



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
FOREST POLICY

Forest Fire Service

AERIAL ACCIDENTS REPORT SPAIN-2012

April 2013



AERIAL ACCIDENTS REPORT IN WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING IN SPAIN

There have been five aerial accidents in wildland firefighting operations in 2012 in Spain. Two airplanes and three helicopters were affected. One of the helicopter accidents is related to a fatality. In three accidents there were no people injured or deceased. In total, one deceased and two injured in aerial accidents.

Special reference to the accidents occur on July the 2nd, were both helicopters belonging to the same helitack brigade suffered an accident. The accidents took place in different locations and moments of the suppression operations while working at the same fire and with no members of the brigade on board. In one of these accidents the pilot died.

The total number of deceased firefighting personnel in 2012 is six. It is remarkable that just one of them is related to an aerial accident. This year all the aerial accidents took place during the high risk fire season (1st June to the middle of October).

In terms of suppression activity, 2012 was a busy year. The surface affected is clearly above the ten year average while the number of fires is around the last decade average, as shown in the following table. It is, in fact, the worst year of the decade on surface burnt. Both the winter-spring and the summer season were very active. The number of large fires (> 500 has) was also very high, having one large fire a week for many following weeks. Some situations of simultaneity under very difficult weather conditions in the eastern regions were remarkable.

	2012	2003-2012 average
Number of fires*	15.902	16.411
Surface affected (ha)*	209.855,21	124.973,22
Number of large fires*	38	30

*provisional data

Compare to 2011, which was a quiet year in terms of wildland firefighting activity, the number of aerial accidents in 2012 is much lower. With this two years data it is not possible to establish a direct relation between a high suppression activity and the number of aerial accidents.

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

The following table shows in detail the aerial accidents occurred in Spain in wildland firefighting during 2012. All accidents are investigated by the Spanish Civil Aviation Authority, by its Civil Aviation Accidents and Incidents Investigation Commission (CIAIAC in Spanish). The link to the provisional data, interim statement or final report is provided when available. All documentation is in Spanish but some is also in English. This link should be checked regularly for updates.



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DATE	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT TYPE	AIRCRAFT MODEL	COMPANY	ACCIDENT	INJURED	DECEASED	INVESTIGATION REPORT CIAIAC
01/06/2012	Benagéber (Valencia)	Airtanker	Air Tractor AT-802A	AVIALSA	Aircraft crash while loading water	0	0	In progress Provisional data http://www.fomento.gob.es/MFOM/LANG_CASTELLANO/ORGANOS_COLEGIADOS/CIAIAC/INVESTIGACION/2012/019_2012.htm
02/07/2012	Yátova (Valencia)	Helicopter	Bell-412	INAER S.A.	Helicopter crash over water point	0	1	In progress Provisional data http://www.fomento.gob.es/MFOM/LANG_CASTELLANO/ORGANOS_COLEGIADOS/CIAIAC/INVESTIGACION/2012/022_2012.htm
02/07/2012	Yátova (Valencia)	Helicopter	PZL Sokol W3A	INAER S.A.	Helicopter crash after engine failure in landing operation	2	0	In progress Provisional data http://www.fomento.gob.es/MFOM/LANG_CASTELLANO/ORGANOS_COLEGIADOS/CIAIAC/INVESTIGACION/2012/023_2012.htm
16/07/2012	San Rafael (Ibiza)	Airtanker	Air Tractor AT-802	Martinez Ridao S.L	Aircraft crash after engine failure	0	0	In progress Provisional data http://www.fomento.gob.es/MFOM/LANG_CASTELLANO/ORGANOS_COLEGIADOS/CIAIAC/INVESTIGACION/2012/27_012.htm
11/08/2012	GUILS DE CERDANYA (Girona)	Helicopter	AS-350 B3	TAF Helicopters	Helicopter crash after water pump hit main rotor	0	0	In progress Provisional data http://www.fomento.gob.es/MFOM/LANG_CASTELLANO/ORGANOS_COLEGIADOS/CIAIAC/INVESTIGACION/2012/032_2012.htm
TOTAL						5	2	1

*CIAIAC links updated at April 2013