

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Creating the Safest Community



Wild Fires between the calendar years 2017- 2023

Data, Intelligence and Safety

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Data and Information Audit	
Data compiled by:	R Brayson
Checked by:	A Melville, M Woods
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Approved for Publication	
Approved by:	Ross Hall
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1 Request

1. I would like the total number of wildfires recorded by the fire and rescue service, broken down by month, for the calendar years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (to date).

2. In a separate tab I would like details of each wildfire incident.

Please include: Date of incident, Time of day incident reported, Incident duration (minutes), Location (please include longitude and latitude and local authority if available), Cause of wildfire (if available), Size of area damaged by wildfire (square meters if available), Total number of buildings affected, Total number of dwellings affected, Total number of firefighters injured, seriously injured or killed.

2 Introduction

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

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.

This was a search of the IRS questions that mention the size/area of the fire at 5,000 square metres or more.

All agricultural property types were removed from the results – e.g. standing crops, straw/stubble, etc.

The date range was from 1st January 2017 to 9th November 2023.

3 Results

The data tables featured below is the wild fire incidents within the Tyne and Wear region broken down by calendar year.

The first table breaks down the incidents by calendar year and month occurred. From the data below most wildfires occur in the month of August and in the year 2022.

Month occurred	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023	Total
February	0	0	0	0	1	1
April	0	0	1	0	0	1
June	0	0	0	0	1	1
July	0	1	0	3	0	4
August	0	0	0	6	0	6
Total	0	1	1	9	2	13

The table below is the number of incidents broken down by district. From the data below most wildfires occur in the Gateshead District.

District	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023	Total
Gateshead	0	1	1	5	0	7
Newcastle	0	0	0	2	1	3
North Tyneside	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sunderland	0	0	0	2	0	2
Total	0	1	1	9	2	13

The table below is the number of incidents broken down by the size of area damaged by fire. From the data below the majority of wildfires damage areas between 5,001 and 10,000 square metres.

Estimated size	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023	Total
5,001 - 10,000	0	0	1	5	1	7
Over 10,000	0	1	0	4	1	6
Total	0	1	1	9	2	13

From the fire classification table below, the data shows that 61.5% of the 13 incidents are secondary fires.

Fire Classification	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023	Total
Primary	0	1	0	3	1	5
Secondary	0	0	1	6	1	8
Total	0	1	1	9	2	13

In the table below the majority of wildfires incidents where the reason/motive was categorised as deliberate or not known.

Reason/Motive	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023	Total
Accidental	0	0	0	3	0	3
Deliberate - others property	0	1	1	1	1	4
Deliberate - unknown owner	0	0	0	1	0	1
Not known	0	0	0	4	1	5
Total	0	1	1	9	2	13

The table below is the number of wildfire incidents broken down by source of ignition and calendar year. The data shows that 84.6% of the 13 incidents have an unknown ignition source.

Source of Ignition	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023	Total
Naked flame - Lighted paper or card, or other naked flame	0	1	0	0	0	1
Not known	0	0	1	8	2	11
Spread from secondary fire - Spread from secondary fire	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	0	1	1	9	2	13

4 Data

The data table below shows the details of each incident as requested.

Date Only	Time of call	Time of call to time of last appliance leaving the incident (minutes)	District	Easting	Northing	Reason/Motive	Source of Ignition	Number of Buildings affected	Number of Dwellings affected	Number of Firefighters Injured	Estimated size
07/07/2018	16:48:22	277	GATESHEAD	415739	565200	Deliberate - others property	Naked flame - Lighted paper or card, or other naked flame	0	0	0	Over 10,000
15/04/2019	16:35:39	143	GATESHEAD	413234	559050	Deliberate - others property	Not known	0	0	0	5,001 - 10,000
09/07/2022	18:03:50	80	SUNDERLAND	440794	551981	Not known	Not known	0	0	0	Over 10,000
17/07/2022	16:39:58	84	SUNDERLAND	435707	559118	Deliberate - others property	Not known	0	0	0	5,001 - 10,000
18/07/2022	17:03:33	169	NEWCASTLE	420197	563992	Deliberate - unknown owner	Not known	0	0	0	Over 10,000
10/08/2022	15:16:22	407	GATESHEAD	415761	565149	Not known	Not known	0	0	0	Over 10,000
11/08/2022	07:14:01	90	GATESHEAD	415737	565119	Not known	Not known	0	0	0	5,001 - 10,000
11/08/2022	08:52:54	420	GATESHEAD	415771	565185	Accidental	Not known	0	0	0	5,001 - 10,000
11/08/2022	15:23:31	397	NEWCASTLE	417180	566085	Not known	Spread from secondary fire - Spread from secondary fire	0	0	0	Over 10,000

Date Only	Time of call	Time of call to time of last appliance leaving the incident (minutes)	District	Latitude	Longitude	Reason/Motive	Source of Ignition	Number of Buildings affected	Number of Dwellings affected	Number of Firefighters Injured	Estimated size
11/08/2022	21:21:03	34	GATESHEAD	415766	565176	Accidental	Not known	0	0	0	5,001 - 10,000
12/08/2022	09:23:12	74	GATESHEAD	415651	565191	Accidental	Not known	0	0	0	5,001 - 10,000
23/02/2023	16:57:20	57	NORTH TYNESIDE	432872	566939	Deliberate - others property	Not known	0	0	0	5,001 - 10,000
14/06/2023	13:18:38	9841	NEWCASTLE	418891	573996	Not known	Not known	0	0	0	Over 10,000