# London Fire Brigade intensifies wildfire response amid rising heatwave threats



On a recent Monday evening, the London Fire Brigade (LFB) faced a formidable challenge as it responded to three wildfires erupting across east London within a span of just three hours. The most significant of these fires occurred in Dagenham, where approximately 125 firefighters battled a grass fire that spread over roughly eight hectares and threatened nearby homes. The blaze was effectively brought under control by 9.45pm, though residents were advised to keep their doors and windows shut due to the smoke permeating the area. Similar incidents also prompted evacuations in Hornchurch and Walthamstow, highlighting the widespread impact of the dry, hot weather conditions affecting the capital. The cause of the fires remains under investigation.

These recent wildfires are indicative of a broader, escalating risk that the capital faces as it grapples with the effects of climate change and an ongoing period of dry weather. The London Fire Brigade has noted a significant rise in vegetation fires, particularly during the heatwave in July 2022, which saw the busiest day for the brigade since the Second World War. The persistence of high temperatures—exceeding 30 degrees Celsius—and the driest spring in more than a century have created an environment where even a small spark can lead to a rapidly spreading fire, especially given the close proximity of many green spaces to residential and commercial properties.

In response to these increasing threats, the LFB has been actively enhancing its wildfire preparedness. It has invested in specialized wildfire response vehicles and introduced advanced training for firefighters, focusing on the urban-rural interface where fires can quickly move from green spaces into built-up areas. Around 30 fire station commanders in London have completed specialized wildfire training, with all firefighters now receiving enhanced instruction to deal more effectively with such incidents. The brigade has also engaged in international collaborations, including training exercises in Catalonia and Northumberland, to improve its tactics and knowledge base.

Despite these proactive measures, the LFB stresses that public responsibility remains crucial in preventing wildfires. Repeated warnings have been issued about the dangers of using disposable barbecues in parks and open spaces, as these can retain heat for several hours and easily ignite dry grass. The brigade also advises people to avoid barbecues on balconies and to ensure any home barbecues are placed well away from flammable structures such as fences, sheds, decking, and trees. Smoking materials should be discarded carefully, and rubbish should always be taken home if bins are unavailable to prevent accidental fires.

Additionally, the brigade is calling on local councils and landowners to take urgent preventative actions by creating fire breaks—cutting and removing grass or ploughing earth—to eliminate flammable vegetation near homes and businesses. This strategy is vital to reducing the risk of fire spread in areas where green spaces adjoin urban environments.

A London Fire Brigade spokesperson underscored the seriousness of the situation, stating, “During the hot weather, it is important everyone acts responsibly to prevent fires from occurring. As the weather has been so dry, it only takes a few sparks to lead to a fire spreading rapidly. In London, this is can be dangerous because so many of our green spaces lie close to homes and other properties.” The message is clear: while the brigade is intensifying its efforts and capabilities, the prevention of wildfires during this dry spell hinges heavily on public awareness and caution.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/dagenham-wildfire-homes-evacuated-lfb-hornchurch-walthamstow-b1238131.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/dagenham-wildfire-homes-evacuated-lfb-hornchurch-walthamstow-b1238131.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/fe845ab5-2f2d-40da-8ec9-4bedb1a63c0e), [[7]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/june/wildfire-warning-issued-for-london-as-people-urged-to-act-responsibly-during-the-heatwave/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/fe845ab5-2f2d-40da-8ec9-4bedb1a63c0e)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/july/lfb-urges-caution-as-london-sees-third-heatwave-of-summer/), [[5]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2024-news/june/london-fire-brigade-issues-warning-ahead-of-mini-heatwave/), [[7]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/june/wildfire-warning-issued-for-london-as-people-urged-to-act-responsibly-during-the-heatwave/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/june/brigade-calls-for-urgent-action-to-help-protect-communities-from-wildfires-this-summer/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/dagenham-wildfire-homes-evacuated-lfb-hornchurch-walthamstow-b1238131.html)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/dagenham-wildfire-homes-evacuated-lfb-hornchurch-walthamstow-b1238131.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/dagenham-wildfire-homes-evacuated-lfb-hornchurch-walthamstow-b1238131.html> - On a Monday evening, London Fire Brigade (LFB) responded to three wildfires in east London within three hours, leading to the evacuation of residents in Dagenham, Hornchurch, and Walthamstow. Approximately 125 firefighters tackled a grass fire in Dagenham, which covered around eight hectares and threatened nearby properties. The fire was brought under control by 9.45pm, with residents advised to keep their doors and windows shut due to smoke. The cause of the fire is currently unknown.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/fe845ab5-2f2d-40da-8ec9-4bedb1a63c0e> - Facing an escalating risk of wildfires due to climate change and ongoing dry conditions, the London Fire Brigade (LFB) is enhancing its preparations by investing in new equipment and training. LFB is collaborating internationally, including training trips to Catalonia and Northumberland, and deploying specialized wildfire response vehicles. Approximately 30 London fire station commanders have completed specialist wildfire training, and all firefighters now undergo enhanced training for the urban-rural interface. The city recorded a surge in vegetation fires during the July 2022 heatwave, marking LFB's busiest day since WWII. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/fe845ab5-2f2d-40da-8ec9-4bedb1a63c0e?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/july/lfb-urges-caution-as-london-sees-third-heatwave-of-summer/> - With the third heatwave of the summer, the London Fire Brigade (LFB) urges residents to act responsibly to prevent fires. The dry conditions have led to around 23 wildfires in the capital this year, including four this week. LFB advises against using disposable barbecues in parks and open spaces, as they can retain heat for several hours after use. Residents are also reminded to discard cigarettes properly and take rubbish home if no bins are available. At home, barbecues should be positioned away from flammable items like fences, sheds, decking, and trees, and not used on balconies. ([london-fire.gov.uk](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/july/lfb-urges-caution-as-london-sees-third-heatwave-of-summer/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2024-news/june/london-fire-brigade-issues-warning-ahead-of-mini-heatwave/> - Ahead of a mini heatwave, the London Fire Brigade (LFB) issues a warning about the increased risk of wildfires. LFB advises against using disposable barbecues in parks and open spaces, as they can cause grass fires, especially in hot weather when the ground is dry. Barbecues should not be used on balconies due to the risk of fire spreading to nearby structures. If having a barbecue, it should never be left unattended, and care should be taken with its positioning. ([london-fire.gov.uk](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2024-news/june/london-fire-brigade-issues-warning-ahead-of-mini-heatwave/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/june/brigade-calls-for-urgent-action-to-help-protect-communities-from-wildfires-this-summer/> - The London Fire Brigade (LFB) calls for urgent action to protect communities from wildfires this summer. With London on course for one of the driest springs on record, LFB urges councils and landowners to create fire breaks by cutting and removing grass or ploughing earth to remove flammable vegetation. This is particularly important where green spaces are close to homes and businesses. LFB emphasizes that prevention is everyone's responsibility, as even a single glass bottle or cigarette butt can spark a serious blaze. ([london-fire.gov.uk](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/june/brigade-calls-for-urgent-action-to-help-protect-communities-from-wildfires-this-summer/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/june/wildfire-warning-issued-for-london-as-people-urged-to-act-responsibly-during-the-heatwave/> - With a heatwave continuing into the weekend, the London Fire Brigade (LFB) issues a wildfire warning and urges people to act responsibly. Temperatures exceeding 30 degrees Celsius and the driest spring in over a century have increased the risk of fires spreading rapidly. LFB advises against using disposable barbecues in parks and open spaces, as they pose a significant fire risk. At home, barbecues should be positioned away from flammable materials like fences and sheds, and not used on balconies. Smoking materials should be discarded properly, and rubbish should be disposed of in appropriate bins or taken home if none are available. ([london-fire.gov.uk](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/2025-news/june/wildfire-warning-issued-for-london-as-people-urged-to-act-responsibly-during-the-heatwave/?utm_source=openai))