

Working together to make Warwickshire safer

*The impact of climate
change to ..*

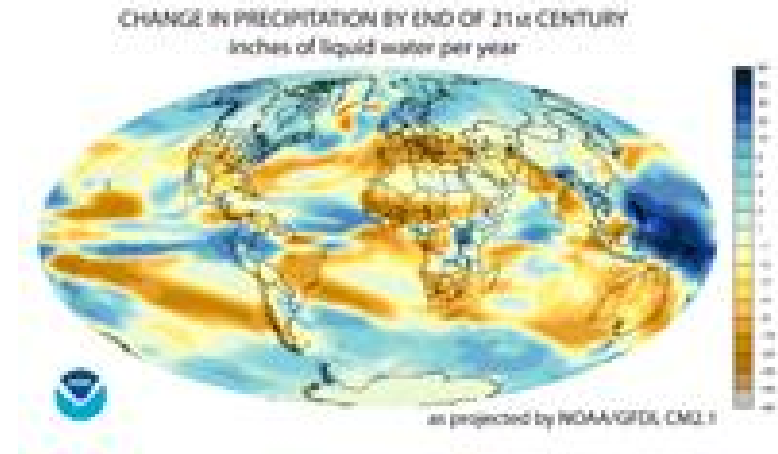


Overview

- UK climate has changed over the last century
- Central England temperatures have risen by 1°C
- 1990's warmest since records began
- Wetter winters – sea level is rising by 1mm per year
- Evidence suggests an increase in hotter drier summers
- Increased winter rainfall and higher sea levels may lead to flooding being more common
- Climate change is inevitable the magnitude has a level of uncertainty.

Effects

- Primary and Secondary fires
- Woodland fires
- Floods
- Drought
- Windspeed and Storms.



Primary and Secondary fires

- Using historical data there is a clear and demonstrable link between hot dry summers and the number of fires
- Primary fires remain fairly static
- Increase in number of secondary fires
- Height of the summer in 1995 WFRS recorded 400 call-outs per day compared to the norm of 50-75 per day
- West Midlands recorded almost 2000 calls mainly to grass fires in one day alone during the same period!
- Nationally between 1994 and 2001 (excluding 1995) 70 serious grassland fires per year – 1995 there were 267

Primary and Secondary fires

- 50% of grassland fires dealt with by 1 or 2 appliances and 50% of these were back on station within 2 hours
- Low fatality and casualty rates from grassland fires
- Fire safety programme
- Small fires units
- Partnership working

Woodland fires

- Current threat in the UK not large
- Hotter drier summers may make this a significant problem
- Evidence suggests that this is worthy of further investigation
- Estimated cost of woodland fires in 1995 for the UK approximately £2,000,000
- Pre-planning – water supplies, access roads, natural fire breaks etc.....

Floods

4 main types of flooding

- Coastal or Tidal
- River
- Surface water
- Dam collapse/failure



Floods

Role of Fire and Rescue Services

- Emergency response and rescue
- Damage limitation
- Making safe



Drought

- UK Water Industry Research Ltd
- Difficult to quantify problems with supply
- Concerns
 - Training ► non-drinking water
 - Lower mains pressures
 - Water relay more frequent
 - Change in tactics, training, procedures and equipment

Possible considerations

- Increased use of foam wetting agents/additives
- Increased use of HVPs/Water Browsers
- More efficient techniques/equipment for application of water
- New techniques for using water from shallower natural water sources

Storms Windspeed and

Predictions

- Winter windspeed to increase by 2% and 6%
- Summer windspeed will decrease by 2% and 10%

Role of Fire and Rescue Service

- Rescue
- Making area safe

Considerations

- Response times
- Increased use of USAR

Conclusions

- Climate change will happen throughout 21st Century affecting all aspects of the environment, society and economy
- Element of uncertainty – depends upon level of emissions
- Increased activity for Fire and Rescue
- Fire and Rescue will continue to be a dynamic service
- Unlikely to provide any new challenges, will potentially become more severe and more frequent
- Warmer and wetter winters will lead to increased incidences of flooding, and storms
- Hotter drier summers will lead to increased numbers of secondary fires
- Continue to monitor research – produce or adapt existing plans

Adaptation possibilities

Resources

- Create a more effective use of personnel – changes to shift patterns, changeover times and sickness management
- Changes to the response model
- Increased use of USAR – subsidence, windspeed and storms

False Alarm calls

- Reduce the number of false alarm calls that we attend

Fire Prevention programme

- Smoke Detector ownership
- Preventative measures for woodlands

Adaptation possibilities

Flood response

- Partnership working with Environment Agency, and Planning Authorities
- High Volume Pumps – mutual assistance
- Enhance our boat/water rescue provision

Droughts

- The Water Industry are funding a national research project looking at all aspects of water provision
- More intelligence
- Additional equipment for pumping in shallower water

Adaptation possibilities

Road Traffic Collision Unit

- Increase and enhance our response to incidents

Small Fires Unit

- Provide a response option scalable to the type of incident

Heat Stress

- Incident management
- Asset management

Any Questions?