


South Wales  
Fire and Rescue Service




Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub  
De Cymru

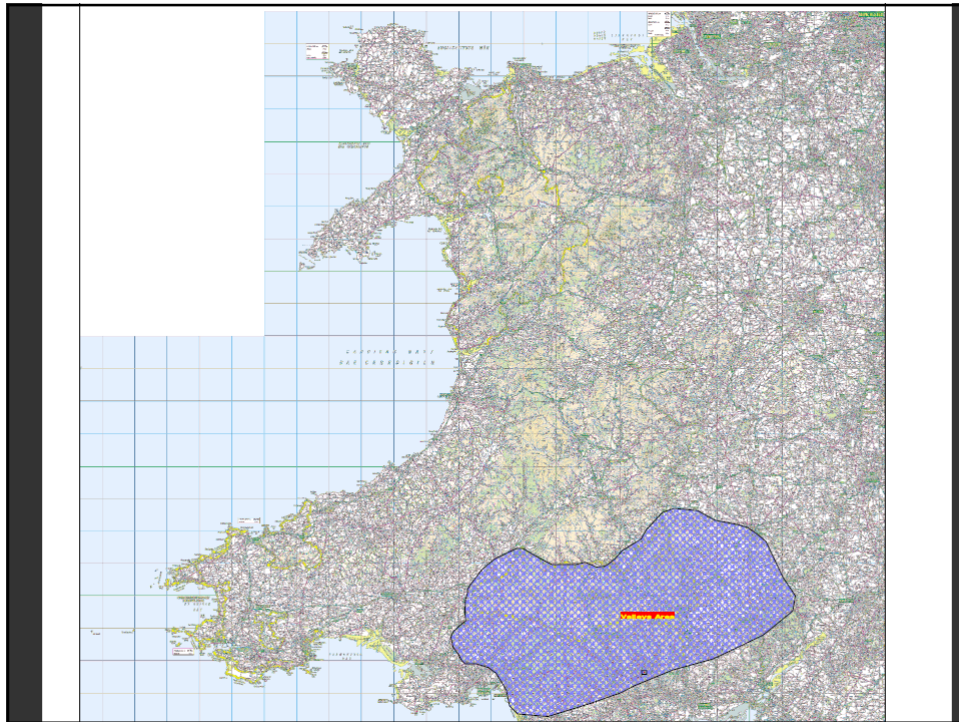
*Wildfire, an holistic approach*  
By: Graeme Smith,  
South Wales Fire & Rescue  
Service

RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL

## The South Wales Valleys

- 

RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL



## History of South Wales Valleys

- The Valleys is a term applied to a number of industrialised valleys in South Wales.
- Originally lightly inhabited
- Iron and Coal industries changed that !
- 30 years ago different landscape
- Land used by Coal Board and Steel Industry
- Prior to that lightly populated and extensively grazed.



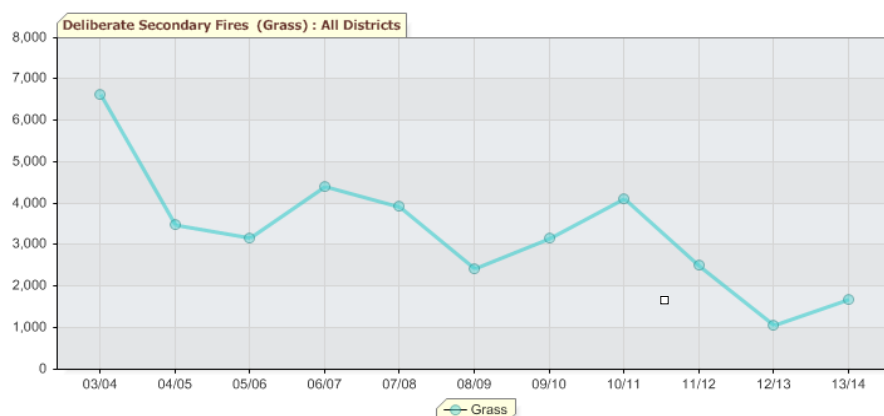
## Current Position

- Coal and Steel Industries departure resulted in a lot of land left to naturally develop
- Farming/ Grazing – Problematic land management
- Urban /Rural Interface
- Unique ignition circumstances and cultural relationship with wilderness.



RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL

## Scale of problem



RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL

## Traditional / Labour and Resource Intensive



RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL

## Response /Operations

- Specialist Equipment Argo Cat/ Fogging units
- Specialist Training / Level 2 and 3
- Specialist Command and Control
- Collaboration /Partnership.

RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL



## Developments



RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL



## Response Future

- Investigation – Cat 2
- Offensive Burning
- Why?

RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL



RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL



## Risk Reduction

- Reducing Deliberate Fire Setting is a key organisational objective
- In pursuance of that objective stations produce local risk management plans and work collaboratively.



# Risk Reduction

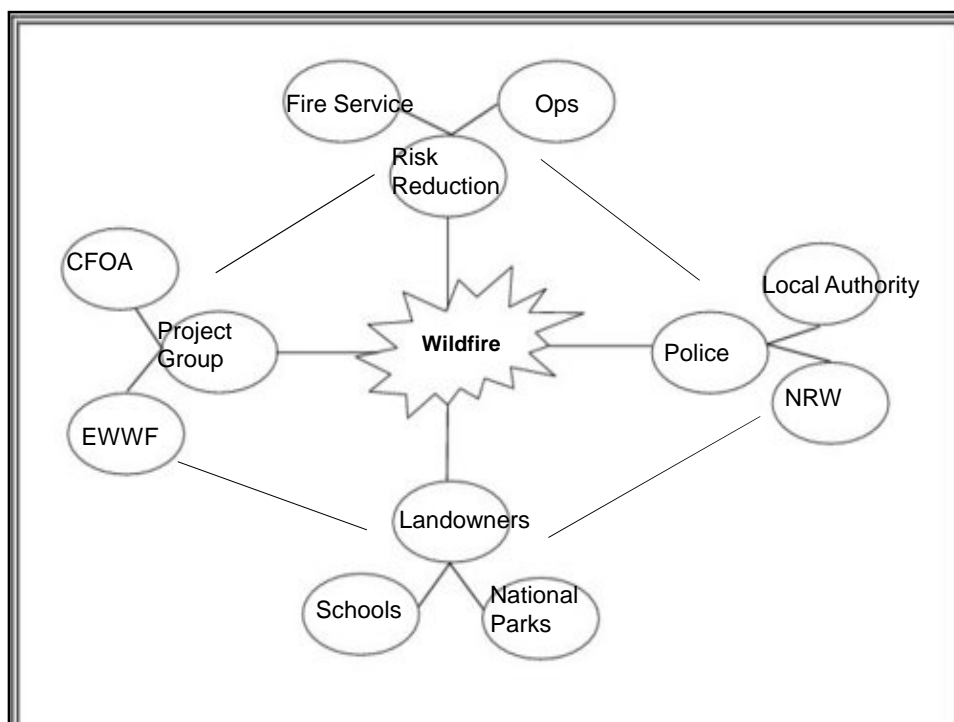
- Traditional safety messages in South Wales are inappropriate/counter productive as vast majority of Wildfire Incidents are started deliberately. A cultural issue in valleys communities.
- Media strategy is a challenge.
- Shared Agendas
- Narrowing the disjoint!

RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL

## Key Players

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| • Forestry                 | • Fire Service       |
| • National Parks           | • South Wales Police |
| • National Resources Wales | • Local Authorities  |
| • Experts                  | • Landowners         |
| • Met Office               | • CFA                |
| • General Public           | • EWWF               |
| • CSPs                     | • Media.             |

RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL



## Risk Reduction



RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL

## **Bernie**

- 1. Diversionary activities for young people during the Easter holidays
- 2. High visibility patrols in the area
- 3. High visibility media messages (raising local community awareness)
- 4. Support of local community
- 5. Zero Tolerance !

RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL

## **Bernie Success Story**

- Reduced Fire Statistics
- Overall ASB/crime reductions
- Multi agency involvement
- Agreed funding for wider roll out.

RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL



RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL



RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL



## Improvement Objectives

- Wildfire Level 3 Officers to become SMA
- SMA to investigate all category 2 incidents
- Offensive Burning Trial
- Extend Bernie
- Report all deliberate arson as a crime
- Develop partnerships and determine shared agendas.

RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL

## Threat to success

Out of sight, out of mind!

RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL

## Credibility!

- [VID-20130608-00070.3GP](#)

RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL



RAISING AWARENESS - REDUCING RISK | CODI YMWYBYDDIAETH - LLEIHAU PERYGL