

Resource Sheet

WILDFIRE RISK & PROFESSIONAL FIREWORK DISPLAYS

INFORMATION FOR EVENT ORGANISERS, VENUES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

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British Pyrotechnists Association

WILDFIRE RISK & PROFESSIONAL FIREWORK DISPLAYS

Information for event organisers, venues, local authorities and Fire & Rescue Services

KEY MESSAGE Dry weather or an elevated wildfire risk does not, by itself, mean that every professionally managed firework display is unsafe. The appropriate response is a site-specific risk assessment, taking account of the actual conditions and the controls that can be put in place.

A risk-based approach

Professional display operators assess the risks for each individual site and event. Conditions can vary considerably between locations, and decisions should reflect the circumstances at the time of the display rather than relying on a blanket approach.

Where wildfire risk is elevated, the operator should review the display risk assessment and consider whether additional precautions are required. The assessment may include weather and ground conditions, surrounding vegetation, firing positions, fallout areas, access for emergency response and the nature of the fireworks and effects being used.

Additional controls that may be considered

Site preparation Cutting, clearing, removing or dampening dry vegetation where appropriate.	Display design Adjusting firing positions, safety distances, product selection or the scale/design of the display.
Firefighting provision Providing suitable firefighting equipment and ensuring competent personnel know how to use it.	Liaison Consulting the organiser, venue/landowner and, where appropriate, the local Fire & Rescue Service.
Monitoring Reviewing weather, wind and ground conditions before and during the event and adapting plans if conditions change.	After the display Inspecting the firing and fallout areas thoroughly and dealing promptly with any smouldering material or other potential source of ignition.

Before cancelling a professional display

Where concerns arise, organisers, venues and authorities are encouraged to speak directly with the professional display company before reaching a decision. The operator can explain the site-specific risk assessment, the conditions on the site and any additional control measures proposed.

The final decision must always be based on safety. If the risks cannot be reduced to an acceptable level, the display should be postponed, relocated, redesigned or cancelled.

Working together

Early communication between the display operator, event organiser, venue, landowner and relevant authorities can help ensure that concerns are properly understood and that proportionate control measures are considered.

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This sheet provides general industry information. It does not replace a site-specific risk assessment, professional judgement, or any requirements or directions imposed by the relevant authorities.