

Health and Safety Policy Supplement – Wildfire

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1. About this Policy Supplement

This Policy Supplement is part of Natural England's Health and Safety Policy and should be read in conjunction with it. Natural England aims to:

- maintain safe and healthy working conditions and
- provide safe and wellbeing support for all staff, volunteers and contractors.

2. Scope

Natural England attaches great importance and is fully committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of its staff.

This Policy Supplement provides classification and associated actions for use during a fire on land that Natural England has the responsibility to manage.

This Policy Supplement (and its associated Operational Standards and Guidance and Operational Instructions) does not cover fires that take place within buildings. For these issues please see the [fire intranet page](#).

The H&S Operational Standards and Guidance & Operational Instructions relating to wildfires will provide clear statements, guidance, and clarity of what actions Natural England staff and registered volunteers are allowed to undertake during an outdoor fire/wildfire situation.

3. Definition

For the purposes of Natural England, a wildfire is defined as "Any uncontrolled vegetation fire which requires a decision, or action, regarding suppression."ⁱ

4. Fire Classification

Classification	Criteria		Action
	Smouldering Combustion	Flaming Combustion	
Small fire E.g., bonfire, bbq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves a geographical area of $<1\text{m}^2$ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flame length of $<0.5\text{m}$ and/or Involves a geographical area of $<1\text{m}^2$ 	<p>Take action to extinguish fire if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are competent to do so have the correct equipment (fire extinguisher etc) <p>Report via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H&S Team (if people involved in extinguishing) NNR Antisocial Behaviour Log (if applicable)
Wildfire (small)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves a geographical area of $<10\text{m}^2$ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flame length of $<0.5\text{m}$ and/or Involves a geographical area of $<10\text{m}^2$ 	<p>Call 999 and report to local FRS</p> <p>Ensure Emergency Plan is available</p>
Wildfire (large)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involves a geographical area of $>10\text{m}^2$ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flame length of $>0.5\text{m}$ and/or Involves a geographical area of $>10\text{m}^2$ 	<p>Consider wildfire escalation protocol</p> <p>Only take action to extinguish fire under direction of FRS</p> <p>Report via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildfire Register H&S Team (if people involved in extinguishing) NNR Antisocial Behaviour Log (if applicable)

A large wildfire becomes a **wildfire incident** when meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Involves a geographical area of $>1\text{ hectare}^2$
- Has a sustained and established flame length of $>1.5\text{ metres}$
- Requires a committed resource of ≥ 4 FRS appliances
- Requires resources to be committed for $\geq 6\text{ hours}$
- Presents a serious threat to life, environment, property and infrastructure

¹ [Fire and Rescue Service Wildfire Operational Guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)