



EWWF Address

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Content

- Set the scene
- Development of the Wildfire Conferences
- Delivering the Conference
- Conference Survey
- Wildfire Risk Assessment



Welcome

- Representing a range of organisations – UK wildfire organisations (forums & fire groups), NFCC, Wildfire TacAds
- Thanks to:
 - Sophie Howe
 - “...all part of the solution...”
- Thanks to
 - South Wales FRS
- Welcome
 - To International range of speakers and providers of posters
 - Delegates – UK & international – interest and support

Welcome

- In addition to the four home countries of the UK
- International delegates from 14 countries

Australia	Poland
Finland	Portugal
France	Republic of Ireland
Germany	South Africa
Italy	Spain
Netherlands	Sweden
Norway	USA



Objectives

Morayshire, May 2019

CARRBRIDGE FIRE STATION

Objectives

- Consider how the management of fuels can reduce the risk of damage from wildfires.
- Learn from each other
 - UK and international experience.
- In the face of the increasing wildfire risk, consider other measures that should be employed within the UK.

Background

- Latest in a series of conferences held every 2 years
 - Series started in 2003 – tents in Otterburn
 - Since 2015, the conferences have been organised by the wildfire forums – this is the third
- A lot has changed over the last 16 years
 - FRS understanding and capability increased enormously
 - Wildfire Operational Guidance developed
 - International affair
 - Developed by Northumberland FRS for ScotGov
 - Drew on international experience – especially Catalonia

Impact of Wildfires in 2018 & early 2019

- Highlighted that fires can be beyond the FRS threshold of control
 - Even with the latest techniques and equipment
- Made it clear that wildfire mitigation must start earlier
 - Risk assessment approach proposed
- Highlighted a need to promote better planning and preparation amongst those who own and manage the land.
- Need to remove barriers to better management practice

Role of Government.

- Four areas in EWWF letter to Westminster Government in July 2018:
 - Develop Fire Danger Rating System
 - Support for existing & additional fire groups
 - Develop a wildfire strategy
 - Provide guidance for the management of open land to minimise the impact of wildfire



Delivering the Conference

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Programme

- The biggest challenge is....
 - Time
- Programme
 - The programme is full – need to keep to time
- Chairs of each session
 - Work with the speakers
- Speakers
 - Your challenge: make your points in the time allocated
 - Leave time for questions and discussion
- Delegates:
 - Please restrict your questions to ‘questions’:
 - It is not an opportunity to get on your own soapbox

Posters

- 18 posters - available during breaks
- Location
- Opportunity to engage further
- Learn about research work recently completed / in progress
- Opportunity to expand 'network'



Conference Survey

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Conference Survey – Introduction

- Circulated to all delegates
- Baseline for conference discussion
- The full Survey results will be circulated with a post-conference questionnaire
 - which will aim to:
 - Establish the progress made during discussion
 - Help with planning the next conference, and any activity in between

Conference Survey – Key Points 1

- Number of responses
 - Total 74
 - Broad representation across UK - 31 from North of England
 - ~10% from international delegates
- Main Interests
 - 25% from emergency planning/response organisations
 - 25% identifying conservation or environment as main interest
 - Demonstrates that solutions to reduce risk is for all of us
- Fire Group responses
 - A range of organisations were identified as fire groups – potential for promoting existing groups or establishing new groups

Conference Survey – Key Points 2

- How significant is the risk of wildfire damage in your area?
 - average assessment score of 3.9 out of 5
- What is the potential impact of wildfire damage in your area?
 - recognised as significant and severe, with an overall average score of 4 out of 5
 - North of England average is 4.2
 - Land owners/managers scored 4.6 average

Conference Survey – Key Points 3

- How effectively is the risk of wildfire being addressed by local land management?
 - average of 3 out of 5 (UK average 3.1, international average 2.3)
- Priorities to achieve improvement
 - Monitoring and managing fuel load
 - Bruce Hardy – Cheviot Hills, Rob Stacey – Fuel Management
 - Use of fire breaks
 - Carlos Trindade – Mafra County Case Study
 - Managing access and behaviour
 - Sarah Woodcock – Healthy Hillside project

Conference Survey – Key Points 4

- Barriers to introducing / developing land management to reduce the risk of wildfire?
 - Need for local and national co-ordination and collaboration
 - Challenges this presents with diverse interests
 - Need for clarity in regulation
- What support or guidance would help in your land management activity to reduce the risk / impact of wildfire? (Top three)
 - Support needed for land management – sharing best practice
 - Local co-ordination (including joint training and planning)

Conference Survey – Key Points 5

- Have you received any advice or guidance from your local Fire & Rescue Service?
 - High level of engagement with fire & rescue services
 - Over 60% had received advice and guidance where this was applicable for their organisation
 - Noted that better communication is the key
- Additional issues or discussion points identified
 - Planning, policies and coordination
 - Managing risks associated with fuel loads and land use
 - Research into effective mitigation activities and
 - Understanding of the long term impact of wildfire events

Conference Survey – Key Points 6

- Assessment of the success of using risk assessments and/or wildfire management / response plans.
 - 50% had experience of wildfire risk assessments
 - Value assessed 3.6/5
 - **Issues identified**
 - Consistency of format and content
 - Ensuring communication with and involvement of key stakeholders
 - Reviewing the effectiveness of plans and monitoring/maintenance to ensure currency of information



Wildfire Risk Assessments

Morayshire, May 2019

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Risk Assessment Background

- Produced by Uplands Management Group
 - Group of practitioners – developing practical guidance in the uplands
 - Work commissioned by Defra
- Guidance published in July 2019
 - Interim guidance - further development required
 - Also applicable in lowlands – change branding
- Four Component Documents
 - **Wildfire Risk Assessment** - identify fire hazards and evaluating fire risk
 - **Wildfire Risk Scoresheet** – an aid to understanding the size of the wildfire threat
 - **Wildfire Response Plan** - describes the response required to tackle a wildfire
 - **Wildfire Management Plan** - reduce the risk of a wildfire starting and the amount of damage

Risk Assessment Next Steps

- Promotion of the approach
- Feedback
 - Feedback form on the website
- Refinement
- Happy for the documents to be adapted
 - Condition: copy of revised documents supplied



Summary

Llantysilio mountain,
near Llangollen

Risk Assessment Next Steps

- Enjoy the conference
 - Share ideas
 - Make friends before you need them!
- Continue the discussion
 - The next conference is not far away
 - The next wildfire incident is even closer

