

# **NYFRS's actions to reduce and respond to wild/moor/crop fire risk**



# Introduction

For this Online Public Meeting, we have produced a presentation to demonstrate how we continue to undertake risk reduction and response to wild, moorland and crop fire risk.

The presentation covers:

- Definitions
- Statistics
- Causation Factors
- Preparation
- Response
- Prevention





# NFCC's Operational Guidance definition of a Wildfire

**A wildfire is defined as any uncontrolled vegetation fire where a decision or action is needed about its suppression. It must meet one or more of the following criteria:**

- Involves a geographical area of at least one hectare (10,000 square metres)
- Has a sustained flame length of more than 1.5 metres
- Requires a committed resource of at least four fire and rescue service appliances/resources
- Requires resources to be committed for at least six hours
- Presents a serious threat to life, environment, property, and infrastructure



# Fire Sector definition of Moorland Fire

Uncontrolled vegetation fires that often:

- Span large areas
- Produce tall flames
- Demand prolonged, resource-intensive suppression efforts
- Present serious threats to both natural habitats and nearby communities





# Fire Sector Definition of Crop Fire

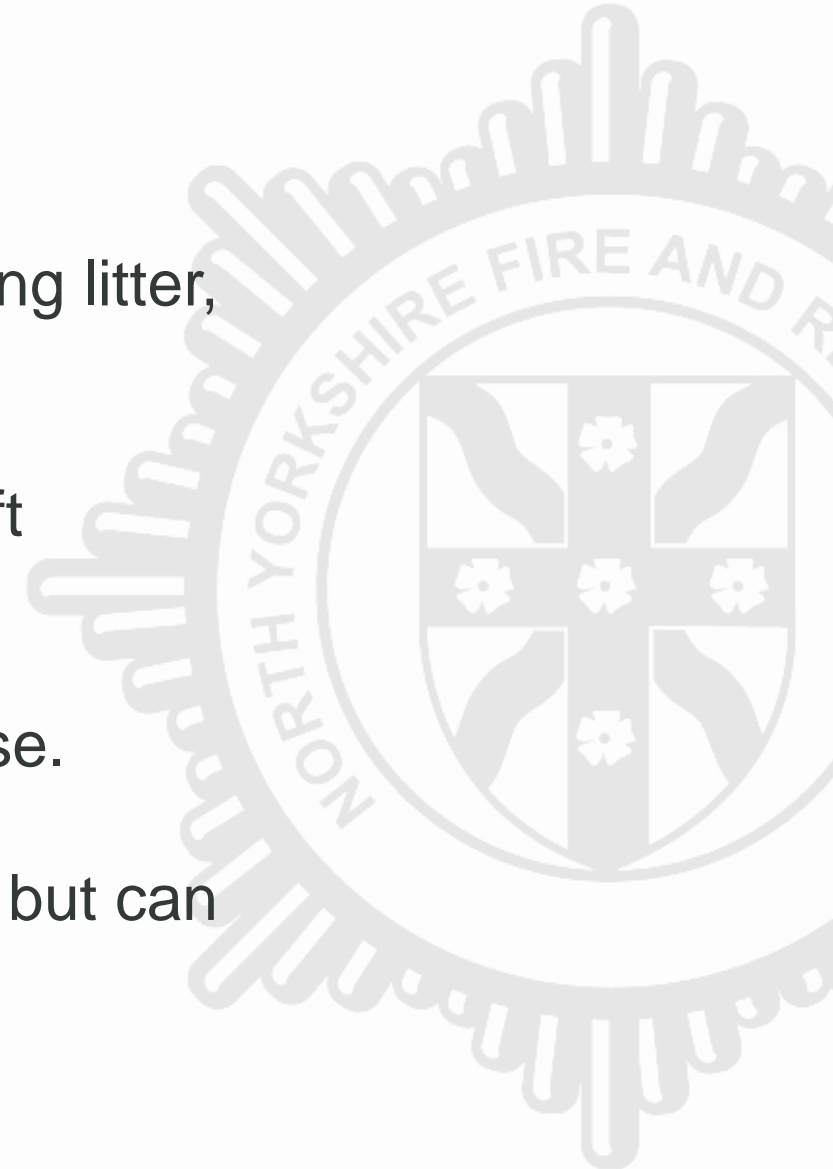
NFCC guidance for rural and wildfire risk, refers to “standing corn” as:

- Any unharvested cereal crop that remains upright in a field
- This encompasses wheat, barley, oats, rye, and similar grains



# What causes Wildfires?

- **Littering** – from improper disposal of a cigarette to dropping litter, such as reflective items and glass bottles, can start a fire.
- **Unattended fires** – campfires, bonfires and barbecues left unattended or not fully extinguished can start fires.
- **Deliberate fire-setting** – some fires are started on purpose.
- **Controlled burning** – these can be used to manage land but can sometimes get out of control.



# NYFRS wildfire statistics

(since the NFCC definition)

Jan 2022 to May 2025 – 42 incidents

Nearly 50% of these were contributed to the extreme dry spell in 2022

Incident Type	Accidental	Deliberate – others property	Deliberate – unknown owner	Not known	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire - Wildfire	29	2	1	10	42
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2022	20	2	1	1	24
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2023	4			3	7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2024	2			1	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2025	3			5	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>42</b>

# Incidents defined as Moorland or Standing Crop Fires

2021 to May 2025 – 11 Moorland Fires

2021 to May 2025 – 20 Standing Crop Fires

Incident Type	Accidental	Deliberate – others property	Deliberate – own property	Deliberate – unknown owner	Not known	Total
Fire - Moor	8		1		2	11
2021	1					1
2022	3					3
2023	1		1		1	3
2025	3				1	4
Fire - Standing Crops	11	2		1	6	20
2021	4				1	5
2022	6			1	5	12
2023	1	2				3
Total	19	2	1	1	8	31

in threshold Count max threshold





# Summer of 2022

- First time the UK experienced a daily maximum temperature of more than 40°C.
- The national average temperature over the year was more than 10°C.
- Wetter warmer winters lead to increased growth of vegetation, which acted as wildfire fuel.
- The intense heatwave resulted in a total of 983 wildfires being recorded in England and Wales. This was an increase from 247 wildfires in 2021 and 146 wildfires in 2020, a percentage increase of 315% and 573% respectively.
- Fire control rooms experiencing a 500% increase in 999 calls from the daily average.
- Wildfire meeting rural urban interface.



# Emergency Response Preparation

- Capturing risk information at known Wildfire risk sites.
- Enhanced specialist equipment and training.
- Wildfire Tactical Advisor and Wildfire Support Officers.
- Increased trained Wildfire Teams & Resilience.
- Enhanced provision in the Control Room.



# Emergency Response

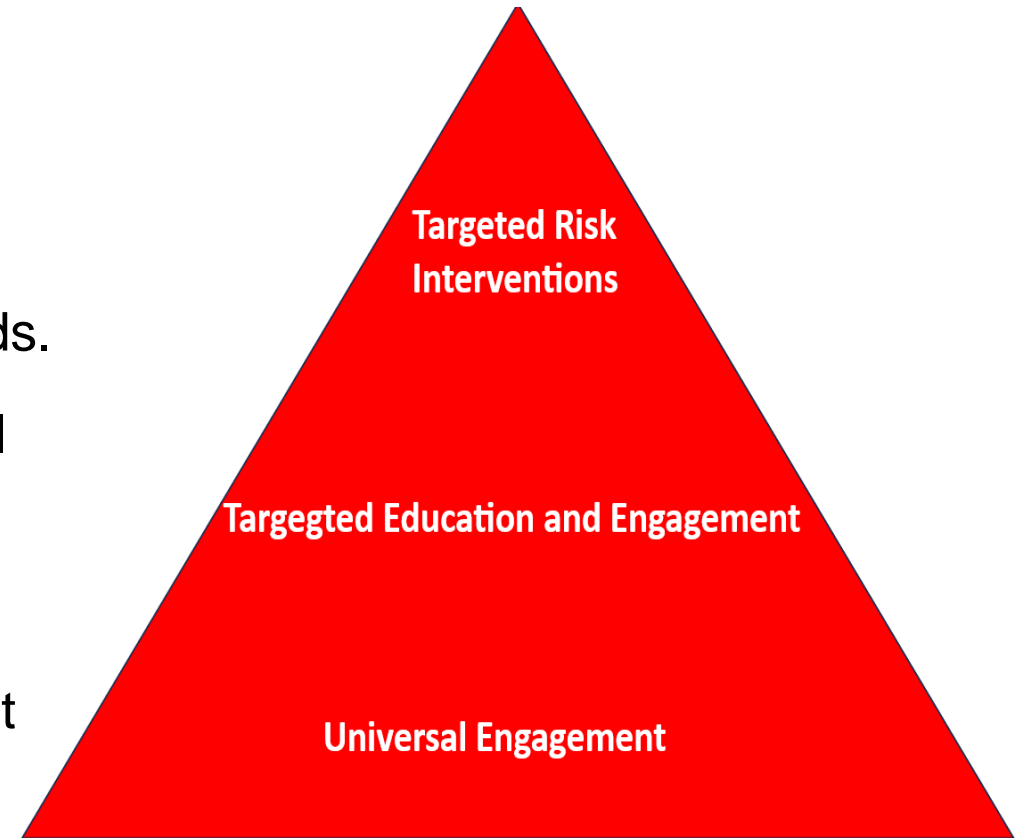
- Leyburn, Kirkbymoorside and Settle On-call are equipped with an Argocat (with water tank and misting units), 4x4 vehicle, Wildfire tools, hand tools and PPE.
- Northallerton Wholetime and On-call have Wildfire tools, hand tools and PPE.
- Personnel at Reeth and Bentham On-call are trained in the 4x4 provision to provide extra resilience.





# Prevention Activities

- Social media campaigns.
- Website and literature campaign.
- Targeted education and engagements.
- Youth education activities during summer holiday periods.
- Partnership working – Local Resilience Forum, National Trust Rangers.
- Farm Fire Safety campaign.
- Working with organisations that undertake practices that may lead to increased risk of fire.
- Joint patrols in known risk areas at peak times.



# Prevention Advice

## Simple steps you can take to help protect the wildlife and moors;

- Clear up and take your rubbish home after picnics.
- Observe all signs and notices – they are there for a reason.
- Follow the National Trust Countryside Code.
- Don't leave glass bottles. Not only can they hurt people and animals, but they can magnify the sun's rays and start a fire.
- Never throw lighted cigarette ends onto the ground, or out of the window of vehicles or trains. Always ensure that they are completely extinguished and disposed of responsibly.
- Never be tempted to light a fire in the countryside and only barbecue in authorised areas.





# Thank you

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