# Very high wildfire risk issued in Aberdeenshire and Moray



Residents of Aberdeenshire, Moray, and significant parts of the northern Highlands have been issued a “very high” risk warning for wildfires, which is expected to remain in effect from Saturday through Wednesday. The warning, the first of its kind this year, comes as the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) expressed concerns about the potential for large, uncontrolled fires in the region due to current weather conditions and the presence of excessively dry vegetation.

Area commander Michael Humphreys of the SFRS highlighted the dangers associated with the dry conditions, stating that “at this time of year in early spring, even when the weather is still bitterly cold in some areas, we typically have a large volume of dead, bone-dry vegetation across large areas of countryside.” He added that this abundance of dry materials serves as fuel for potential wildfires, especially during the reported period when the risk is heightened.

Humphreys urged residents to “act responsibly” while enjoying outdoor activities during this time. He pointed out that human behaviour is the primary cause of wildfires in Scotland, emphasising the importance of adopting safety measures to mitigate the risk. He stated, “By following some simple but key advice, we can significantly reduce the risk of wildfire occurring.”

The fire service's warning follows a spate of deliberate fire-raising incidents that occurred in Aberdeen last month. The Press and Journal reported that firefighters had to respond to four deliberate blazes across the city within a five-day period, which included fires at Dyce Academy, Tillydrone, Bridge of Don, Rosemount, and Den of Maidenscraig. The surge of these incidents has placed undue pressure on emergency services.

Andrew Wright, the local senior officer for Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray, expressed deep concern over the reckless behaviour associated with deliberate fire-setting. He remarked, “Deliberately setting fires is not only reckless, but it can damage communities and endanger lives.” Wright previously called on the public, particularly young people, to refrain from engaging in activities that could compromise safety or hinder firefighters’ ability to respond to emergencies.

Wildfires are defined by the SFRS as large, uncontrolled outdoor fires that can cover areas exceeding 1,000 square metres. The service has also documented the causes of past wildfires, noting issues such as unattended barbecues or campfires, sunlight focusing through glass bottles igniting flammable materials, and the careless disposal of cigarettes in dry conditions.

As the warning period approaches, the SFRS has advised residents to stay informed and exercise caution, with further guidance and information available on their official website.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/6704526/wildfire-warning-issued-in-north-east/> - This URL corroborates the 'very high' risk warning for wildfires in Aberdeenshire, Moray, and parts of the northern Highlands. It also supports the SFRS's concerns about dry conditions and the potential for large fires.
* <https://www.grampianonline.co.uk/news/wildfire-very-high-risk-warning-issued-for-parts-of-the-hi-375826/> - This URL confirms the 'very high' risk warning for wildfires in parts of the north of Scotland, aligning with the SFRS's concerns about dry vegetation and weather conditions.
* <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/GBR/3?category=fires> - This URL provides context on fire alerts in Scotland, although it does not directly address the current warning. It offers a broader perspective on fire incidents in the region.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is the source of the original article but does not provide additional external corroboration beyond the article itself.
* <https://www.scottishfireandrescue.org/> - This URL would provide official information from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, including guidance on wildfire safety and prevention, although it is not explicitly mentioned in the search results.