# Wildfires rage across Scotland amid heatwave



Emergency services are currently engaged in efforts to contain extensive wildfires that have erupted in various regions of Scotland, notably in the Galloway Forest Park and the Highlands. The wildfires commenced in the Newton Stewart area on Friday, prompted by a surge in temperatures reaching 23°C, marking one of the warmest days of the year to date. The flames have since spread northwards, reaching Loch Doon and causing significant concern for local residents and outdoor enthusiasts.

Due to the advancing fires, officials have instructed nearby residents to keep their windows and doors closed, while police have urged the public to avoid the affected areas. As a precaution, hikers and wild campers have been evacuated from locations at risk, with some rescue teams deployed to assist those in danger. Stewart Gibson, team leader at Galloway Mountain Rescue, reported that the firefront, at times, spanned several miles, requiring the deployment of four helicopters to douse the flames with water.

In light of the fire hazard, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has issued warnings indicating a “very high to extreme risk” of wildfire spread, attributing this to the dry and warm climate currently witnessed across the UK. They have advised the public against outdoor fires and barbecues and emphasised safe disposal of cigarettes and glass to mitigate ignition risks.

Simultaneously, another wildfire was reported further north, near Ullapool in the Highlands. Firefighters faced challenges due to heavy smoke impairing visibility, with six crews being dispatched to manage the flames, which were reported to extend over three miles.

In another incident earlier on the same day, a significant wildfire in Northern Ireland was officially extinguished after extensive efforts from more than 100 firefighters, who responded to a blaze believed to have originated from human activity. This fire, which led to the arrest of one man, covered a front of approximately two miles, affecting a large area of forestry near Hilltown.

As these incidents unfold, the Scottish Government has activated the Scottish Government’s Resilience Room (SGORR) to oversee coordination in emergency response efforts. An emergency meeting chaired by Justice Secretary Angela Constance is scheduled to address the ongoing wildfire situation, while First Minister John Swinney remains in the United States for Tartan Week celebrations.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service statistics reveal that wildfires predominantly occur between March and May, with human actions cited as the primary cause. With this season witnessing warmer and drier conditions, risks have escalated, underscoring the importance of responsible outdoor conduct to prevent further outbreaks. The service has responded to an average of 170 wildfires annually, with 80% occurring during the traditionally warmer months.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news/extreme-wildfire-warning-issued-across-scotland-this-week/> - This article supports the claim of a 'very high to extreme' risk of wildfires across Scotland due to dry and warm conditions, and advises against outdoor fires and improper disposal of combustible materials.
2. <https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2025/april/a-fire-that-started-in-newton-stewart-is-spreading-northwards-to-east-ayrshire> - This news report confirms the wildfire in Newton Stewart spreading towards East Ayrshire, highlighting the spread and response efforts.
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBL-2wl24cQ> - This video discusses spring wildfires across the UK, including those in Northern Ireland and Scotland, emphasizing the impact of dry conditions.
4. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides the original article detailing the extensive wildfires in Scotland, evacuation efforts, and the Scottish Government's response.
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galloway_Forest_Park> - This resource provides background information on Galloway Forest Park, one of the affected regions, though it does not specifically address the wildfires.
6. <https://www.gov.scot/about/who-we-are/leaders-in-government/first-minister/> - This webpage offers information about First Minister John Swinney, although it does not specifically address the wildfires or his absence for Tartan Week.
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.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scottish-government-hold-emergency-response-35005484> - Please view link - unable to able to access data