

Wildfire Response Plan

The Response Plan should cover the following topics:

- Contact names and telephone numbers
- Communications
- Rendezvous points
- Important hazards
- Access points
- Water supplies
- Equipment
- Priority protection areas
- Neighbouring landowners
- Helicopter authorisation
- Audit, monitoring and quality assurance
- Further documents

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Wildfire Response Plan (WRP) provides specific risk and tactical information for Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) personnel responding to wildfire incidents on or near the land.
- 1.2 The WRP should provide a description of the farm / estate and an outline of the activities that take place on it.
- 1.3 The Plan should also identify the key people to contact in event of a wildfire and the resources that are available on the farm / estate to assist the FRS with suppressing the fire.

2 CONTACT NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- 2.1 List all key estate/farm personnel with contact numbers (landline and mobile). Give a primary contact and list others in order that they should be contacted if the primary contact is not available.

3 COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 Insert details of any communications equipment and explain any other relevant considerations regarding communications. For example, consider any radio frequencies used, any mobile phone or radio black spots etc.

4 RENDEZVOUS POINTS (RVPs)

- 4.1 List rendezvous points with grid reference (use a six figure reference for use with paper maps and/or 12 figure references within Mobile Data Terminals - to be added by the FRS).

5 IMPORTANT HAZARDS

- 5.1 Many hazards are found in most locations but list specific hazards on the farm / estate and their locations.

6 ACCESS POINTS

- 6.1 Provide details about access points to moorland and other areas.
- 6.2 Identify other access issues, such as: locked gates, restricted road width, turning areas.

7 WATER SUPPLIES

- 7.1 List locations of reliable water supplies with grid references (preferably 8 figure).

Identify if the farm / estate has other equipment that could be used for moving or storing large volumes of water, such as: bowsers, pressure washers, slurry tankers, 45 gallon drums etc.

8 EQUIPMENT

- 8.1 List equipment that can be requested for use at a wildfire incident.

9 PRIORITY PROTECTION AREAS

- 9.1 Insert details about any areas which should be protected as a priority – consider sites that have protected status (e.g. SSSI, SAC) and areas of particular economic value to the estate.
- 9.2 If the estate is unsure about the location of protected status areas then consult <https://magic.defra.gov.uk>, or contact Natural England or other relevant agencies e.g. National Park Authority, AONB.

10 NEIGHBOURING LANDOWNERS

- 10.1 List neighbouring landowners who may need to be contacted or who may be able to help with labour or equipment.

11 HELICOPTER AUTHORISATION

- 11.1 Set out if there are any arrangements for requesting a helicopter.

Acknowledgement

This information is based on the format provided by Northumberland Fire Group for the Wildfire Operation Manual produced for the Scottish Government that was later adopted as National Operational Guidance for the UK Fire & Rescue Services¹.

An example of a widely accepted fire plan format (from Northumberland FRS) is available².

¹ <https://www.ukfrs.com/guidance/wildfires?bundle=section&id=14246>

² <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Fire-and-Rescue/NFRS-LD-IN-Wildfire-Fire-Plan-Blank-Template-July-2021.docx>