

Session 1a: Challenges of wildfire evacuation in the United Kingdom

In order to provide a context for the following presenters, this presentation will focus on wildfire incidents that occurred in 2018 which required evacuations and resulted in property damage in the UK. The background and context of England's wildfire will be provided using national statistics which highlight the impact on environment, on habitats and the emergency services. Next we explore the first incident that started collaboration between Forestry Commission and University of Greenwich, the Swinley Forest Fire of 2011. This incident generated a considerable amount of research, including a project, which considered the factors required to simulate a large scale evacuation of this large wildfire event. Next, we bring the situation up to date and considered recent significant wildfire incidents. These include Saddleworth Moor, Winter Hill, Little Marlow and Wanstead Flat wildfire incidents of June to July 2018. Each incident will highlight the timeline of the incident, the critical points for decision making and the impacts upon residents and property. Finally, the presentation will provide conclusions from the UK context and highlight the future challenges for wildfire mitigation and adaptation.