



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND ENVIRONMENT

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
FOREST POLICY

Forest Fire Service

AERIAL ACCIDENTS REPORT SPAIN-2013

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Spanish Forest Fire Service
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AERIAL ACCIDENTS REPORT IN WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING IN SPAIN

In 2013, there have been two aerial accidents in wildland firefighting in our country. Two helicopters were affected. None of the events had fatal consequences and just one injured was the result of one of the accidents.

Both accidents are of helitack brigade's helicopters and in both of them the helitack crews were not on board, they were developing ground suppression tasks. In the accident that took place in July, in Guadalajara, the aircraft collided with a power line after dropping water on the fire. The accident that took place in August, in Badajoz, is seemed to be related to an unstable situation experienced by the aircraft while a bambi bucket operation deployment. The deployment was been carried by the brigade's personnel when the helicopter destabilize and turn over on one of its sides, resulting on one injured person belonging to the helitack brigade.

There are no deceased people belonging to the wildfire departments in this year. All the aerial accidents have occurred during the high risk fire season (1st June – 15th October).

In terms of wildfire suppression, 2013 has been a very good year. Both regarding affected surface and number of fires, the statistics are below the last decade average (2003-2012). There has been 35% less fires and 60% less surface affected. 2013 is the second best year of the last decade. The number of large fires (≥ 500 Has) is also below the average, 17 in 2013 versus 30 as the decade average. It is remarkable that the surface affected by the large fires has been lower than usual, the largest fire affected 2.300 Has approximately, when is it usual to have fires over 5.000 Has or even of 10.000 Has in some occasions.

The main activity took place in the summer and in the northwest region of the country. It worth's it to highlight several busy weeks in August in Galicia with several large fires and a large fire occurred in July in the Balearic Islands, that affected an important surface, required a lot of resources and had a big environment and media impact.

	2013	2003-2012 aAverage
Number of fires*	10.626	16.572
Surface affected (ha)*	58.985,02	126.600,21
Number of large fires*	17	30

*provisional data

Compare with the last two years, the number of aerial accidents in 2013 is the lowest. 2011 was a relative calm year in terms of wildfire activity; however it is the worst year in terms of accidents and victims. 2012 was a busy year with a lot of wildfire activity but the number of accidents and people affected was not as bad as 2011. 2013, as we mentioned did have neither too much fires nor too big ones, and continues with this decreasing tendency which could be related to the low fire activity. However it would be necessary to make an analysis of the total hours flown by all aerial resources since it has been detected that even when the year is good and the statistics show low figures, the number of hours flown increases, reaching figures close to a bad year statistics.



	2011	2012	2013
Number of aerial accidents	9	5	2
Deceased	11	1	0
Injured	18	2	1

The following table shows in detail the aerial accidents occurred in Spain in wildland firefighting during 2013. All accidents are investigated by the Spanish Civil Aviation Authority, by its Civil Aviation Accidents and Incidents Investigation Commission (CIAIAC in Spanish). The information provided in this report comes from such Commission documents and from the Spanish Wildfire Statistic, developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, with the information provided by the Regions. The link to the provisional data, interim statement or final report is provided when available. Most of the documents are in Spanish but some are also in English. This link should be checked regularly for updates.



AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS IN WILDLAND FIRES YEAR 2013								
DATE	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT TYPE	AIRCRAFT MODEL	COMPANY	ACCIDENT	INJURED	DECEASED	INVESTIGATION REPORT CIAIAC
06/07/2013	Quer (Guadalajar)	Helicopter	Agusta AW 119 MK II	FAASA	Emergency landing after power line collision	0	0	In progress Provisional data
http://www.fomento.gob.es/MFOM/LANG_CASTELLANO/ORGANOS_COLEGIADOS/CIAIAC/INVESTIGACION/2013/018_2013.htm								
04/08/2013	Puebla del Maestre (Badajoz)	Helicopter	Eurocopter AS-350 B3	INAER S.A.	Helicopter turn over while bambi bucket operation	1	0	In progress Provisional data
http://www.fomento.gob.es/MFOM/LANG_CASTELLANO/ORGANOS_COLEGIADOS/CIAIAC/INVESTIGACION/2013/A-024-2013.htm								
TOTAL						2	1	0

* CIAIAC links updated to March 2014