



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD
AND ENVIRONMENT

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
FOREST POLICY

Forest Fire Service

AERIAL ACCIDENTS REPORT SPAIN-2014

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

In 2014, three aerial accidents took place. Two were civilian aircrafts, one plane and one helicopter. As a result of each of those accidents the pilot did not survive, being the only person in the aircraft at the moment of the accident. The third accident affected an aircraft operated by the Spanish Air Force with the result of no victims.

Regarding the civilian aircrafts, the plane accident took place before the high fire season, on the 25th of May, while the airtanker was supporting suppression actions in a wildfire in Almeria (Andalusia). After dropping, it fell and crashed. The airplane was destroyed as a result of the impact and the fire that started as the crash consequence.

The helicopter accident took place on September 13th. This was an aircraft belonging to a helitack crew, but at the moment of the accident the crew was not on board. After working on suppression actions in a wildfire in Albacete (Castilla La Mancha) it was in its way to a helibase (different from its one of origin) to refuel and rest. While this ferry it fell and crashed. Regarding this accident, the Spanish Civil Aviation Authority, by its Civil Aviation Accidents and Incidents Investigation Commission (CIAIAC in Spanish) issued safety recommendations prior to the final report, given the fact that no one was aware of the accident until more than two hours later when a private citizen discovered it by chance. The link to these recommendations can be found in the accidents chart.

In the military field, the airtanker accident affected a Canadair CL 215T operated by the Spanish Air Force. This aircraft did an emergency landing on Ribarroja dam (Zaragoza) after a power line collision while approaching for loading. The Investigation of this accident is under the Military Aviation Accidents Investigation Commission (CITAAM in Spanish) which reports are classified and not public.

In 2014 there have been two fatalities related to aircraft operations in wildfires in Spain. It is remarkable that both accidents did not take place on July or August when the fire activity is higher. The total number of fatalities among wildland fire fighting personnel in 2014 has been three, these two pilots and one firefighter form a brigade belonging to Asturias regional government.

Wildfire activity in 2014 has been really low. This year is the best year of the last decade regarding to the statistics. The number of fires in 37% low than the average and the surface affected is 60% low than the decade average. The number of large fires (>500 has) has been 7, while the average is 28. These large fires have affected 21% of the total burnt surface and represent 0,07% of the fires. The largest fire burnt over 3.200 has.

The main wildfire activity took place in summer, in the northwest and central regions, although the region with more large fires has been the Mediterranean.



	2014	Media 2004-2013
Number of fires*	9.771	15.638
Surface affected (ha)*	46.721,16	117.034,22
Number of large fires*	7	28

*provisional data

Taking into consideration the last four years, the number of aerial accidents in 2014 is the lowest after 2013, but in 2014 there have been two fatalities while in 2013 there were none. Since these reports are being issued, 2011 has been the worst year in terms of accidents and victims. There has been a decrease tendency since then. However it would be necessary to make an analysis of the total hours flown and other data, 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.

Aerial firefighting is one of the most important, both in number of operations and in number of aircrafts operating, aerial operation in our country, where there is, mainly in summer, a large number of aircrafts deployed all over the country and a high concentration of aircrafts in every wildfire. It would be very interesting to have, from the competent authorities, statistics and tendency reports about these operations, which in addition take place under not ordinary conditions and with high level of risk.

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of aerial accidents	9	5	2	3
Deceased	11	1	0	2
Injured	18	2	1	0
Nº deceased/accident	1,2	0,2	0	0,6
Nº injured/accident	2	0,4	0,5	0

The following table shows in detail the aerial accidents occurred in Spain in wildland firefighting during 2014. All civilian accidents are investigated by the Spanish Civil Aviation Authority, by its Civil Aviation Accidents and Incidents Investigation Commission (CIAIAC in Spanish). Military accidents are investigated by the Military Aviation Accidents Investigation Commission (CITAAM in Spanish). The information provided in this report comes from such sources 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.





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AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS IN WILDLAND FIRES YEAR 2014								
DATE	LOCATION	AIRCRAFT TYPE	AIRCRAFT MODEL	COMPANY	ACCIDENT	INJURED	DECEASED	INVESTIGATION REPORT CIAIAC/CITAAM
25/05/2014	Serón (Almería)	Airplane	Air tractor AT-802	SAETA	Crash after dropping	0	1	Provisional statement

http://www.fomento.gob.es/MFOM/LANG_CASTELLANO/ORGANOS_COLEGIADOS/CIAIAC/INVESTIGACION/2014/009_2014_DECLARACION.htm

16/06/2014	Fayón (Zaragoza)	Airplane	CANADAIR CL-215T	MAGRAMA	Emergency landing on water after power line collision on landing approach	0	0	In progress. Not public.
13/09/2014	Alpera (Albacete)	Helicopter	Agusta A119	FAASA	Crash on its way to base	0	1	Provisional information and recommendations

http://www.fomento.gob.es/MFOM/LANG_CASTELLANO/ORGANOS_COLEGIADOS/CIAIAC/INVESTIGACION/2014/026_2014.htm

					TOTAL	3	0	2

* CIAIAC links updated to August 2015