



# Newsletter - September 2017

England and Wales Wildfire Forum (EWWF) newsletters aim to keep the wildfire community in England and Wales informed of key wildfire activities, events, debates and priorities.

## Breaking News! 2017 Edition of the UK National Risk Register

The UK Government's 2017 Edition of the "National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies" has now been published online – [click here](#) to view the page.

The 2017 National Risk Register provides an overview of the key risks that have the potential to cause significant disruption in the UK. The register explains the types of emergencies that might occur, what the Government and partners are doing to mitigate them, and how members of the public (as individuals, families or small businesses) can help to protect themselves.

Wildfire is again included as a risk within the 2017 edition. See page 31 of the Risk Register. You may also be interested to know that the EWWF is named under the sub-section on "division of responsibilities".

Thanks to everyone who has played their part in helping to ensure that wildfire is retained within the 2017 edition!

## EWWF Meetings in 2017

The EWWF has been busy since the last newsletter was published in March. EWWF members met in London on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Some of the key topics discussed included:

- future development of a Fire Danger Rating System for the UK;
- key priorities for future wildfire research projects;
- development of national wildfire tactical advisers by the Fire and Rescue Service.

The next EWWF meeting will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in Bournemouth. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the UK Wildfires 2017 Conference (see below). This will be a joint meeting involving other forums and wildfire stakeholder groups from around the UK.

## UK Wildfire Conference 2017

England is hosting the two-yearly national wildfire conference for the UK this year. The event will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the Royal Bath Hotel in Bournemouth (<https://www.britanniahotels.com/hotels/the-royal-bath-hotel-bournemouth/>). The conference is overseen by the EWWF and the Scottish Wildfire Forum and, joining the conference team this year, are colleagues from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in the USA.

The theme of this year's conference is "Wildfire Resilience in a UK Context". The event will investigate how to make UK homes, communities and the landscape more wildfire resilient in the future. Climate change predictions suggest that the UK will see more extreme wildfire weather; this conference hopes to make the UK better prepared should these predictions come true.

Delegate bookings are now being taken – please book your place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Further information about the event and details of how to register your place are available on the [conference website](#).

If you have any queries regarding the event, please contact the conference team at [ukwildfires2017@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:ukwildfires2017@dorsetcc.gov.uk)



## Projects and Events

This section of the newsletter provides information about wildfire projects and events that have happened recently or which will take place in the near future. We hope to keep you informed of what is going on so you can find out about things that might be of interest to you. You will notice that there is lots going on – please keep sending us information of wildfire-related events and projects in your area.

### Projects and events in the UK:

#### **Wildfire Prevention Workshop, Thursley Common, Surrey, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 –**

Natural England and Forestry Commission England held a Wildfire Prevention Workshop in May 2017. The event was attended by approximately 30 delegates, which included Forest Enterprise planning officers, woodland officers and field managers; Fire and Rescue Service Wildfire Officers; and Natural England Advisors and Nature Reserve Officers. The workshop covered wildfire requirements within Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Scheme for LH1 and LH3 (lowland heath – creation and management). Delegates were introduced to the context of wildfire and its behaviour and the mitigation and adaptation measures outlined within the Forestry Commission's Practice Guides. Feedback from delegates was extremely positive. If you would like to find out more, please contact Rob Gazzard at [Rob.Gazzard@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Rob.Gazzard@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

#### **International wildfire simulation training exercise held in Northumberland, 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017 –**

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service successfully hosted an international wildfire simulation exercise in June 2017. The exercise was part of the EU co-financed IGNIS Project and was played in real time over 3 days. The scenario was a major wildfire incident threatening a number of sensitive areas and was designed to test the IGNIS simulator and training framework and to provide NFRS officers with a realistic scenario to help train and test their ability to safely and effectively control a large wildfire. Wildfire and incident command experts attended the event from France, Portugal, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, Croatia, Netherlands and the UK. In addition, wildfire stakeholders from around the UK were invited to observe the exercise. You can find out more about the IGNIS Project on the website: [www.ignis-project.eu](http://www.ignis-project.eu) or by contacting Robert Stacey at [robert.stacey@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:robert.stacey@northumberland.gov.uk)



**Wildfire simulation software at the IGNIS event**

## Operation "Corsican Pine", Ashdown Forest on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 -

Operation Corsican Pine is a multiagency wildfire exercise being organised by the South East England Wildfire Group. A debrief report of the exercise, including lessons learned, will be produced and shared later. In the meantime, if you would like to find out more, please contact Rob Gazzard at [Rob.Gazzard@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Rob.Gazzard@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) or David Thurston at [David.Thurston@esfrs.org](mailto:David.Thurston@esfrs.org)

## BogFest 2017, 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017, Edale, Peak District National Park–

BogFest is set to be a unique conference with a festival atmosphere, set in the heart of the beautiful [Peak District National Park](#) and hosted jointly by the [Moors for the Future Partnership](#) and [IUCN UK Peatland Programme](#). BogFest will provide opportunities to learn about a range of issues such as peatland science, policy finance, communications and management; natural flood management, protected areas, global peatlands, moorland fringe, biodiversity and cultural ecosystem services. You can find out more about the event and view the draft agenda on the Moors for the Future Partnership website at <http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/bogfest-2017>



Lizzie the Lizard, from the Peak District wildfire app

## Bogtastic Campaign and Fun App to teach children and young adults about wildfire –

Children and young will soon be able to play their part in helping to conserve moorland after a devastating wildfire, as part of a new tablet game. The app will give players the opportunity to help Lizzy the Lizard, a moorland critter whose home has been destroyed by wildfire, by coordinating helicopter flights and spreading vital moorland plants including Sphagnum mosses. The app will be available on the state-of-the-art Bogtastic van being developed by the Moors for the Future Partnership as part of the MoorLIFE2020 project. The Bogtastic van will be touring town and city centres later in the year allowing people to experience the sights, sounds, senses and even the smells of the Peak District and South Pennine Moors. Find out more at <http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/news/innovative-moorland-campaign-bogtastic>

## **Muirburn Code Review in Scotland –**

The review and update of the Muirburn Code (Scotland's equivalent to the Heather and Grass Burning Code in England and Wales) is now complete. Roseanna Cunningham, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment Climate Change and Land Reform, launches the Code on 22nd September 2017. A PDF version will be available from the [Scottish National Heritage](http://www.scottishnationalheritage.gov.uk) website and a web based version of the Code and the Supplementary Information will also be available on a dedicated Muirburn Code website [www.muirburncode.org.uk](http://www.muirburncode.org.uk)

## **Controlled Burning Event and Practitioners Forum in South Wales, 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service are organising an event to showcase their controlled burning course and to create a controlled burning practitioner's forum that will share, promote and develop good practice. The event will be held in the Brecon Beacons and there are spaces for 20 participants. If you would like to find out more and/or would like to book a place, please contact Craig Hope at [c-hope@southwales-fire.gov.uk](mailto:c-hope@southwales-fire.gov.uk)

## **International news, projects & events**

### **IGNIS Project Final Conference in Brussels, Belgium on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 -**

The IGNIS Project will conclude with an international conference in Brussels, Belgium on 16th November 2017. During this event, the project partners will present:

- the final results of the project, including a report on the international virtual reality training exercises.
- a European Glossary of terminology for wildfire training and simulation.
- plans for an online simulation resources centre to promote further development and exchange of knowledge concerning virtual reality training for emergencies.

While the conference will provide an opportunity to showcase the work completed during the IGNIS project, the partners will also use it as a platform to facilitate discussion and debate regarding the future development of simulation training for wildfires and other types of emergency incidents.

You can find out more about the IGNIS Project on the website: [www.ignis-project.eu](http://www.ignis-project.eu)  
If you are interested in attending the IGNIS Conference, please contact Robert Stacey at [robert.stacey@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:robert.stacey@northumberland.gov.uk)

### **TREX Exchange Programme (USA) -**

The Nature Conservancy Council in the United States of America organises 8-15 training exchange events each year from February to May and September to November. Each event lasts for two weeks and provides training to enable individuals to plan and complete prescribed burns in different vegetation. Participants in the TREX exchange programme are welcomed from around the World and are expected to pay their salary and travel to the Incident Command Post. Once on site, the organisers provide meals, lodging and transport during the two-week assignment. If you wish to attend a TREX event, you must already meet the US Wildfire Safety Standards. The TREX organisers can provide participants with a self-study online course they can take before the event to ensure they meet these standards. The organisers can also provide protective clothing.

## Pau Costa Foundation (Spain) -

The Pau Costa Foundation (PCF) was created in 2011 with the ambition to be an information platform and network on forest fire management, as well as an instrument to study and investigate fire ecology. Although the PCF was created in Catalonia, it has a national and international reach, with collaborators from many countries. The PCF has had a very productive year so far in 2017, including its key role as co-host and co-organiser of the extremely successful International Wildland Fire Safety Summit and the International Congress on Prescribed Fires, both of which were held in Barcelona in February 2017. [Click here](#) to read a report on the PCF's activities during the first half of 2017.

## What is the EWWF & how can it help?

The EWWF is a voluntary strategic body, independent of government, which has been created to expand and share knowledge and understanding of wildfires. The overall aim of the EWWF is to reduce the harmful impact of wildfires by promoting joint working and collaboration. You can find out more about the work of the EWWF on its website at <http://ewwf.northumberland.gov.uk>

Most importantly, the EWWF is here to help support organisations and individuals in England and Wales with wildfire-related issues and problems. Are you organising a wildfire event? The EWWF can share information about an event to a large audience of people with an interest in wildfire.

### Management



**Chair**  
**Simon Thorp**

Director of the Heather Trust.



**Vice Chair**  
**Andy Thomas**

Assistant Chief Fire Officer at South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.



**Secretary**  
**Robert Stacey**

Project Officer at Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service.

## Please let us know what you think

Thank you for reading this newsletter. We hope you found it interesting.

We will value any feedback and will use it to improve how we communicate and share information in the future.

Write to the EWWF c/o Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service, West Hartford Business Park, Cramlington, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE23 3JP

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