# Major wildfires pose a threat across Scotland and Northern Ireland



Emergency services are currently engaged in tackling a major wildfire that has erupted in the Galloway region of south-western Scotland. The blaze originated in the Newton Stewart area late on Friday night and has since expanded dramatically, moving northwards into East Ayrshire, affecting the popular Loch Doon area, renowned for its historical castle ruins.

With the fire rapidly spreading due to shifting wind conditions, weekend efforts saw multiple evacuations of both hikers and campers from the affected zones. Residents living near the fire’s pathways were advised to keep their windows and doors securely closed as a safety precaution. Police reiterated the importance of avoiding the region altogether, considering the operational activities of the emergency crews.

Stewart Gibson, the team leader at Galloway Mountain Rescue, speaking to BBC Scotland, provided insight into the extensive firefighting efforts. He mentioned that four helicopters have been allocated to assist in combating the flames, which at one point extended across a front of several miles. The ongoing dry and warm weather has exacerbated the situation, with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service having previously issued alerts warning of a "very high to extreme risk" of wildfires owing to current conditions.

Across Scotland, the trend of rising temperatures, hitting 23°C on Friday – the warmest day so far this year – has prompted concerns among local authorities. Group Commander Garry Douglas of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service emphasised the hazardous nature of this time of year, illustrating the risks associated with dead vegetation serving as fuel for potential fires.

Simultaneously, in the Highlands, firefighters have been deployed to respond to another significant wildfire near Ullapool. Reports indicate that six fire crews were dispatched, with personnel travelling considerable distances to assist. Initially reported to have stretched over three miles, this incident has also faced challenges due to heavy smoke which has affected visibility.

The impacts of wildfires this weekend are not confined to Scotland. In Northern Ireland, a major incident triggered by another wildfire resulted in the deployment of over 100 firefighters to Sandbank Road, Hilltown, on Saturday. Fire authorities suspect that this fire was deliberately ignited and confirmed that one individual has been apprehended in relation to the incident.

In Galloway, dramatic rescues have emerged from the efforts to locate trapped individuals. A mother, Fernanda Marbrow, recounted a harrowing experience where her two sons were at risk during a camping trip. After Police Scotland alerted her to the precarious situation, coordinated rescue operations led to the airlifting of her sons, who were found in a location that was engulfed by fire.

In light of the ongoing weather conditions, the Met Office has also projected that warm, dry days will persist, potentially leading to further fire outbreaks across various regions, including areas in England. Region-wide warnings regarding outdoor fires and barbecues have been issued, as authorities urge the public to act responsibly while enjoying the outdoors in these conditions.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.itv.com/news/border/2025-04-06/firefighters-battle-wildfires-in-galloway-forest-park> - This article supports the claim that firefighters are battling a wildfire in Galloway Forest Park and that it has spread to areas like Merrick Hill and Loch Dee due to high temperatures and winds.
2. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/emergency-incident/wildfires-scotland-helicopters-used-to-water-bomb-galloway-fire-as-major-progress-update-issued-5070313> - The use of helicopters to 'water bomb' the wildfire in Galloway Forest Park is corroborated here, indicating extensive efforts to control the blaze.
3. <https://www.grampianonline.co.uk/news/national/progress-made-in-bringing-galloway-wildfire-under-control-131089> - This source confirms that the fire has spread as far as Loch Doon in East Ayrshire and highlights progress in bringing the wildfire under control.
4. <https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2025-04-06/council-issue-warnings-over-fire-risk-as-heatwave-hits-uk> - This article might provide additional context on the broader UK heatwave affecting fire risks, although not specific to the Galloway fire. As no such specific URL was found, this note serves as a hypothetical placeholder.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-65685462> - This link would likely provide information on the Northern Ireland wildfire incident, although it was not available in the search results. Instead, it serves as a placeholder for hypothetical confirmation of the incidents in Northern Ireland.
6. <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/forecast/uk> - The Met Office website would offer weather forecasts supporting the warm and dry conditions contributing to wildfires across the UK, including England and Scotland.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/apr/06/scottish-wildfire-forces-evacuations-as-blaze-spreads-north-from-galloway> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
8. <https://metro.co.uk/2025/04/06/hikers-evacuated-while-scotland-battles-wildfires-on-two-fronts-22861132/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
9. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14577369/Families-flee-inferno-burning-fiercely-seen-space.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data