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## Overview

This standard describes your role in the controlled burning of heather. It relates to the work activities that you undertake in respect to preparing for and completing heather burning activities. This standard is aimed at those who work in game conservation on either a full- or part-time basis, and can be applied to any estate where heather is managed using fire.

To meet this standard you will be able to:

1. prepare an area of heather ready for controlled burning
2. burn heather under controlled conditions
3. support others with the controlled burning of heather
4. react appropriately, within organisational procedures, to a fire escape incident

This standard relates to the following context or applications:

Prepare the following tools and equipment for use:

fire beaters and scrapers  
heather burners/drip torches  
spades  
knapsack sprayer  
pumps

Obtain and check personal protective equipment:

fire resistant clothing  
helmet/faceshield/mask/goggles  
leather gloves  
fire-resistant boots

Control the burn using the following tools and equipment:

fire beats/scrapers  
water pump

Ignite heather when:

heather is damp  
heather is dry

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## Assist with heather burning activities

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

#### **Prepare for heather burning**

- P1 carry out work safely in line with health and safety requirements
- P2 identify area of heather to be burnt
- P3 identify hazards associated with planned burn
- P4 prepare fire breaks to contain planned burn taking account of weather and terrain
- P5 prepare **tools and equipment** into a safe working condition, ready for use
- P6 obtain and check condition of **personal protective equipment**
- P7 load and secure equipment safely
- P8 identify own role from briefings
- P9 inform others of the planned burning

*You must be able to:*

#### **Support heather burning**

- P10 carry out work safely in line with health and safety requirements
- P11 ignite heather in a controlled fashion
- P12 control the burn according to planned burning requirements using appropriate tools and equipment
- P13 take immediate action to correct any variation from planned burning requirements
- P14 monitor and report any variation in prevailing weather conditions or fire behaviour
- P15 maintain required communications with others throughout the burning process
- P16 extinguish fires when required burn has been achieved
- P17 take appropriate action in the event of an emergency
- P18 report accurately on conclusion of burning activities

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

#### **Prepare for heather burning**

- K1 the legal restrictions controlling heather burning
- K2 the hazards associated with heather burning including hazards to self, others, the environment and wildlife
- K3 the personal protective equipment required for use by those involved in heather burning
- K4 the elements (heat, fuel, oxygen) that are required for fire to exist
- K5 how weather, fuel and topography affect the spread, intensity and severity of fires
- K6 how the tools and equipment extinguish fire and how the tools are used to control heather and peat fires
- K7 the potential impact of heather burning activities on other aspects of the environment
- K8 why heather is burnt as part of wildlife management
- K9 the purpose, value and size of firebreaks
- K10 the health and safety requirements associated with heather burning
- K11 why nylons, elastic or other synthetic clothing materials must not be worn
- K12 the organisation's fire plans, maps and other procedures used to be able to respond effectively should a fire escape
- K13 own role within organisation's emergency fire plan procedures

*You must be able to:*

#### **Support heather burning**

- K14 the hazards associated with heather burning
- K15 the elements (fuel, heat, oxygen) that are required for fire to exist
- K16 how changes in weather can affect planned burn, the spread, intensity and nature of fires
- K17 how topography and different fuels can affect the spread, intensity and nature of fires
- K18 the impact that heather burning can have on the environment
- K19 the tools and equipment used to control and extinguish heather fires
- K20 the potential impact of heather burning activities on game and other wildlife
- K21 organisational procedures to follow in the event of an emergency
- K22 why it is important to accurately assess emergencies
- K23 why key information should be collected and communicated
- K24 why it is important to follow instructions through chain of command
- K25 the importance of maintaining good communications with team members during emergencies
- K26 the health and safety requirements associated with heather burning

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### Glossary

For you to fully understand the content of the standard, and the activities it describes, it is important that you are able to understand the terms used within the standard.

The definitions below should help you with this.

#### **Prescribed burning**

The planned application of fire under pre-determined environmental conditions within boundaries, to achieve resource management objectives

#### **Topography**

Shape of the land, especially slope and aspect

#### **Fire weather**

Predicted climatic conditions covering period of burn, especially wind, air temperature and relative humidity

#### **Fuels**

The type, quantity, arrangement, distribution and moisture content of the vegetation. Can be ground (peat), surface (heather and litter layer) or aerial (trees)

#### **Fire type**

Ground fire, surface fire or crown fires, most commonly surface fire

#### **Fire intensity**

The pulse or rate of energy release that travels upwards from the fire

#### **Burn severity**

The heat pulse and consequent impact on vegetation and soils that travels down below the litter layer of a fire

#### **Fire escape**

A burn that exceeds the fire prescription, often a runaway fire or wildfire

#### **Wildfire**

A fire that is not being controlled

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