

# AVON AND SOMERSET LOCAL RESILIENCE FORUM INDIVIDUAL RISK ASSESSMENT (V2.0)

Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum Risk Assessment Working Group

**Individual Risk Assessment Lead Agency:**

Avon Fire & Rescue Service

<b>Hazard / threat category:</b>	<b>Sub-category:</b>
Industrial accidents and environmental pollution	Forest or moorland fire
<b>Hazard and threat description, including scale:</b>	<b>Risk reference no.:</b>
Forest/moorland fire: a) HL33 – forest or moorland fire across up to 50 hectares. Evacuation of up to 100 residential homes required. Up to five fatalities and 20 casualties. b) L28 – area greater than 10 hectares. c) L29 – area less than 10 hectares but greater than one hectare; or d) L30 – area less than one hectare.	IA/19
<b>Date of revision:</b>	<b>Next review date:</b>
January 2008	January 2009

## 1. Overview of hazard or threat

Given the right weather conditions, large and prolonged fires affecting grass, moorland and forest can develop rapidly and adversely affect the community in which they are located. Such effects may include personal injury, damage or destruction of property (dwellings and other agricultural, commercial or industrial properties), damage or destruction to habitat/wildlife areas of special scientific interest, environmental pollution (including smoke polluting the atmosphere) and the interruption to electricity supplies through damage to overhead power lines.

## 2. Key historical evidence

### Summer, 1976

Britain experienced a prolonged heat-wave which resulted in numerous countryside fires involving many Fire and Rescue Services on a daily basis over a period of several weeks.

On average, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service will attend up to five 10-hectare (plus) fires per year in the Somerset area.

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

**3. Likelihood**

Hazard	Outcome description	Likelihood
Forest or moorland fire	Forest or moorland fire across up to 50 hectares. Evacuation of up to 100 residential homes required. Up to five fatalities and 20 casualties.	Rare (2) (National assessment – Health and Safety Executive)
Forest or moorland fire	Area greater than 10 hectares	Probable (5)
Forest or moorland fire	Area less than 10 hectares but greater than one hectare	Probable (5)
Forest or moorland fire	Area less than one hectare	Probable (5)

**4. Impact**

Summary

Hazard	Outcome description	Impact	
Forest or moorland fire	Forest or moorland fire across up to 50 hectares. Evacuation of up to 100 residential homes required. Up to five fatalities and 20 casualties.	Health:	Moderate (3)
		Social:	Moderate (3)
		Economic:	Moderate (3)
		Environment:	Moderate (3)
		<b>Overall:</b>	<b>Moderate (3)</b>
Forest or moorland fire	Area greater than 10 hectares	Health:	Minor (2)
		Social:	Minor (2)
		Economic:	Minor (2)
		Environment:	Moderate (3)
		<b>Overall:</b>	<b>Minor (2)</b>
Forest or moorland fire	Area less than 10 hectares but greater than one hectare	Health:	Insignificant (1)
		Social:	Minor (2)
		Economic:	Insignificant (1)
		Environment:	Moderate (3)
		<b>Overall:</b>	<b>Minor (2)</b>
Forest or moorland fire	Area less than one hectare	Health:	Insignificant (1)
		Social:	Insignificant (1)
		Economic:	Insignificant (1)
		Environment:	Minor (2)
		<b>Overall:</b>	<b>Insignificant (1)</b>

Details

**Impacts associated with forest/moorland fire:**

**Primary:**

Physical harm and injury: burns, smoke inhalation, dehydration, heat exhaustion to firefighters (varying degrees of severity, including death).  
 Damage to property.  
 Disruption to electricity supplies through damage to overhead power lines.  
 Evacuation and temporary accommodation needs.  
 Environmental pollution from products of combustion (especially airborne pollution from large volumes of smoke).  
 Loss of natural habitat for indigenous wildlife and sites of special scientific interest.

**Secondary:**

Safety assessments, possible demolition of damaged buildings and structures.  
 Secondary fires started by hot glowing embers from the main fire front.  
 Temporary impact on transport infrastructure (eg road closures or restrictions on use of railways as safety precautions).  
 Need for public information.  
 Reduced availability of fire and rescue resources for routine fire cover.

**5. Vulnerability and resilience**

Considerable potential exists for incidents of this nature; the area covered has an above average concentration of land vulnerable to such incidents (mainly within the Somerset area). Partnerships established between Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service and National Parks provide a daily risk rating for the likelihood of ignition of vulnerable areas.

**6. Overall assessment**

Category:	Sub-category:		
Industrial accidents and environmental pollution	Forest or moorland fire		
Outcome description	Impact	Likelihood	Risk
Forest or moorland fire across up to 50 hectares. Evacuation of up to 100 residential homes required. Up to five fatalities and 20 casualties.	Moderate (3)	Rare (2)	<b>MEDIUM</b>
Forest or moorland fire: area greater than 10 hectares	Minor (2)	Probable (5)	<b>MEDIUM</b>
Forest or moorland fire: area less than 10 hectares but greater than one hectare	Insignificant (1)	Probable (5)	<b>LOW</b>
Forest or moorland fire:	Insignificant (1)	Probable (5)	<b>LOW</b>

area less than one hectare

**Controls in place:**

- Fire breaks in managed forestry.
- Controlled swailing by land managers.
- Fire and Rescue Service: availability of water carriers and hose layers, mutual aid reinforcement schemes.
- Partnerships with National Parks and Forestry Commission.
- Local authorities: generic emergency plans (eg evacuation and rest centre plans).
- For exceptionally widespread incidents, access to the Military Aid to the Civil Community (MACC) scheme to assist with firefighting duties.
- Liaison arrangements with the Met. Office for monitoring weather forecasts during incidents.
- National Parks provide a daily moisture prediction for moorland areas; when moisture levels are low, fire warnings are posted.

**Additional risk treatment required:**

- None identified.

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