



SCOTTISH  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

# Wildfire Strategy

## BACKGROUND

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is currently in the implementation stage of delivering a new strategy for developing and enhancing its wildfire capability.

While significant work has been undertaken with partners and stakeholders to increase awareness of the risk of wildfire, the location of SFRS wildfire resources, equipment and PPE, remains relatively unchanged since the formation of the national service in 2013.

The methods used to deal with wildfires, although effective, are resource intensive and rely upon tactics that have been in place for decades.

Led by Area Commander Bruce Farquharson, SFRS Scottish Wildfire Lead, the new strategy considers the increased risk of wildfire and changing climate in Scotland; the latest developments in wildfire management, training and operational procedures; and the advances in technology that have been made in PPE and equipment.

## PARTNERSHIP WORKING

We will continue to work closely with the land management sector to ensure we have an effective and tailored approach to education and prevention, including a common understanding of the appropriate use of Muirburn and prescribed burning, and to further utilise the expertise, influence and networks of various agencies.

We will place a strong emphasis on utilising these key partnerships to enhance any intervention required, and provide further opportunities for joint and collaborative training.

## PREVENTION

We will work with key partners to develop a multi-agency prevention agenda and influence the introduction of key policies in the future.

Seasonal messaging and key themes will be developed which will provide clear information on how to prevent wildfires, and how to reduce the impact of any fires.

## SFRS RESPONSE

SFRS will implement a tiered classification of fire stations for wildfire response, including the roll-out of new specialist vehicles, equipment and PPE.

This tiered approach includes first responders (tier 1) augmented by strategically located specialist teams (proposed 15 tier 2 stations; and 10 tier 3 stations), and finally a cadre of tactical advisors (tier 4).

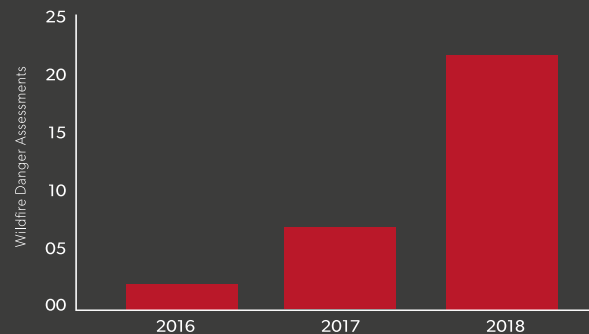
This will require varying levels of training, equipment and PPE, based on station classification, and represents a significant investment by SFRS.

Pilots will commence over the coming 12 months, and includes the following fire stations: *Ullapool, Helensburgh and Dunblane (tier 3); Coldstream, New Galloway, Langholm, Callander, Lybster, Kyle and Spean Bridge (tier 2).*

## PROVISION OF INFORMATION

In partnership with the Scottish Wildfire Forum (SWF) we will review the distribution of Wildfire Danger Assessments and measure how effective they are in preventing wildfires.

We will tailor the information contained within the Assessments to ensure they provide the very best information for the intended audience.



## AMBITION

Upon completion, we anticipate that the impact of wildfires in Scotland will reduce, and SFRS will see a more efficient and streamlined approach to dealing with these types of incidents.

SFRS aims to not only modernise its wildfire response, but also to ensure that Scotland has a world-class wildfire prevention and mitigation culture that ensures that the natural resources we enjoy in Scotland are resilient to the negative impact that climate change might bring, and that the devastating impact of wildfire on Scotland's rural communities is reduced.

