# Wildfire near Llanbradach train station prompts safety warnings



A wildfire that broke out near a train station in Llanbradach, Caerphilly County, prompted a warning from the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service for local residents to shut their windows and doors to avoid smoke inhalation. The incident occurred on Saturday, April 12, and involved three fire engines alongside supporting 4X4 vehicles.

The fire was situated on higher ground above Llanbradach's train station, which led fire crews to undertake a tactical burn aimed at creating a firebreak. This strategic move is designed to prevent the wildfire from spreading further. South Wales Fire and Rescue Service announced the situation via an update on the social media platform X, advising residents to keep their homes sealed against the smoke.

Despite the proximity of the fire to public infrastructure, Transport for Wales, along with live transportation tracker Inrix, reported no disruptions to railway services in the Llanbradach area. Fire service crews eventually left the scene; however, this was only the second wildfire incident of the day, following a roadside grass fire reported earlier in Carmarthenshire.

In recent weeks, Welsh fire services have faced an overwhelming number of wildfire incidents, responding to nearly 200 in a single week. Gareth Tovey, the executive council member for the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) in Wales, commented on the situation, emphasising the need for "urgent investment" to ensure the safety of communities amid increasing wildfire occurrences. Tovey expressed concern regarding the alarming rise in wildfires, linking it to rising temperatures that pose risks to homes and lives.

Additionally, South Wales Police issued reminders to the public regarding the legal implications of setting deliberate wildfires, which are classified as arson. The police highlighted that the recent warmer weather had correlated with an uptick in wildfire incidents and echoed concerns shared by the fire service.

In a statement, South Wales Police noted that their fire service colleagues had been handling numerous wildfire calls, with reports indicating that a significant majority had been deliberately ignited. The Mid and West Wales Fire Service also confirmed their attendance at 192 fires over the last week, with thirteen of those being classified as large-scale—exceeding ten hectares in size.

As the fire risk remains heightened during this season, the police urged the public to exercise caution when engaging in outdoor activities such as barbecuing and reminded landowners that the legal burn plan period for heather, bracken, and grass has officially ended. Parents and caregivers were requested to discuss the dangers of fire with children, reinforcing the message about the severe consequences that can arise from deliberately starting fires.

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