

Glenmore–Strath Nethy Wildfire – July 2026

The following timeline is based on official updates from the SFRS, Police Scotland, the Cairngorms National Park Authority and the Scottish Government.

Date	Event
Wednesday 15 July Day 1	Fire first reported. Emergency services were called shortly before 12 noon after a wildfire broke out near Ryvoan Bothy/Glenmore, close to Loch Morlich. Six fire appliances, specialist wildfire resources and tactical commanders were initially mobilised. Firefighters immediately began constructing firebreaks with support from landowners.
15 July (evening)	High winds caused the fire to spread rapidly through heather, woodland and peat. Emergency services confirmed there were no reported casualties but warned the public to avoid the area.
16 July Day 2	The response escalated into a nationally coordinated multi-agency operation involving SFRS, Police Scotland, Forestry and Land Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Highland Council and Scottish Government officials. Helicopter support and specialist wildfire resources were deployed.
17–18 July Day 3-4	Firefighters remained on scene continuously. Helicopter water-bombing operations targeted inaccessible hotspots while crews worked to prevent the fire spreading into surrounding Caledonian pine woodland.
19 July Day 5	The wildfire entered its fifth day. Six fire appliances, specialist all-terrain vehicles, a wildfire support unit and helicopter operations remained in place. Authorities reported progress but warned the incident remained far from over due to deep-burning peat and difficult terrain.
20 July Day 6	Police Scotland confirmed the emergency response would continue "over the coming days". Some residents displaced by the fire were allowed supervised access to collect belongings, but firefighting operations continued across a large area.
21–23 July Day 7-9	Active firefighting continued with thermal drones, helicopters and ground crews targeting hotspots. Authorities said it was still too early to assess the ecological damage because much of the area remained unsafe to enter.
23 July (night)	Stronger winds caused a significant flare-up, increasing the fire's rate of spread and creating new fronts.
Friday 24 July (afternoon) Day 10	Changing wind direction pushed the fire towards Nethy Bridge. Police Scotland declared a Major Incident as the threat to nearby communities increased significantly.
24 July (evening)	A precautionary evacuation of Nethy Bridge was ordered. Hundreds of residents left their homes while firefighters constructed emergency firebreaks

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	around the village. More than 500 firefighters, helicopters, specialist appliances, all-terrain vehicles, gamekeepers, Forestry and Land Scotland staff and other agencies were involved in the response.
25 July (morning) Day 11	Overnight firebreaks successfully protected Nethy Bridge. A change in wind direction reduced the immediate threat, although crews continued tackling active fire fronts elsewhere. The Scottish Government held emergency coordination meetings chaired by the First Minister.
25 July	The Scottish Government formally requested military assistance from the UK Government to supplement the response, particularly aerial capability, while emphasising that over 500 firefighters remained engaged on the ground.
25 July (late evening)	Residents were informed they could return to Nethy Bridge after the immediate threat had reduced, although emergency services warned the incident remained ongoing.
26 July (current reporting) Day 12	Firefighters continue to deal with hotspots across the Glenmore and Strath Nethy area. Operational resources are being reviewed as conditions improve, but authorities stress that changing temperatures and wind conditions could still lead to flare-ups. Monitoring and firefighting operations continue.