




You can help reduce the chances of wildfire by following these few simple rules:

 **Be careful when discarding cigarettes - use a butt pouch where possible.**

 **Observe any access restrictions that may occur - these are imposed on a temporary basis to protect areas in very dry periods - check with your local authority for details.**

 **If you see smoke or fire on the moors outside of 1st October to 15th April, report it by dialling 999. Between these dates, many moorland areas are legally burnt to encourage new growth - these fires are managed and needn't be reported. Fires in the summer months, however, should be reported.**

The South Pennines Fire Operations Group

Under the umbrella of Pennine Prospects, the local authorities, Fire and Rescue Services and landowners across the South Pennines have formed a South Pennine Fire Operations Group. This group coordinates activity across the Pennines to train and equip landowners and Fire services to effectively deal with moorland fires. It includes Greater Manchester, Lancashire and West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services, Natural England, Yorkshire Water and United Utilities plus the South Pennine local authorities and private estates and landowners. Working together to protect your South Pennines.

For more details telephone Pennine Prospects 01274 433536

Wildfire is an increasing threat to the South Pennine Moors. As summers get drier and warmer, the need to protect these fragile uplands from fire is greater than ever.

The South Pennine Moors

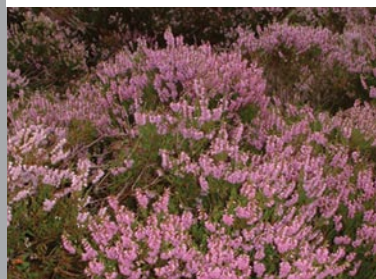
Wildfire

Watch

www.pennineprospects.co.uk

Wildfire Watch

Designed by City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council Department of Regeneration Graphics Unit



South Pennine Moors

Why are these Moors important?

The South Pennine Moors, like all of Britain's upland, are very important for a number of reasons:

Nature

The moors are home to a wide variety of wildlife – they are internationally important for:

- moorland birds (such as golden plover, curlew, lapwing, twite, red grouse, ring ouzel, merlin, peregrine falcon).
- blanket bogs.
- heather, crowberry, bilberry and moorland grasses.
- Britain contains 75% of the world's remaining heather moors - so it is vital to protect them from fire.

Leisure

The moors are the venue for a wide variety of leisure activity – all of which is threatened when areas are burnt. Much of the South Pennines Moors are accessible on foot, many on horse back and some for cycling. They are located within easy reach of about 6 million people.

Agriculture, sport and the rural economy

The moors are extensively used to graze sheep and for sporting purposes (such as grouse shooting). The moors look the way they do because they are managed for these activities. Grouse

shooting and sheep farming contributes to the local economy by providing employment for a significant number of people. Wildfire can have a devastating effect on people's jobs and livelihoods.

Flood management

Increasingly, the uplands are playing their part in reducing flooding in the valleys below, where most of us live. Moors can reduce runoff, acting as sponges to soak up water. Grip or ditch blocking slows down runoff and creates wetter areas on the moors. When fire destroys large areas of the moors, the water runs off quickly causing flash floods and taking vital soils and peat with it, leaving bare slopes.

Pollution control

This contaminated runoff increases the amount of pollution suspended in the water that flows off the moors and ends up in our rivers and reservoirs. Airbourne

pollution is also released by large moorland fires and the smoke can have serious effects on people's health over a wide area. The smoke from large wildfires can be seen, from outer-space.

Carbon sink

Moorland areas are even better than woodlands at storing carbon dioxide (CO₂), the gas that contributes to the world's climate change. It is estimated that Britain's peat bogs store the equivalent of 10 times the country's total CO₂ emissions. When these peat bogs are damaged by pollution, overgrazing or fire, they start leaking CO₂ instead of storing it*.

*Information from 'Moors for the Future'.

