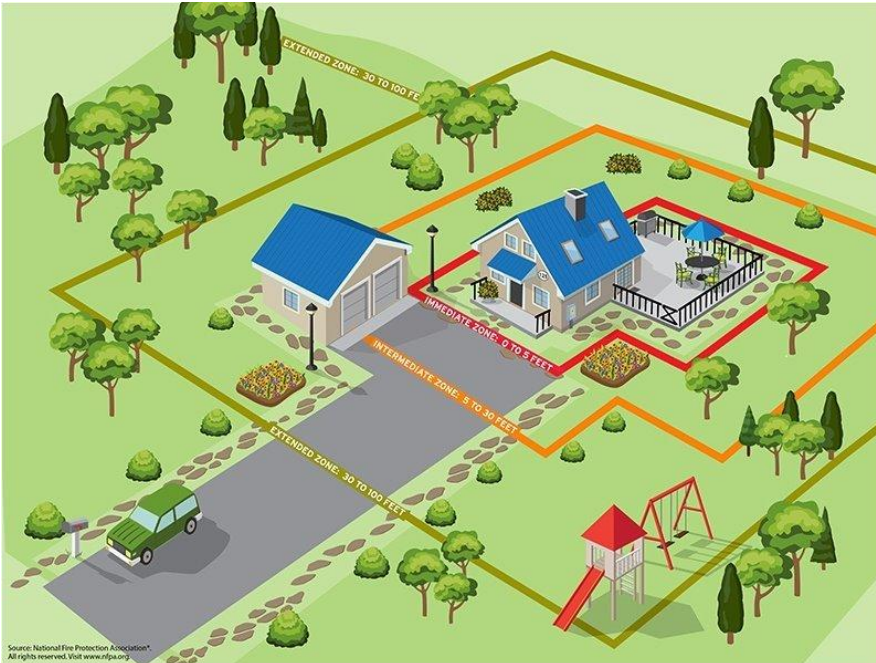
This is a key area for the public to understand now and in the future
firewiseuk.org



Land Management

- Encourage Land Managers to complete Wildfire Risk Assessment.
- This identifies high risk areas for mitigation actions
- Mitigation is usually the removal of vegetation (fuel) using a range of methods; cutting, grazing, burning, rewetting, rewilding, etc.
- Building wildfire resilience into forest management planning - Forest Research
- Areas of peat 30cm or greater will require a license to burn from DEFRA
- A wildfire risk assessment will also support the development of Wildfire Response Plans that can be shared with FRS' to inform operational crews.
- Through the LRF engage with West Mercia Wildfire Group

Preparedness of the Public



**Rural Urban Interface
(RUI)**

Defensible Space

FireWise

**Community Lead
Resilient
Communities**

Case Study



Case Study



Legislation

Legislative powers:-

No powers under Fire Safety Order.

PSPOs – used on Saddleworth Moor and Winterhill following fires in 2018 – challenges with these.

CROW Act – closure of public rights of way

Fire Safety Order

**Public Space
Protections Orders**

**Countryside Rights
of Way Act**

Challenges?

HWFRS Capability

Land Rover Uplift



Equipment



WMWG





Any Questions?