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Major Heath Blaze Near Wimborne Sparks Large Firefighter Response

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A significant heath fire broke out near Wimborne in Dorset, prompting the evacuation of residents as around 100 firefighters worked to contain the rapidly spreading flames. The incident took place on Saturday afternoon, with the fire quickly escalating due to dry conditions and strong winds.

Emergency services were alerted shortly after the blaze was reported. Fire crews from Dorset and neighbouring counties responded swiftly, deploying numerous appliances and specialised equipment to tackle the fire. The Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service confirmed that approximately 100 firefighters were involved at the peak of the operation.

The fire affected a large area of heathland near Wimborne, a market town located in East Dorset. Due to the fire's intensity and the risk posed to nearby homes and infrastructure, local authorities issued evacuation orders for residents in the immediate vicinity. Temporary shelters were established to accommodate those displaced.

Fire service officers said the dry weather and wind conditions contributed significantly to the fire's rapid spread, making containment challenging. Crews worked through the night using water tenders and firebreaks to halt the flames and prevent further damage to the natural environment.

Dorset Police supported the operation by managing road closures and ensuring public safety in the affected zones. They urged residents to follow evacuation instructions promptly and avoid the area to allow emergency responders to work effectively.

Local council officials commended the emergency services for their swift response and reassured the community that efforts were ongoing to bring the fire under control. They also emphasised the importance of public cooperation during such incidents.

No injuries have been reported so far, although several properties were at risk during the blaze. Authorities continue to assess the extent of the damage to both private property and the surrounding heathland, which is a designated natural habitat.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Fire investigators are examining the site to determine whether it was started accidentally or deliberately.

Heath fires, which occur in areas of open, uncultivated land covered in shrubs and grasses, can pose serious risks to communities and wildlife. They are more likely during periods of dry weather, especially in late spring and summer months.

Residents in Dorset and neighbouring areas have been reminded to stay vigilant and report any signs of fire immediately to the emergency services.

The Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service thanked the public for their patience and cooperation during the operation and encouraged continued caution while the fire is being fully extinguished.