



Context in D&G

- **Local Resilience Partnership concerned with consequences not cause**
- **Primary role to “protect our most vulnerable and keep people safe”**
- **Responses based on LRP’s established generic arrangements, supplemented with scenario specific guidance**
- **Workplans based on Risk Assessments in the NSRA and SRA**
- **To date, a formal risk assessment of wildfire danger has not been undertaken for Dumfries and Galloway.**
- **Local Risk profile**
 - Land use
 - Resilience vs vulnerability of residents
 - Stakeholders – community asset register
- **Monitor the warnings when issued**
- **Need to better understand the impact of a changing climate**
- **Importance of networking and local stakeholder information**



Galloway Forest Park – 17 Apr 07

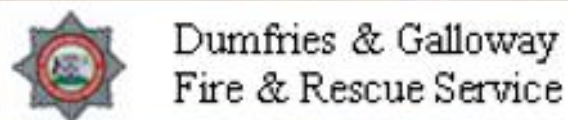
2008



context

D&G had its own Wildfire Group until dissolution of the D&G F&RS in 2013.

Wildfire & Heather Management



*“Is Dumfries and Galloway
prepared to manage the
consequences of significant
wildfires?”*

Chair of the Local Resilience Partnership (Strategic)

July 2018



**Dumfries
and Galloway**
Local Resilience Partnership

Wildfires – Multi Agency Incident Response Guide

Martin Ogilvie

The Objectives of the D&G LRP Wildfire MAIRG

- A high-level profile of wildfire risk in D&G (see next slide)
- Agreed a:
 - wildfires monitoring, detection & alerting framework
 - public warning & informing framework
- Systems for gaining and maintaining shared situational awareness, declaring a Major Incident and incident Command & Control during a significant wildfire response
- Search and Rescue operations and evacuations during wildfires
- Wildfire suppression (including modelling, specialist assets register and military assistance)
- Special contingency arrangements for multiple, widespread and/or prolonged wildfires
- Identification of non-core LRP stakeholders and further specialist reference source

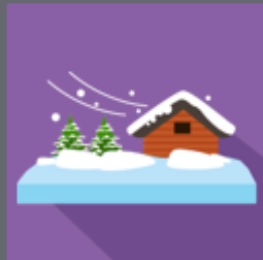
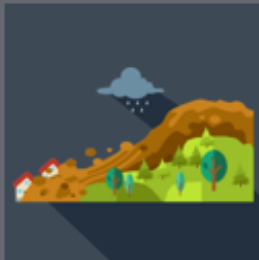




D&G Risk Profile

1. Hot and dry weather significantly increases the prospect of wildfires. Such conditions are increasingly common.
2. Lives of people living and working in rural communities and those visiting unfamiliar and/or remote areas could be at risk. Access to isolated inhabited properties and small remote communities could present a communication and evacuation challenges. Rural and remote communities can be hugely impacted by wildfire, which can cause significant environmental and economic damage.
3. The downwind airborne risk to public health, in terms of respiratory hazard, could be significant.
4. Within D&G the variety of habitats muir (moorland), woodland, forest, farmland, montane shrub and urban/rural interface) present a broad range of wildfire risks (fuel types), including surface fire and forest fire.
5. Livestock, farmland, wildlife, protected woodland, sites of scientific interest and environmentally sensitive areas can all be devastated by wildfire.6. Critical National Infrastructure, such as communications masts, windfarms, national grid, trunk roads and rail lines could all be damaged by wildfire.

Community Resilience Local Plan



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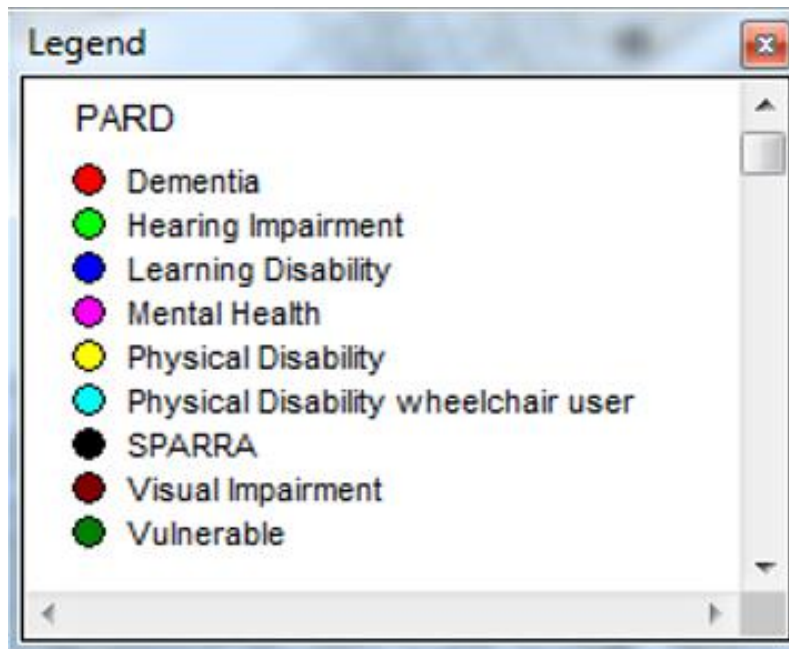
Dumfries
& Galloway



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sharing sensitive information
securely can lead to
individually tailored
responses and evacuation
that save lives



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Wildfire 'danger' alert to residents

Rural Highland communities facing 'extreme' infernos threat



BY LOUISE GLEN

NORTH residents have been placed on high alert over the threat of wildfires.

A warning was put in place by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) for yesterday and today for the north-west Highlands.

SFRS group commander Niall

MacLennan said: "We are asking the public to exercise extreme caution.

"These fires can destroy wildlife and habitat, as well as the lives of people living and working in rural communities."

"It comes after a wildfire broke out at North Connal near Oban on Thursday. It spread on to the A826 Oban to Fort William road.

Last year an inferno in the Connach area, pictured, destroyed more than 10,000 acres of land and could be seen from space.

Flames spread to the Carrisay Nature reserve resulting in a "wildlife catastrophe" as the habitat for species such as the golden eagle, black grouse, buzzards and adders was razed.

Full story Page 6

£100m isles deal 'struck by inflation'

Page 8



Trip back in time inside Grant Lodge

Sat 4th May 2024

“Families flee after **RAGING** fire sweeps Saddleworth moor”
(12 June 2018 Daily Star)



Proactive Public Information

“the right information, to the right people, in the right format, at the right time”

Aim: to gain and maintain multi-agency situational awareness to aid sound decision making

Key: early activation of our information cell in the Council’s Emergency Centre (aka the bunker) in Dumfries and notification to all partners

Best information sources

- Wildfire danger warnings from SFRS
- Heatwave warnings from the Met Office
- Water scarcity warnings from SEPA
- Partners briefings via TEAMS
- Feedback from on and off duty staff
- Feedback from Community Resilience Groups, landowners, NFUS, HES, SNH, Forest & Land Estates, SSDA and utilities

1. Duty to Communicate with the public – CCA Mandatory requirements - Category 1 Responders must:
 - Ensure that in maintaining arrangements to warn and inform you do not alarm the public unnecessarily – Regulation 24.
2. Regular SitReps issued to MPs, MSPs, Elected Members, SG (SGoRR and CCLT), LRP Chief Officers, duty staff, 81 recognised Community Resilience Groups and other stakeholders.
3. Press statements and putting forward a spokesperson
4. Activation of D&G Virtual Operations Support Team (DGVOST)



Facts, Figures & Feedback

D&G population c148,000 and 6,427km²

DGVOST first deployed in response to Storm DESMOND 5 Dec 2015

#Beastfromtheeast (Feb 2018)

- 300,000+ Facebook reach
- >12,000 engagements

#StormIsha (Jan 2024)

- 500,000 interactions in under 24 hours
- 200,000 impressions
- reached 192,000 people
- 500 new followers
- 800 private messages

Very positive reviews since first deployed

Scottish Policing Excellence Awards 2019 – runner up
“Partner of the year”

Scottish Public Service Award 2017 runner up for innovation
in Digital Public Services

OFFICIAL



Dorothy Grant reviewed Dumfries & Galloway Virtual Operations Support Team –

18 January · 🌐

A vital service for anyone in Dumfries and Galloway. Keeping you up-to-date with the latest information that helps keep everyone safe, giving advice etc. An invaluable 'facebook friend!' 💎



Like



Comment



Share



Violet King reviewed Dumfries & Galloway Virtual Operations Support Team –

18 January · 🌐

Best thing about this page is that it's as its happening information. Stopped me from taking a risk driving from thornhill to dumfries on Tuesday. Thanks again for all the hard work and information from all involved

👍 2



Like



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Pete Stewart Kelbie reviewed Dumfries & Galloway Virtual Operations Support Team –

1 March at 22:56 · 🌐

I could not be without this indeed, I hope many other councils will consider offering the communities this important new service. Social media helps to keep us informed. Many Thanks



Like



Comment



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Improved Public Communication – gaining, maintaining and sharing sound situational awareness

- Nation media tend to focus on the central belt and heavily trafficked trunk roads / motorways
- DGVOST is an effective local means of **Warning & Informing** the public during incidents
 - Facebook & Twitter
 - Website with Incident Mapping
- Efficient means of gathering intelligence
- An extension of existing Local activity
- Reassures the public that responders are working together

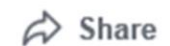
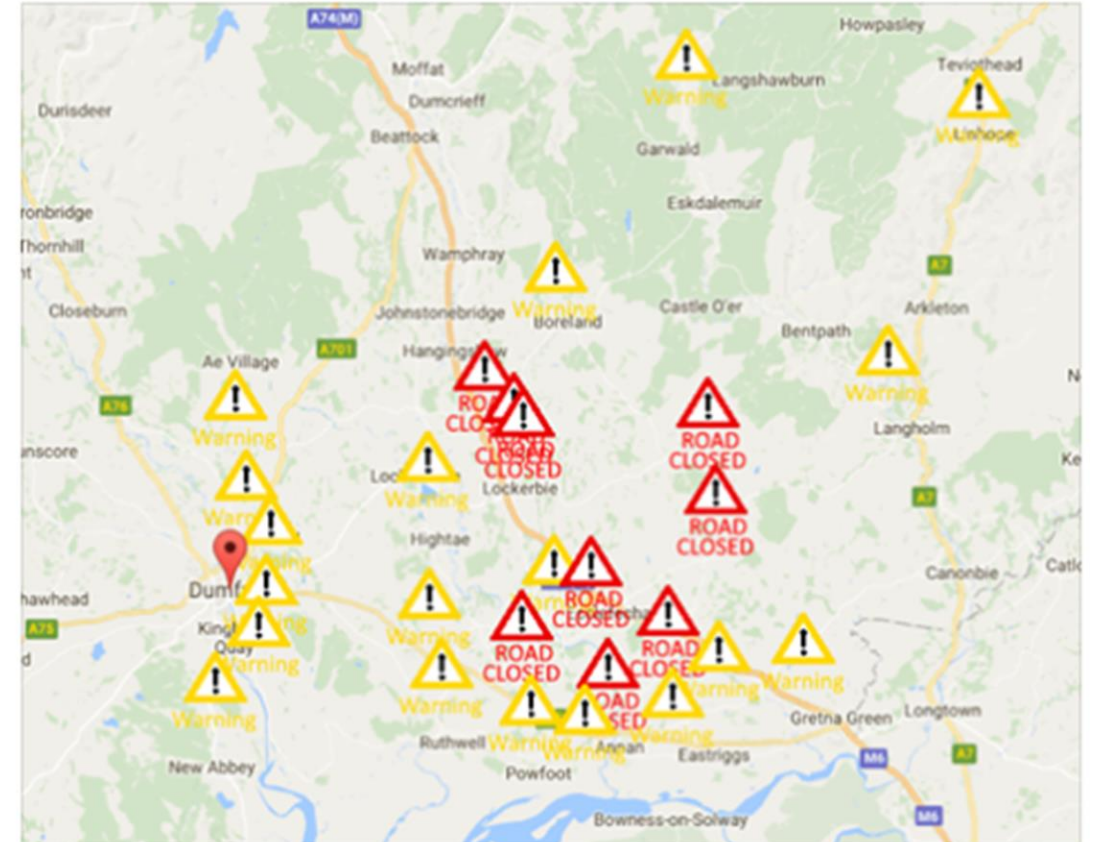


Dumfries & Galloway Virtual Operations Support Team

2 March at 15:34 · 🌐

We have updated our incident map, please click on the link below:

<https://dgvost.uk/live-incidents-map/>



👍👤 64

Chronological ▾

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A 2016 review by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary Scotland found DGVOST to *“be innovative and an effective means of communicating with the public during emergency situations and is an example of effective practice”*

“DGVOST ... addresses some of the most significant challenges responders can face during disruption, specifically; developing situational awareness and effective communication with both the public and the media”

Chief Executive,
Dumfries & Galloway Council

“As any incident commander will acknowledge, situational awareness - knowing what is happening on the ground - is key to coordinating emergency efforts and making informed decisions. The DGVOST, has for the first time allowed incident commanders to crowd source information from the public in the form of photos, videos and live streams to gain a greater understanding of the developing situation”

Chief Superintendent, V Division (D&G)

SEPA launch innovative Satellite Emergency Mapping Service to boost environmental crisis response

Date published: 11 September 2024

Partnership working

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) have taken a bold step forward in crisis management with the launch of an innovative Satellite Emergency Mapping Service (SEMS).

The service, unveiled at the inaugural Space-Comm Expo in Glasgow, promises to revolutionise the way Scotland responds to emergencies such as floods, wildfires, landslides, and oil spills.

SEMS uses state-of-the-art satellite imaging technology to deliver real-time, high-resolution data and insights that will enhance decision-making capabilities and enable faster, more efficient response efforts when disasters strike, offering a significant boost to Scotland's resilience against natural and human-made disasters. SEMS is available to all responders in Scotland and operates 365 days a year with an on-call provision available 24 hours a day.



how interacting with the public, in real time, during a dynamic event, has improved decision making and resource allocation

Soldiers from the 4th Bn Royal Regiment of Scotland arrive on Saddleworth Moor near Manchester where they will help fight the blaze

Photo: Press Association



Military Assistance

- Should the situation demand military assistance to the civil authorities, the following potential tasks have been identified: assisting with real time situational awareness (possibly from helicopter/UAVs/satellite) and generalist logistical support, via troops on the ground to assist with moving of equipment, hoses, and supporting generalist logistical effort such as moving high volume pumps.
- Note that troops will not be used in a direct firefighting capacity. In the event of a significant wildfire, which has the potential to exhaust available civilian resources, the earliest possible discussions should take place between SFRS, Scottish Government and the Joint Regional Liaison Officer for Scotland to ensure a baseline understanding.

Recent developments and future intentions

1. In August 2018, the D&G LRP prepared and adopted their Wildfire Multi Agency Incident Response Guide (MAIRG)
2. In May 2024, the Council's Resilience Team hosted a 2-part LRP webinar with input from Met Office, SEPA, NHS: CPHM, SFRS, Scottish Water, Environmental Health, HR (H&S), Animal Health Officers and public communication staff
3. Recognised need to broaden and deepen the cadre of crisis management trained staff
4. In April/May 2025, D&G LRP will run a tactical level "table-top exercise" to consider and challenge multi-agency arrangements for a complex, layered and deteriorating scenario where the region faces concurrent impacts from
 - Water scarcity
 - Water safety
 - Public health (minimising excess deaths from heatwave - protecting vulnerable groups and responders)
 - Multiple, widespread and prolonged wildfires

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