



Introduction:

With continuing hot weather and an national AMBER Wildfire Alert in place during the first week in July, a wildfire broke out in Dimmingsdale Wood, near Alton, Staffordshire.

The incident was restricted to within the forest but was located in a particularly difficult ridge to access. It resulted in the temporary closure of a minor county road and the precautionary evacuation of Dimmingsdale YHA, a property which had recently been sold to a private individual.

Due to the location of the fire, access was difficult during the initial stages, with a reliance on in-line portable pumps initially. At the time of the outbreak, the Staffordshire HVP was in use on a moorland fire at Ramshaw in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

The fire was contained within Dimmingsdale Wood and signed off after 7 days (2nd to 9th July 2018). One firefighter sustained injuries from a fall and was taken to hospital.

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Staffordshire FRS Peak resources per shift:

5 x Pumping Appliances

1 x High Volume Pump

1 x Water Carrier

25 Pumping appliances were sent, some multiple times (maximum 5 times) to the incident for the 7 day period.

WILDFIRE IMPACT CASE STUDY: Dimmingsdale, Staffordshire 2nd July 2018

Weather on 2nd July 2018:

Temperature: 26^oc at Shawbury

Relative Humidity: Unknown

Daily Hazard Assessment: AMBER Wildfire Alert

Met Office Fire Severity Index: Very High

EFFIS Fire Weather Index: Very High Danger

Wind direction: Easterly

Wind speed: 10mph at 12:00

Source: Met Office Daily Weather Summary – July 2018 from Shawbury

Impact:

Area burnt: 5ha

1 x residential property evacuated

Closure of Red Road A Road

Injury to 1 x firefighter

Cause and vegetation involved:

Cause: Unknown, presumed accidental. Location was surrounding mountain bike wildtrails

Item first ignited: bracken and fine fuels forest ground.

Habitat: forestry

Main fuel: bracken and mature Scot Pine and young Birch forestry fine fuels.

Secondary fuel: Standing mature Scots Pine and young Birch trees.

Incident Timeline and duration:

2 nd July 15:24:02	Time of Call	0 mins
15:57	Time of First Attendance	33mins
16:11	Make Pumps 5 requested	47mins
16:32	Road Closures requested	1hr and 8mins
16:44	Level 2 Officer in attendance	1hr 20mins
17:10	Enquired about availability of National Resilience assets (Water carriers / HVPs) due to ongoing incidents throughout the county.	1hr and 46mins
17:41	Incident split into 3 operational sectors in an attempt to surround the fire	2hrs and 17mins
19:14	Water now being supplied from open water source via base pump and 3 intermediate pumps	3hrs and 50 mins
3th July 2018 01:00	Firefighter suffers injuries from falling and taken to hospital.	9hrs and 36mins

Continued overleaf...

WILDFIRE IMPACT CASE STUDY: Dimmingsdale, Staffordshire 2nd July 2018

01:56	Incident scaled down to 3 pumps overnight	10hrs and 32mins
06:49	Make pumps 5. Four main jets in use	15hrs and 25mins
21:42	Incident scaled down to 2 pumps overnight and firefighting suspended. Crews withdrawn from risk areas.	1 day, 6hrs and 18mins
4 th July 2018	The system of work of firefighting during daylight hours and scaling down overnight to a watching brief is implemented for the remainder of the incident.	2 days, 6hrs and 18mins
7 th July 2018 14:14	Stop Message	4 days, 22hrs and 50mins
8 th July 2018 09:04	Multiple Re-inspections undertaken and occasional hot spots extinguished	5 days, 17 hrs and 40mins
9 th July 2018 16:48	Joint site inspection with Forestry Ranger undertaken and incident closed	7 days, 1hrs and 24mins