



Freedom of Information Request FOI 19 02

Climate change

Query and response:

- 1) Which geographical areas are covered by Service and which of those areas are more at risk of wildfire, flooding or drought?

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) covers the counties of Dorset and Wiltshire and wildfires, flooding or drought can occur anywhere across the counties. Those areas more susceptible to wildfires are the heaths in the Dorset area. Many areas suffer from flooding and this can be caused by a whole host of different reasons, whether it be fluvial, pluvial or coastal flooding.

- 2) Incidents

- How many wildfires have occurred in the last five years?

Wild Fires	Number of incidents attended by DWFRS
2014	232
2015	277
2016	231
2017	253
2018	527

The following property types (from the Incident Recording System) have been included in the above figures;

- Outdoor/Grassland, woodland and crops/Canal/riverbank vegetation
- Outdoor/Grassland, woodland and crops/Grassland, pasture, grazing etc
- Outdoor/Grassland, woodland and crops/Heathland or moorland
- Outdoor/Grassland, woodland and crops/Scrub land
- Outdoor/Grassland, woodland and crops/Stacked/baled crop (incl manure heap)
- Outdoor/Grassland, woodland and crops/Standing crop
- Outdoor/Grassland, woodland and crops/Straw/stubble burning
- Outdoor/Grassland, woodland and crops/Woodland/forest - broadleaf/hardwood
- Outdoor/Grassland, woodland and crops/Woodland/forest - conifers/softwood

- How much area was affected by flooding and how often did it occur?



DWFRS do not record an area of flooding and would not distinguish between environmental flooding and a burst pipe, for example.

We would suggest the Environment Agency may be able to provide more information on this matter.

3) How has climate change affected the services latest IRMP?

The latest IRMP is available on our website and can be found via the following link;

<https://www.dwfire.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are/service-plans-and-policies/>

Information regarding how climate change has affected the IRMP is not recorded. The written methodology behind these plans is in progress.

4) Equipment and resources?

- What equipment was used during operational responses to any wildfires?

Detection/Location Equipment - Thermal imaging camera

First aid - Other

Foam - Medium expansion

Foam - Other

Forcible Entry Tools - Axes/Hammers/Crowbars/Croppers

Ladders - Short extension

Ladders - Triple/Short extension ladder

PPV - Active firefighting

PPV - Smoke clearance

Pumping Equipment - Portable pump

Pumping Equipment - Vacuum, suction hose

RPE - CABA - standard duration

RPE - Other

Small Tools - Shovels/Forks/Brooms/Chimney Rods

Water Delivery - Fire bucket

Water Delivery - Hosereel - high pressure

Water Delivery - Hosereel - low pressure

Water Delivery - Main line/jet

Water Delivery - Monitor - high pressure

Water Delivery - Monitor - low pressure

Water Delivery - Other

Water Delivery - Stirrup Pump

Wild fire - Fire beaters

Wild fire - Knapsacks

Wild fire - Rakes, shovels, mathooks

Wild fire-Strategically located water tanks

- What equipment was used during operational responses to any flooding incidents?



Detection/Location Equipment - Other
Detection/Location Equipment - Thermal imaging camera
Electric Saws/Cutters - Electric saws/sutters
Environment Agency Equipment - Environment agency equipment
First aid - Other
Forcible Entry Tools - Axes/Hammers/Crowbars/Croppers
Ladders - 13.5m
Ladders - 9/10.5m
Ladders - Other
Ladders - Short extension
Ladders - Triple/Short extension ladder
Lifting & Hydraulic - Door opener
Line rescue - Line rescue
Mud/Rescue Paths-Mud/Rescue paths
Pumping Equipment - Electric submersible pump
Pumping Equipment - Portable pump
Pumping Equipment - Vacuum, suction hose
Small Tools - Shovels/Forks/Brooms/Chimney Rods
Water Delivery - Fire bucket
Water Delivery - Hosereel - high pressure
Water Delivery - Hosereel - low pressure
Water Delivery - Main line/jet
Water Delivery-Monitor - low pressure
Water delivery-Stirrup pump
Water Delivery - Other

- What resources were needed to gain access to wildfires?

Our current standard pre-determined attendance for fires in the open is 2 pumping appliances, a 4x4 vehicle and a water carrier. The resources can then be scaled up based on the size of the incident and the additional resources required.

- What resources were needed to provide water to wildfires?

Water was provided by the appliances' tank supplies and water carriers. On occasions nearby open water sources have been used along with hydrants. Our high volume pumps are utilised to provide water to the scenes from further afield sources.

- What other methods were used to extinguish wildfires?

Other methods of extinguishment have been with the use of beaters, containment and controlled burning.

- How effective were these resources and methods in gaining access to and extinguishing wildfires?



The resources deployed to the incidents were sufficient to deal with the wildfires.

- What resources and equipment were used to deal with any flooding incidents?

Pumping appliances and smaller pump units. Aquavacs were used for internal flooding incidents.

- What methods were used to deal with any flooding incidents?

Pumping out of flood water using mechanical pumps, use of aquavacs.

- How effective were the resources and methods in dealing with these flooding incidents?

Resources and methods proved effective from an emergency response perspective.

5) Staffing

- What shift patterns do your firefighters work?

A summary of shift patterns is listed below;

I. Control Shift System

Grey Book, 6th Edition (updated 2009) Section 4 Para 7: The hours of duty of full-time employees on this system shall be an average of forty-two per week. The hours of duty of part-time employees shall be pro-rata. The rota will be based on the following principles: (1) Each period of twenty-four hours shall be divided into a day shift and a night shift. (2) The night shift shall not be less than twelve hours. (3) There shall be at least two complete periods of twenty-four hours free from duty each week. (4) Leave days shall change week by week in a regular progressive manner. (5) No rota system shall include continuous duty periods of twenty-four hours. (6) Three hours shall be specified for meal breaks in every twenty-four hours. The timing of these periods is at the discretion of the authority. Account shall be taken of meal breaks interrupted by emergency calls

II. Wholetime Duty Shift System

EPR 29 Para 2.1.1: The Fire Service Pay and Conditions Agreement 2004 allows WDS staff on shift and day duty systems to undertake On-Call duties as secondary employment. This is subject to adequate measures being taken to ensure that members of staff perform their duties to the highest standard and to comply, where appropriate, with the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services,



Scheme of Conditions of Service, Sixth Edition, 2004 (“Grey Book”) and the Working Time Regulations 1998 (as amended).

III. Day Crewing Shift

Grey Book, 6th Edition (updated 2009) Section 4 Para 8: The hours of duty of full-time employees on this system shall be an average of forty-two per week. The hours of duty of part-time employees shall be pro-rata. The rota will be based on the following principles: (1) An average of thirty-five hours per week shall be worked at the station. (2) An average of seven hours per week shall be on standby at home. Employees are required to respond to any emergency call received during this standby period. (3) Employees on this system may be requested to undertake retained duties outside the hours at (1) and (2). (4) There shall be at least two complete periods of twenty-four hours free from any duty each week. (5) One hour per day shall be specified as a meal break. Account shall be taken of meal breaks interrupted by emergency calls.

IV. 9 Day Fortnight

Grey Book, 6th Edition (updated 2009) Section 4 Para 9: The hours of duty of full-time employees on this system shall be an average of forty-two per week. The hours of duty of part-time employees shall be pro-rata. The rota will be based on the following principles: (1) The normal working day shall cover the period of normal office hours. ‘Grey Book’ 6th Edition (updated 2009) 15 (2) There shall be nine working days per fortnight, which shall fall on Mondays to Fridays. (3) One hour per day shall be specified as a meal break. (4) Where work (such as lectures and inspections of clubs) must necessarily be undertaken outside the normal working day, equivalent time off in lieu should be given during the normal working day.

V. On Call

Grey Book, 6th Edition (updated 2009) Section 4 Para 17: The duties and hours of availability of volunteers carrying out operational firefighting duties shall be agreed between the fire and rescue authority and individual volunteers. On Call is a duty system in its own right; however hours of availability fall outside of the Grey book now depending on station requirements.

- Did you experience any difficulties with your current staffing systems if the length of the incident lasted over a long-period of time? Eg. Fatigue

For our on-call staff, our local managers and staff are empowered to make decisions regarding the suitability of staff to perform operational duties following protracted incidents, and this includes the requirement to book ‘off-duty/unavailable’ in order to obtain suitable rest and recuperation. While it is not possible for staff on other duty systems to take this approach, we have an organisational relief policy which directs



us to release staff from an incident, after a certain number of hours, after replacing them with a 'fresh' crew. This is designed to take in to account the welfare of our staff and to ensure they have breaks within operational activities. The timings of release, although guided in our policy, can be adjusted in either direction by the incident commanders, in discussion with the crew commanders.

- How essential were Retained Staffing systems in dealing with these incidents over a long-period?

In a shire service such as ours, the use of on-call staff is essential in managing and fulfilling our statutory duties due to the geographical constraints and the disposition of our wholetime stations. As a service we operate 72 fire engines of which 58 are crewed solely by on-call staff.

6) Training

- Have you had to adapt or introduce any specific operational training in relation to climate change in order to improve the operational response to wildfires?

DWFRS have appointed a Wildfire Tactical Advisor who is part of the NFCC Wildfire Tactical Advisor cohort. He has been trained to the appropriate level via the NFCC.

The Wildfire Tactical Advisor has provided wildfire training to the duty officers group and whole time shifts, and station based trainers have delivered a wildfire training package to Retained Duty System stations. The training is currently being revised and updated to enable it to be delivered locally. This will include an eLearning module.

Improved equipment has been purchased and distributed along with training in its use. This includes high pressure fogging units on light off road vehicles and back pack sprayers on certain vehicles.

DWFRS have a standard operating procedure which is linked to national guidance and we have local and national mutual aid procedures.

DWFRS works closely with partners through the local resilience forum and other groups to try and reduce the risk and impact of wildfires

- Have you had to adapt or introduce any specific operational training in relation to climate change in order to improve the operational response to flooding?

All operational teams are trained in accordance with the recommendations made within DEFRA's Concept of Flood Operations and recommendations made within the Pitt Review.



- Have you had to adapt or introduce any specific operational training in relation to climate change in order to improve the operational response to droughts?

In the event of drought, DWFRS would take part in a Multi-Agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group to arrange an operational response, as indicated in Local Resilience Forum plans.

7) Fire and Rescue Policy

- What is the FRS policy statement with regards to Climate change?

DWFRS do not have a policy on climate change.

8) Business continuity

- Has climate change affected the way you manage business continuity management strategies?

As part of our business continuity management, DWFRS consistently review the threats and risk to the Service and it's communities and adapts plans and arrangements in line with these, this includes climate change.