

# Other Outdoors (including land) risk review report

Business Sector Risk Review Reports are created for each and every occupancy category held within the FPA/RISCAuthority Large Loss Fire database where sufficient records exist for meaningful analysis and are updated annually. They are designed to highlight the loss history in each business sector to help inform insurance and risk control choices, and provide brief bespoke best-practice guidance.

This data is best appreciated in association with local information on F&RS response, AFA policy, and firefighting water availability data which is available to RISCAuthority members via the website ([www.RISCAuthority.co.uk](http://www.RISCAuthority.co.uk)). The data presented here spans the two years January 2012 to December 2013; the complete database and analytical tools may be accessed by members via the RISCAuthority website.

## Other Outdoor Locations

*Sub category*



**Other Outdoors (including land)** fires account for **0.2%** of all large loss fires.

Fires involving **Other Outdoor Locations** account for **0.1%** of all large loss fires and **80%** of all **Other Outdoors (including land)** fires.

Causation	Accidental	Deliberate	Unknown
Other Outdoors (including land)	20%	80%	
Other Outdoor Locations		100%	

Time of fire	Midnight - 6am	6am - midday	Midday - 6pm	6pm - midnight
Other Outdoors (including land)	60%	20%		20%
Other Outdoor Locations	75%			25%

Impedances	Access	Acetylene	Inadequate water supply	Resources
Other Outdoors (including land)			100%	
Other Outdoor Locations			100%	

**1 Other Outdoors (including land)** fires of **5** had impedances, **0** of these had more than one impedance.

**1 Other Outdoor Locations** fires of **4** had impedances, **0** of these had more than one impedance.

## Cost of fire

**Other Outdoors (including land)** fires account for **0%** of all large loss financial loss, with a mean average cost of **£370,660** per fire.

**Other Outdoor Locations** fires account for **69%** of all **Other Outdoors (including land)** loss, with a mean average cost of **£318,200** per fire.

Insurance component	Material damage	Business interruption	Contents	Resources	Machine and plant	Stock	Other
Other Outdoors (including land)	12%	46%	2%	4%	10%	26%	
Other Outdoor Locations	13%	42%	3%	6%	0%	36%	

*These statistics are based upon information supplied by loss adjusters to the FPA on a voluntary basis and not all insurers conducting business in the UK contribute to this dataset. They represent only sums paid out where the total loss is in excess of £100K and are deficient of losses under £100K, deductibles, under-insurance, uninsured, self-insured and captively insured components, which may be significant. In a year, total losses captured typically account for 50% of the ABI declared annual fire loss figure - which is similarly deficient of the same components (except the £100K threshold).*

# FPA BUSINESS SECTOR RISK REVIEW REPORT FOR OTHER OUTDOOR LOCATIONS

## Fire safety legislation

Fire risk assessments should be undertaken for outdoor locations which form a workplace or part of a workplace in compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Regulations 2005 (or equivalent legislation in Scotland and Northern Ireland). It should be noted, however, that a vehicle, trailer or semi-trailer for which a licence is in force is exempt from this requirement. Also exempt are fields, woods and agricultural land situated away from the undertaking's main buildings. In some instances an assessment may also need to be undertaken in accordance with the Dangerous Substances (Explosive Atmospheres) Regulations 2002.

## Fire hazards

There are numerous fire hazards associated with outdoor locations; these include:

- Deliberate fire setting.
- Sparks produced as a result of welding and cutting of metal using oxyacetylene, oxygen/propane or electric arc welding and also from grinding discs and other hot work processes.
- Heating from friction as a result of the use of machinery or of hand tools for processes such as drilling and boring.
- Grassland and wildfires caused by barbecues, camp fires, discarded smoking materials or by deliberate ignition.
- Fires started by bonfires, fireworks and Chinese lanterns.
- Self heating of haystacks.
- Electrical fire hazards from poorly maintained generators, equipment and installations.
- Storage of fuel for engines and generators.
- Agricultural crops, hay, straw and animal feed.
- Accumulation of combustible and flammable waste materials.

## Risk control recommendations

The following risk mitigation measures should be considered to eliminate or reduce the risk of outdoor fires:

- Give careful consideration to the likelihood of deliberate fire raising at the time of the fire risk assessment, particularly in areas to which the public may have access.
- Review the fire risk assessment periodically and whenever there are significant changes to the processes that are being undertaken.
- Where a DSEAR assessment is undertaken, identify appropriate hazard zones and train staff in the implications of these in the context of the materials being handled and the operations being carried out.
- Plan a strategy for the evacuation of animals where appropriate.
- Observe the guidance set out in the *Joint code of practice for fire safety on construction sites* where construction, refurbishment or demolition work is involved.

- Avoid hot work wherever possible. Where there is no practicable alternative to the use of acetylene, minimise the time that acetylene cylinders are held on site.
- Wherever practicable carry out hot work processes in a designated area; control work that has to be undertaken outside of this by a hot work permit system.
- Engage competent engineers to maintain equipment in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions so as to eliminate potential sources of ignition. Keep suitable records of maintenance and servicing.
- Earth all electrical circuits in accordance with the requirements of BS 7671; extraneous conducting materials should also be bonded and earthed. The bonding and earthing should be subject to a programme of inspection and testing as determined by a risk assessment. The results should be recorded.
- Ensure that electrical installations are designed, installed and periodically tested by a competent electrician in accordance with the current edition of BS 7671 (the IET Wiring Regulations). Inspections should be carried out on a risk assessed basis as recommended in the Periodic Inspection Report.
- Provide power tools and other items of portable electrical equipment that are suitable for use outside and arrange for them to be inspected and tested at least in accordance with HS(G) 107 and/or the IET *Code of practice for in-service inspection and testing of electrical equipment*. A risk assessment should be used to determine the actual programme of inspection and testing.
- Replace highly flammable and flammable paints and solvents with non-flammable alternatives wherever possible. Where this is not practicable replace low flashpoint products with those with a higher flashpoint.
- Store cans and drums of flammable solvents and fuels in accordance with RISCAuthority Recommendations RC 20-2.
- Store all gas cylinders in suitably signed facilities designed for this purpose in accordance with RISCAuthority Recommendations RC8.
- Minimise the spread of fire by storing hazardous materials and combustible waste at least 10m from each other and from crops, outdoor plant, equipment and vehicles wherever possible.
- Cut down undergrowth regularly; do not treat it with proprietary chlorate based weedkillers.
- Establish a means of giving warning of fire in accordance with the findings of the fire risk assessment. On outdoor sites whistles, klaxons or manually operated sounders may be suitable provided they are clearly audible above background noises in all parts of the workplace and are readily identified as being a fire alarm. Where only a few people may be at work, shouting 'fire' repeatedly may be all that is required.
- Display prominent signs for visitors at car parks and picnic areas regarding the vulnerability of the countryside to fires and how to call the fire and rescue

service in an emergency. Provide beaters to assist with first aid fire fighting.

- Monitor the condition of haystacks and the storage of grain and similar crops as set out in RISCAuthority Recommendations RC10.
- Only burn stubble in accordance with national legislation (in England and Wales the burning of stubble, with a few specific exceptions, is prohibited – see RC10).
- Ensure that access to the site and to water supplies are readily available to the fire and rescue service; liaise with the local fire and rescue service where appropriate.
- Have an effective emergency plan in place to ensure the resilience of the business. One way of approaching this is to complete the ROBUST business continuity and incident management planning software available free from <https://robust.riscauthority.co.uk/>

## Further information

1. Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, SI 2005 No 1541, TSO.
2. The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, asp 5, TSO.
3. Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006, Scottish SI 2006 No 456, TSO.
4. Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, SI 2006 No 1254 (NI9), TSO.
5. Fire Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010, SI 2010 No 325 (NI), TSO.
6. Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR), 2002, SI 2002 No 2776, TSO.
7. *RC7 Recommendations for hot work*, 2012, FPA.
8. *RC8 Recommendations for the storage, use and handling of common industrial gases in cylinders including LPG*, 2012, FPA.
9. *RC10 Fire safety in agricultural and horticultural premises*, 2011, FPA.
10. *RC20 Recommendations for fire safety in the storage and use of highly flammable and flammable liquids: Part 1: General principles*, 2006, FPA.
11. *RC20 Recommendations for fire safety in the storage and use of highly flammable and flammable liquids: Part 2: Storage in drums, cans and containers other than external fixed tanks*, 2007, FPA.
12. *RC49 Recommendations for reducing business interruption, Part 1: Acetylene cylinders involved in fires*, 2007, FPA.
13. *Business resilience: A guide to protecting your business and its people*, 2005, FPA.
14. ROBUST software (Resilient Business Software Toolkit): <https://robust.riscauthority.co.uk>
15. *Joint code of practice for fire safety on construction sites. Eighth edition*, 2012, FPA.
16. *Fire safety risk assessment: Animal premises and stables*, 2006, DCLG.

## Case histories

1. Fire crews extinguished a wildfire which had stretched over 10 hectares, threatening local properties. More than 30 firefighters attended the scene; no injuries were reported. At one point, the fire was said to have had three fronts – each a mile long. Fire crews were called to the blaze at 17:10 on Friday and found it rapidly spreading over an area of grass and heathland due to the dry conditions. A spokesman for the fire and rescue service said firefighters had been assisted by the local community to prevent the fires spreading to three nearby properties. The number of wildfires being tackled over the last 10 days was said to have placed severe strain on the fire service, especially as the area relied heavily on part-time retained crews.
2. A fire at a camping and caravanning centre is thought to have been started by a Chinese lantern. About 50 caravans and mobile homes were damaged in the blaze in the early hours of Sunday. A fire service spokesman said that Chinese lanterns had been seen in the area. Nobody was injured in the fire and the fire service said crews were able to stop it spreading to a 2,000 litre propane gas storage vessel nearby. At its height more than 10 fire crews were at the site from two fire and rescue services.
3. A fire in a field bordering on a village is thought to have been started accidentally by farm machinery, the fire service has said. About 40 firefighters tackled the blaze, which took hold in a 10-acre field containing barley at about 11:30. The fire was monitored by a police helicopter and people living nearby were warned to stay indoors. A fire service spokesman said it was put out by about 15:45.