

# Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

*Creating the Safest Community*



## Wildfires Report 1/1/2013 to 12/10/2023

Data, Intelligence and Safety

Date: October 2023

Data and Information Audit	
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## 1 Request

I would like to request the following information in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

I would like to the data on each wildfire dealt with by your fire department in the years:

- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023

I would like to know the number of wildfires each year and for each wildfire I would like to know:

The size of the fire in acres?

The number of vehicles and personnel used to deal with the fire?

The cost to the fire department to deal with each fire?

## **2 Reply**

- 2.1 Our definition of a wildfire is any uncontrolled vegetation fire where a decision or action is needed about its suppression. A wildfire will 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
- 2.2 The following information is taken from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) Incident Recording System (IRS). An IRS incident record is completed by the Officer in Charge for every incident attended.
- 2.3 This was a search of the IRS questions that mention the size/area of the fire at 10,000 square metres or more.
- 2.4 After discussion with the requestor all agricultural property types were removed from the results – e.g. standing crops, straw/stubble, etc.
- 2.5 The date range was from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- 2.6 Our costings do not go back to 2014 so we have no means to cost the first incident on the list.

### 3 Data

- 3.1 From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 there have been a total of ten fires within Tyne and Wear that we would class as wildfires.
- 3.2 The largest incident was the most recent and involved appliances returning to the incident many times over the eight days it lasted.
- 3.3 The table below contains the details of the ten incidents.

Incident Ref	Date Only	District	Estimated Size	Appliances in attendance	Special Appliances	Officers Cars	Total Crew	Cost
42011788	09/07/2014	Newcastle	5,001 - 10,000	1	0	0	4	Not available
46014157	07/07/2018	Gateshead	Over 10,000	6	1	1	27	£9,303
47008808	15/04/2019	Gateshead	5,001 - 10,000	4	0	1	17	£1,669
50019530	09/07/2022	Sunderland	Over 10,000	2	0	0	8	£1,017
50020804	17/07/2022	Sunderland	5,001 - 10,000	3	0	0	12	£1,356
50021049	18/07/2022	Newcastle	Over 10,000	8	0	2	34	£4,960
50024291	10/08/2022	Gateshead	Over 10,000	13	1	1	57	£16,932
50024652	11/08/2022	Newcastle	Over 10,000	9	0	3	39	£12,104
51004487	23/02/2023	North Tyneside	5,001 - 10,000	1	0	0	4	£339
51014542	14/06/2023	Newcastle	Over 10,000	143	8	63	639	£476,260