

IX Jornadas  
**NOVOS PARADIGMAS DA PROTEÇÃO CIVIL**  
 Conferência técnica e científica  
 International Meeting on Forest Fires in Europe

**Winter Hill Moorland Fire**  
 A U.K. Perspective



Area Manager Jon Charters  
 Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service




**What is a Wildfire in the UK?**

An uncontrolled vegetation fire where a decision or action is needed about suppression. A wildfire will meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Minimum one hectare [10,000 square meters].
- Sustained flame length of more than 1.5 metres.
- Minimum four fire engines.
- Resources to be committed for at least six hours
- Serious threat to life, environment, property and/or infrastructure.



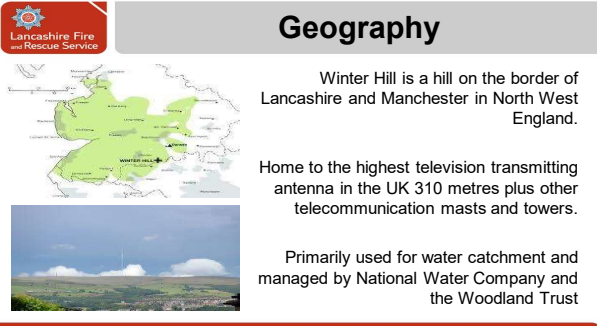
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**Geography**

Winter Hill is a hill on the border of Lancashire and Manchester in North West England.



Home to the highest television transmitting antenna in the UK 310 metres plus other telecommunication masts and towers.

Primarily used for water catchment and managed by National Water Company and the Woodland Trust





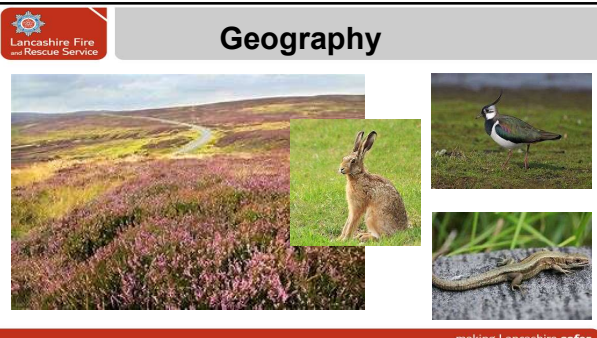




**Winter Hill Wildfire**

- Incident duration – 41 days (28<sup>th</sup> June – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018).
- Significant risk to national infrastructure, properties and the environment.
- 18 square kilometres of moorland.
- Major Incident declared 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- Unprecedented in scale and scope.


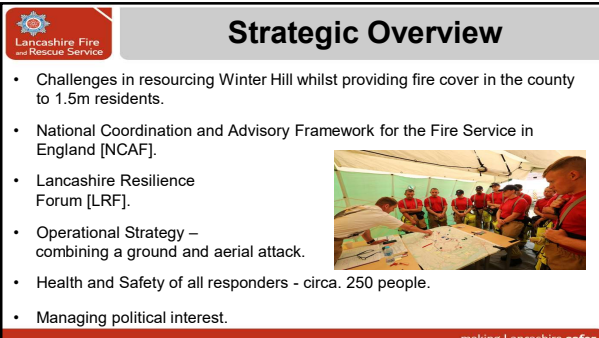



**Geography**

**Strategic Overview**

- Challenges in resourcing Winter Hill whilst providing fire cover in the county to 1.5m residents.
- National Coordination and Advisory Framework for the Fire Service in England [NCAF].
- Lancashire Resilience Forum [LRF].
- Operational Strategy – combining a ground and aerial attack.
- Health and Safety of all responders - circa. 250 people.
- Managing political interest.

## Incident Overview

- 41 Days
- Wildfire Urban Interface Involved
- Fire Suppression Decisions
- Situational Awareness/Tactical Plan Management



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## Air Support Unit (Drone)



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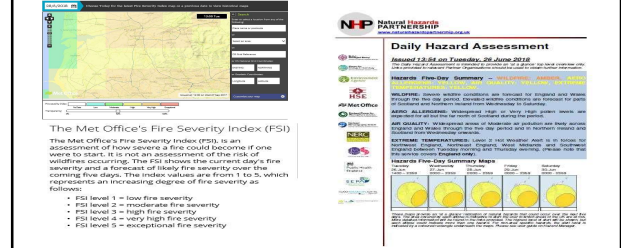
## NFCC Wildfire Tactical Advisors

- Provide tactical advice to Commanders
- Interpret information
  - weather
  - wildfire prediction system
- Predict fire behaviour
- Identify windows of opportunity
- Advise on national assets
- Advise on incident plan, priorities and resources



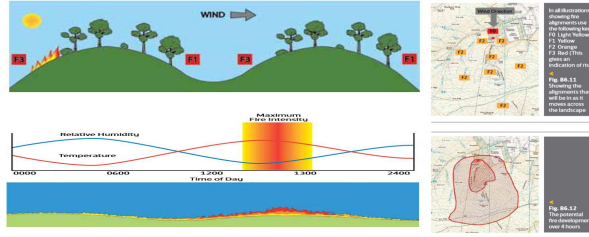
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## MOFSI & NHP (DHA)



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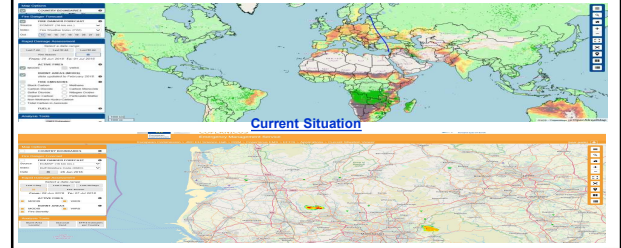
## NFCC Wildfire Tactical Advisors



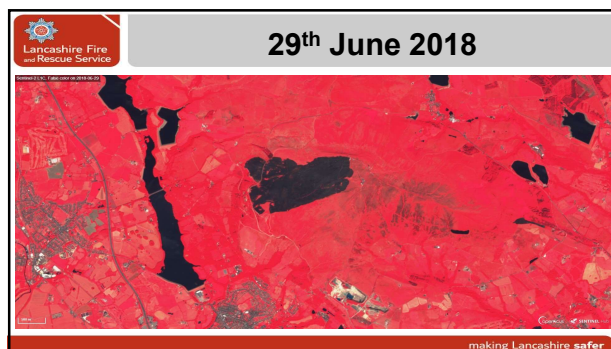
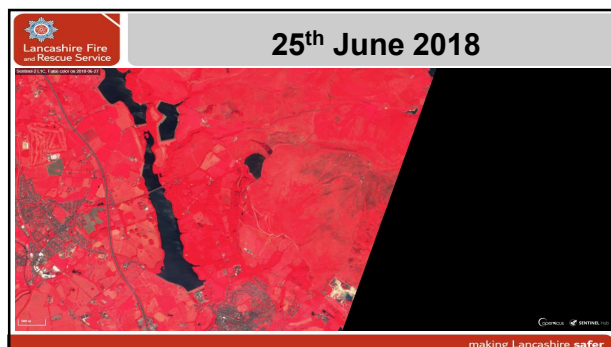
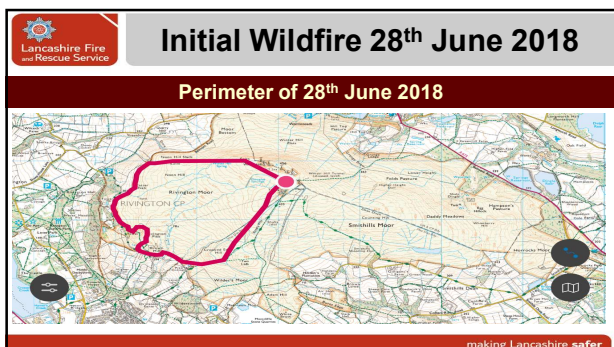
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## Weather Analysis

### Global Wildfire Information System Viewer



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### Major Incident 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018

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### Wider Considerations

- Public access
- FRS Core Business 24/7
- Sustainability FRS/Partners
- Communications Internal/External
- Constant fire/smoke plume management
- Leased vehicles
- 76 specialist vehicles
- 77 drone flights by pilots (FRS)
- Recovery and return to normality.

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### Sentinel Satellite Imagery

**Winter Hill Fire**  
 ESA Sentinel-2 imagery acquired on 04/07/2018. This false colour composite shows the extent of the burn. The fire has spread east, increasing the burned area by over 4x from 28/06/2018 to 04/07/2018 (5 days).

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### Collaboration

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### Major Incident 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018

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### Looking Forward

**Current Challenges**

- Firefighters getting injured (largely unknown across UK)
- Properties damaged
- Weather and ground conditions are changing.

**Response**

- Managing land better with owners
- Embedding the role of Wildfire Tac Advisor
- Established a 'Burn Team' in county
- Establishing anchor points across managed moorland

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