

## Wildfires

### Overview

- 🔥 Wildfire is the unintended burning of vegetation in the natural environment.
- 🔥 Wildfires can be measured by their environmental impact, their severity or their burn size. In the context of these warnings, wildfires are measured by their severity which relates to the difficulty of control of any individual wildfire.
- 🔥 In certain circumstances, wildfires can spread quickly and consume significant amounts of effort from emergency responders. Unlike fires within a built environment, wildfires can continue for many days.

### Impacts

Wildfire impacts include:

*Infrastructure networks* affected by fire or smoke including motorways, airports and the rail network.

*Buildings* including critical national infrastructure may be at risk.

*Health impacts:* The UK has not recorded any deaths due to wildfire though it clearly remains a risk. Injuries including burns and respiratory effects from smoke inhalation.

*Environmental Impacts:* Ecosystem recovery time will vary from a season to many decades.

### Notable wildfire events

May 2011 - Swinley Forest, Berkshire.  
Affected 300 hectares.

### Wildfire in the UK

The wildfire season in the UK lasts from March to October. Wildfires are most likely in Spring as there is a significant amount of dead vegetation exposed after winter and there is much less water-laden green vegetation on the landscape.

Land managers also undertake managed burns until April, which can be at risk of going out of control.

Springtime fires usually occur when a high pressure system dominates the country for a few days or more. Summertime wildfires usually only occur in long term drought conditions. This may result in the compound drought and wildfire hazard.



More information can be found at: [www.naturalhazardspartnership.org.uk/hazards/wildfires](http://www.naturalhazardspartnership.org.uk/hazards/wildfires)