

Wildfire Prevention Workshop

Forestry Commission and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Wildfire Prevention Workshop

Forestry Commission England and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service provided a Wildfire Prevention Workshop to a wide range of stakeholders at Rushmoor Fire Station within the wildfire prone landscape of the Thames Basin Heaths.

Delegates attending included:

- Natural England
- Wildlife Trust
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Hart District Council
- Hampshire, Surrey and Dorset Fire and Rescue Services
- Ministry of Defence, Landmarc and other local landowners

The morning session focused on presentations and discussions using the Forestry Commissions practice guidance "Building Wildfire Resilience in Forest Management Planning". Delegates considered the seven stages of land management planning, vulnerability and resilience of species and habitats as well as a range of wildfire prevention toolkits to provide mitigation and adaptation.

The afternoon involved a visit to a wildfire prone site to speak to stakeholders with various interests in the site and consider wildfire firefighting equipment. Delegates then scoped and surveyed the site to gather wildfire constraints, opportunities and threats. Building on the morning session delegates used this information to draft Wildfire Risk Assessments, Wildfire Management Zones and Wildfire Response Plans.

Delegates responses to feedback forms highly valued the workshop which helped them better understand wildfire risks and appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures, including safety features for fire fighters.