

Hazard/threat category	Sub-category
Industrial accidents and environmental pollution	Forest or moorland fire
Hazard and threat description, plus scale	Risk reference number
Forest or moorland fire across up to 50 hectares. Evacuation of up to 100 properties. Up to 5 fatalities and 20 casualties	HL33
Date of revision	Next review
November 2007	November 2008
Version	2
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1. Overview of hazard or threat

Large scale forest fire

Forest fire covering several square kilometres involving standing trees, there is potential for smoke logging of large areas also water used fire firefighting could end up polluting water courses with the products of combustion. Possible evacuation of residential and business premises near to the location of the fire.

Difficulty gaining access to all areas and lack of water supplies.
Fire could be burning for long period of time.

Large scale brush heath fires

Brush and heath fires covering several square kilometres involving heathers, bracken and scrub, there is potential for smoklogging of large areas also water used fore fire fighting could end up polluting water courses with the products of combustion. Possible evacuation of residential and business premises near to the location of the fire.

Difficulty gaining access to all areas and lack of water supplies.
Damage to sites of special scientific interest.

2. Key historical evidence

Following long dry periods and during the summer month's forests fires and scrubland fires are very common. These fires do not tend to happen in the same area year on year but usually are several years apart this can be because of the lack of material to burn, better forestry care or the weather.

3. Likelihood

Hazard	Outcome description	Likelihood
Forest or moorland fire	Forest or moorland fire across up to 50 hectares. Evacuation of up to 100 properties. Up to 5 fatalities and 20 casualties	1

4. Impact

Summary

Hazard	Outcome description	Impact			
		Health	Social	Env	Econ
Forest or moorland fire	Forest or moorland fire across up to 50 hectares. Evacuation of up to 100 properties. Up to 5 fatalities and 20 casualties	2	2	3	2

Details

Impacts
Primary
Smoke logging over large area
Potential pollution of water courses
Possible evacuation of premises in surrounding area.
Road closures
Secondary
Access around area
Length of time fire is burning

5. Vulnerability and resilience

Through out the Thames Valley there a lot of areas of forest and scrubland, generally the forestry Commission and landowners look after these and the potential for small fires in these areas to become large fires is low.

6. Mitigation and control measures

During prolonged dry spells restrictions are put on forestry areas, the general public are made aware of the dangers from smoking materials and fires.

7. Overall assessment

Category	Sub-category		
Industrial accidents and environmental pollution	Forest or moorland fire		
Outcome description	Impact	Likelihood	Risk
Forest or moorland fire across up to 50 hectares. Evacuation of up to 100 properties. Up to 5 fatalities and 20 casualties	2	1	2 (Low)

Controls in place

Forestry Commission Plans – site specific
BFRS Major incident plan
RBFRS Major Incident Plan
Oxfordshire County Council Emergency Plan
Milton Keynes Council Major Incident Guide
Environment Agency Incident Management Plans
EA 24/7 Incident Response
EA MOU with Fire Brigades, Police, Local Authorities, Highways Agency, Health Protection Agency & Health Authorities
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust Major Incident Plans
Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
Heatherwood & Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
Berkshire Healthcare Trust Major Incident Plan
Berkshire Primary Care Organisations Major Incident Plan and Operational Response Manuals
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
Buckinghamshire Primary Care Organisations Major Incident Plan
Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust Major Incident Plan
Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust Major Incident Plan
Nuffield Orthopaedic Clinic Major Incident Plan
Oxfordshire Primary Care Organisations Major Incident Plan
Oxford Mental Health Trust Major Incident Plan
South Central Strategic Health Authority Major Incident Plan
Berkshire Integrated Emergency Planning Structure
Berkshire Unitary Authorities Emergency Plans X 6
Buckinghamshire CC Emergency Plan
Aylesbury Vale District Council Emergency Plan
Chiltern District Council Emergency Plan
South Bucks District Council Emergency Plan
Thames Valley Police Emergency Procedures Manual
ACPO Emergency Procedures Manual
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service Major Incident Policy

Additional risk treatment required

None identified