

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2026/00911

Date of request: 3rd August

Request:

Please list the resources that your fire service owns for fighting wildfires? (For example, equipment/ vehicles like unimogs, water backpacks, backpack blowers)

Do you own any firefighting aircraft or aerial resources? (For example, helicopter/ plane/ drones)

How much did your fire service spend on fighting wildfires in 2015? (For example, on training / resources including equipment and vehicles)

How much did your fire service spend on fighting wildfires last calendar year (2025)? And so far this calendar year January - July? (For example, on training / resources including equipment and vehicles)

Response:

Please list the resources that your fire service owns for fighting wildfires? (For example, equipment/ vehicles like unimogs, water backpacks, backpack blowers)

London Fire Brigade (LFB) has the following resources available for wildfire response:

- Terrain Support Vehicles
- Off-road 4x4 vehicles
- Water backpacks
- Backpack blowers
- Fire extinguishers
- Fire appliances
- Monitors
- Holey hose
- Wildfire-specific personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Specialist equipment, including weather stations used by Wildfire Tactical Advisors

LFB also hosts a Unimog and a people carrier as part of the National Resilience fleet under the National Coordination and Advisory Framework (NCAF) arrangements. In addition, LFB has personnel trained in tactical burning techniques to support wildfire operations.

Do you own any firefighting aircraft or aerial resources? (For example, helicopter/ plane/ drones)

LFB does not own or host any firefighting aircraft. However, the Brigade operates a small fleet of drones, which are primarily used for information gathering and situational awareness during incidents.

How much did your fire service spend on fighting wildfires in 2015? (For example, on training / resources including equipment and vehicles)

In 2015, London Fire Brigade did not separately record expenditure relating to wildfire capability. Costs associated with training, operational response, equipment, vehicles, and resource management were accounted for within broader organisational budgets and were not identified as wildfire-specific expenditure.

Consequently, LFB does not hold information on the amount spent fighting wildfires in 2015 at the level of detail requested and is unable to provide a retrospective breakdown. Although wildfire-related expenditure can be identified and reported for more recent years, equivalent expenditure was not recorded separately in 2015.

How much did your fire service spend on fighting wildfires last calendar year (2025)? And so far this calendar year January - July? (For example, on training / resources including equipment and vehicles)

The following capital expenditure related to wildfire capability was incurred in 2025:

- Purchase of four Terrain Support Vehicles: £279,880
- Conversion costs (LFB livery for four vehicles): £3,929
- First aid kits for four vehicles: £46
- Project costs: £597

Total capital cost for Terrain Support Vehicles: £284,451

In addition, the following costs were incurred:

- Extreme Weather Vehicle Hire (four vehicles for 26 weeks, 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025): £87,360.00
- Initial National Wildfire Tactical Advisor Course (July 2024, paid in 2025/26): £5,608.62
- Bulk Water Carrier Upgrade Modification: £418.92

Total additional costs: £93,387.54

To support the above capability, a further £40,367.52 was attributable from a Learning and Professional Development (L&PD) perspective. This figure relates to the delivery of driver training for the Terrain Support Vehicles, including the all-wheel-drive (AWD) appliance based at Biggin Hill.

We are aware that the exceptional weather conditions experienced during summer 2026 gave rise to significant additional expenditure, particularly in relation to operational overtime. However, the relevant financial information is currently being collated and validated, and a complete and verified cost figure is

not yet available. Accordingly, we are unable to provide this information at the present time. It is anticipated that the finalised position will be reported through the Quarter 2 financial monitoring process later in the year.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request on our website:

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/about-us/transparency/request-information-from-us/>