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Forest Fires in Europe, Middle East and North Africa 2025



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Abstract

This report summarises the 2025 fire season in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. It is based on official data from contributing countries/territories and on data by the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS), run by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

The national report section compiles official figures from 35 countries/territories, focusing primarily on fire occurrence and affected surfaces. Some authors also provide data on fire danger and causes, losses, firefighting resources, prevention, mutual assistance operations, notes on climate change and research activities.

According to EFFIS, 2025 registered the largest burnt area on record in the EU: 1 079 538 hectares - including fires smaller than 30 hectares - almost twice the EU average. This figure rises to 2 242 195 hectares including all 46 countries/territories monitored by EFFIS across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Heatwaves in August drove fires in western Mediterranean, that accounted for 52% of the EU's total burnt area. Seven countries/territories had record burnt area, with some large fires occurring at unusually high latitudes.

National and EFFIS figures can differ, because countries use different reporting methodologies, while EFFIS uses a harmonized method across countries, allowing for fair fire season comparisons. National and EFFIS data support EU civil protection, disaster recovery funding and climate policies.

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Foreword: ‘Forest Fires in Europe, Middle East and North Africa 2025’

The 2025 fire season set a record for burned area in Europe, with more than 1 million hectares burned and record-breaking carbon emissions. Severe heatwaves across large parts of western and southern Europe in summer 2025 created the conditions for this catastrophic wildfire season.

In Portugal and Spain, heatwaves triggered several simultaneous large fires. These fires accounted for the largest share of the EU’s total burned area: 284 012 hectares in Portugal and 401 266 hectares in Spain, according to data from the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS). However, other countries, including Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy, Romania and Slovakia, as well as countries outside the EU, also recorded burned areas well above average.

The 2025 fire season set the record, but it is no outlier. It is part of an ongoing trend: in terms of total burned area, the 2026 fire season is the fourth largest of the last 20 years.

Wildfires pose an increasingly complex challenge. They can cause far-reaching damage to European society, the environment, the economy and cultural heritage. To address this, the 2026 Commission Communication on Integrated Wildfire Risk Management supports a shift from reactive fire suppression to a more balanced and proactive approach. It also stresses the need for integrated wildfire risk management that treats wildfire risk as a long-term problem with ecological, social, cultural and economic dimensions.

EFFIS, run by the Joint Research Centre, plays an essential role in mitigating the effects of wildfires and strengthening EU preparedness. Since its launch in 2001, it has become the central source of reliable, up-to-date, and standardised information on wildfires across Europe.

EFFIS remains at the forefront of wildfire research in areas such as early warning and monitoring, decision support systems, and risk modelling. Earth observation of wildfires is at a critical turning point, with new sensors set to improve our ability to characterise fire regimes. These new data streams will strengthen wildfire early warning and monitoring across Europe.

Strong firefighting capabilities will remain essential as Europe’s wildfire threat grows. Through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, we have built the capacity to respond quickly and effectively when disaster strikes. During the 2025 fire season, 22 firefighting aircraft and 4 helicopters were stationed in 10 Member States, ready to intervene when needed. Coordinated and co-financed through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, these resources helped reduce risks and enabled a faster and more robust crisis response. To support local fire brigades quickly, 25 ground forest firefighting modules, with a total of 671 firefighters and 84 vehicles from 14 Member States, were prepositioned and engaged in fire suppression operations in Spain, Greece, France, Italy and Portugal last summer.

The findings in this report provide the evidence that will help the Commission and Member States prepare for and respond to wildfires more effectively in the years to come.



Hadja Lahbib
European Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management

1. Introduction

Wildfires are becoming more frequent in Europe, with damaging consequences for people, nature, biodiversity, the economy and cultural heritage. Climate change is making summers longer, hotter and drier, which increases the frequency and intensity of fires. The risk grows further with land abandonment, rural depopulation and insufficient forest management. Wildfires have to be managed as a long-term problem with ecological, social, cultural and economic sides.

In March 2026, the European Commission presented a new strategy for integrated wildfire risk management[2]. It highlights key measures to better prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from wildfires, and shifts the focus from reacting to fires to a more balanced and proactive approach, with a strong emphasis on prevention. A Council Recommendation based on the strategy encourages Member States to apply the approach in ways that fit their own circumstances, and calls for stronger cooperation between public authorities, land managers, civil society and local communities. As part of the strategy, the Commission will also further develop the Copernicus European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS), to improve its early warning and monitoring tools, and build European wildfire risk modelling.

Firefighting capacity remains essential. Through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism[3], 22 firefighting aircraft and 4 helicopters were stationed in 10 Member States during the 2025 fire season. In July and August, almost 650 firefighters from 14 European countries were positioned in high-risk areas of France, Greece, Portugal and Spain.

The Copernicus European Forest Fire Information System[4] (EFFIS), run by the Joint Research Centre, provides the information behind these decisions. It began as a pilot project between European countries and the European Commission and has been part of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS) since 2015. Today it supports DG ECHO on civil protection [1][2], DG DEFIS in the implementation of the Copernicus Regulation [3], DG REGIO on the EU Solidarity Fund [4] for major fires, and DG CLIMA with data for the analysis of fire regimes under future climate scenarios [5][6].

Since its first operation in the year 2000, the number of countries contributing to the information on forest fires in EFFIS and receiving data from it has increased steadily. The EFFIS system was used by government organizations and citizens, with 750 000 visits from 155 countries in 2025.

This is the 26th annual report on forest fires in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. It describes the 2025 fire season, which set a new record for burnt area in the EU. It is also a way to improve cooperation with the Expert Group on Forest Fires[5] (EGFF), which helps the Commission review fire trends in Europe and develop policy responses, especially on fire prevention and on adapting to climate change. A shared aim is to protect landscapes and natural heritage, avoid loss of human life, and limit damage to property from uncontrolled fires.

Decision makers need reliable and comparable evidence of what happened in a fire season and why. This is difficult because each country

2 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_26_699

3 https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en

4 https://forest-fire.emergency.copernicus.eu/

5 https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=416

records fires in its own way, with its own definitions and methods, so national figures alone do not give one European picture. The question the report addresses is how to combine two views, a harmonised European one and each country's own, so that Member States and the Commission can compare seasons and prepare better for the next ones.

The report has four objectives:

- to give a harmonised picture of the 2025 season, based on satellite data and one method for all countries;
- to bring together the official national accounts of the season, contributed on a voluntary basis by the countries of the EFFIS network, covering causes, resources, prevention, firefighting, restoration and adaptation to climate change;
- to place 2025 in context by comparing it with the historical record, including fire danger since 1980 and the long series for the five southern EU countries;
- to support the exchange of good practice between countries.

These results can be used to plan prevention, to decide where to position firefighting resources, to support requests for EU funding after major fires, and to inform climate adaptation measures, including for Natura2000 sites, for which the Commission published new guidance[6] in March 2026.

How to read this report

The report has two parts. The first part (chapter 2) contains the country reports. The second part (chapters 3 to 5) contains the EFFIS data and analysis, already published in the Advance Report in March 2026[7].

Both parts give the number of fires and the burnt area, but the figures generally differ, because countries use their own methodologies while EFFIS applies the same method to all. National figures give more detail on each country's own season. EFFIS figures should be used for comparisons between countries.

Since 2018, EFFIS has used Sentinel-2 satellite imagery, which allows it to map fires of about 5 hectares and above. Figures for 2025 alone include all the fires mapped in this way. Before 2018, EFFIS detected only fires larger than 30 ha. Therefore, the comparison of historical burnt area figures only includes fires larger than 30 ha.

6 https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/civil_protection/communication_on_integrated_wildfire_risk_management.pdf

7 https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC146199

2. Forest Fires in 2025: country reports from National Fire services

2.1. Introduction to the 2025 fire season

The comparison of fire data 2025 with the average of the previous ten years is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Overview of the number of fires and burnt areas as reported by the contributing countries in 2025[8].

Country	Number of fires			Burnt area (ha)			Notes
	2025	2015-24 average	2025 as % of average	2025	2015-24 average	2025 as % of average	
Austria	196	198	99	58	123	47	Fire recording change
Bulgaria	546	482	113	15459	6233	248	
Croatia	71	149	48	2683	14007	19	
Cyprus	123	109	113	12870	2040	631	
Czechia	1520	1647	92	332	463	72	
Estonia	5	73	7	3	107	3	
Finland	992	1267	78	394	525	75	
France[9]	2511	2690	93	21747	15263	142	
Germany	1175	1126	104	2626	1141	230	
Greece	561	901	62	41540	37296	111	
Hungary	982	1197	82	5389	4805	112	
Israel	424	629	67	9738	21556	45	
Italy	4370	5212	84	81481	74526	109	
Latvia	189	604	31	70	673	10	
Lebanon	119	210	57	1515	1761	86	
Lithuania	110	148	75	42	70	60	
Morocco	418	445	94	1728	4858	36	
Netherlands	919	537	171	563	321	176	Average 2017-2024
North Macedonia	176	130	135	18622	8145	229	
Norway	1111	635	175	3845	1633	236	2016 fire recording change
Poland	5720	6732	85	1459	2890	50	
Portugal	8252	12183	68	270695	123938	218	
Romania	535	428	125	8383	3996	210	
Serbia	191	103	186	5459	2978	183	
Slovakia	136	179	76	246	349	70	
Slovenia	31	91	34	16	576	3	
Spain	8199	9171	89	354747	105614	336	
Sweden	4724	4929	96	1223	3266	37	
Switzerland	103	106	97	8	126	6	
Türkiye	3224	2733	118	81473	25762	316	
Ukraine[10]	1238	1504	82	5565	12951	43	
Total	48871	56725	86	949979	473868	200	

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports.

[8] Some countries do not report precise figures for fire numbers/burnt area and are not included in this table.

[9] Forest fires only.

[10] The fire statistics comes only from enterprises that are under subordination of State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine (73% of all forests).

2.2. European countries

The following chapters contain the reports from the contributing European countries as well as from other non-EU members of the EFFIS network. The reports are arranged in alphabetical order.

The images and tables for each section are copyright or provided by the related source at the end of the section.

2.2.1. Austria

Fire danger

The 2025 forest fire season in Austria was characterised by largely average fire activity, with 196 documented forest fires and approximately 58 hectares of burned forest area. An exceptionally dry and hot weather period from late June to early July stood out as the most critical phase of the season, during which more than 50 forest fires occurred within only two weeks.

The season began unusually early. Due to dry conditions and a lack of snow cover during winter, ten forest fires were already recorded in January. Spring remained relatively cool and slightly below average in terms of forest fire occurrence, as no prolonged dry periods developed.

In June, a dry weather phase set in and was accompanied by a heatwave from mid-month onwards. These conditions culminated in a sharp increase in fire activity between late June and early July. The remainder of July was cool and wet, resulting in only a few small fires. Although August experienced temporary hot periods, the moist conditions established during July continued to limit forest fire activity.

From September to December, several additional forest fires were documented due to regionally dry conditions and generally limited snow cover.

Overall, the 2025 season can be considered average in terms of both fire occurrence and burned area. Long-term observations continue to show no significant increase in the number of forest fires in Austria.

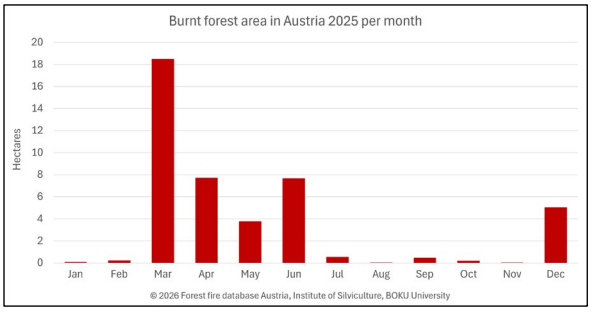
Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

The regional distribution of forest fires in 2025 followed the established pattern observed in previous years. Styria recorded by far the highest number of incidents (49), followed by Lower Austria (37), Carinthia (32), and Tyrol (30). Burgenland and Vienna each reported five forest fires.

In total, approximately 58 hectares of forest were affected by forest fires in 2025 (slope-corrected), representing an average year in terms of burned area. This corresponds to roughly one-third of the burned area recorded in 2024, but approximately twice the area affected in 2023. The exceptional 2022 season, with more than 550 hectares burned, remains a clear outlier in the Austrian forest fire record.

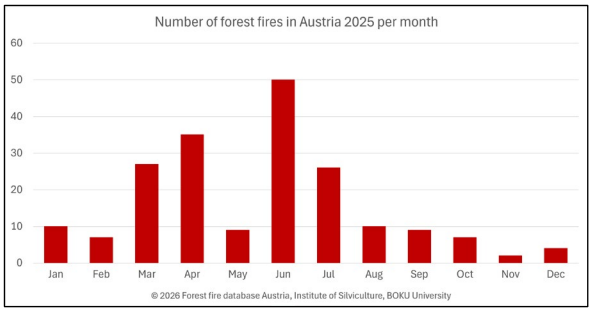
The largest forest fire of the year occurred near Schwarzau im Gebirge (Lower Austria), where approximately 13 hectares of forest were affected.

Figure 1. Burnt area (ha) by month in Austria in 2025.



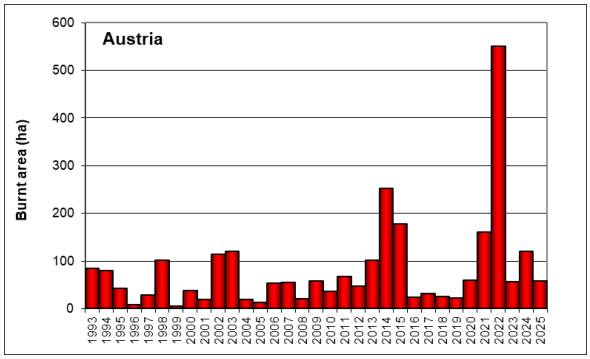
Source: Institute of Silviculture, BOKU University, Vienna.

Figure 2. Number of fires by month in Austria in 2025.

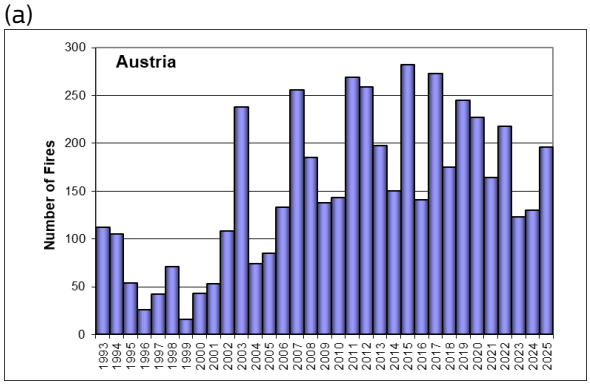


Source: Institute of Silviculture, BOKU University, Vienna.

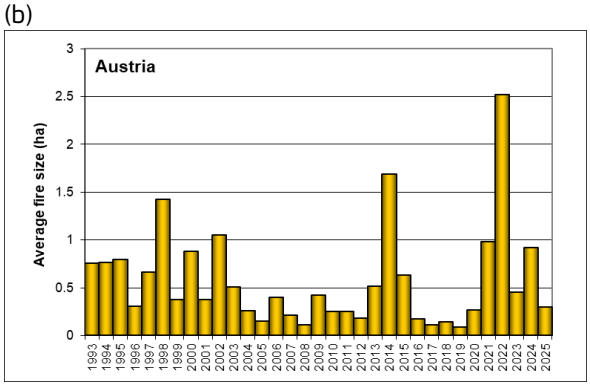
Figure 3. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Austria from 1993 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Austria.

Fire causes

Human activities continued to account for most forest fires in Austria during 2025, either directly or indirectly. However, lightning activity played a particularly important role during the summer season. More than 50 forest fires were attributed to lightning strikes, accounting for approximately 25% of all incidents and therefore exceeding the long-term average. During the critical period from late June to early July, around 70% of all recorded forest fires were associated with thunderstorm activity and lightning ignitions.

The remaining fires can be linked to human activities and technical ignition sources. Notably, the largest forest fire of the year near Schwarzau im Gebirge was triggered by a burning vehicle. Similar incidents were observed elsewhere in the Alpine region, including a major forest fire in South Tyrol that originated from a vehicle fire. Furthermore, on 30th December, a forest fire in Styria was caused by a burning snowmobile. These examples highlight the increasing relevance of indirect anthropogenic ignition sources and technical equipment as potential causes of forest fires.

Fire fighting means

Austria's network of approximately 4 500 fire departments and 260 000 active firefighters, the vast majority serving on a voluntary basis, continued to form the backbone of forest fire response operations.

Specialised forest fire training programmes remained an important component of preparedness activities. Provincial fire brigade associations further strengthened training in forest fire suppression, while specialised vehicles and equipment, aerial firefighting resources, water buckets for helicopters, and manual tools for operations in steep alpine terrain remained available nationwide.

Drones (UAVs) continued to serve as standard tools for forest fire reconnaissance, situation assessment, and operational decision-making.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

Austria continued implementing forest fire prevention measures under the Forest Fund Act 2020 and related initiatives. Public awareness campaigns promoting responsible behaviour and forest fire safety were maintained throughout the year, with particular emphasis during periods of elevated fire danger.

Integrated forest fire management concepts, operational firefighting maps, and technical prevention measures were further developed and expanded. Public communication efforts during the extreme fire danger period in late June and early July contributed to heightened awareness among the population.

Injuries and loss of human lives

No fatalities related to forest fires were reported in Austria during 2025. A limited number of minor injuries among firefighters and volunteers were recorded.

This continues the positive trend observed in recent years and reflects the effectiveness of prevention measures, professional training, and rapid suppression capabilities.

Operations of mutual assistance

Forest fire suppression in Austria remains the responsibility of local fire brigades, supported by regional disaster response structures and specialised units. Aerial firefighting resources are provided by the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defence, and private operators.

Austria continued its active participation in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). Austrian Ground Forest Fire Fighting (GFFF) modules remained available for international deployment. In 2025, GFFF-V modules from Lower Austria were deployed for pre-positioning in Greece and to Montenegro to support forest fire response operations.

Building on the Action Program “Hotspot Forest”, a key objective is the establishment of a Wildfire Expert Network that serves as a platform for interinstitutional dialogue between the forestry and fire service sectors on provincial and national level. To initiate this process, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management (BMLUK) convened the kick-off meeting of the Wildfire Expert Network in November 2025. The meeting focused on fostering personal and institutional exchange among participants, defining a shared vision and working principles for the network, identifying thematic priorities and future fields of activity, and establishing a foundation of trust and effective communication to support long-term collaboration.

Climate change and adaptation

Climate Conditions and Fire Risk

The 2025 season once again demonstrated the strong influence of short-term weather patterns on forest fire activity. While prolonged drought conditions did not develop during most of the year, the dry and hot period from late June to early July resulted in a rapid increase in fire occurrence.

The occurrence of ten forest fires already in January illustrates the growing importance of snow-poor winters and extended fire seasons. At the same time, the overall average fire activity in 2025 confirms that extreme weather events do not automatically translate into exceptionally severe forest fire seasons.

National adaptation strategies

Austria continued implementing its national forest adaptation and forest fire management initiatives through the Forest Fund Act and ongoing research and development projects. Activities focused on improving integrated forest fire management, risk assessment, prevention strategies, and stakeholder cooperation.

The “Hotspot Forest” action programme continued to coordinate activities related to climate adaptation, forest fire prevention, ecosystem resilience, and public awareness. Nevertheless, forest fire prevention measures at the wildland–urban interface remains limited,

and the role of fire as a management tool continues to receive only minor consideration due to general fire scepticism and legal restrictions.

Research activities

Several major research projects, funded through the Forest Fund Act, continued in 2025:

- IGNITE improved understanding of ignition danger through burning experiments and the adaption of fire weather indices.
- EMERGE focused on wildfire fuel mapping and refining models for fire spread and intensity.
- FIREDATA worked to harmonise forest fire documentation and build a database of case studies and monitoring plots.
- Austria Fire Futures (AFF), led by IIASA, evaluated future wildfire hazard scenarios under different climate pathways.
- REVEAL carried out vulnerability analyses for settlements and infrastructure at risk from forest fires.
- BURN-IT developed expert tools and public awareness content, including fire danger maps, podcasts, and a forest fire blog.
- Together.Safety.Firebrigade continued its youth education initiatives with new focus on forest fires, including summer school programmes for children aged 8–12.
- A Children Summer University worked on educational material and a very nice explanatory video-clip to engage children in forest fire prevention.
- The Interreg Central Europe project Wildfire CE was launched in mid-2024. Aim of the project is to assess and manage wildfire risks over the border of neighbouring countries by mapping fire danger, providing cross-border data, and developing action plans for pilot regions. Five Central European countries and nine partners are included in the project.

Conclusions

The 2025 forest fire season in Austria can be characterised as average in terms of both fire occurrence and burned area. A short but intense dry and hot period from late June to early July resulted in a temporary surge of forest fire activity, while otherwise favourable weather conditions limited overall impacts.

Lightning was responsible for an unusually high proportion of forest fires, particularly during periods of thunderstorm activity. At the same time, several notable incidents highlighted the growing importance of indirect anthropogenic ignition sources such as vehicle and machinery fires.

Despite changing climatic conditions and increasingly variable seasonal weather patterns, long-term observations do not currently indicate an increasing trend in the number of forest fires in Austria. Continued investment in prevention, training, research, and international cooperation remains essential to address future forest fire challenges.

(Sources: Austrian Fire Brigade Association; Institute of Silviculture, BOKU University, Vienna; Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria).

2.2.2. Belgium

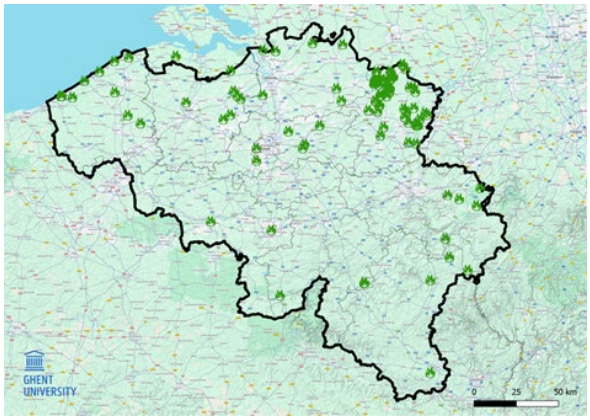
Fire danger

In Ukkel, 2025 tied with 2014 as the fourth warmest year since records began in 1833, with an average temperature of 12.0°C (normal: 11.0°C). Following the wettest year on record (1170.7 mm), 2025 saw nearly half as much precipitation. Ukkel recorded just 620.6 mm of rainfall (normal: 837.3 mm), spread over 145 days (normal: 189.8 days), which is the lowest annual precipitation for the current reference period. Especially spring was dry with only 54.4 mm of rain (normal: 165.6 mm), the lowest on record for this season, but also summer was dry and two seasons combined saw just 184.4 mm of rain (normal: 399.8 mm). Starting in March 2025, spring and summer droughts conditions increased fire danger from the most fire-prone regions through the entire country.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

Since 2025, burn scars are registered in the field for as many fires as possible, though not all interventions reported below finally concern true fires in non-urban areas, nor is there a consistent way of registering the precise fire location, which hinders burn scar registration afterwards. Still, in this way, 116 fire burn scars were registered in 2025 covering a total of about 570 ha (**Figure 4**).

Figure 4. Location of fires with registered burn scar.



Source: Ghent University.

The biggest one covered approximately 18 ha and burned heathland, whereas the biggest forest fire was 11 ha. Besides, the precise location of 33 more fires was confirmed, but no burn scar was registered for those because they were too small, or not accessible. Finally, in 2025 several prescribed burns were organised, especially in Belgium's main military shooting ranges, covering about 450 ha.

Fire causes

Fire cause is typically not investigated in Belgium, but based on terrain observations, most wildfires seem to have been caused by negligence, arson and military shooting exercises. Based on an analysis of lightning occurrence and historical fire data in Belgium, potentially at most 10% of the fires could be caused by lightning.

Fire fighting resources

We resort for this to the data provided by the country's intervention zones on the number of interventions that were registered for limited and extended non-urban fires. In total 2285 interventions were registered for the entire country (versus 821 in 2024), and of those 284 concerned extended wildfires (61 in 2024). Of the latter, 122 (43%) took place in Wallonia, 159 (56%) in Flanders and 3 (1%) in Brussels Capital Region, which follows the long-term distribution of fires across the country's regions.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

In some nature reserves (e.g. Mechelse Heide) and military shooting grounds (Elsenborn, Beverlo) prescribed burns are organised in late winter and early spring. During periods of increased fire danger, the Flemish Nature and Forestry Agency announces wildfire danger codes on its website, and through media, likewise for what concerns the High Fens area in Wallonia. In the latter region, there is also an information campaign with leaflets, and videos to increase awareness among citizens. In Flanders, pilot early detection projects have

been conducted in two natural areas, and investments for the installation of early detection systems in several natural parks have been announced. Moreover, an action plan for preventive wildfire management in this region is under development.

Injuries and loss of human lives

None.

Operations of mutual assistance

There was no participation in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and RescEU modules, but cross-border support (The Netherlands, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg) was relied on/offered for some larger fires.

Climate change

Belgium's Climate Risk Assessment Center (Cerac) published a report in spring 2025 on the country's preparedness for wildfires, which concludes that Belgium is facing increasing wildfire risks due to climate change, with rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and changing precipitation patterns altering the fire landscape. In its Belgian National Risk Assessment (2023-2026), the National Crisis Center now classifies wildfires as a high-probability risk, underscoring the need for improved preparedness and response strategies. This report created momentum to initiate several wildfire related research projects, and bring together Belgium's stakeholders in the Belgian Wildfire Network (BWN). The latter meets twice a year, and has published a white paper[11] summarizing the current situations, the main needs and limitations and 8 consequent policy recommendations for increasing the country's preparedness level.

Research activities

Catalyzed by the Cerac report[12], BWN white paper, and increased fire occurrence in 2025, there has been a steady increase in the number of ongoing wildfire-related studies in Belgium. Amongst other things, these are focusing on:

- Semi-automated registration of wildfires (Ghent University)
- Fuel assessment (University of Liège, PXL University college)
- Historical data collection and analysis (Ghent University)
- Wildfire danger assessment (Royal Meteorological Institute)
- Wildfire risk assessment (Cerac, Ghent University)
- Wildfire impact analyses (University of Antwerp, Ghent University)

(Sources: Baetens, J. M. et al., 2026, Towards scientifically supported and integrated wildfire management and policy in Belgium, Belgian Wildfire Network, Ghent University, Université de Liège, Belgium. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19206818; Kruk, R.W., Van Geertsom, J., Royen, A., & Bourland, N. (2025). Is Belgium ready for more frequent and intense wildfires? Analysis of the Belgian state of play and insights from the international context. Brussels: Climate Risk Assessment Center and National Geographic Institute. List of institutional contributors, e.g., ministries, forest agencies, universities, Belgium).

11 https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19206818

12 https://www.cerac.be/en/bcra

2.2.3. Bulgaria

Fire danger

Bulgaria experienced a moderately severe wildfire season in 2025, shaped by the compound effects of below-average winter and spring precipitation across southern and southwestern regions, followed by prolonged dry and hot periods during the summer months of June through August. Temperatures in affected areas exceeded seasonal norms by 2–4°C, while cumulative precipitation from April to August was significantly below the historical 30-year average in the most impacted provinces (Blagoevgrad, Kardzhali, Burgas).

Fire Weather Index (FWI) values during peak periods (late June – early August) were consistently classified as 'Very High' to 'Extreme' across the southern regions of the country, particularly in the Struma River valley and the Eastern Rhodopes. Elevated Fine Fuel Moisture Code (FFMC) and Buildup Index (BUI) values were recorded across multiple Regional Forest Directorates.

A notable aggravating factor was the late frost of spring 2025, which significantly damaged vegetation in higher-altitude areas, creating additional dry fuel loads. The combination of desiccated fine fuels, low relative humidity, and Foehn-type wind events resulted in extreme fire behavior, especially during the major fire in State Forestry Strumyani (RDF Blagoevgrad) in August 2025.

In addition to the orders issued in each area declaring the fire season in forest areas, The Minister of Agriculture and Food issued Order № RD09-679/27.06.2025, formally declaring a 'Fire Danger Season' and legally restricting certain high-risk agricultural activities (including stubble burning) on lands adjacent to forest territories in all administrative districts.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

Summary statistics

In 2025, a total of 546 forest fires were registered across Bulgaria, resulting in a total burnt area of 15 458.8 hectares (ha), of which 2 745.6 ha were subject to crown fires. The total number of fire incidents recorded by all agencies (including off-forest fires forwarded via emergency services) was 549, reflecting minor differences in registry methodology between institutions.

Table 2. Fire-related indicators in Bulgaria, 2025.

Indicator	Value
Total number of forest fires	546
Total burnt forest area	15 458.8 ha
Of which: crown fires	2 745.6 ha
Total economic damages (est.)	BGN 17 509 898 (~EUR 8 954 000)
Emergency hotline 112 fire alerts	2 662
Watchtower alerts generated	115

Source: Executive Forest Agency, Bulgaria.

Historical context

The 2025 season was less severe than Bulgaria's historically worst fire years, but exceeded the 2024 season in burnt area from crown fires, as shown for reference in **Table 3**.

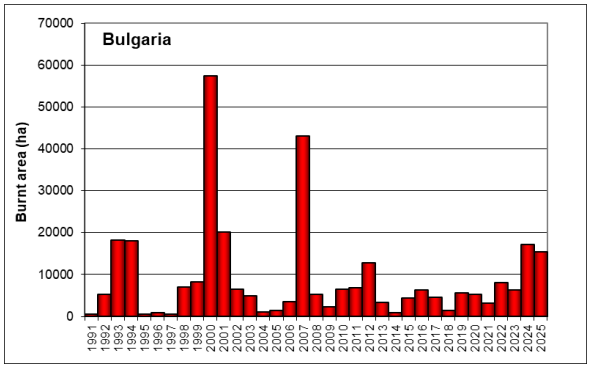
Table 3. Some of the worst fire seasons in Bulgaria.

Year	No. of Fires	Total Burnt Area (ha)	Crown Fires (ha)
2000	1 496	50 659.4	11 583.0
2007	1 479	42 999.0	7 033.5
2024	565	17 116.4	1 462.0
2025	546	15 458.8	2 745.6

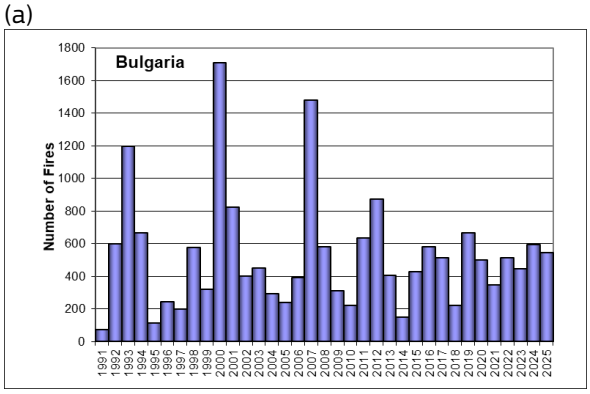
Source: Executive Forest Agency, Bulgaria.

The trends regarding the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Bulgaria for the years 1991 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 3**.

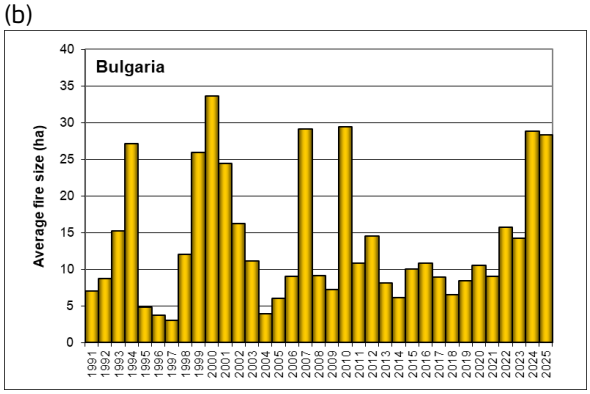
Figure 5. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Bulgaria from 1991 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Bulgaria.

Regional distribution

The most severely affected Regional Directorates of Forestry (RDF) are shown in **Table 4**.

Table 4. Regional distribution of burnt area in Bulgaria, 2025.

Regional Directorate of Forestry (RDF)	Burnt Area (ha)	Notes
Blagoevgrad	3 974.6	Incl. Strumyani fire: 3 843.2 ha (largest since 2000)
Kardzhali	3 936.3	Incl. SF Madzharovo 1 304.9 ha; SGD Topolovgrad 1 299.5 ha
Burgas	2 459.5	Incl. Sungurlare Mun. 1 365 ha
Berkovitsa	1 523.3	Incl. SF Belogradchik 657.1 ha; SF Vidin 458.6 ha
Sliven	1 200.5	Incl. SF Elhovo 997.4 ha
Kyustendil	781.6	Incl. SF Tran 651.6 ha

Source: Executive Forest Agency, Bulgaria.

Distribution by Ownership Type

Table 5. Distribution of burnt area by ownership type in Bulgaria, 2025.

Ownership Category	Burnt Area (ha)	Share (%)
State-owned forest land	10 295.7	67%
Municipal forest land	4 042.6	25%
Privately-owned forest land	1 013.9	7%
Other ownership	106.7	1%

Source: Executive Forest Agency, Bulgaria.

Distribution by Vegetation Type

Table 6. Distribution of burnt area by vegetation type in Bulgaria, 2025.

Vegetation Type	Burnt Area (ha)	Share (%)
Deciduous forests	8 788.6	57%
Coniferous forests	3 426.5	22%
Grasslands, unstocked areas, forest litter	2 017.7	13%
Mixed forests	1 226.2	8%

Source: Executive Forest Agency, Bulgaria.

Fire causes

The distribution of fire causes for 2025 is presented below, classified in accordance with the harmonized EU fire causes classification scheme[13]

Table 7. Fire causes in Bulgaria, 2025.

Cause Category (EU Scheme)	Bulgarian Category	No. of Fires	Share (%)
200 NATURAL	Lightning	51	9.3%
300 ACCIDENT	Electrical short-circuit	32	5.8%
300 ACCIDENT	Transport/technology sparks	18	3.3%
400 NEGLIGENCE – Use of fire	Stubble burning	48	8.7%
400 NEGLIGENCE – Use of fire	Pasture burning	37	6.7%
400 NEGLIGENCE – Glowing objects	Cigarettes	24	4.4%
400 NEGLIGENCE – Use of fire	Waste burning (landfills)	4	0.7%
400 NEGLIGENCE – Use of fire	Outdoor workers	4	0.7%
400 NEGLIGENCE – Use of fire	Tourists/recreationists	5	0.9%
400 NEGLIGENCE – Other	Other known causes	129	23.5%
500 DELIBERATE (arson)	Intentional arson	6	1.1%
500 DELIBERATE	Children (irresponsible)	7	1.3%
500 DELIBERATE	Mental illness / pyromaniac	1	0.2%
300 ACCIDENT	Military firing exercises	1	0.2%
100 UNKNOWN	Unknown cause	182	33.2%
TOTAL		**549**	**100%**

Source: Executive Forest Agency, Bulgaria.

Negligence remains the dominant identified cause, accounting for approximately 58% of fires with a known cause. The high proportion of fires attributed to 'Other known causes' (23.5%) and 'Unknown' (33.2%) reflects the ongoing need to strengthen investigation and cause-attribution capacities at the field level. Intentional fires (arson and irresponsible behaviour) represent approximately 2.5% of the total, consistent with prior years.

Fire fighting resources

Personnel

Table 8. Fire fighting personnel in Bulgaria, 2025.

Category	Number of Personnel/Units
Forestry officials (State Forestry / Game Depots / RDFs)	5 897
Firefighters – GDFSCP (Fire Safety & Civil Protection)	6 313
Military personnel	506
Volunteers	5 285
TOTAL personnel	~17 001 (cumulative mobilization)

Source: Executive Forest Agency, Bulgaria.

[13] https://dx.doi.org/10.2788/2175

Ground and aerial resources

Table 9. Ground and aerial resources for fire fighting in Bulgaria, 2025.

Resource Category	Number
4×4 initial attack vehicles (forestry sector)	2 064
Fire service vehicles (GDFSCP)	2 079
Heavy machinery (bulldozers, excavators)	187
Mobile communication units	3 283
Helicopters (domestic mobilization)	39
Fixed-wing aircraft (EU Civil Protection Mechanism)	8

Source: Executive Forest Agency, Bulgaria.

Early Detection Infrastructure

Bulgaria currently operates a national network of 110 fire watchtowers, of which 84 are automated surveillance facilities and 26 are manned observation towers. As of 2025, only 27 towers are operational, while the remaining 83 are out of service – the majority being under municipal ownership and in urgent need of repair and renovation.

The 27 functional towers generated 115 wildfire detection alerts during the 2025 season. Responsibility for operational towers is distributed as follows: 9 managed by RDFs, 7 by municipalities, 4 by Directorate of Nature Parks, 4 by State Enterprises, 2 by territorial SF/SGD units, and 1 by a private entity.

The critical deficiency in early-detection coverage (approx. 80% of towers non-functional) represents a significant systemic gap that requires a nationally coordinated rehabilitation program.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

Preventive Structural Measures

The Executive Forest Agency (EFA) coordinates the planning and execution of annual fire prevention infrastructure measures across all 16 Regional Directorates of Forestry. For 2025, the national aggregated targets and verified execution data are shown in **Table 10**.

Table 10. Preventive structural measures in Bulgaria, 2025.

Measure Type	Planned (linear m)	Executed (linear m)	Execution Rate
Fire barriers	1 560 450	1 593 160	102%
Silvicultural firebreaks	1 423 074	1 547 912	109%
Mineralized strips	1 761 074	1 952 898	111%

Source: Executive Forest Agency, Bulgaria.

Execution rates exceeding 100% in all categories indicate a proactive response by Regional Directorates, particularly in fire-prone southern and northwestern regions.

Joint Inspections and Enforcement

Joint preventative field inspections were conducted by RDFs, GDFSCP, State Enterprises, and the General Directorate of National Police in high-risk and high-attendance areas throughout the fire season:

- Total inspections conducted: 3 030
- Mandatory prescriptions issued: 17
- Acts of Administrative Violation (AUAN) drawn: 1
- Tourist trails: 241 inspections
- Historical/cultural heritage sites: 49 inspections
- High-attendance nature spots: 653 inspections
- Public fountains and rest areas: 505 inspections
- Water bodies and reservoirs: 120 inspections

National Public Awareness Campaign: "Irresponsibility is the Most Dangerous Spark"

In 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Executive Forest Agency jointly launched a national public education campaign entitled: "Безопасността е най-голямата искра" – in English: "Irresponsibility is the Most

Dangerous Spark" (alternatively rendered as "Safety Is the Greatest Spark").

The campaign aimed to reduce human-caused fire incidents by raising awareness of fire risk behaviours, particularly in rural and peri-urban populations engaged in agricultural activities (stubble and pasture burning), as well as among tourists and recreationists in forest areas. The initiative included multimedia outreach, informational materials distributed through forestry offices, and targeted communication with local government bodies.

Given that negligence (including agricultural burning, cigarettes, and human carelessness) constitutes the majority of fires with identified causes, this campaign represents a strategic long-term prevention investment.

Professional Training

Over 1 000 state forestry employees completed specialized wildfire response training at training centres of the General Directorate for Fire Safety and Civil Protection (GDFSCP) during 2025, enhancing tactical interoperability and emergency response coordination between forestry and civil protection agencies.

Injuries and loss of human lives

No fatalities among first responders or civilians directly attributed to wildfire suppression operations were officially recorded during the 2025 fire season. Information on injuries during suppression operations, if any, was not included in the aggregated reporting submitted by Regional Directorates of Forestry.

Operations of mutual assistance

Bulgaria activated the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) during the 2025 fire season, requesting aerial firefighting assistance to support suppression of large-scale fires in the RDF Blagoevgrad and RDF Kardzhali areas. A total of 8 fixed-wing aircraft were mobilized through this mechanism and deployed in active firefighting operations.

Bulgaria also benefits from the RescEU aerial firefighting fleet through the UCPM coordination framework. No formal bilateral cross-border assistance operations with neighbouring countries were reported for 2025, though coordination with Greek and Romanian authorities at the level of Regional Directorates of Forestry continues on a regular basis under existing bilateral agreements.

Economic damages

Total direct economic damages from forest fires in Bulgaria during 2025 are estimated at BGN 17 509 898 (approximately EUR 8 954 000 at the prevailing exchange rate). The breakdown of damages is shown in **Table 11**.

Table 11. Breakdown of fire related economic damages in Bulgaria, 2025.

Damage Category	Quantity	Value (BGN)
Personnel costs (firefighting labor)	–	133 746
Transport costs	–	51 560
Equipment and machinery costs	–	9 407
Other operational costs	–	5 000
Timber in storage (burnt)	187 m^3	13 616
Standing timber damaged/destroyed	352 324 m^3	16 688 302
Seedlings destroyed	37 296 units	11 355
EFA buildings and installations	1 unit	0 (minor)
Other damages (incl. ecological)	139 cases	596 912
TOTAL	–	17 509 898

Source: Executive Forest Agency, Bulgaria.

Climate change

Bulgaria recognizes climate change as a primary long-term driver of increasing wildfire risk. The country's National Forest Strategy and National Climate Change Adaptation Plan both identify forest fire management as a priority adaptation domain. Key observed trends include: lengthening of the fire danger season (now extending from April through October in

southern and lowland regions), increasing frequency of multi-day extreme fire weather events, and elevated drought stress in pine afforestation zones.

The severe crown fire component of the 2025 season (2 745.6 ha of crown fires, nearly double the 2024 figure of 1 462 ha) is consistent with projections of more intense, high-severity fire behaviour under climate warming scenarios for the South-Eastern European region.

Bulgaria is pursuing adaptation measures including: promotion of mixed and more fire-resilient species compositions in afforestation programs, rehabilitation of burned areas with locally adapted native species, and integration of fire risk into forest management planning under the new EU Forest Strategy framework.

Institutional coordination and legislative compliance

Pursuant to Article 7 of Ordinance № 8/11.05.2012 on terms and conditions for protecting forest territories against fires, the Executive Forest Agency (EFA) and the General Directorate for Fire Safety and Civil Protection (GDFSCP) co-developed and signed a joint Institutional Interaction Plan for 2025, ensuring coordinated command and control during fire emergencies.

Between 21 and 30 May 2025, a joint oversight commission comprising EFA and GDFSCP representatives conducted readiness inspections across municipal and state forestry structures, evaluating annual fire protection plans and identifying systemic operational bottlenecks.

Emergency hotline 112 registered 2 662 fire alerts during the reporting period; all were forwarded to State Enterprises, RDFs, and regional fire services for response.

(Source: Executive Forest Agency, Forest Protection and Fire Protection Control Department, Bulgaria).

2.2.4. Croatia

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

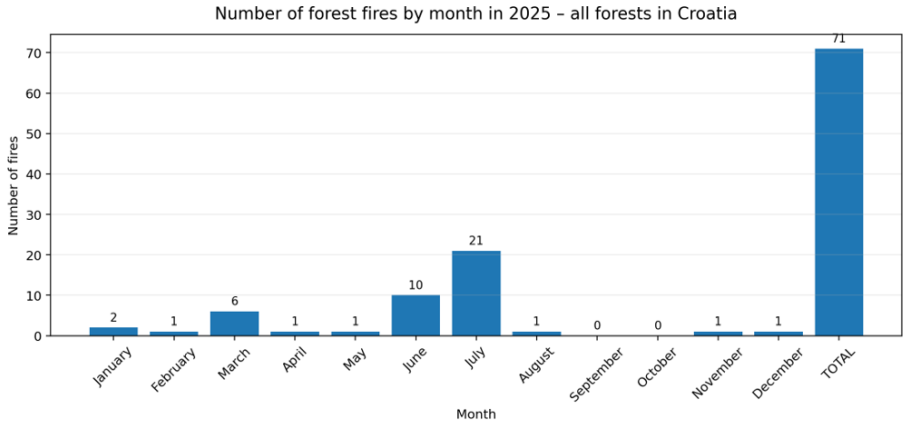
During the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025, a total of 71 fires burned 2 683 ha of forest and other land owned by the Republic of Croatia and private forest owners. The affected area includes state and private forests as well as agricultural land burned as part of forest fires.

Within the state forests managed by Croatian Forests Ltd. (Hrvatske šume d.o.o.), 65 fires occurred in 2025, affecting 1 656 ha.

Based on these figures, 2025 was a year with a below-average number of forest fires and a below-average burned area.

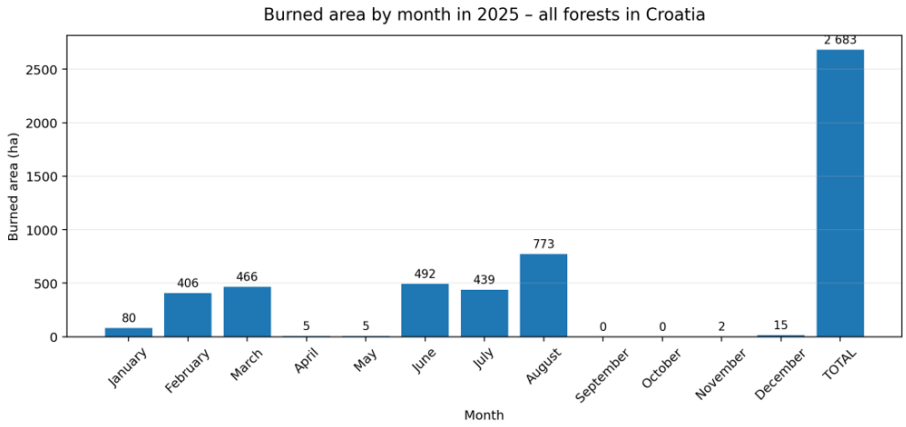
Some fires affected both state and private forests simultaneously. In the Forest Fire Register, such incidents are recorded under a single identification number and therefore counted as one fire.

Figure 6. Number of forest fires by month in 2025 – all forests in Croatia.



Source: Forest Fire Register, Croatia.

Figure 7. Burnt area by month in 2025 – all forests in Croatia.



Source: Forest Fire Register, Croatia.

Table 12. Number of fires and burned area in state forests managed by Croatian Forests Ltd. in 2025.

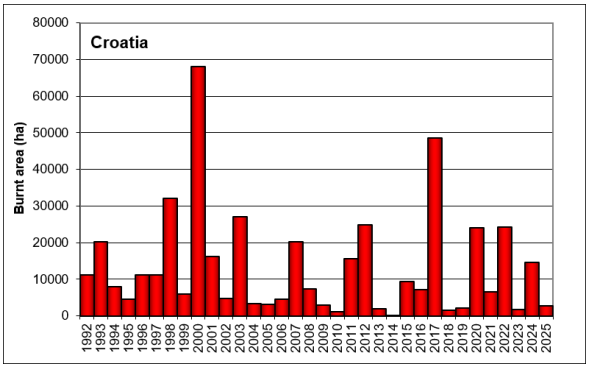
Forest Management Area	Number of fires	Burnt area (ha)
Delnice	1	1
Senj	0	0
Gospić	1	2
Buzet	1	396
Split	47	1 221
TOTAL – Karst	*50*	*1 620*
Vinkovci	2	1
Osijek	3	4
Našice	0	0
Požega	1	3
Bjelovar	1	0
Koprivnica	3	1
Zagreb	1	1
Sisak	1	25
Karlovac	0	0
Ogulin	0	0
Delnice	0	0
Senj	0	0
Gospić	0	0
Nova Gradiška	3	2
Slatina	0	0
TOTAL – Continental	*15*	*36*
TOTAL	**65**	**1 656**

Source: Forest Fire Register, Croatia.

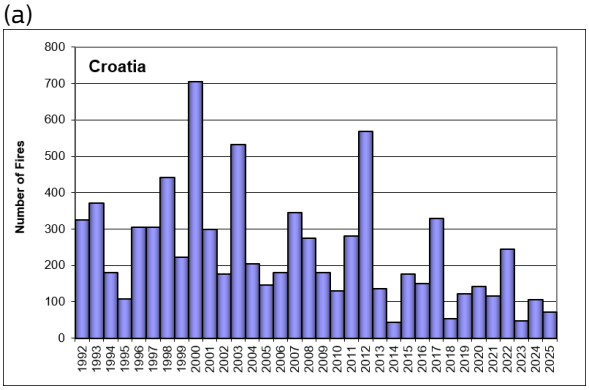
The highest number of fires occurred in the Split Forest Management Area: 47 fires, representing 72.3% of all fires recorded in state forests managed by Croatian Forests Ltd. The 1 221 ha burned in the Split area accounted for 73.7% of the total burned area in these state forests.

The fire trends in Croatia for the years 1992 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 8**.

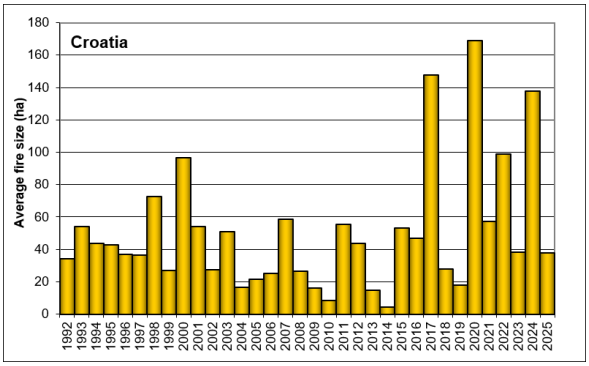
Figure 8. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Croatia from 1992 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Croatia.

Table 13. Burnt Area by Vegetation Type – forests managed by Croatian Forests Ltd.

Forest vegetation type	Total (ha)	Karst (ha)	Continental (ha)
High forest – conifers	41	41	0
High forest – broadleaves	2	0	2
Low forest	39	34	5
Shrubland	301	301	0
Scrub	559	559	0
Maquis	13	13	0
Garrigue	14	14	0
Unstocked forest land	800	796	4
Conifer plantations	17	17	0
Broadleaf plantations	1	0	1
Agricultural land	152	128	25
TOTAL	**1 939**	**1 903**	**36**

Source: Forest Fire Register, Croatia.

Table 14. Burnt Area by Vegetation Type – all forests in Croatia.

Forest vegetation type	Total (ha)	Karst (ha)	Continental (ha)
High forest – conifers	74	74	0
High forest – broadleaves	5	3	2
Medium forest			
Low forest	52	48	5
Shrubland	312	312	0
Scrub	559	559	0
Maquis	13	13	0
Garrigue	14	14	0
Unstocked forest land	801	797	4
Conifer plantations	17	17	0
Broadleaf plantations	1	0	1
Agricultural land	836	807	28
TOTAL	**2 683**	**2 643**	**40**

Source: Forest Fire Register, Croatia

Damage Assessment

Table 15 presents the estimated damage to timber resources for all forests in Croatia, including state and private forests. The calculation was made in accordance with the applicable methodology. The Forest Fire Register records quantities rounded to the nearest thousand.

Table 15. Estimated damage to timber resources for all forests in Croatia in 2024.

Type of damage	Karst	Continental	Total
Partially burned timber volume (m^3)	1 000	0	1 000
Completely burned timber volume (m^3)	5 000	0	5 000
Damaged timber – estimated damage (EUR)	97 000	9 000	106 000
Damage in the first age class (EUR)	26 000	60 000	86 000
Loss of Forest Ecosystem Services (EUR)	7 301 000	99 000	7 401 000

Source: Forest Fire Register, Croatia.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment; Forest Fire Register, Croatia).

2.2.5. Cyprus

Review of the 2025 fire season

The 2025 fire season, was one of the most severe and destructive in Cyprus history. Following a prolonged period with below average precipitation, Cyprus experienced a hot and dry summer, with particularly favourable conditions for the ignition and rapid spread of forest fires. Heatwave conditions that prevailed during certain periods of summer months, especially during July, worsened conditions and reflected negatively on the island's fire danger. The country experienced aggressive fire activity and massive fires that had severe impacts on communities and the environment.

Fire danger

In January, the average temperature was 2.5°C above normal and the average precipitation was 17% of normal.

In February, the average temperature was 1.2°C below normal and the average precipitation was 41% of normal.

In March, the mean air temperature was 3.2°C above normal and the average precipitation was 22% of normal.

In April, the mean air temperature was 0.7°C above normal and the average precipitation was 83% of normal.

In May, the mean air temperature was 1.4°C above normal and the average precipitation was 83% of normal.

In June, the mean air temperature was 2.0°C above normal and the average precipitation was 25% of normal. Heatwave conditions prevailed during certain periods of the month.

In July, the weather was extremely hot and extremely dry. The average temperature was 2.0°C above normal and the average precipitation was 15% of normal. Heatwave conditions prevailed during certain periods for this month, with temperatures reaching up to 44.7 °C inland and 35.5°C in the mountains.

In August, the weather was hot and extremely dry. The average temperature was 1.9°C above normal and the average precipitation was 10% of normal. Heatwave conditions prevailed during certain periods of the month, lasting for many consecutive days, with temperatures reaching up to 45°C inland and 38°C in the mountains.

In September, the mean air temperature was 1.7°C above normal and the average precipitation was 40% of normal.

In October, the mean air temperature was 0.5°C above normal and the average precipitation was 40% of normal.

In November, the mean air temperature was 3.7°C above normal and the average precipitation was 41% of normal.

In December, the mean air temperature was 1.4°C above normal and the average precipitation was 116% of normal.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

During 2025, Cyprus experienced 123 forest fires that burned 12870 hectares, mostly forest and other wooded land. Of these, 7 fires were over 50 ha in size.

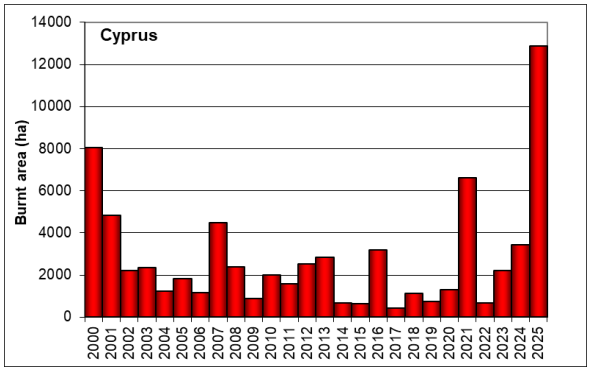
Table 16. Number of forest fires and burnt areas in Cyprus from 2018 to 2025.

Year	*Number of fires*	*Burned area (ha)*		
		Total	*Forest and other wooded land*	*Agriculture and other artificial land*
2018	131	1136	997	139
2019	99	733	494	239
2020	108	1305	1002	303
2021	111	6612	4791	1821
2022	89	685	433	252
2023	131	2216	1974	242
2024	121	3425	2343	1082
2025	123	12870	10638	2232

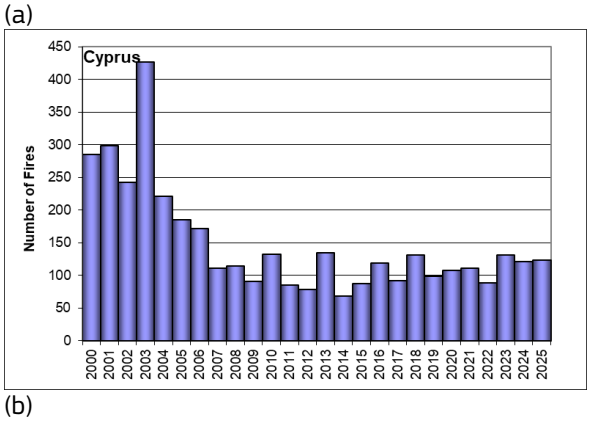
Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Department of Forests, Cyprus.

The trends of the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Cyprus for the years 2000 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 9**.

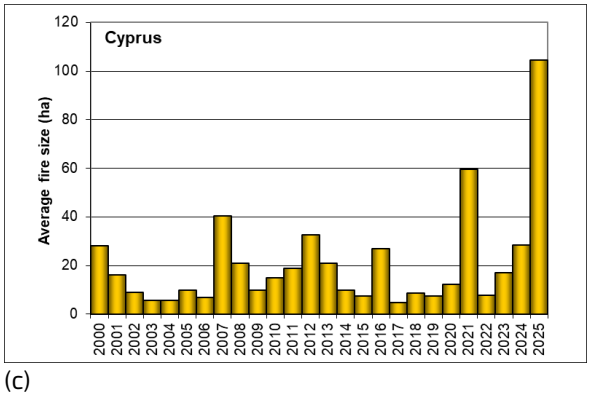
Figure 9. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Cyprus from 2000 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Cyprus.

Fire causes

Out of the 123 forest fires that occurred in Cyprus during 2025, a percentage of 26% were of unknown origin. 46% of the fires were intentionally set and 3% of the fires were caused by lightnings. The remaining percentage of 25%, is attributed to human negligence or accidents.

2025 major fires

Malia fire: one of the most destructive wildfires in Cyprus history, started on the 23rd of July, near Malia community, Limassol District, that burnt 11594 ha. The fire, favoured by high temperature, low relative humidity and strong winds, swept rapidly through nearby communities, and apart from the vegetation, destroyed livestock facilities and damaged partly or completely houses and other infrastructure in the area. Due to the fire, a total number of 18 communities were evacuated. Regarding casualties, 2 people were found dead and others were injured.

Galataria fire: on Monday 7th of July at around 14:00, a fire that started near Galataria community, Paphos District, that burnt an area of about 406 hectares covered with wild vegetation and agricultural land.

Fire fighting resources

The aerial firefighting means that were available during the 2025 fire season, consisted of 13 primary aerial assets of which, 9 light type firefighting airplanes and 4 medium type firefighting helicopters. In addition, light type helicopters were available for use as secondary aerial assets and for aerial coordination purposes.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

The fire prevention program consisted of various activities including, fire break construction and maintenance, fuel management and law enforcement. Preparedness and emergency response capabilities of the firefighting forces remained at the highest level, throughout the fire season. For fire detection purposes, 46 lookout stations operated during the fire season and air and ground patrol missions were executed. Moreover, an awareness raising campaign was implemented.

Injuries and loss of human lives

During 2025, 2 people lost their lives and several others were injured.

Operations of mutual assistance

On July 23rd, Cyprus activated the UCPM, requesting assistance for the suppression of the massive fire at Malia community, Limassol District. On July 24th, Spain responded offering one RescEU module. The offer was accepted but on the following day it was cancelled, due to improvement in the situation. Sweden also responded offering one module, but the offer was also cancelled in the next day for the same reason. In addition, Cyprus also requested assistance through the UCPM on July 24th, for a GFFF module. Greece responded with 26 firefighters that arrived in Cyprus during the same day. Furthermore, Cyprus requested assistance from Jordan, Israel, Egypt and Lebanon, based on bilateral agreements. All the above countries responded by mobilising aerial assets to Cyprus. Also, the British Sovereign Base Areas were engaged in the firefighting operations with their 2 Chinook Helicopters. Totally, 27 aerial means were involved in the firefighting operations, of which, 11 airplanes and 16 helicopters.

On May 1st 2025, Cyprus responded to a request for assistance from Israel through UCPM, in combating wildfires in Israel, with the deployment of one Bell 412 helicopter.

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Department of Forests, Cyprus).

2.2.6. Czechia

Fire danger

Wildfires have long accounted for approximately a quarter of all fires in the Czech Republic and generally occur between March and September. Their occurrence is often linked to prolonged drought, high temperatures and human negligence. These fires include both fires in agricultural and open areas, such as orchards, gardens, meadows and parks, and, above all, forest fires, which can quickly threaten larger areas and require a concerted response from the Fire Rescue Service.

Forest fires have long accounted for approximately one-third of all wildfires in the Czech Republic. In 2025, their number returned to the long-term average, with 1520 fires recorded, whilst the record year of 2022 saw 2473 fires, the highest number in the last ten years.

In 2025, the total area affected by forest fires was 332 ha, causing damage of over CZK 18 million and injuring 25 people.

Most fires are small in scale (up to 96% do not exceed an area of 1 ha) and for most of them (95%), intervention by the fire brigade at the first stage of the fire alarm is sufficient.

Larger fires most commonly occur in forests with grass, leaf litter, pine needles, leaves or peat, where the fire spreads rapidly and intervention is more challenging.

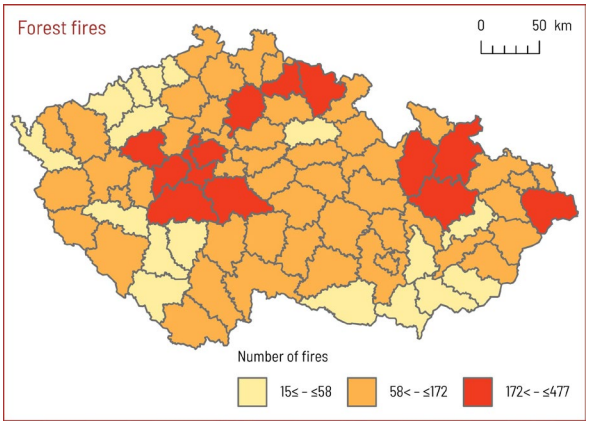
Forest fires usually occur between March and September, with their frequency peaking in spring, particularly in the afternoon between 1 pm and 7 pm. The highest number of fires is recorded in the Central Bohemian, Karlovy Vary and Vysočina regions, where local conditions and the nature of the vegetation may contribute to a higher risk of fires. Conversely, the fewest fires occur in the capital, Prague, and in the Olomouc and Zlín regions.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

Forest fires fighting and prevention is covered by the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic.

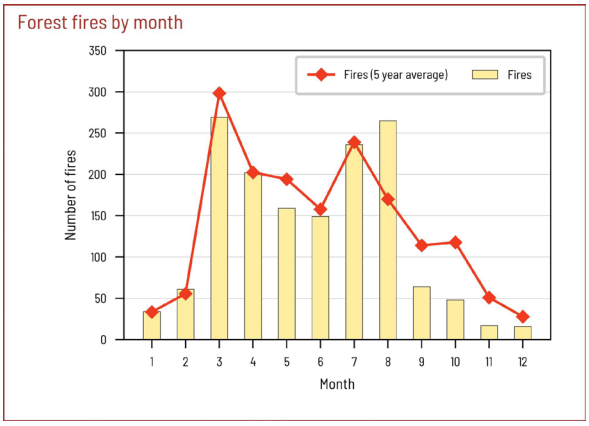
In 2025 a total number of 1520 forest fires were recorded and about 332 ha of forest areas were burned (compared with 2022 when the affected area was 1715 ha, caused mainly by the large fire in the Czech Switzerland National Park).

Figure 10. Distribution of number of fires across the country in 2025.



Source: Fire Rescue Service, Directorate General, Czech Republic.

Figure 11. Forest fires by month in 2025.



Source: Fire Rescue Service, Directorate General, Czech Republic.

Table 17. Number of fires, burnt area, economic losses and casualties in the Czech Republic since 2005.

Year	No. of fires	Burnt area (ha)	Damage caused m.EUR	Saved values m.EUR*	People killed	People injured
2005	626	227	0.8	4.9	0	12
2006	693	405	0.3	4.0	0	16
2007	805	316	0.7	13.3	0	20
2008	470	86	0.1	4.5	3	10
2009	514	178	0.3	6.2	0	20
2010	732	205	0.2	5.0	1	12
2011	1337	337	0.3	6.5	1	27
2012	1549	634	1.8	26.2	2	30
2013	666	92	0.2	3.0	0	7
2014	865	536	0.3	3.3	2	10
2015	1748	344	0.7	24.7	1	33
2016	892	141	0.2	7.8	0	15
2017	966	170	0.3	3.4	2	9
2018	2033	492	0.6	10.5	0	35
2019	1963	520	0.7	12	0	31
2020	2081	484	0.7	10	2	21
2021	1517	411	0.3	7.1	0	15
2022	2473	1715	2.1	12	0	63
2023	1512	217	0.6	7.8	0	22
2024	1284	140	0.4	5.2	0	10
2025	1520	332	0.7	8.1	0	25

* Refers to the amount that would have been lost without intervention.

Source: Fire Rescue Service, Directorate General, Czech Republic.

Fire causes

The main causes for the forest fires over the last ten years are:

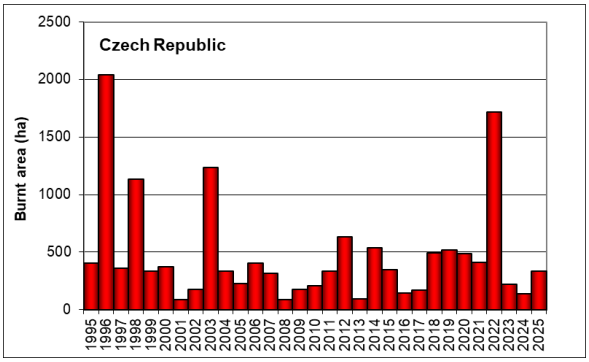
- Negligence 49%
- Intention or unproven fault 35%
- Unclear 11%

About half of all forest fires are caused by human negligence, most often by ignoring fire bans, failing to properly extinguish fires, or carelessly discarding cigarette butts. Nearly the same proportion of fires remains unexplained or falls into the category of unproven causes, while only a small number are triggered by natural events such as lightning strikes.

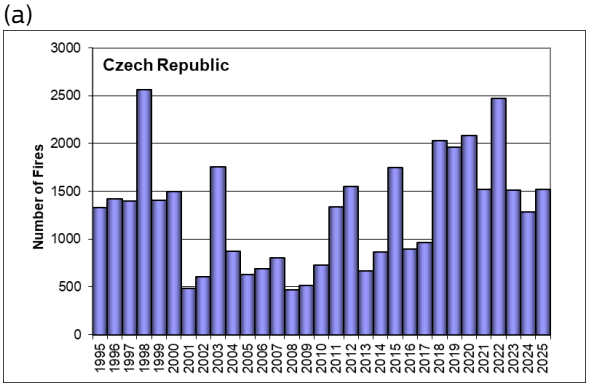
The occurrence and severity of forest fires are influenced by a combination of natural and human factors. Key natural conditions include drought, high temperatures, strong winds, lack of rainfall and damage to forests, for example by bark beetles. These factors are further intensified by long-term climate change, which increases the likelihood of extreme heat and prolonged dry periods across Europe.

The trends regarding the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Czech Republic for the years 1995 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 12**.

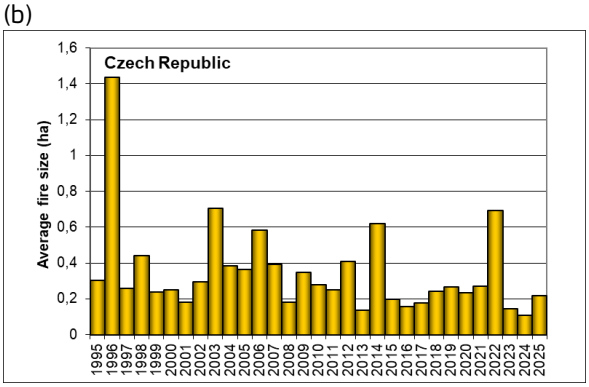
Figure 12. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Czech Republic 1995-2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Czech Republic.

Fire fighting resources

The aerial firefighting service (AFS) is provided year-round by the Aerial Service of the Police of the Czech Republic (AS PCR) using two helicopters equipped with 900-litre water bags. For the summer season, since 2023, the AFS has been provided by private operators in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment, using two Black Hawk UH-60A helicopters with a firefighting capacity of 3 410 litres, in addition to the capacity of the AS PCR. This service is co-financed by the European Commission, which covers 75% of the costs in the form of a grant. Both helicopters, intended primarily for aerial firefighting in forests under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment, were available from 15 June 2025 to 15 September 2025. The aim is to provide sufficient capacity to cover the period when the risk of wildfires is highest throughout the year.

In 2025, the AS PCR was deployed 19 times, 10 of which were between March and May, when the helicopter was called out primarily to forest fires and brush fires. A total of 365 water drops were carried out. Black Hawk UH60A helicopters were deployed a total of 12 times in the Czech Republic in 2025 and carried out a total of 191 drops, primarily between 15 June and 6 July 2025, when the Czech Republic experienced a drought, higher temperatures and low rainfall.

Injuries and loss of human lives

There were no casualties but 25 people were injured due to forest fires in 2025. In total, there were 246 people injured and 4 people killed in the last 10 years due to forest fires.

Operations of mutual assistance

In summer 2025, the Czech Republic deployed a Black Hawk helicopter under the UCPM to assist with large-scale wildfires across several European countries, including Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and Spain. The missions involved challenging mountainous terrain, extreme temperatures, strong winds and limited resources. Czech teams conducted hundreds of water drops, coordinated with international units and significantly contributed to stabilising fire situations and protecting affected communities.

(Source: Fire Rescue Service, Directorate General, Czech Republic).

2.2.7. Estonia

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

In 2025, 5 forest fires and wildfires were recorded, burning 3.07 ha in total.

Table 18. Fires in Estonia 2010-2025.

Year	Number	Area (ha)			
		Forest	Non-forest	Total	Average
2010	30	20.7	4.1	24.8	0.8
2011	24	15.5	3.8	19.3	0.8
2012	5	2.5	-	2.5	0.5
2013	15	33.4	45.1	78.5	5.2
2014	91	67.0	9.8	76.8	0.8
2015	67	82.7	0.4	83.1	1.2
2016	84	117.7	5.2	122.9	1.5
2017	61	24.6	8.4	33.0	0.5
2018	230	418.5	11.0	429.5	1.9
2019	143	56.5	12.7	69.2	0.5
2020	24	119.8	70.7	190.5	7.9
2021	32	32.3	0.2	32.5	1.0
2022	26	19.8	-	19.8	0.8
2023	33	74.6	-	74.6	2.3
2024	25	16.3	0.3	16.6	0.7
2025	5	2.2	0.9	3.1	0.6

Source: Estonian Environment Agency.

The fire season 2025 was the lightest since the reporting started in 2000, as well as the 2012 one; due to wet spring and summer.

The forest fires were concentrated from the end of March to mid April. The largest one occurred in March, with an area of 1.18 ha and was the only one with an area larger than 1 ha.

The burnt area, number of fires and average fire size in Estonia for the years 2000-2025 are shown in **Figure 13**.

Fire causes

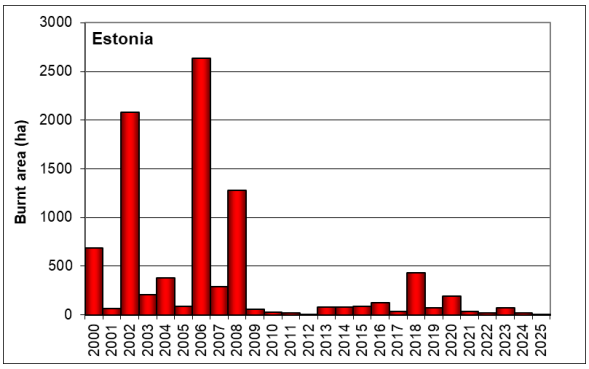
In 2025, 2 of the 5 fires were of unknown origin and the rest were of human origin; details are shown in **Table 19**.

Table 19. Fire causes in Estonia in 2025.

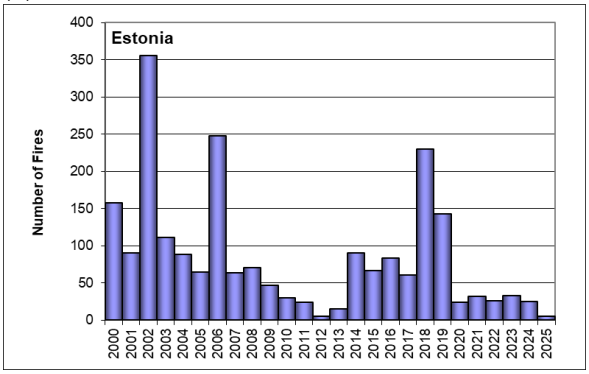
Cause code	Cause	Count
100	Unknown	2
411	Vegetation management	2
422	Cigarettes	1
Total		5

Source: Estonian Environment Agency.

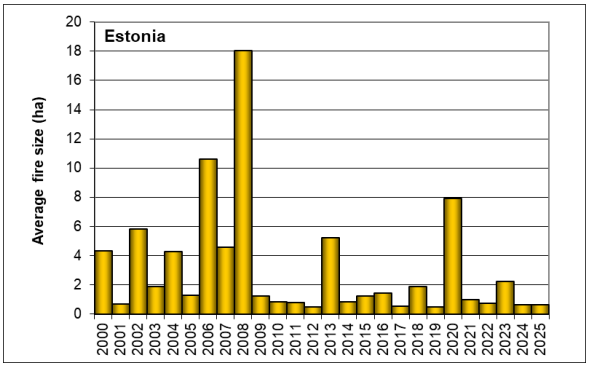
Figure 13. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Estonia from 2000 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Estonia.

Comment about the data collection routine in Estonia.

The Estonian Environment Agency is involved in two ways:

1. We carry out the on-site measurement of the forest fire areas (results are used in Greenhouse Gases (GHG) reporting for Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) sector). We do it next spring (so this spring we measured the forest fire areas of 2025). We select for the field-work areas bigger than 0.1 ha but measure the burnt area on-site even if it happens to be less than 0.1 ha. Initial list of forest fires we get from open data source of Estonian Rescue Board. Until the year 2019 we had an access to the emergency call centre logs (it was possible to assess better what was burning and what was the cause). It provided the opportunity to include small-size forest fires as the result of the desktop analysis exercise. From the data you can see that this is not anymore the case for since 2020. Despite our efforts we have not been granted official access to rescue call logs until now.
2. We compile national statistics on forest fires and publish those in our Forestry Statistics Yearbook.

(Source: Estonian Environment Agency, Estonia).

2.2.8. Finland

Fire danger

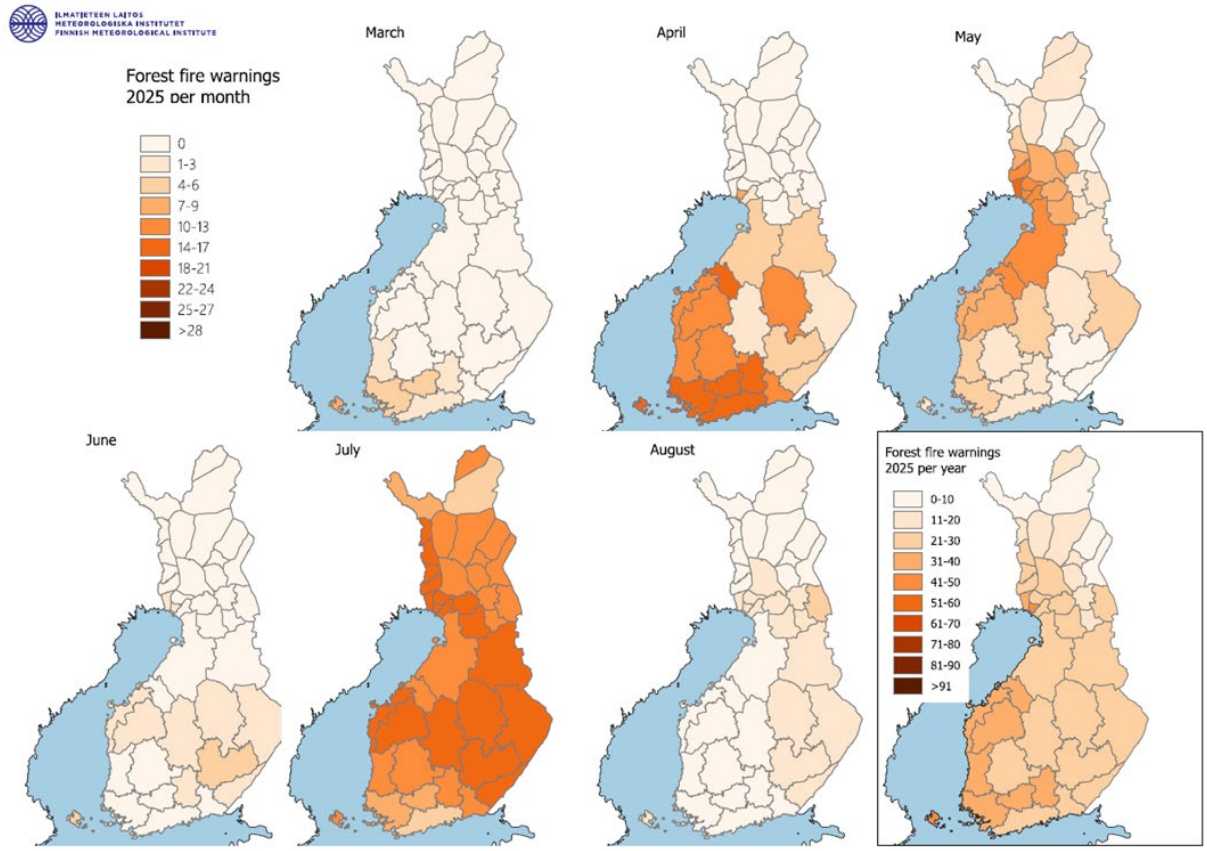
Spring started early and was largely warmer than usual. Snow melted early, and surface soils dried quickly in southern and western Finland already by the end of March.

May and June were unsettled and slightly cooler than normal. From July to early August, it was clearly warmer than usual. On twenty consecutive days, temperatures above 30°C were recorded somewhere in Finland.

During that period, rain and thunder showers were localised, and lightning ignited numerous wildfires, especially in the east and north. After early August, the weather cooled and became more unsettled again.

September was widely warm, but also rainy. Over the whole season, fewer wildfire warnings were issued than usual, even though the season started early and many warnings were also issued in July.

Figure 14. Forest fire warnings in 2025 in Finland.

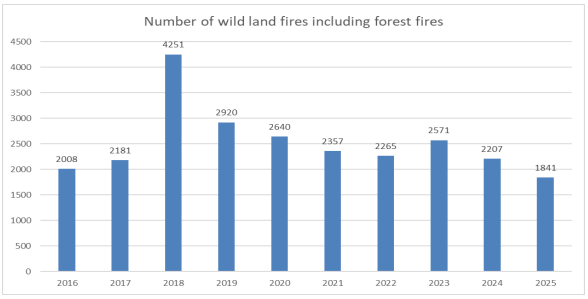


Source: Ministry of the Interior, Finland.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

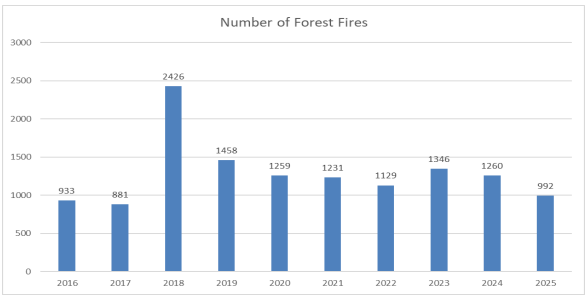
The amount of forest fires in 2025 in Finland was normal average level. There were 1 841 wildfires in Finland last year and 992 of them were reported as forest fires. The total burned area was ca. 535 ha of which ca. 390 ha forest area. The average burned forest area per fire was 0.40 ha. The exact 10 years statistics from 2016 to 2025 is presented below from **Figure 15** to **Figure 18**.

Figure 15. Number of wild land fires including forest fires.



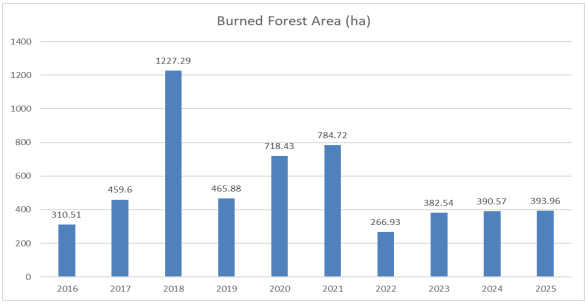
Source: Ministry of the Interior, Finland.

Figure 16. Number forest fires.



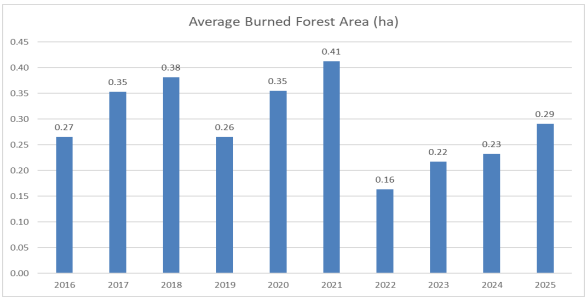
Source: Ministry of the Interior, Finland.

Figure 17. Burned forest area in Finland, 2016-2025.



Source: Ministry of the Interior, Finland.

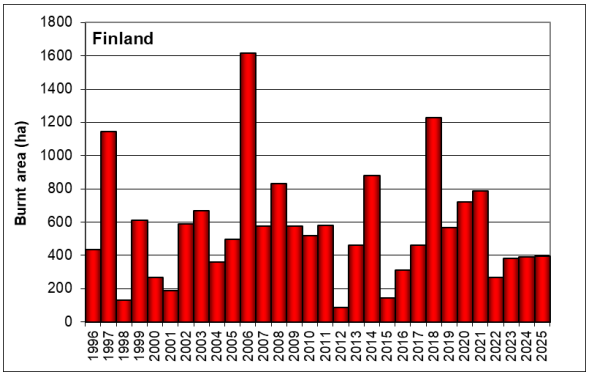
Figure 18. Average burned forest area.



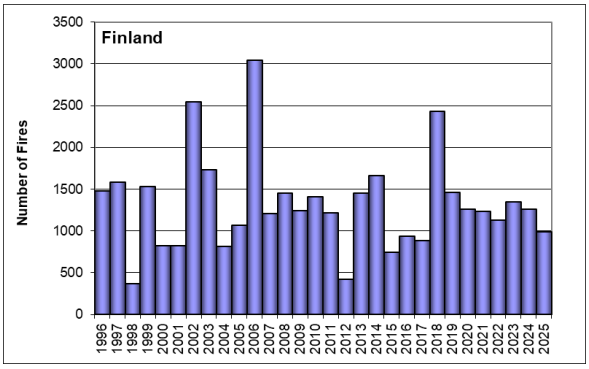
Source: Ministry of the Interior, Finland.

The long-term trends regarding the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Finland from 1996 to 2025are shown in **Figure 19**.

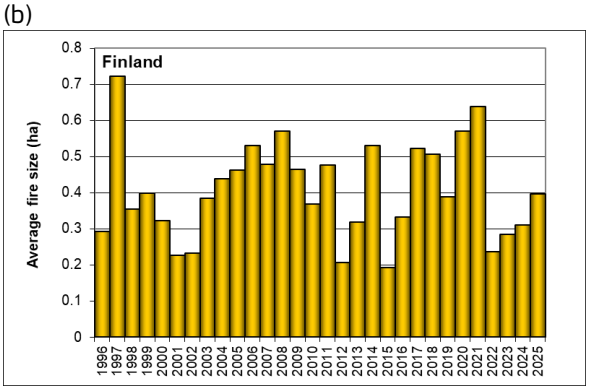
Figure 19. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Finland from 1996 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Finland.

Fire causes

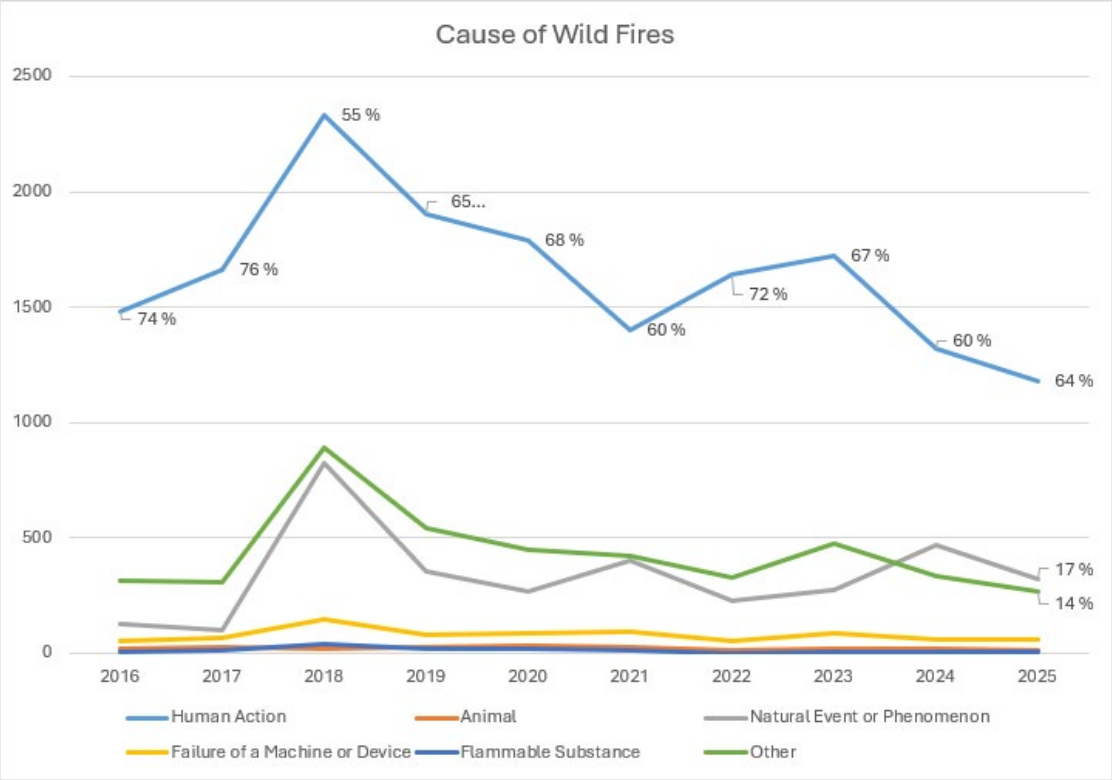
The most common reason which causes wildfires in Finland was various human actions. Human action has been the cause of wildfires in about 65 percent of cases during the last years.

The detailed breakdown for 2025 is the following:

- Human Action 64.1%
- Natural Event or Phenomenon 17.4% (average is 13%)
- Failure of a Machine or Device 3.2%
- Animal 0.7%
- Flammable Substance 0.2%
- Other 2.4%
- Cannot Be Estimated 12.0%

The last two classes are combined as “Other” in **Figure 20**.

Figure 20. Causes of wildfires in Finland from 2016 to 2025.

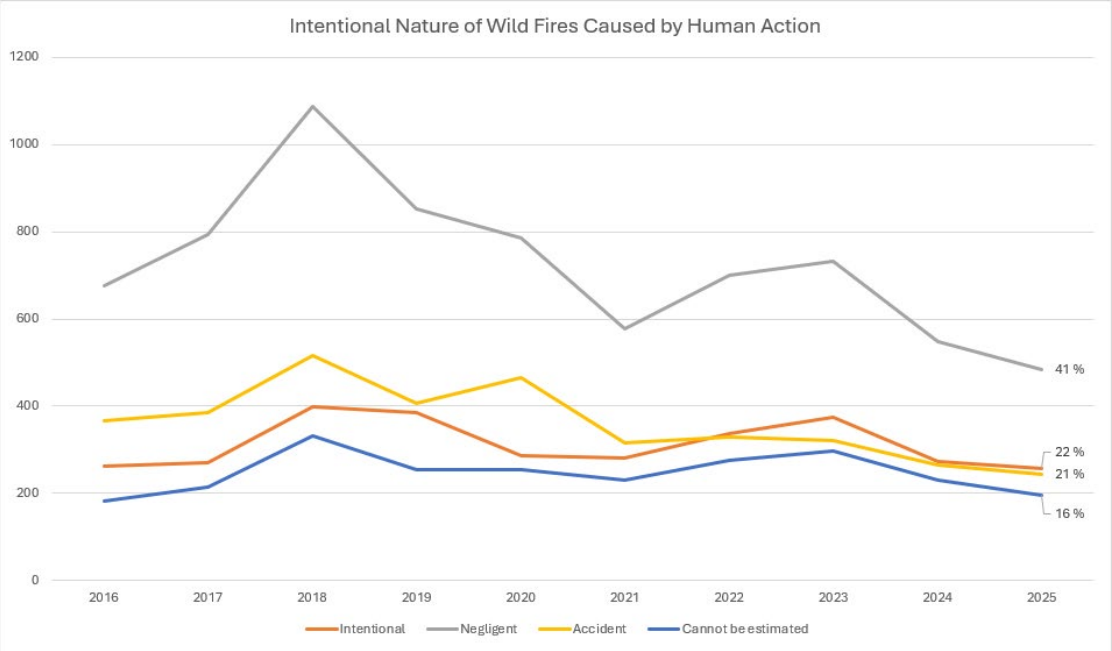


Source: Ministry of the Interior, Finland.

The rescue authorities have estimated the following breakdown for the Human action causes in 2025:

- Negligent 41%
- Intentional 22%
- Accident 21%
- Cannot be estimated 16%

Figure 21. Breakdown of "Huamn action" causes of wildfires in Finland from 2016 to 2025.



Source: Ministry of the Interior, Finland.

Some more precise estimated causes of the wildfires in 2025 are listed in the table below.

Table 20: Detailed fire causes in Finland in 2025.

Cause (harmonised EU code)	Count
Unknown (100)	283
Lightning (201)	248
Animals (mostly big birds colliding with HV power lines and causing a wildfire when falling burning on the ground)	12
Electrical power (301)	17
Spark from a machine or device, failure of a machine or a device, wrong use of a machine	62
Mechanical spark	28
Self-ignition (306)	20
Vegetation management, Agricultural burnings, Waste management (411-413)	314
Recreation (bonfires, candles etc.) (414)	272
Fireworks and other pyrotechnics (421)	14
Cigarettes (422)	87
Hot or glowing object or hot ash (423+424)	54
Matches or another flammable device	61
Cooking, hot grill, or a spark from a fireplace or a chimney	34
Children using fire (520, through negligence or deliberate)	122
Rekindle (600)	21

Source: Ministry of the Interior, Finland.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

- Legislation aims to reduce wildfires. It is prohibited to make an open fire during a wildfire warning.
- Grass fire warnings & forest fire warnings were combined into a wildfire warning from the start of the 2024. Authorities and citizens were informed of the changes.
- More cooperation with other authorities and institutes like Finnish meteorological institute.

Fire fighting means

— Finnish Defence Force's NH 90 helicopters were available to the forest fire extinguish.

— A multi-phase development project for rescue service aviation was launched.

— More co-operations between other authorities like Border Guard.

— Forest fire Aerial Officer education for fire officers continues.

— Goal to improve HNS (Host Nation Support) systems for forest fires.

— Finland's Ground Forest Firefighting using Vehicles (GFFF-V) module was ready for national and international missions.

- In August, through the EU Civil protection Mechanism, the Spanish authorities requested international assistance in extinguishing wildfires. Finland responded to Spain's request for assistance by sending a GFFF module consisting of 26 rescue personnel professionals from different rescue departments.

— Strong volunteer fire brigade's force (15 000 volunteers also in rural areas), co-operation between professional rescue services (for example Arctic Rescue Team in Northern part of Finland).

— Around 380 scooping cards for AFF were completed nationally.

Figure 22. Fire fighting with helicopter in Finland.



Source: Tommi Luhtaniemi

Injuries and loss of human lives

Totally one person died, and 5 persons slightly injured in the wildfires in 2025. Two fire fighters got injured during wildfires in 2025. Injured people mainly got burns in fires.

Some of the wildfires caused damages to the buildings and other property, the average loss in 2025 was about 5 000 euros (varying between 1-80 000 euros). A few wildfires were caused by fires from buildings or vehicles.

Operations of mutual assistance

Information sharing between neighbour countries and EU.

Climate change

In the future, the forest-fire risk is expected to increase in Finland and elsewhere in Northern Europe due to global warming. However, so far, annual burned areas in Finland have not increased noticeably.

(Source: Ministry of the Interior, Finland)

Research activities aimed at improving fire management

— Some research and development projects were underway in 2025.

— The development of forest fire extinguishing activities will continue, through for example development work related to the use of aircraft.

— Other development goals in future:

  - Northern European co-operation (Aerial Forest Firefighting (AFF) with rescEU forces continues, Nordic-Baltic wildfire co-operation).
  - ensure early warning systems.
  - co-operation with rescue services.
  - new innovative solutions and equipment.

2.2.9. France

Fire danger

The year was characterized by:

- The 2024–2025 winter saw abnormally warm temperatures (+0.6°C) for the 7th consecutive year, driven by a February that was well above expected values. Deficits in rainfall and snowfall across southern mountain ranges early in the year created conditions favorable for fire-based land management practices (such as prescribed burns and pastoral eco-burning), particularly in the Pyrenees.
- A warm spring. With temperatures 1.7°C above normal, April ranks as the fifth-warmest April since 1900. This anomaly was particularly pronounced in the northwest of the country, where temperatures were 2 to 3°C above average. Precipitation patterns varied sharply: rainfall was above average in the north and below average in the south during winter, but this pattern reversed in the spring—with a deficit in the north and a surplus in the south—except along the Occitan coast, where the severe rainfall deficit of the past two years persisted and vegetation (in the Pyrénées-Orientales and Aude departments) continued to show signs of dieback.
- A very hot summer with two heatwaves and prolonged droughts, approaching record levels. Indeed, the summer of 2025 was the third-hottest recorded in France since 1900, trailing only 2003 and 2022. The deviation from normal temperatures was particularly pronounced in the central-western region and along the Mediterranean coast. A first heatwave occurred in June, an extremely hot spell (+3.3°C above normal), followed by a second in August (+1.4°C above normal).

This situation resulted in the accelerated drying out of vegetation—initially affecting the herbaceous layer, which had unfortunately flourished rapidly and vigorously thanks to spring rains, thereby creating a susceptibility to ignition very early in the season. Intense fires began to break out in late June.

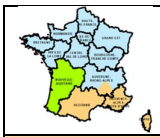
Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

The final tally (following corrections to certain database errors) shows a total of 30 977 hectares burned in France across 20 148 fires (1.4 times the ten-year average), including 21 747 hectares of forest fires (twice the ten-year average).

This year saw twice as many fires exceeding 20 hectares compared to the ten-year average.

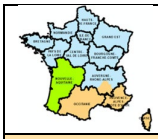
A detailed breakdown by zone and fire type is provided in **Table 21** and **Table 22**.

Table 21. Burnt area in hectares in France.

	2025			
	Forest fire	Agricultural fire	Other vegetation fire	Total
South-East	18 683	444	1 279	20 361
South-West	1 467	962	845	3 273
Rest of mainland France	1 642	4 573	1 164	7 343
Total France	**21 747**	**5 943**	**3 287**	**30 977**

Source: Authors of the country report for France.

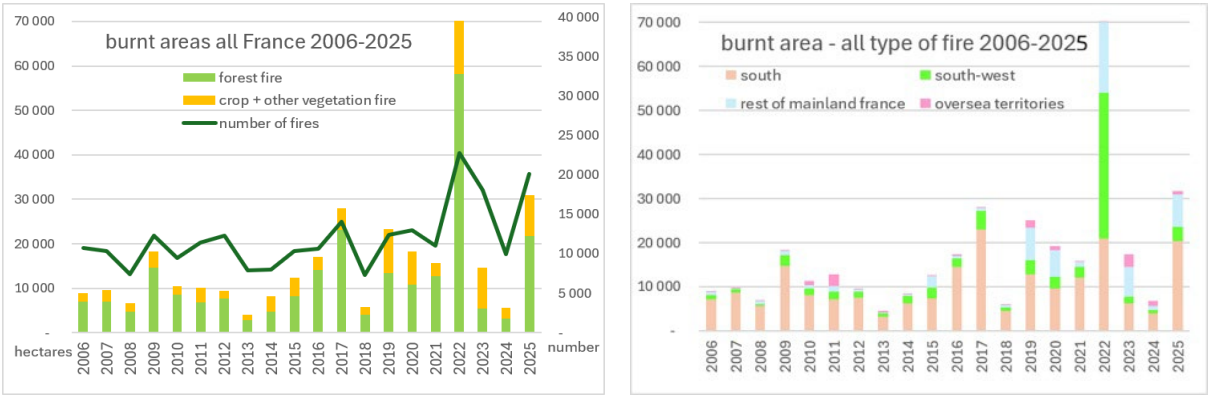
Table 22. Number of fires in France.

	2025			
	Forest fire	Agricultural fire	Other vegetation fire	Total
South-East	1 394	779	5 393	7 566
South-West	484	618	1 995	3 097
Rest of mainland France	633	2 447	6 405	9 485
Total France	**2 511**	**3 844**	**13 793**	**20 148**

Source: Authors of the country report for France.

The agricultural fires category has been distinguished from other vegetation fire types to allow for more precise monitoring of these fires, which are becoming increasingly significant due to climate change. The graphs below, showing trends over the past 19 years, indicate that 2025 ranks second since 2006 in terms of both the number of fires and the total area burned, and third in terms of forest fire area (behind 2022 and 2017). However, in terms of total area burned, it remains far behind 2022.

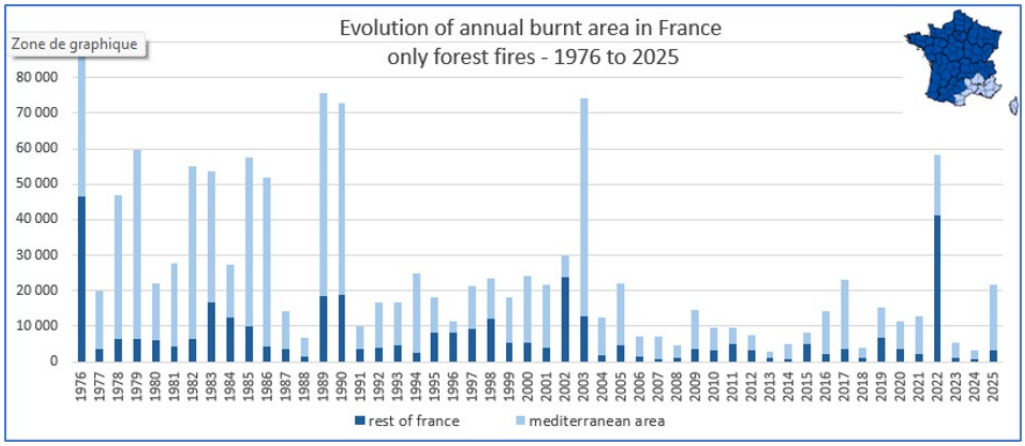
Figure 23. Burnt areas in France by vegetation type and type of fire, 2006-2025.



Source: Authors of the country report for France.

The Mediterranean region is the largest contributor this year. It is worth noting that the Ribaute fire (see below) alone accounts for half of the total area.

Figure 24. Burnt area evolution comparing Mediterranean area with rest of France.



Source: Authors of the country report for France.

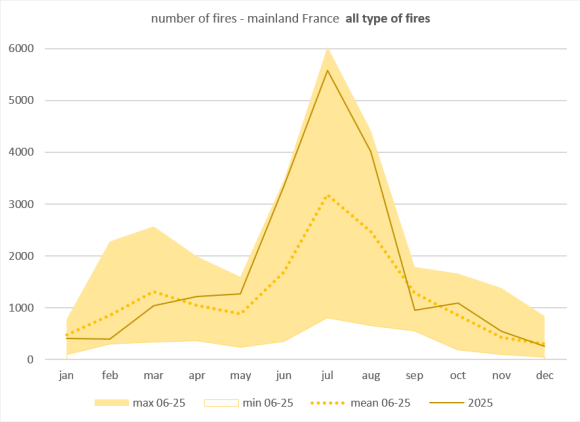
If we look at the graph in **Figure 24**, which covers only forest fires and is based on less detailed as older datasets, this record-breaking status is confirmed for 2025.

Seasonal distribution:

In 2025, the number of fires exceeded the average starting in April and approached the highs of the last ten years between June and August, before returning to average levels from September to December.

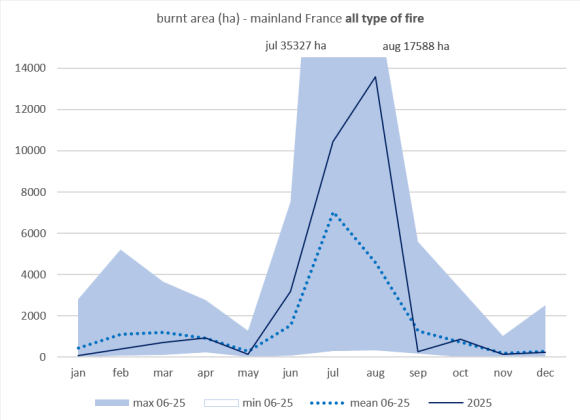
The burned area remained below average until the end of spring, as well as throughout the autumn and winter. The peak was concentrated in the summer season (June to August).

Figure 25. Monthly numbers of fires.



Source: Authors of the country report for France.

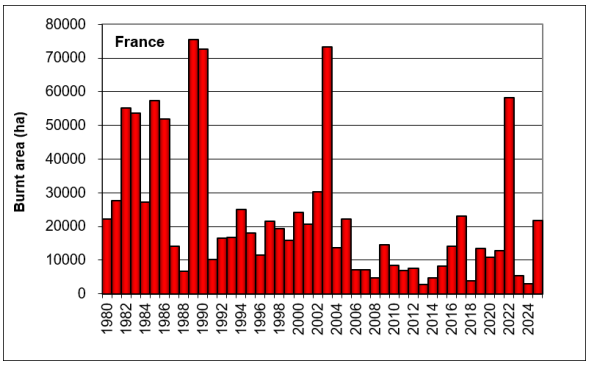
Figure 26. Burnt area.



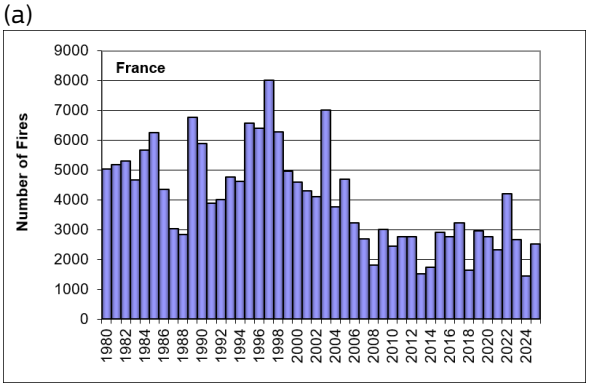
Source: Authors of the country report for France.

The trends of the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in France since 1980 (forest fires only) are shown in **Figure 27**.

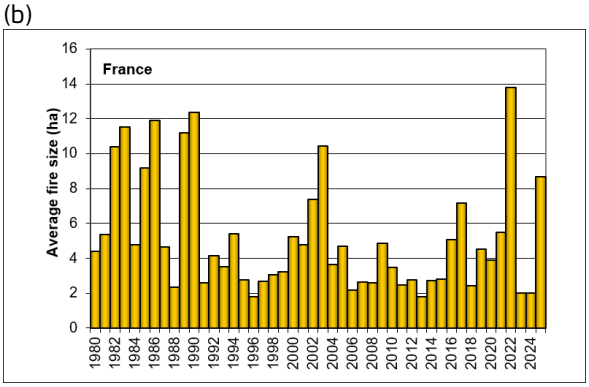
Figure 27. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in France from 1980 to 2025 (forest fires only).



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for France.

Large fires

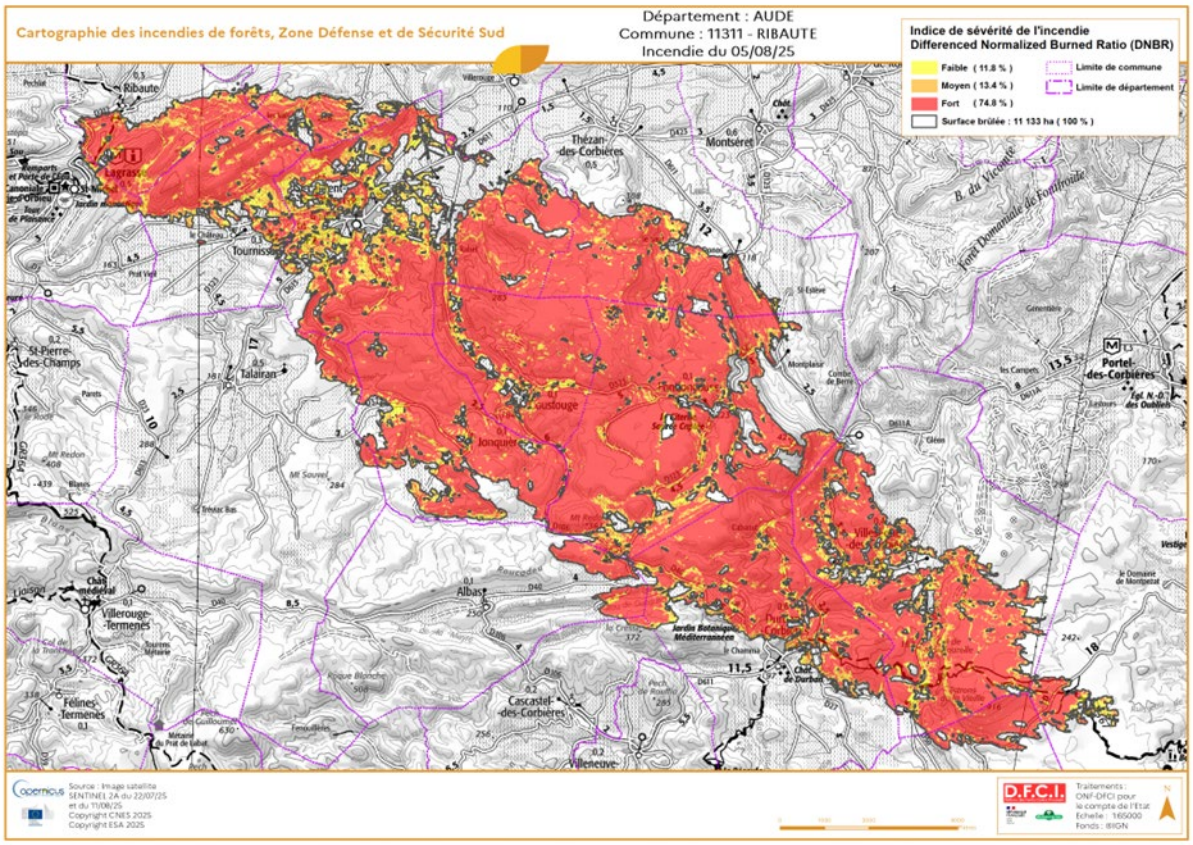
The Ribaute Fire (Aude, August 5, 2025).

With 11 133 hectares burned, 17 municipalities affected and a span of 27 km, this is a benchmark fire that sets a historical record for the Mediterranean region, at least for the past 52 years, since record-keeping began. The

previous record dated back to September 21, 1990 — the Vidauban fire (Var) — with a recorded area of 11 580 ha (though this figure was likely slightly overestimated due to the precision of satellite data at the time).

The Ribaute fire broke the all-time national record for rate of spread, with an average speed of around 4 000 m/h during the first 7 hours and peaks exceeding 8 000 m/h for one hour and half. It also set a record for the area burned during the initial spread phase: over 10 000 ha in the first 8 hours, an average of more than 1 200 hectares per hour. This is twice the rate seen during the initial phase of the Gonfaron fire (Var, August 16, 2021) and 4 times more than the rate of the Landiras 1 fire (August 12, 2022) over its first two days. It also exhibited a record intensity of 95 000 kW/m during the peak of spread.

Figure 28. Extent and severity of the Ribaute fire.



Source: Office National des Forêts (ONF)

The area burned in the Aude department is also unprecedented for a predominantly limestone landscape (characterized by garrigue scrubland and Aleppo pine). Only one fire exceeding 5 000 ha had previously been recorded in this type of terrain, the 5 300 ha blaze in the Sainte-Victoire massif (13 - Bouches-du-Rhône) in late August 1989. All other major Mediterranean fires exceeding 5 000 ha occurred in crystalline terrain (characterized by maquis scrubland, holm oak, and maritime pine): the Maures, Corsica, and the Pyrénées-Orientales.

Intense and fast-moving, the Ribaute fire was also highly destructive:

- 1 person died, 2 were seriously injured, and several others sustained minor injuries
- Over a hundred buildings were damaged; the fire penetrated 3/4, within which many were completely destroyed

— 83% of wooded areas, heathlands, forests, and garrigue scrubland suffered extreme burn severity and were completely charred

— Nearly 2 000 ha of public forest were affected (14 municipal forests and one state forest)

— Several hundred hectares of vineyards were either scorched by flames or withered by the heatwave

— Many animals perished in the fire

— Major impact on biodiversity; notably, the majority of the fire zone lies within a Natura 2000 area (Special Protection Area) designated for birdlife conservation

— Impact on the landscape in a region where tourism is a key economic resource for the department

Figure 29. Aerial view from the Civil Security reconnaissance aircraft and ground-level views.



Source: OSI – DGSCGC (aerial view) and ONF (ground-level views).

Les Pennes-Mirabeau (Bouches-du-Rhône) fire: 616 hectares on July 8.

This fire is notable for the number of structures affected. Originating from a vehicle fire on the A7 motorway, the fire spread to nearby vegetation on an uphill slope exposed to the strong Mistral wind blowing that day. It advanced rapidly across the municipality of Les Pennes, reaching the first built-up areas to the south. Highly unfavorable weather conditions caused spot fires and drove the fire's spread toward the southeast and the outskirts of

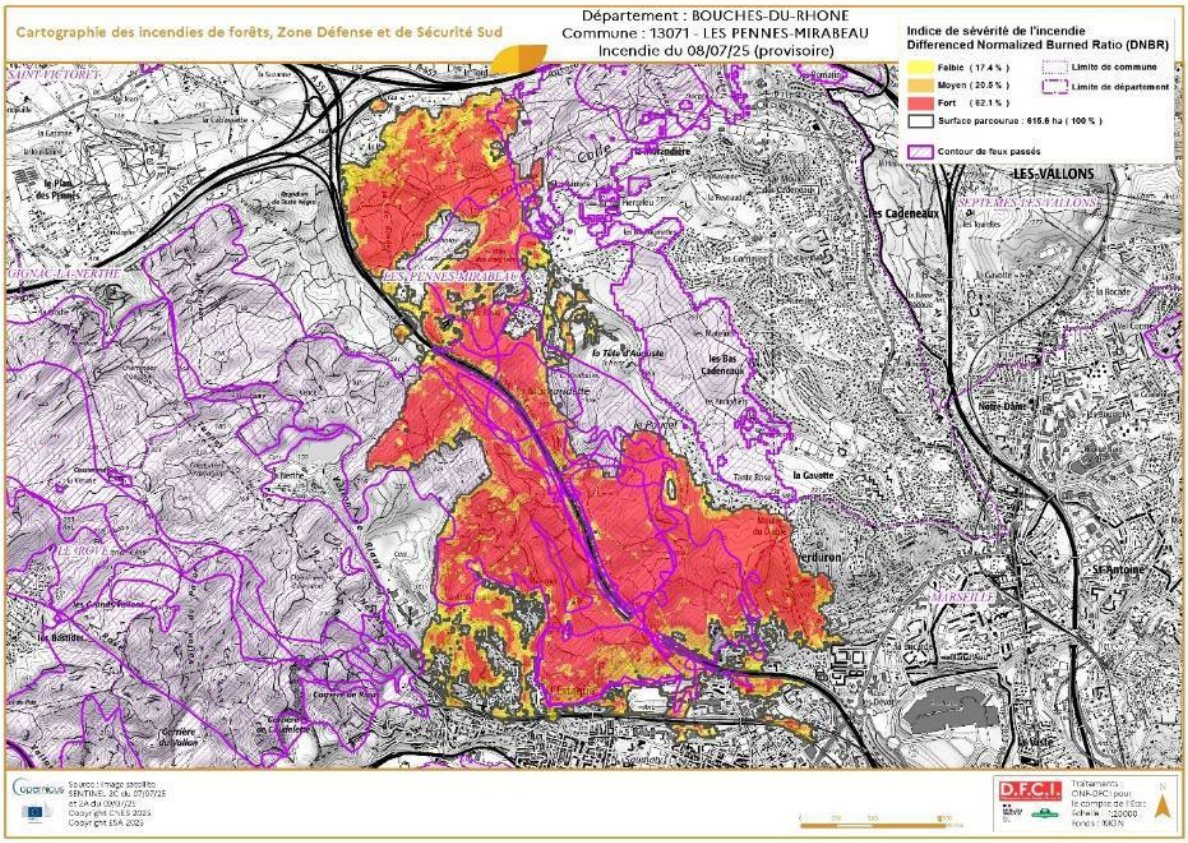
Marseille (L'Estaque district), following a path similar to those of historical fires. More than 80 homes were destroyed, and significant infrastructures were impacted (railway line, motorway).

Figure 30. One of the houses destroyed in Marseille.



Source: ONF.

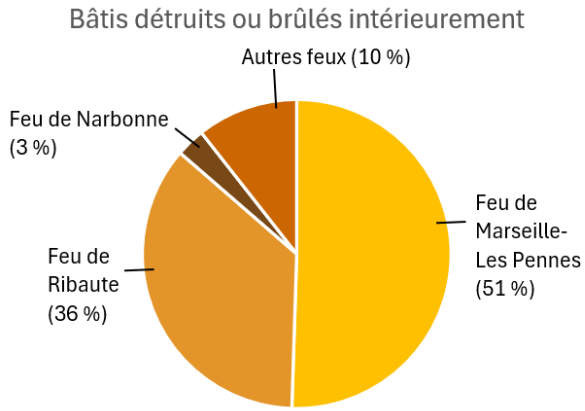
Figure 31. Map of fire severity on vegetation.



Source: ONF.

Primarily due to these two major fires, the number of buildings destroyed or internally burned is the highest recorded in France.

Figure 32. Buildings destroyed or internally burned.



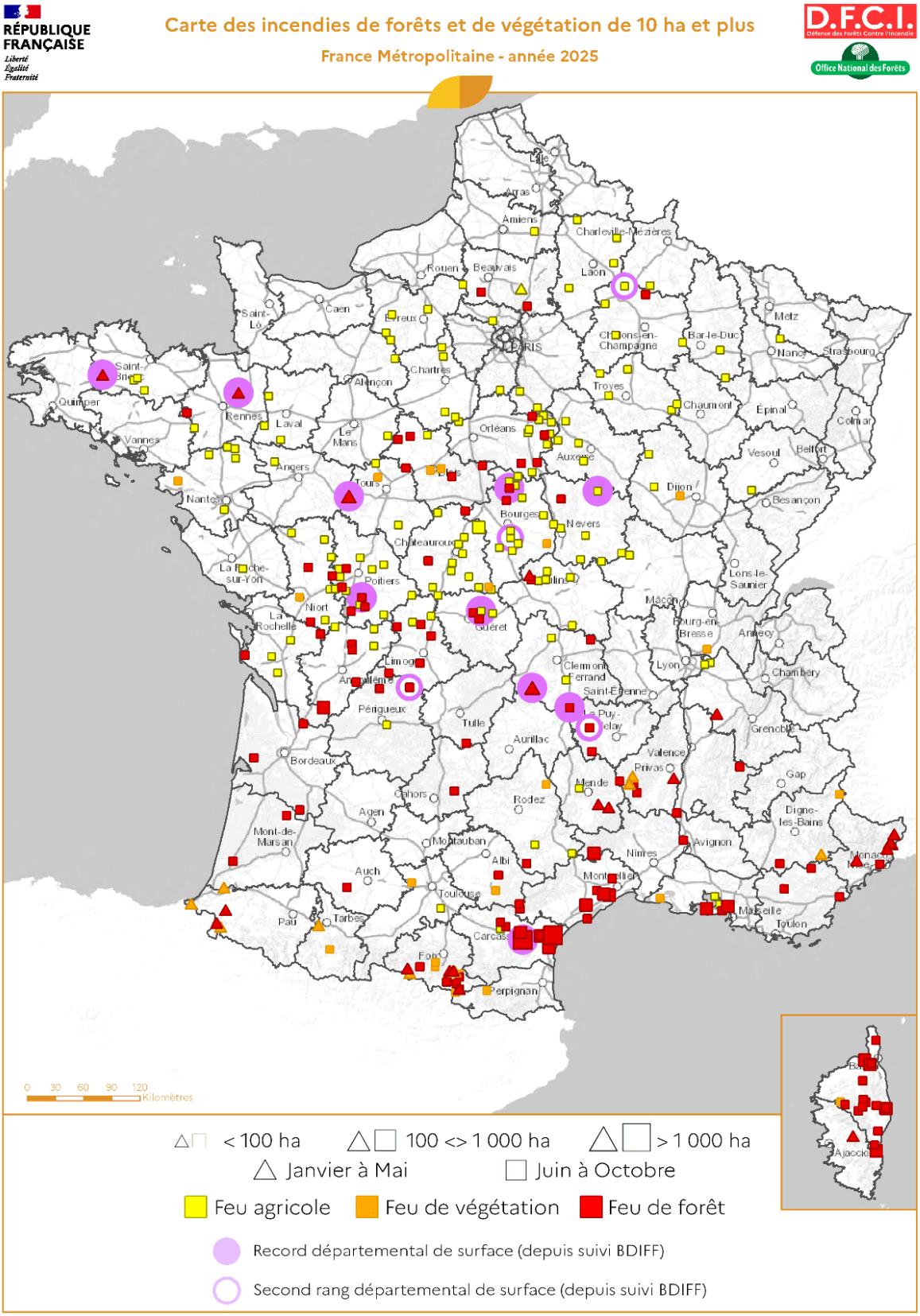
Source: ONF.

Spatial distribution of the largest fires (greater than 10 ha) by type of fire

The map in **Figure 33** shows that the distribution of forest fires aligns with the expansion of risk analyzed in 2023 following the 2022 fires. New fire-prone areas have emerged alongside the traditional zones (the Mediterranean rim and the Landes massif), spreading outward from these historic areas and extending across the entire Atlantic seaboard up to Brittany, as well as into the Centre and Paris regions. Around ten departments have recorded record levels of burned acreage since national monitoring began. These fires are also occurring earlier in the season (April, May). The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Hauts-de-France, and Normandy regions remain largely unaffected (experiencing primarily agricultural fires).

In the Mediterranean region, which accounted for the majority of the forest area burned in 2025, the Aude department, hard-hit by four consecutive years of drought, was particularly affected: it experienced the year's two fires exceeding 1 000 hectares, namely the Ribaute fire (described above) and the Narbonne fires (1 551 hectares on July 7).

Figure 33. Map of forest and vegetation fires greater than 10 ha.



Source: ONF.

Southeastern France:

Unlike the rest of France, the Mediterranean region experienced limited spring activity due to a rainy start to the year. However, while these rains were insufficient to alleviate the deep-seated drought that had set in—particularly along the Occitan coast—they did trigger more vigorous herbaceous growth than usual.

Yet, a precipitation deficit of 70% to 100% combined with intense heat (including a heatwave lasting from June 19 to July 6) made June 2025 the hottest June recorded in the Mediterranean region since 1947. This situation caused vegetation to dry out rapidly; the herbaceous layer was affected first, intensely and quickly, creating a susceptibility to ignition early in the month, followed by the shrub layer, which gradually and prematurely introduced a risk of fire spread.

Following this heatwave, the first half of July saw intense operational activity in the Mediterranean, marked by several major fires. Notable examples include the July 7 fire in Narbonne, where 1 551 hectares burned, making it the second-largest fire in the Aude department since 1986 (occurring in the same general area) and the July 8 fire in Les Pennes-Mirabeau, which destroyed 616 ha, but, more significantly, reached neighborhoods northwest of Marseille, destroying over 80 homes. There were also several fires exceeding 100 hectares in the Gard, Hérault, Aude, and Bouches-du-Rhône departments. After a brief respite in late July thanks to rainfall on the 19th and 20th, drying conditions resumed in early August, peaking during a new heatwave from August 8 to 18. This period took a heavy toll on vegetation (with widespread browning observed, including in the hinterland) and helped make the summer of 2025 the third-hottest in 80 years, trailing only 2003 and 2022. Operational activity picked up again, culminating in the massive, exceptional fire at Ribaute.

A series of rainy spells in late August and early September led to a relatively swift end to the season in terms of operational activity; however, this was not enough to fully alleviate two zones of drought, one in northern Corsica and the other along the Occitanie coast (Aude-Hérault), which persisted until the end of October.

The number of fires was slightly below average (around 80% of the year-to-date average, though this figure should be viewed with caution as it may still be incomplete). While the total area burned by vegetation fires was close to the average, the area burned by forest fires was approximately 2.5 times the average—matching the levels seen in 2022. This discrepancy was primarily driven by the Ribaute fire, which accounted for 60% of the total forest fire burn area. Finally, it is worth noting that fires in the Mediterranean region accounted for 66% of the national total.

Southwest France:

The year 2025 was quite intense for the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region; although the extremes seen in 2022 regarding burned acreage were not reached, the number of fire starts exceeded that of 2022. The annual tally includes 3 097 fires in natural areas that destroyed 3 307 ha, including 484 forest fires that consumed 640 ha of woodland. Twenty-six fires exceeding 20 hectares were recorded, primarily crop fires in the northern part of the region. The area burned by these 26 fires accounted for 36% of the total burned area across the entire region.

Analysis of fire outbreaks:

The number of fire ignitions in Nouvelle-Aquitaine remained around the annual average from January to May, before rising exponentially in June, July, and August—surpassing records from previous years. September's figures dropped slightly below the average, then rose again marginally during the final months of the year.

Consequently, every department, with the exception of Gironde, which remained within its average range, saw a significant increase in the number of fire ignitions compared to the

average for previous years (2006–2024). Most notable increases include:

— +388% in Charente

— +359% in Charente-Maritime

— +339% in Corrèze

However, this rise may reflect not only an actual increase in fire ignitions but also improved tracking of vegetation fires by the region's various departmental emergency services.

Analysis of burnt areas:

In terms of burned area, 2025 proved particularly intense in the northern parts of the former Poitou-Charentes and Limousin regions, which were affected by crop fires. Indeed, 1 496 ha of cultivated land were destroyed, representing nearly 45% of the total area burned in Nouvelle-Aquitaine. Here too, the burned areas exceeded the averages from previous years for the months of June, July, and August.

Certain departments saw a significant increase in burned area compared to the average for previous years (2006–2024):

— +499% in Vienne

— +365% in Charente

— +363% in Charente-Maritime

Despite this high level of crop fire activity, the largest fire recorded this year was a forest fire, specifically the one in Saint-Vallier (Charente) on August 11, 2025, which burned 201 hectares. Furthermore, only one forest fire exceeding 20 ha was recorded within the Landes de Gascogne forest: the fire in Lanton (Gironde) on August 13, 2025.

Fire causes

A total of 8 488 fires, representing 41% of the overall total, have a known cause. This figure, which has been steadily rising in recent years, exceeds the 2006–2021 average of 26% for fires with a known cause. This reflects clear progress in determining causes, driven by a proactive policy.

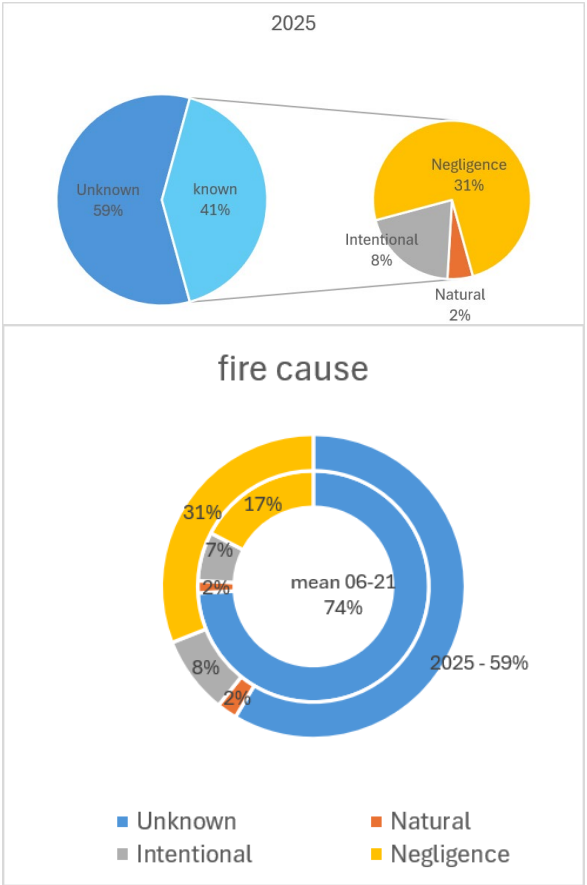
Among these fires with a known cause:

— 442 were attributed to natural causes (lightning), representing 2% of all fires or 5% of fires with a known cause, which is consistent with the 2006–2021 average,

— 1 692 fires were deliberately started, representing 8% of all fires or 20% of fires with a known cause, which is also close to the 2006–2021 average,

— 6 354 were accidental in nature, representing 31% of all fires or 75% of fires with a known cause, a figure significantly higher than the 2006–2021 average. It appears that improved understanding of these fires confirms that a significant proportion of fire ignitions are accidental.

Figure 34. Fire causes in France in 2025.



Source: Authors of the country report for France.

Fire fighting means

Land resources

To reinforce the departmental fire and rescue services (SDIS), the directorate general for civil security mobilized a total of 51 preventive task forces (comprising 3500 firefighters and over 700 firefighting vehicles). Over the course of the summer, the reinforcements deployed within the operational framework amounted to nearly 11 000 person-days of effort. This capacity was put to the test during the Ribaute fire in the Aude department, which required the simultaneous deployment of 25 preventive task forces.

In addition, military civil security units were also deployed as part of the summer operational response: 13 detachments (totalling 514 firefighter-rescuers) were engaged in fighting 95 fires (compared to just 46 in 2024).

As in 2023 and 2024, France hosted several European modules under the ERCC-led initiative for proactive planning and knowledge exchange. From July 1st to mid-September, forest firefighting teams—with or without specialized firefighting vehicles (GFFF-UV or GFFF) from Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, and Slovakia were integrated into the operational deployments of the SDIS in the southern and south-western zones.

Air resources

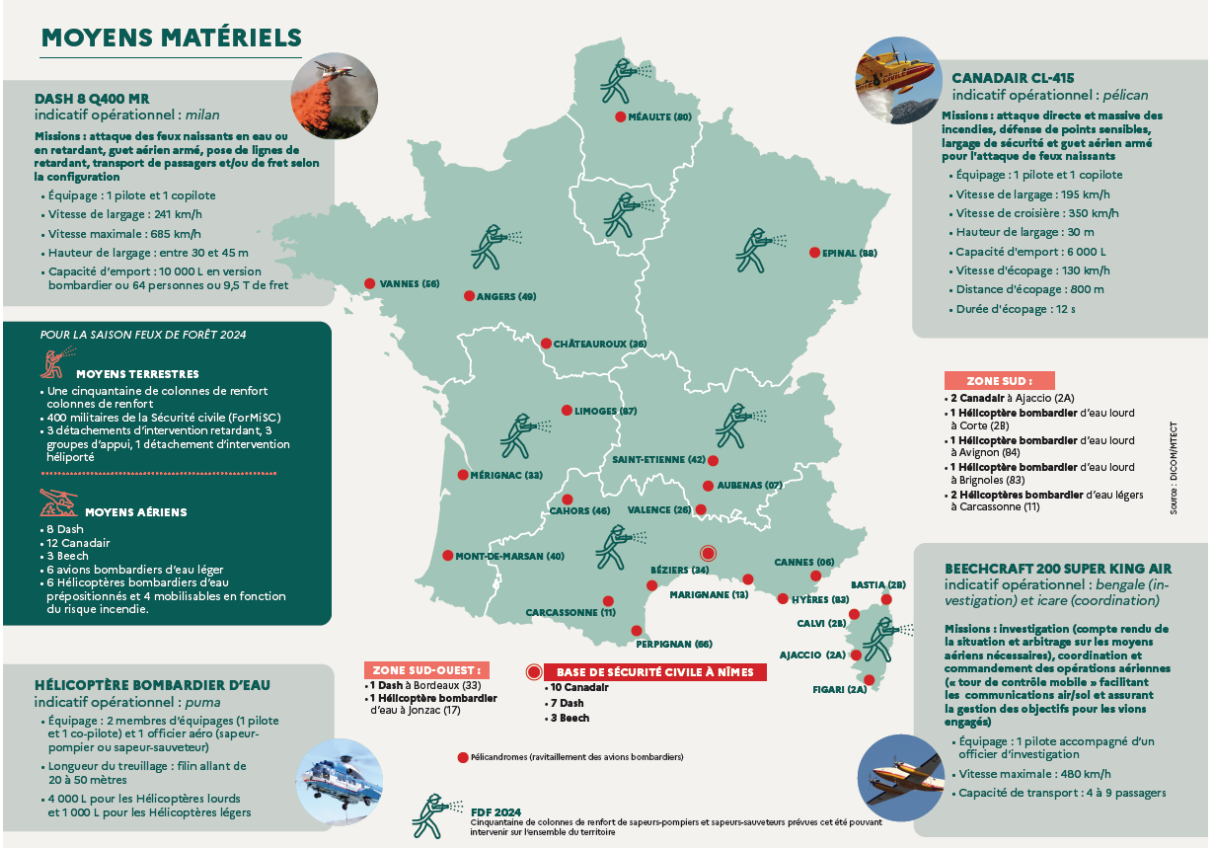
Comprising 11 Canadairs, 8 DASH aircraft, and 3 Beechcraft planes (two of which are equipped with optronic systems), the national fleet was bolstered by the leasing of helicopters (6 heavy and 4 light, deployed in pairs) and 6 light air tankers (Air Tractors).

In 2025, the national fleet of 38 aircraft enabled the deployment of two permanent detachments of nine planes each (based in Bordeaux and Ajaccio).

Over the course of 58 days during the summer season, the national coordination center in Nîmes managed 108 armed aerial surveillance missions (GAAR). Seven of these missions covered the Landes de Gascogne area, while the majority focused on Mediterranean departments. GAAR missions made it possible to bring 69 fires under control before they exceeded 5 ha in size. In total, as part of the national response framework, the fleet's aircraft carried out 7 575 drops over 3 500 flight hours.

Furthermore, thanks to a more extensive deployment network, positioning helicopters directly within high-risk zones led to faster response times. They logged 915 flight hours and performed 4 541 drops, double the figures from 2024, across 115 operations. Light aircraft were deployed for 33 operations and several aerial surveillance circuits over the Landes de Gascogne forest, accounting for 211 drops and 476 flight hours.

Figure 35. Material resources in France.



Source: Authors of the country report for France.

Impact on human lives

The year 2025 was marked by the death of one civilian in the Ribaute fire.

Political consequences

A national strategy for the defense of forests and non-wooded areas against fires[14]

Provided for in Article 1 of the Law of July 10, 2023, the national strategy was published on June 5, 2025; it was the subject of significant work in 2024 and extensive consultation during the first half of 2025. It aims to define key principles and objectives to address the foreseeable evolution of risk—in the short, medium, and long term—resulting from climate change. It is based on integrated risk management: prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

(Source: Groupement d'Intérêt Public Aménagement du Territoire et Gestion des Risques - GIP-ATEGERI; Office National des Forêts - ONF; Ministère de l'Intérieur, Direction de la sécurité civile et de la gestion des crises; Ministère de l'Agriculture et et de la Souveraineté alimentaire, Direction en charge de la forêt, France).

14 https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/grands-dossiers/strategie-lutte-feux-foret-france

2.2.10. Germany

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

In Germany, during 2025, 1 175 forest fires were reported, corresponding to a burnt area of 2 626 ha (1 014 ha coniferous wood land, 886 ha deciduous wood land and 725 ha non-wood land). The number of fires and the total burnt area were around double and eight times of the respective values recorded in 2024.

In 2025, Sachsen was the most affected province by burnt area (nearly three-quarters of the total), while Brandenburg recorded the highest number of fires (over a quarter) (**Table 23**, **Figure 36**). Two Länder (Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein) did not record any fires.

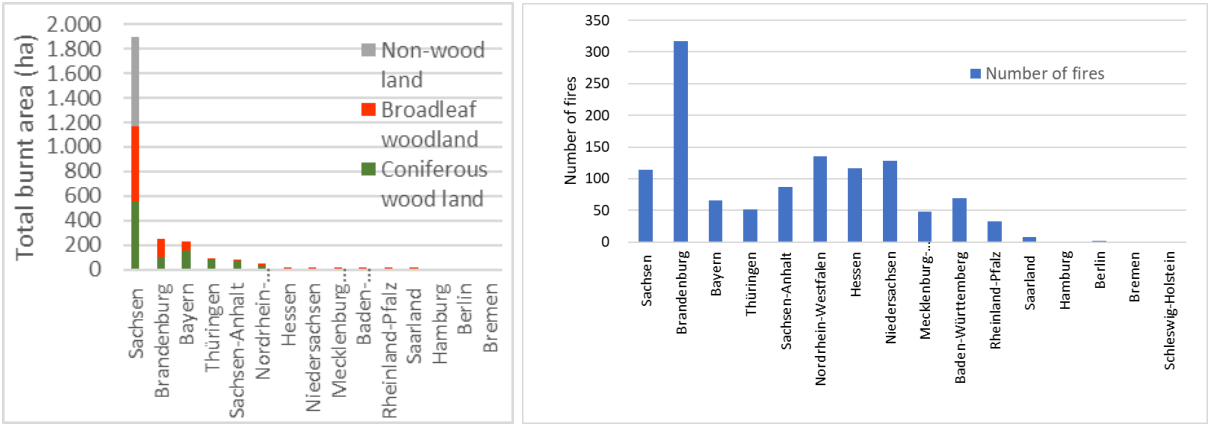
Table 23. Burnt area (total and by forest type) and total number of fires, ordered by total burnt area, Federal Republic of Germany, 2025.

	Burnt area (ha)				*Number of fires*
	Coniferous wood land	*Broad-leaved wood land*	*Non-wood land* [1)]	*Total*	
Sachsen	556.11	612.15	725.28	1 893.55	114
Brandenburg	96.33	155.93		252.26	317
Bayern	158.20	65.83		224.04	66
Thüringen	84.40	1.46		85.85	51
Sachsen-Anhalt	64.23	6.22		70.45	87
Nordrhein-Westfalen	30.19	22.16		52.35	135
Hessen	4.41	11.02		15.43	116
Niedersachsen	10.76	1.84		12.60	128
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	4.29	4.53		8.82	48
Baden-Württemberg	3.68	4.18		7.86	69
Rheinland-Pfalz	1.70	0.87		2.57	33
Saarland	0.35	0.10		0.45	8
Hamburg	0.01	0.00		0.01	1
Berlin	0.00	0.00		0.00	2
Bremen	0.00	0.00		0.00	0
Schleswig-Holstein	0.00	0.00		0.00	0
Germany	**1 014.68**	**886.29**	**725.28**	**2 626.25**	**1 175**

[1)] Only Saxony accounts for non-wood land

Source: Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Germany

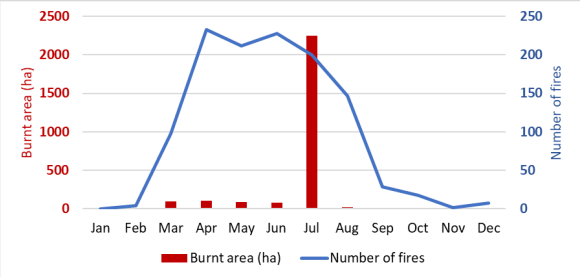
Figure 36. Burnt area and number of fires in Germany in 2025 by Land, ordered by total burnt area.



Source: Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Germany.

In 2025, while the number of fires remained around 200 per month from April to July, most of the burnt area occurred in July (**Figure 37**).

Figure 37. Number of fires and burnt area by month in Germany in 2025.



Source: Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Germany.

The economic damage caused by forest fires in 2025 is estimated to be around 4.36 million Euro (**Table 24**). This is well above the long-term average from 1991 to 2025, which is 1.89 million Euro. The cost per hectare burnt in 2025 was estimated at 1660 Euro/hectare, close to the average of the last 3 years.

Table 24. Losses from forest fires in Germany in 2023-2025.

	Year	2023	2024	**2025**
Total volume of non-recoverable wood (1000m³ overbark)	Sawlog size	1662	4	**264**
	Other	1848	6	**259**
	Total	3509	10	**523**
Total value (1000 Euro)	Wood & other tangible losses[1]	957	680	**4227**
	Other[2)]	237	2	**137**
	Total	1195	682	**4364**

1 Estimate of the stand expectation value less the stumpage value plus consequential costs caused by fire (additional planting cost etc.) as well as other material damage.

2 Other damage according to material value method (Koch) or other comparable cost estimates.

Source: Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Germany.

In 2025, approximately 5.3 million Euro were spent on prevention and control measures (**Table 25**).

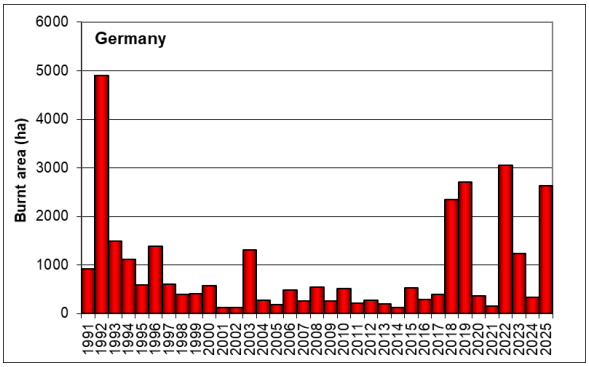
Table 25. Expenditure (1000 Euro) on forest fire prevention and control in Germany.

Year	2023	2024	**2025**
Forest service	5016	5502	**5074**
Other (public and private)	501	135	**230**
Total	5517	5637	**5304**

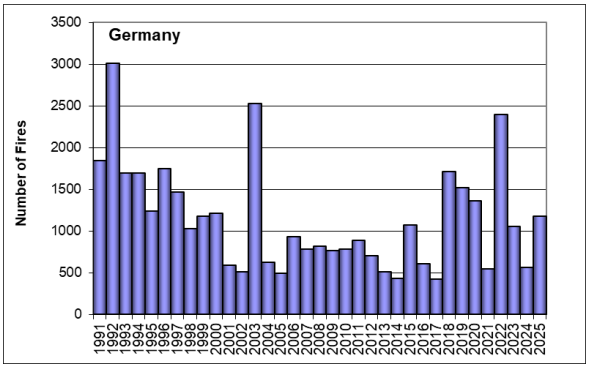
Source: Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Germany.

The trends of the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Germany for the years 1991-2025 are shown in **Figure 38**.

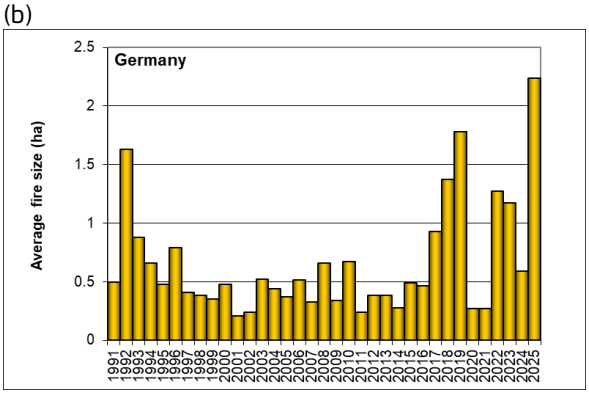
Figure 38. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Germany from 1991 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Germany.

Table 26 and **Table 27** show burnt areas and numbers of fires by land and ownership type.

Table 26. Data by type of land in Germany.

Year	2023	2024	**2025**
Non-wood land (ha)	88.03	-	**725.28**
Coniferous (ha)	362.01	93.10	**1014.68**
Non-coniferous (ha)	790.24	240.93	**886.29**
Total (ha)	1240.28	334.03	**2626.25**
Number of fires	1059	563	**1175**

Source: Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Germany.

Table 27. Data by type of ownership in Germany.

Year	2023	2024	**2025**
Public (ha)	413.82	77.84	**2226.00**
Private (ha)	826.45	256.19	**400.25**
Total (ha)	1240.28	334.03	**2626.25**
Number of fires	1059	563	**1175**

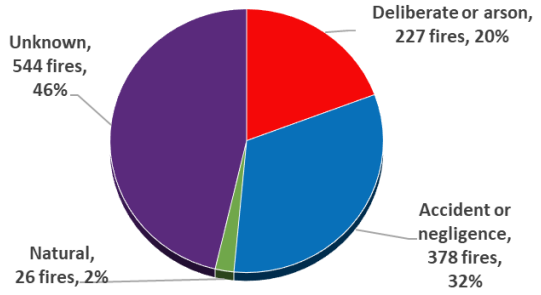
Source: Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Germany.

Fire causes and impacts

The main causes of forest fires during 2025 are shown in **Figure 39** and **Table 28**.

Within the category of negligence fires (**Table 29**), the majority (148) were caused by the general public (campers, visitors, children etc.).

Figure 39. Main causes of forest fires in Germany in 2025.



Source: Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Germany.

Table 28. Main causes of fires in Germany in 2023-2025.

	Number of fires			Burnt area (Hectares)		
Year	2023	2024	**2025**	2023	2024	**2025**
Arson	165	102	**227**	34.56	15.09	**26.12**
Negligence (total)	328	205	**378**	239.59	213.13	**2355.58**
Natural causes (lightning)	27	17	**26**	6.45	9.73	**5.18**
Unknown causes	539	239	**544**	959.68	96.08	**239.37**
Total fires	1059	563	**1175**	1240.28	334.03	**2626.25**

Source: Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Germany.

Table 29. Detailed breakdown of negligence causes in Germany in 2023-2025.

	Number of fires			Burnt area (Hectares)		
	2023	2024	**2025**	2023	2024	**2025**
Agricultural operations	29	4	**14**	26.73	6.71	**15.39**
Logging and forest operations (including prescribed burning)	41	29	**25**	6.24	4.55	**14.18**
Other industrial activities	1	4	**1**	1.00	0.25	**0.48**
Communications (railways, electricity lines, etc)	13	14	**6**	1.27	2.17	**0.29**
General public (campers, other visitors, children)	141	88	**148**	14.20	12.90	**31.25**
Other (including military, etc.)	103	66	**184**	190.15	186.55	**2293.99**

Source: Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Germany.

(Source: Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Germany).

2.2.11. Greece

Fire danger

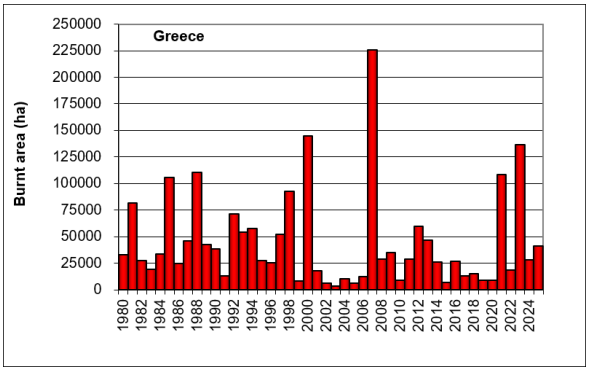
In 2025, Greece experienced its second warmest year in the last 66 years, with the annual mean temperature registering 1°C above the 1991–2020 historical norm. This exceptional warmth significantly shaped the meteorological context of the fire season, as June 2025 was recorded as the second warmest June on record (1.7°C above the norm) and summer 2025 was certified as the third warmest overall (1.3°C above the norm). Specific periods of extreme weather heavily accelerated potential fire danger levels, most notably a widespread and intense heatwave from July 21 to 27, during which temperatures exceeded 43°C across multiple mainland stations and peaked at 44.3°C in Tithorea. This severe heat was compounded by unfavourable precipitation trends; spring 2025 sustained a 10% rainfall deficit compared to historical averages, and the summer months followed a traditionally arid pattern with near-zero precipitation across most of the Greek mainland and islands. Additionally, an exceptionally dry September suffering a 53% precipitation deficit extended these high-danger conditions into the early autumn, maintaining a highly critical environment before a major hydrological recovery arrived with the rainfall surplus of October and November. (National Meteorological Service).

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

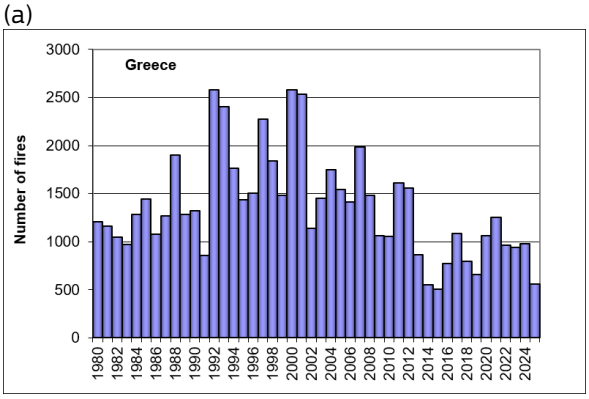
According to the current provisional results of the Greek Forest Agencies, during forest fire season 2025, a total number of 561 forest fires were recorded in Greece, with a total affected burnt area of 41 540.40 hectares on wooded and non-wooded forest land. More specifically, 23 443.95 hectares were burned on wooded forest land and 18 096.45 hectares were reported on non-wooded forest land. It is noticed that in Aegean region, only 26 fires burnt over 27 000.00 ha due to the major fire of Chios Island starting on June 22. (**Figure 41**).

There is a significant decrease in the total number of fire incidents compared to the previous fire season for 2024, but also a notable increase of the hectares of burned area that were recorded county wide. (**Figure 40** and **Table 30**). The trends of the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Greece for the years 1980 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 40**.

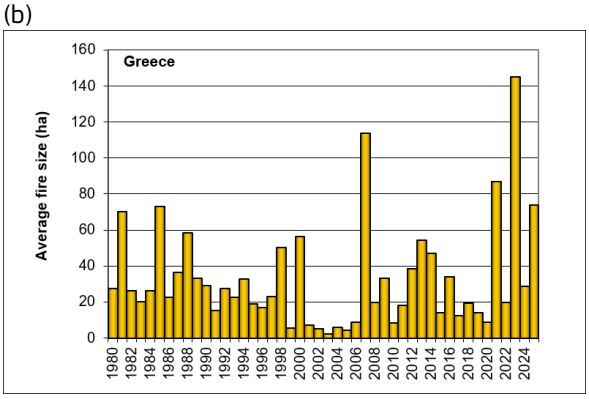
Figure 40. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Greece from 1980 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

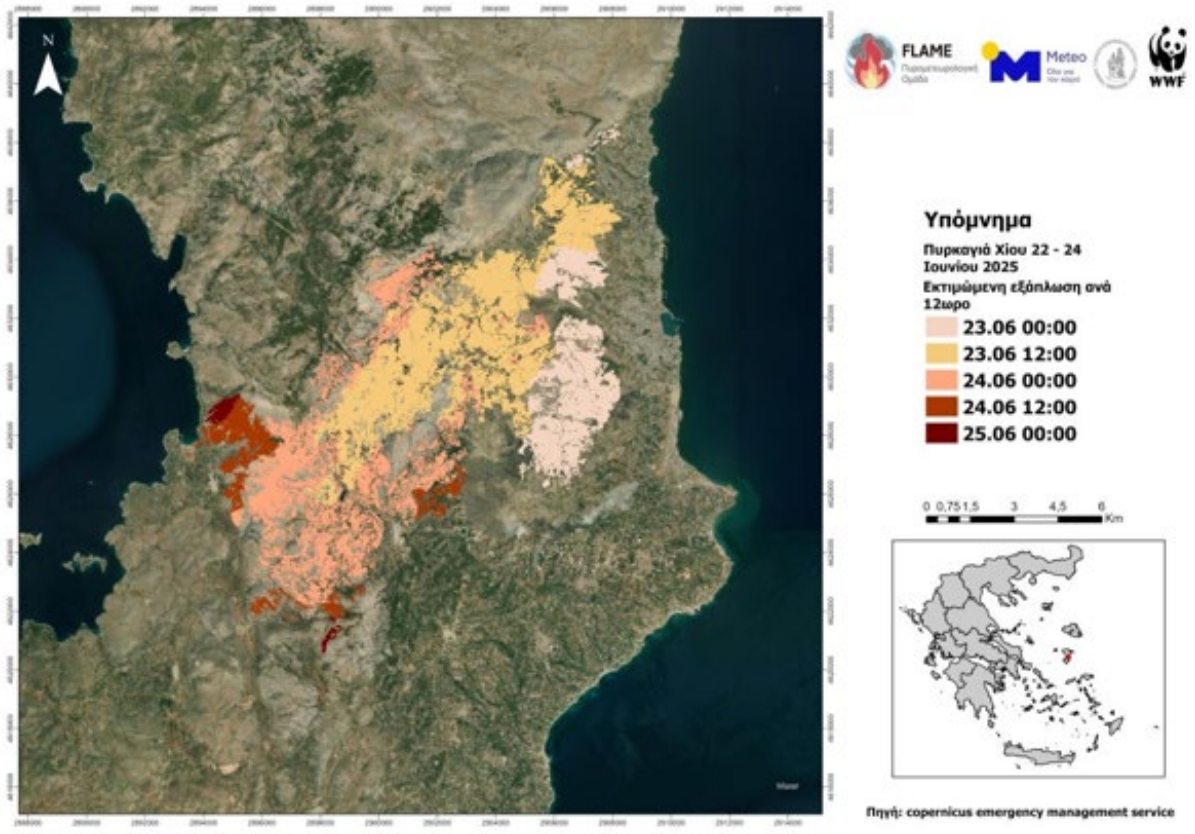
JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Greece.

Table 30. Number of fires and burnt area in 2025 in Greece by Inspection of Forest Policy Implementation.

INSPECTION OF FOREST POLICY IMPLEMENTATION	Number of fires						Burnt Area (ha)		
	< 1 ha	1-5 ha	5-100 ha	100 - 500 ha	> 500 ha	Total	Wooded	Non-wooded	Total
Macedonia – Thrace	54	18	8	2	0	82	142.50	65.40	207.90
Epirus & Western Macedonia	41	12	5	1	1	60	572.10	118.25	690.35
Thessaly & Central Greece	88	26	14	4	0	132	918.45	314.10	1 232.55
Peloponnese, Western Greece and Ionian Islands	112	35	19	6	2	174	1 842.60	745.80	2 588.40
Attica	28	9	4	2	1	44	952.80	1 250.30	2 203.10
Crete	32	7	3	0	1	43	7 035.00	412.50	7 447.50
Aegean	19	4	2	0	1	26	11 980.50	15 190.10	27 170.60
TOTAL	**374**	**111**	**55**	**15**	**6**	**561**	**23 443.95**	**18 096.45**	**41 540.40**

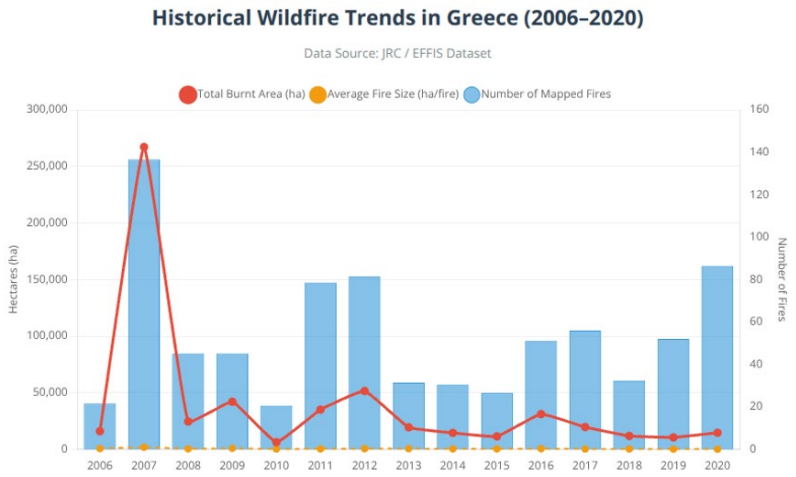
Source: Authors of the country report for Greece.

Figure 41. Estimated spread of the Chios fire.



Source: Authors of the country report for Greece.

Figure 42. Number of fires, burnt areas and average fire size for the period 2006-2020.



Source: Authors of the country report for Greece.

Fire fighting resources

A. Personnel

Overall, the active strength of the Hellenic Fire Service personnel for the year 2025, including civilian staff, seasonal personnel, and volunteer firefighters, was structured as follows:

- 11 548 Firefighting Personnel of General and Special Duties (active strength as of October 31, 2025).
- 2 237 Five-Year Obligation Firefighters (active strength as of October 31, 2025).
- 98 Civilian Employees.
- 2 448 Seasonal Firefighters (hired under fixed-term private law employment contracts, which expired on October 31, 2025).
- 4 236 Volunteer Firefighters under Law 4029/2011 (active as of October 31, 2025).
- 1 442 Personnel of the Special Unit of Forest Operations (EMODE)

B. Hellenic Fire Service Vehicles

The Hellenic Fire Service operates a total fleet of 3 836 vehicles of various types. These vehicles are categorized as follows:

Table 31. Fire Service's vehicles.

Vehicle Type	Availability (2025)
Firefighting Vehicles (Water Tenders)	2 004
Auxiliary Vehicles	1 448
Special Purpose Vehicles	228
Motorcycles	156
Total	**3 836**

Source: Authors of the country report for Greece.

C. Hellenic Fire Service Aerial Assets

Table 32. National Aerial Fleet.

Τύπος	Διαθεσιμότητα 2025 (μέγιστη)	Παρατηρήσεις
CL-415 Aircraft	5	
CL-215 Aircraft	6	
PZL Aircraft	19	3 of these were used for surveillance / patrol only
SUPER PUMA AS 332 L1 Helicopter	2	
BK 117 C1 Helicopter	3	
CH-47D (CHINOOK) Helicopter	3	
Total	**38**	

Source: Authors of the country report for Greece.

Table 33. Leased Aerial Assets.

Aircraft/Helicopter Type	2025 Availability
Medium-Type Helicopters	21
Heavy-Type Helicopters	8
Light-Type Aircraft	22
Total	**51**

Source: Authors of the country report for Greece.

Injuries and loss of human lives

During the rural and forest fires of the year 2025, four (4) civilian fatalities and zero (0) firefighter fatalities were recorded, while one (1) civilian and twenty-one (21) firefighters sustained injuries.

Operations of mutual assistance

(Official reporting data of the Greek Fire Brigade and the Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection for the year 2025)

1. Participation in the UCPM & RescEU Modules

European Firefighters Pre-positioning Program: Within the framework of the UCPM, Greece successfully hosted the European firefighters' pre-positioning program during the 2025 fire season. Ground Forest Firefighting (GFFF) modules from various European Member States were deployed to strategic standby bases across the country, ensuring immediate integration into field operations alongside national forces.

RescEU Aerial Assets: Greece actively participated in the shared European RescEU transitional fleet. During peak periods of the 2025 fire season, specific national or leased aerial assets (such as amphibious CL-415/CL-215 firefighting aircraft) were operationally committed to the RescEU pool, ensuring mutual solidarity for deployment either within the Hellenic territory or to other Mediterranean nations facing critical fire emergencies.

Copernicus Emergency Management Service (EMS): To respond effectively to major wildfire events, Greece repeatedly activated the Copernicus CEMS rapid mapping component in 2025. This allowed for the immediate generation of satellite-based delineations and grading maps to assess fire perimeters, burnt areas, and ecological damages.

2. Cross-Border & Bilateral Support

Direct Bilateral Assistance: Complementing the centralized European Union mechanism, Greece leveraged active bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries and Mediterranean partners (such as Cyprus, Italy, France, and Balkan nations) for the rapid, direct exchange of operational resources and specialized expertise.

Regional Mediterranean Cooperation: Through international platforms and European co-funded initiatives, Greece systematically reinforced cross-border cooperation with Mediterranean and regional neighbours. The operational focus shifted toward an integrated fire risk management approach, prioritizing joint prevention initiatives, shared wildfire spatial hazard assessments, and coordinated preparedness protocols rather than relying solely on suppression measures.

Climate change

Climate Change: National Plans & Impact Assessment.

The meteorological trends of 2025, characterized by the warmest January in 66 years, severe spring precipitation deficits, and intense summer heatwaves, underscore the direct impact of climate change on reshaping Greece's fire regimes. Climate variability has systematically extended the fire season and increased the frequency of simultaneous, convective wildfire events that challenge traditional suppression frameworks. In response, Greece's national planning has undergone a paradigm shift from reactive suppression to proactive, landscape-scale risk mitigation. Central to this strategy is the large-scale implementation of fuel management

program «antiNERO[15]» funded by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). This national strategy prioritizes forest biomass reduction, fuel breaks, and the development of modern forest fire protection plans based on standardized technical specifications and guidelines.

In 2025, the institutionalization of prescribed burning as an official legal and operational tool for proactive fuel management, effectively integrated forestry management with national climate adaptation policies.

Research activities

In 2025, Greek academic institutions and research centres (such as the National Observatory of Athens and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) intensified scientific research into next-generation fire management tools. Key research activities focused on high-resolution fuel mapping utilizing satellite remote sensing (Sentinel-2) and UAV technology to update national fuel models, particularly along critical Wildland-Urban Interfaces (WUI). Additionally, advanced coupled fire-atmosphere modelling systems (e.g., WRF-Fire) were thoroughly evaluated to predict extreme fire behaviour and spot fire potential during high Fire Weather Index (FWI) conditions. Vulnerability analyses were also conducted to evaluate ecosystem resilience and post-fire natural regeneration capacity in Mediterranean pine forests. These scientific outputs directly support public administration and the Forest Service in designing optimized, data-driven spatial fire risk assessments and implementing integrated fire management strategies.

(Sources: Hellenic Fire Service; Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection; National Meteorological Service, Greece).

15 https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/projects/national-reforestation-plan-restoration-and-prevention-antinero-antierosion-and-flood-protection_en

2.2.12. Hungary

Fire danger

Fire Weather Index (FWI)-derived data and values were reported throughout the whole fire season by the forest authority (FA). FA has been using JRC's data service to monitor the daily fire danger situation. Spring was warmer than in previous years. A warming trend has been observed during the spring season. Precipitation was concentrated at the beginning of the season: significant amounts fell in March, while in April and May there was a shortage. No prolonged period of fire danger developed during the spring. During the summer, heat waves were followed by cool, rainy periods. The average summer temperature was more than 1 degree higher than the 1991–2020 average. It was even warmer in the southern sandy regions. There was a significant shortage of rainfall during the summer months. Of the three months, June was the driest. Due to the high fire risk a general ban was ordered in July and August. The high-risk period lasted until the end of October in the central and southern parts of the country.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

Forest fire data are collected in close cooperation with disaster management authorities. Data collected on the spot by firefighters. They have been uploading the database day by day. Forest fire data are produced and analysed with a GIS method and checked on the spot by the forest authority. Gathered fire data are processed and evaluated by size, date, cause, and duration of fires. **Table 34** shows the total values between 2011 and 2025.

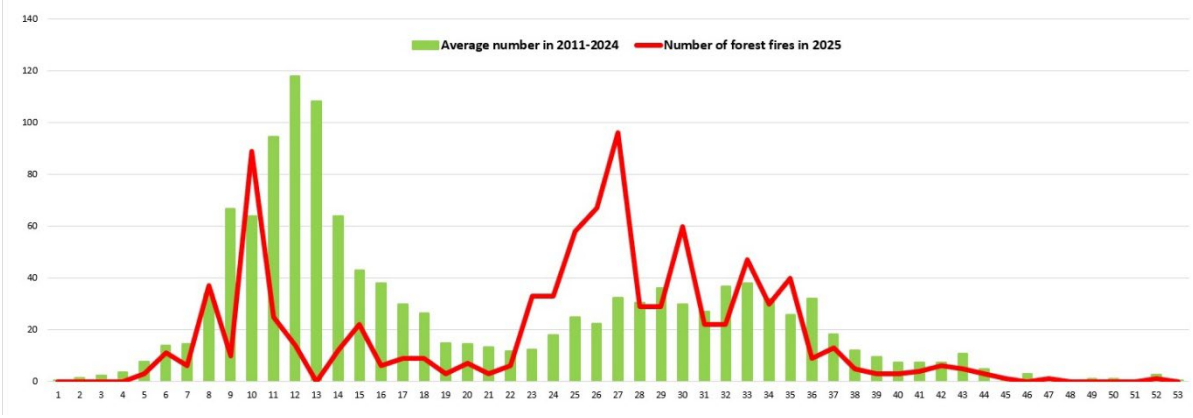
Table 34. Number of fires and burnt area in Hungary from 2011 to 2024.

Year	Total number of wild-fires	Forest fires		Wildfires in other lands
		Number of fires	Burned area (ha)	Number of fires
2011	8 436	2 021	8 056	6 415
2012	15 794	2 657	14 115	13 137
2013	4 424	761	1 955	3 663
2014	5 535	1 042	4 454	4 493
2015	5 057	1 069	4 730	3 988
2016	2 531	452	974	2 079
2017	6 782	1 454	4 934	5 328
2018	2 981	530	906	2 451
2019	7 296	2 088	6 541	5 208
2020	4 339	1 239	2 895	3 100
2021	4 350	1 154	2 413	3 196
2022	8 687	2 731	20 947	5 956
2023	2 685	675	911	2 010
2024	3 448	582	2 799	2 866
2025	**4 137**	**892**	**5 389**	**3 245**

Source: National Food Chain Safety Office, Hungary.

The trend in the number of fires has reversed. Before 2025, 60–70% of fires occurred during the spring. As **Figure 43** shows, a significant proportion of fires (67%) occurred during the summer. In the high-risk region of northern Hungary, a total of 99 forest fires occurred between February and May. Only 3 fires affected areas larger than 5 hectares. During the summer fire season, there were 33 forest fires larger than 5 hectares. Most of the fires occurred in the sandy region of the central part of the country. In the high-risk period a large fire broke out in a pine forest next to Serbian border due to other use of glowing object. It took more than a day to extinguish the fire, which burned a total of 56 hectares.

Figure 43. Average number of forest fires per week in Hungary 2025.

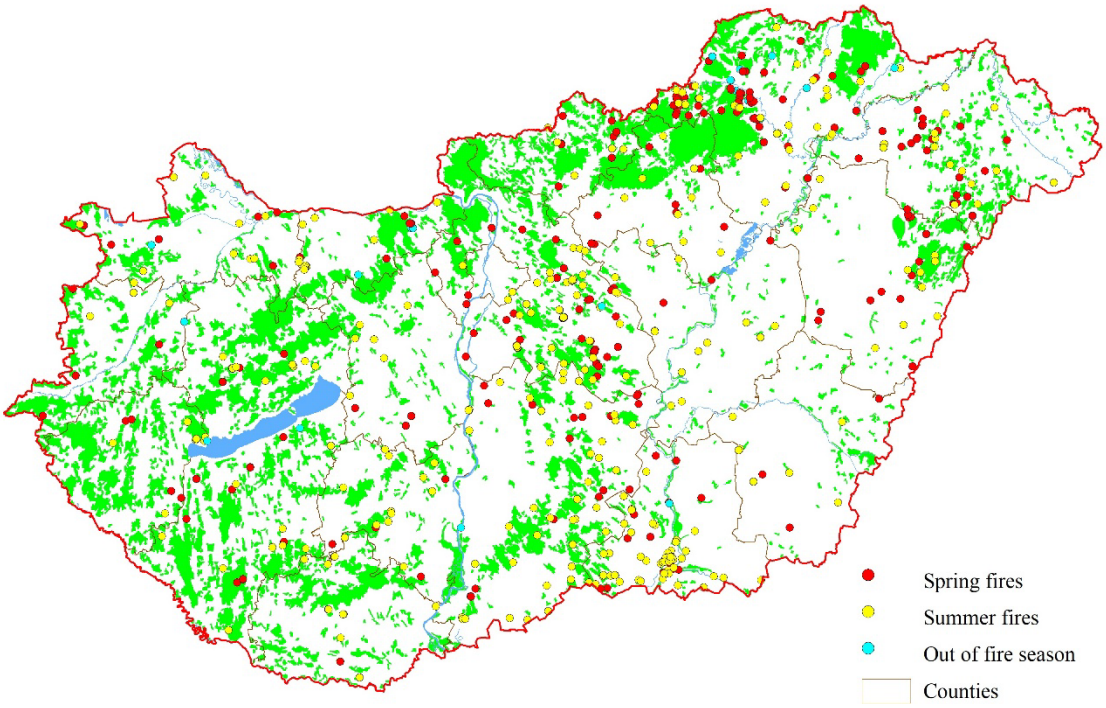


Source: National Food Chain Safety Office, Hungary.

The average burned area was significantly higher, nearly twice that recorded over the past 10 years. The trends regarding the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Hungary for the years 1999 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 45**.

Figure 44 shows the location of forest fires in Hungary. Most of the spring fires occur in northern Hungary. Summer fires occurred in the central part of the country, in the pine forest region and in the deciduous forests near agricultural areas. In these areas not only traditional grassland management methods, but other social-economic factors add to forest fire danger.

Figure 44. Locations of forest fires in Hungary in 2025.



Source: National Food Chain Safety Office, Hungary.

With GIS analysis, we can say that the majority of forest fires do not ignite inside the forest, but also in the agricultural area adjacent to it. We have found that 48% of the fires occurred in 500-meter zone around residential areas. 80% of all forest fires are no further than 2 km from residential areas in 2025.

Table 35. Classification of fires by size class in Hungary in 2024.

Classification of burnt area	Number of forest fires	Burnt area (ha)
less than 1 ha	458	77
1 – 50 ha	422	2196
50 – 100 ha	6	367
100 – 500 ha	4	750
more than 500 ha	2	2000
Total:	**892**	**5 389**

Source: National Food Chain Safety Office, Hungary.

98% of forest fires were surface fires, this fire season when surface litter and other dead vegetal parts and smaller shrubs burnt down. The average rate of fires smaller than 1 hectare is almost 51%. Statistical analysis shows that the number of forest fires under 0.5 ha has been increasing in the last decade. In particular, the increase in the number of spot fires under 1000 m^2 is significant.

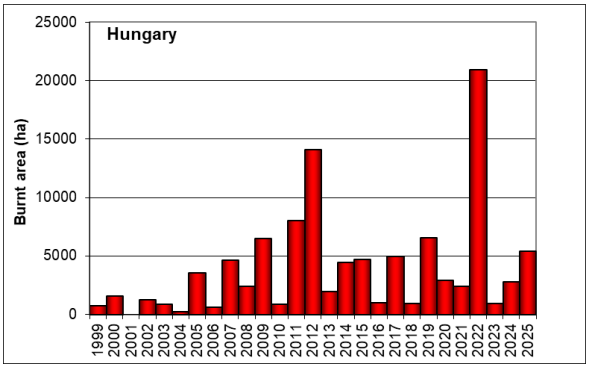
The forest fire records shows that total of 809 hectares of forest land were burned or affected by forest fire during 2025. In addition, more than 3 474 hectares of grass vegetation and 1 106 hectares of other wooded land were destroyed in forest fires (**Table 36**).

Table 36. Burnt fuel types in forest fires in 2025.

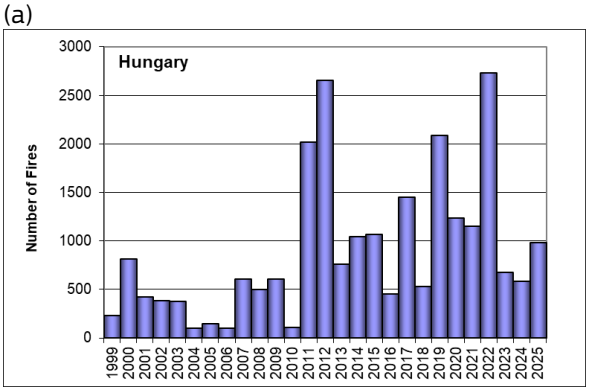
Fuel type	Total burnt area (ha)
Forested land	809
Other wooded land	1 106
Other land	3 474
Total	**5 389**

Source: National Food Chain Safety Office, Hungary.

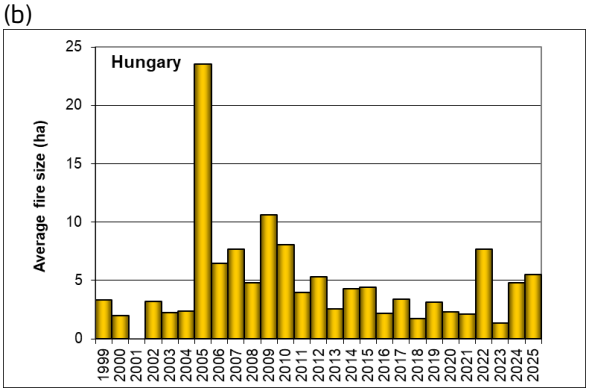
Figure 45. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Hungary from 1999 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Hungary.

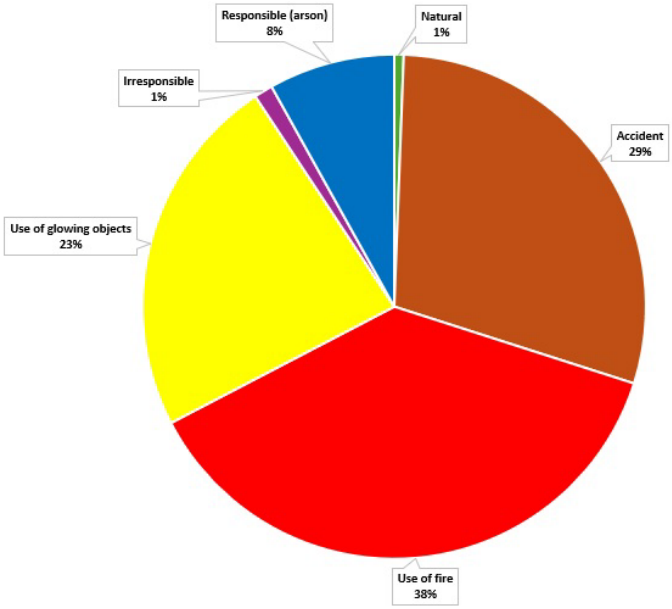
Fire causes

We use the EFFIS fire cause classification system for data collection. A significant proportion of fires are classified as having an unknown cause. Without examining the unknown causes, the two main causes of fire are “accident” and “use of fire.”

99% of forest fires are human-induced (negligence or arson). Most fires are induced by (adults and infants) negligence and only a small proportion of fires are caused by arsonists.

Typical forest fire causes are the incorrectly extinguished fires of hikers, and the illicit agricultural fires, throwing cigarette butt and sometimes slash burning.

Figure 46. Cause of forest fire distribution without an unknown cause in 2025.



Source: National Food Chain Safety Office, Hungary.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

Forest fire prevention is carried out in cooperation with the forestry authority and the National Directorate General for Disaster Management, based on community and domestic legislation.

The forestry authority also participates in the work of the Forest Fire Working Group of the National Fire Prevention Committee. National Food Chain Safety Office has delegated experts to the Disaster Risk Assessment System project, which is implemented by National Directorate General for Disaster Management. Forest fire plans have been reviewed at the forest management level.

Climate change and research activities

In the fall of 2025, three forest fire prevention conferences were organized. Researchers from organizations and universities involved in forest fire prevention and suppression were invited.

We have developed a test database to map campfire sites in the forests around the capital.

We have set up a sampling site in a forested area where a biomass moisture meter has been installed. The device transmits data online. We are currently analysing the data during the testing phase.

Fire season summary

- total number of wildfires 4.137
- 892 forest fires with 5.389 ha burnt area
- 67% of forest fires in Summer
- Total fire ban in Summer for 140 days (07.06 - 24.10)
- 2 large fires in the north and south part of the country

(Source: National Food Chain Safety Office, Department of Data Analysis, Hungary).

2.2.13. Ireland

Fire danger

2025 fire season in Ireland was preceded by a number of severe storm events that caused wind damage in over 26 000 ha of forests, including 14 000 ha of state owned forests. This placed significant demand on many aspects of forestry response capabilities in NW Ireland and the forestry sector remained highly focused on storm damage recovery throughout 2025.

Low levels of fire activity and resulting lower fuels reduction effects during 2023/2024 season meant larger fuel loads were available to burn in high risk areas during 2025 season.

Meteorological context

2025 Fire season in Ireland was preceded by warm and dry early spring conditions, and typical late spring fire season conditions followed this. Throughout the season, fire weather values remained within expected levels for the time of year and are not considered abnormal, with the exception of one hot weather phase during July 2025.

Fire behaviour observed is considered moderate by Irish Standards, with fire effects significantly moderated by wet soils and subsurface litter layers in many areas.

A Total of 9 Fire Danger Notices were issued by DAFM during 2025, including 7 Condition Orange High Fire Risk notices and One Condition Red Extreme Fire Risk notice. Two notices, including the Condition Red notice were issued during July and August in response to hot weather phases and concerns regarding high levels of use of recreation facilities by the public.

The largest single fire phase occurred between April 7th and April 14th arising from Easterly high pressure dominated weather patterns, moderate wind speeds and lower humidity levels which in Irish spring conditions can induce high levels of flammability quickly in senescent upland fuels.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

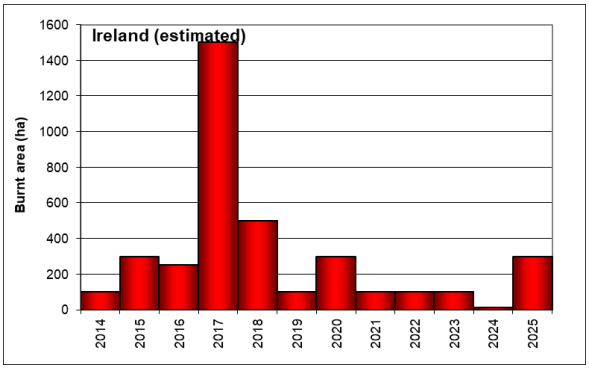
Summary data: a total of 4 200 ha of land was affected by fire during 2025, mostly during the spring phase in April. Most of this land was open mountain and peatland. It is estimated that approximately 300 ha of forest land was affected by fire. This includes approximately 200 ha of state-owned Forest lands, mainly commercial plantations and an estimated 100 ha of private forest nationally.

Two significant forest fires took place during April at Nephin National Park in Co. Mayo, and on private forest lands at Gortaganny, Co. Roscommon and both fires required the use of helicopter support to suppress, in addition to local fire service and landowner teams. An urban interface fire occurred at Ticknick, Co. Dublin on August 15th, requiring a significant response operation.

A total of 15-16 large fires bigger than 100 ha was detected, including one over 800 ha. Most fire activity took place in a one week period between 7th and 14th of April, 2025.

The trend of burnt areas in Ireland for the years 2014 to 2025 are shown in Figure 3.

Figure 47. Estimated burnt areas (forest) in Ireland from 2014 to 2025.



Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Ireland.

Fire causes

Fire causes are thought to be human and likely correspond with classes 414 – Recreation, 415 - Other negligent use of fire, and 600 - Rekindle in

the EU harmonised fire causes classification[16], given the location of fires and previous fire history in the areas affected.

Fire fighting resources

Primary Fire response is through 34 Fire and rescue Services operated under Local Authorities and Coordinated by National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM). Additional firefighting capacity is available from State Forestry and National Parks agencies where these lands are involved. Significant investment in firefighting capacity by National Parks and Wildlife Service has taken place during 2024 and 2025.

Aerial firefighting means are available from private aviation contractors (EC120, H125) and the Irish Defence Forces (AW139).

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

Despite storm recovery focus, 3 fire training and orientation days were held for forestry Staff during February and March in 3 Forest Regions ahead of fire activity. 9 Fire danger Notices issued by Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine during 2025 with press activity and fire prevention public statements by Ministers preceding fire season and following significant fire events.

A large scale Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Modex exercise focused on forest fires took place in Co. Wicklow in March, 2025. This action also involved a review of current national systems and strategies.

There is a noticeable reduction in late spring burning activity by farmers in response to farm payment penalties following illegal burning activity in previous years. Significant 1.5 Billion Euro investment in upland farmland habitats Management via ACRES scheme including Upland Fuels Mapping towards fuels reduction via targeted grazing and other means. Use of wildfire within prescription approaches as part of fire response tactics where conditions permit allows for responsible fuels reduction where conditions permit.

Injuries and loss of human lives

There were no injuries or fatalities arising from forest fires reported in Ireland during 2025.

Operations of mutual assistance

No UCPM or bilateral wildfire assistance actions took place during 2025, with the exception of the EU MODEX exercise during March, 2025.

Climate change

Increasing scale and complexity of wildfire challenges and response capacity in Ireland require development of a coordinated national strategy addressing the various levels required.

This is likely to closely follow current FAO Voluntary Guidance for Integrated Fire Management and existing EU guidance.

Work is underway on the development of a Wildfire coordination group, as a sub-group of the existing National Severe Weather Coordination Group, and the development of an appropriate national Wildfire strategy.

Research activities

Initial research planning work commenced on projects focussed on AI supported fire weather forecasting and prediction, coordinated by Met Eireann, the national weather service for Ireland and funded by the department of Agriculture, Food and Marine.

(Sources: Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine; Met Eireann, Ireland).

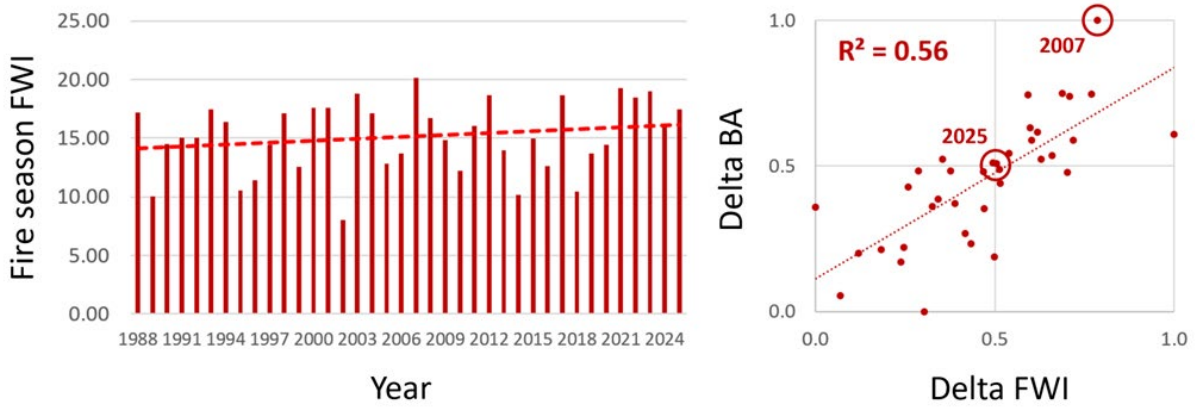
[16] Camia, A., Houston Durrant, T., San-Miguel-Ayanz, J., 2014. The European Fire Database: technical specifications and data submission. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. ISBN:978-92-79-35929-3, https://doi.org/10.2788/2175

2.2.14. Italy

Fire danger

In Italy, the wildfire season in 2025 has been relatively mild. Despite positive temperature anomalies in spring and summer, precipitations were above the mean. During spring 2025, air temperature over land was above normal: the season ranked as the fourth warmest since 1950, with a national anomaly of about +0.89°C relative to 1991–2020. The most exceptional signal was in the surrounding seas: spring sea-surface temperature reached a record anomaly of about +1.12°C, increasing atmospheric moisture and favouring intense rainfall events. Precipitation was also above average overall, about +27.1%, especially in the Centre-North, the islands, north-western Italy, the Triveneto, upper Tuscany and Sicily, with several extreme events linked to intense storms. Summer 2025 was marked by widespread heat anomalies, generally between +1.5 and +2.5°C above the 1991–2020 average, strongest in central and southern Italy and on the islands. June was particularly anomalous, with a national temperature anomaly of +3.02°C, making it the second-warmest June observed after 2003. Heatwaves were associated with very warm nights and maximum temperatures often exceeding 40°C in central and southern areas. In 2025, the mean fire danger in Italy during the fire season (July to September) was above the average (period 1988-2024), corresponding to the 87% of the highest FWI in 2007 (**Figure 48**, left). Note that FWI displays a slight trend over the period of analysis (red dotted line - **Figure 48**, left). A significant proportion of the inter-annual change in total burnt area in Italy is explained by changes in fire weather (**Figure 48**, right). A change in FWI from one year to the next is correlated with the corresponding change in burnt area, with 2025 showing average changes for both FWI and burnt area.

Figure 48. Mean daily fire weather in Italy during the fire season (July-September) from year 1988 to 2025. The red dotted line indicates the linear trend over the period (left). Total burnt area in Italy for years 1988-2025 as a function of mean daily fire weather during the fire season (right). Calculations used the delta approach: a change in burnt area (Delta BAs) from one year to the next is correlated with the corresponding delta in FWI. Changes are standardized from 0 to 1. Year 2007 (highest FWI and largest burnt area), and 2025 are evidenced by a circle. Fire weather was indexed using the FWI according to the Global fire danger re-analysis (Vitolo et al. 2019).



Source: Authors of the country report for Italy.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

In 2025, Italy was affected by a total of 4 370 forest fires. This number was higher than the previous year (+15.5%). The same trend was observed for the burnt area, which significantly increased from

52 623 hectares in 2024 to 81 481 hectares in 2025 (+54%).

Consequently, the average area per fire increased from 13.9 ha in 2024 to 18.6 ha in 2025.

Regarding the type of vegetation burned, in 2025 there was a preponderance of non-forest area involved, accounting for 56% compared to 44% for forest area.

Table 37. Number of fires and burnt area in Italy by region in 2025.

Region	Num. fires	Forest ha	Non-forest ha	Total ha	Average fire size ha
ABRUZZO	56	491.80	760.20	1252.00	22.35
BASILICATA	174	1581.70	4326.10	5907.80	33.95
CALABRIA	765	10355.10	5933.50	16288.60	21.21
CAMPANIA	476	5872.70	1441.90	7314.60	15.36
EMILIA ROMAGNA	50	9.60	16.40	26.00	0.52
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA [(1)]	38	10.48	13.99	25.27	0.66
LAZIO	311	4693.60	1201.80	5895.40	18.95
LIGURIA	112	145.00	35.60	180.60	1.61
LOMBARDIA	108	85.90	109.30	195.20	1.80
MARCHE	46	21.50	41.50	63.00	1.36
MOLISE	38	185.80	478.60	664.40	17.48
PA BOLZANO [(2)]	25	231.06	6.31	237.37	9.49
PA TRENTO [(3)]	13	1.85	0.58	2.43	0.18
PIEMONTE	92	319.70	33.50	353.20	3.83
PUGLIA	436	3628.10	7592.40	11220.50	25.73
SARDEGNA [(4)]	374	1582.79	1583.81	3166.60	8.46
SICILIA [(5)]	939	5907.23	21656.79	27564.02	29.35
TOSCANA	240	253.30	717.50	970.80	4.05
UMBRIA	37	42.40	34.50	76.90	2.07
VALLE D'AOSTA [(6)]	3	50.30	11.45	61.75	20.58
VENETO	37	13.40	1.60	15.00	0.40
TOTAL	**4370**	**35483.31**	**45997.33**	**81481.44**	**18.64**

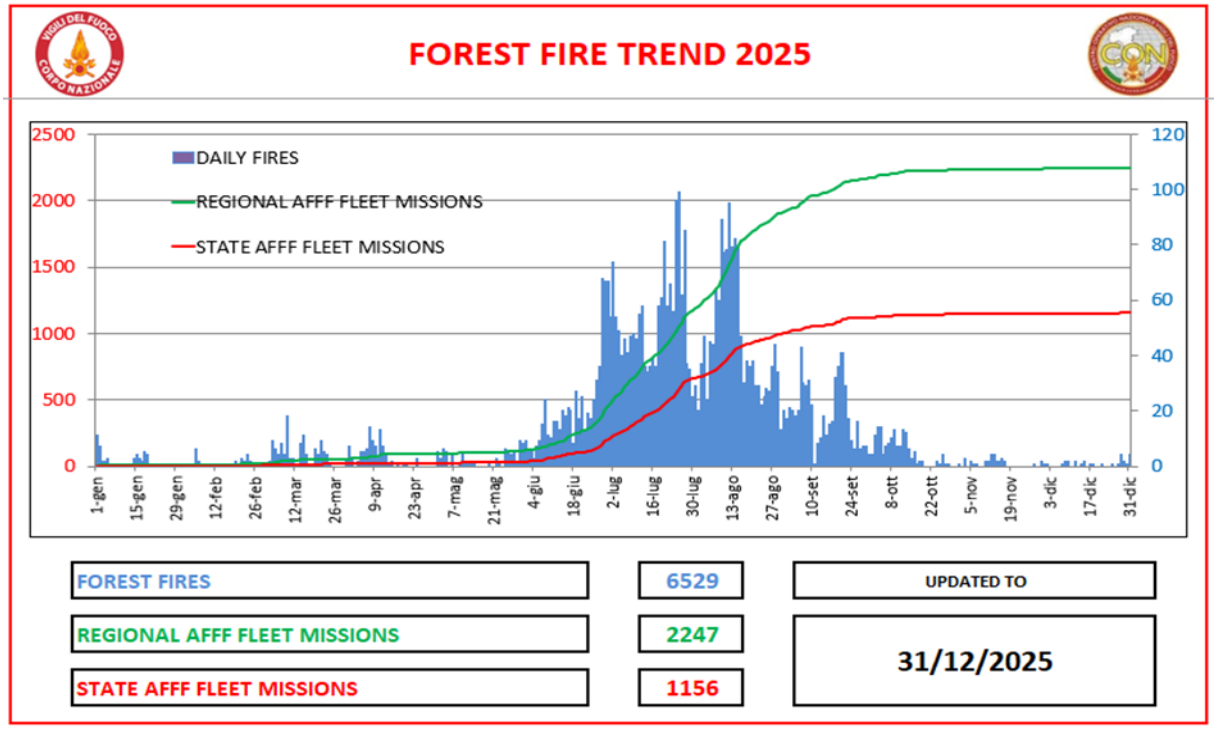
Sources: Comando Unità Forestali, Ambientati e Agroalimentari dell'Arma dei Carabinieri - Geoportale incendi boschivi.
[(1)] Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia . Regional Forest Corps; [(2)] Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano – Forestry Service; [(3)] Provincia Autonoma di Trento – Department of Civil Protection, Forests and Fauna; [(4)] Regione Sardegna – Regional Forest Corps; [(5)] Regione Siciliana - Regional Forest Corps; [(6)] Regione Valle d'Aosta.

Figure 49. Wildfires in Stelvio National Park.



Source: Corpo Permanente dei Vigili del Fuoco di Bolzano.

Figure 50. Daily number of forest fires in Italy in 2025; number of missions of forest fire fighting aircrafts.

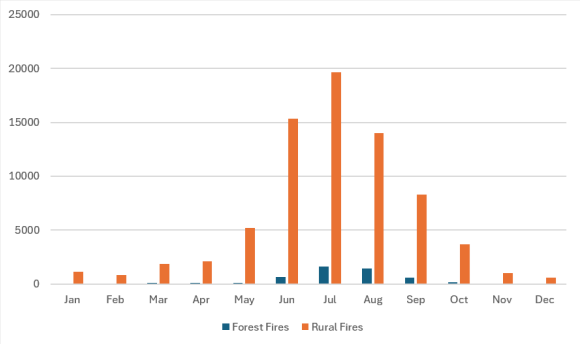


Source: Corpo Nazionale die Vigili del Fuoco (CNVVF).

Analysing data at the regional level, a strong increase in terms of the number of fires and burnt areas is evident in Sicily compared to the previous year, with 990 events (+28%) and 13 180 hectares burnt (+109%).

The burnt areas of Calabria and Puglia almost doubled, while a significant reduction in burned area compared to the previous year was recorded in Lazio and Sardinia.

Figure 51. Montly distribution of rural fires (forest and non-forest vegetation fires) in Italy in 2025.



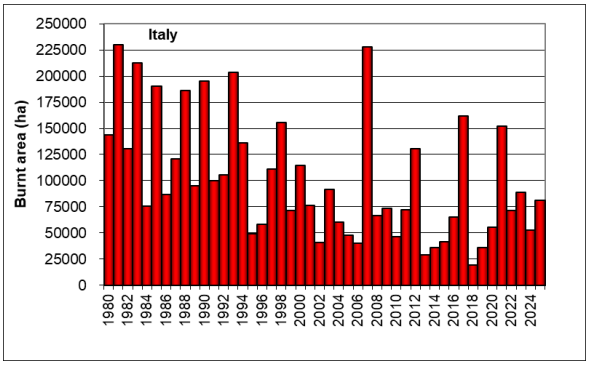
Source: Authors of the country report for Italy.

Among the most significant wildfires of 2025 were:

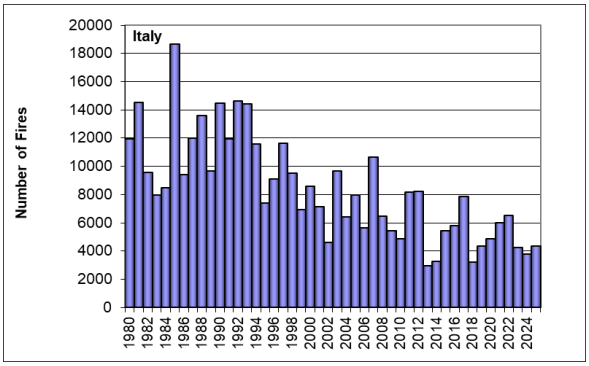
- the blaze in Prato allo Stelvio (Bolzano) in April, which marked a major return of fire to the Stelvio National Park after many years (**Figure 49**);
- the wildfire in the Vesuvius National Park, which destroyed over 700 hectares of valuable vegetation (**Figure 53**);
- and the fire in Punta Molentis (Villasimius), a popular tourist location, where approximately 50 vehicles were damaged and around two hundred people had to be evacuated, including by sea (**Figure 55**).

The trends regarding the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Italy for the years 1980 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 52**.

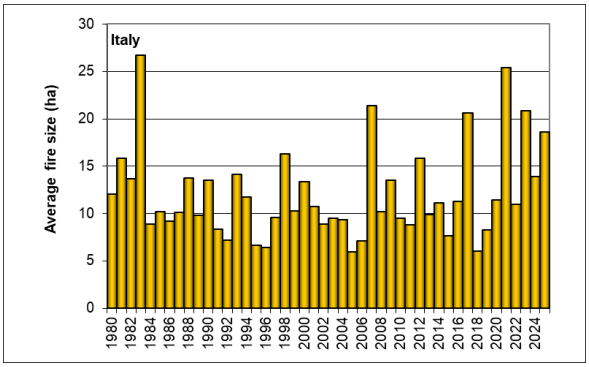
Figure 52. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Italy from 1980 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Italy.

Fire causes

In Italy, there is no systematic collection of forest fires causes based on harmonized criteria. However, analysis of the available data shows that ignitions are uniformly distributed throughout the week, peaking during the hottest hours of the day, particularly between 12:00 and 17:00. The fires primarily affect hilly terrains covered by Mediterranean shrub vegetation, areas that have often already been impacted by wildfires within the previous five years.

Regarding human-caused, intentional fires, the most frequent motives include pasture renewal, conflicts among hunters, vandalism, and retaliation against private individuals or public administrations. Conversely, unintentional causes are chiefly linked to the burning of plant debris generated by agricultural activities and negligence during recreational activities. Finally, just 1% of forest fires—peaking at around 5% in Alpine regions—is attributable to natural causes, specifically lightning strikes.

Figure 53. Wildfires in Vesuvio National Park.



Source: CNVVF.

Fire fighting resources

In Italy, responsibility for wildfire prevention, forecasting, and active suppression activities lies with regional authorities. Fire suppression operations are carried out by crews composed of forestry workers, volunteers, and, in autonomous regions, regional forestry corps personnel. Regional authorities support ground crews by contracting light and medium helicopters, with approximately 60 aircraft available depending on the season. Each region coordinates operations through a Regional Unified Operations Centre (SOUP – Sala Operativa Unificata Permanente), where all stakeholders involved in wildfire management cooperate. In addition to local resources, regions may, through specific agreements, request personnel and equipment from the Italian National Fire and Rescue Service (Corpo Nazionale dei Vigili del Fuoco – CNVVF). Upon request from the regions, support may also be provided by the State aerial firefighting fleet. The State coordinates, through the Unified Air Operational Center (COAU), the National Forest Firefighting Air Fleet which consist of 18 Canadair CL415 and 5 heavy helicopters Erickson S-64F, all of them owned and managed by the National Fire and Rescue Service. During the summer campaign, some military helicopters, others medium-sized helicopters from CNVVF are available too. 2 of the Canadair CL415 are assigned to the Italian RescEU AFF Module. Regional air fleets include about 68 helicopters operated by private companies. Sardinia also rented 2 Super Puma helicopters with bambi-bucket; these helicopters are also used by Regional Forest Corps to move the back-fire crews.

In the course of 2025, regional aircraft were engaged in 2.247 missions; National assets received 1.156 requests (over 50% of which

were submitted by Calabria, Campania and Sicily).

Due to the characteristics of the Italian forest road network, ground crews primarily operate pickup trucks equipped with small firefighting modules (400–600 litres), as well as larger vehicles with capacities of up to 4 000 litres, mainly used to supply the smaller units. The success and safety of firefighting operations rely heavily on the coordination between ground crews and aerial resources, which is ensured by the Fire Suppression Operations Director (DOS – Direttore delle Operazioni di Spegnimento). Given the country's complex topography, portable water reservoirs are frequently installed to support helicopter bucket operations and are continuously replenished by heavy fire engines. Ground crews also make extensive use of hand tools, including rakes, hammers, shovels, hoes, and similar equipment. Where safety conditions and local knowledge permit, ground operations are also conducted at night using hand tools and hose lines, taking advantage of lower temperatures and higher humidity levels.

During the summer fire campaign, and particularly during periods of peak activity, more than 800 CNVVF personnel are deployed daily and exclusively dedicated to wildfire suppression activities under agreements established with regional authorities. In addition, based on the National Wildfire Susceptibility Bulletin issued daily by the Department of Civil Protection, nearly 1 000 firefighters assigned to the CNVVF Forest Fire Fighting (FFF) modules within the national mobilization system can be rapidly deployed throughout the country in response to emergencies.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the 6 000 personnel assigned daily to the CNVVF ordinary operational service provide support, whenever necessary to regional wildfire firefighting systems and respond to all vegetation fires occurring outside forested areas. Such incidents, although often underestimated, represent a significant operational burden for the National Fire and Rescue Service.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

Updates on fire management plans and interventions (e.g., firebreaks, prunin Following the tragic summer of 2021, the Government enacted Law Decree (D.L.) 120/2021 with the aim of integrating and strengthening the regulatory and operational framework of Law 353/2000.

In addition to various measures for the forecasting, prevention, and active suppression of forest fires, the aforementioned decree mandated the use of a portion of allocated but unused resources specifically for the prevention of forest fires in inland areas.

A total funding of €40 million was therefore allocated to:

- Clean forested areas, reducing the risk of fires in situations with an excessive presence of shrubs and biomass.
- Implement surveillance strategies during peak risk periods.
- Create and maintain infrastructure, such as forest roads, firebreaks, and water supply tanks for firefighting vehicles and aircraft.
- Purchase mobile water tanks and kits for the production of fire retardant mixtures.

The €40 million were allocated to pilot projects across 56 inland areas of the peninsula and to the special "Minor Islands" (Isole Minori) project.

In addition to national projects, several regions have launched specific initiatives. The most notable include:

Piedmont

In 2025, the Piedmont Region published guidelines for the development of territorial prevention plans and launched five pilot plans covering forest areas of approximately 80 000 hectares each. These plans include interventions on about 1–2% of the burnable area and

involve an average investment of around €5 million. As they are integrated with the Territorial Forest Plans (PFIT) provided for under Article 6 of Legislative Decree 34/2018, these plans achieve the objective of integrating fire prevention with rural development, as outlined in the National Forest Strategy.

Friuli Venezia Giulia

In 2025, the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region consolidated its framework for forest fire prevention interventions through both technical and administrative measures, as well as targeted investments. To promote a widespread culture of forest fire prevention, the Forestry Service published, for the third consecutive year, a call for the granting of subsidies for fire prevention interventions pursuant to Regional Law (LR) No. 17/2019 (Provisions for the defense of forests from fires). This involved financial commitments of €900 000 in 2023, €1 100 000 in 2024, and €500 000 in 2025 for routine maintenance of agro-silvo-pastoral roads, maintenance of buffer zones in wildland-urban interface areas (woodlands), and the preservation of open spaces in meadows/pastures undergoing shrub encroachment (Art. 5 Annex DGR 503 11/04/25). Special attention was given to combating invasive alien species (EU Reg. 1143/2014), with funding directed to forestry enterprises, owners, or managers based on projects designed by chartered forestry agronomists.

Over the course of 2025, the opening and maintenance of agro-forestry roads also continued in the Karst area. These works were carried out directly by the Region and, in some sections, involved the collaboration of National Fire and Rescue Service (Vigili del Fuoco) vehicles.

At the European level, the Region participated in the Interreg Italy-Slovenia "CROSS ALERT" project, developing operational tools for fire risk management. The Regional Forestry Corps, in close collaboration with the Regional Forestry Service, produced a thematic forest fire map based on hazard, exposure, and vulnerability indicators, integrated with geospatial datasets at a 1:20 000 scale. Concurrently, an informational brochure was created to disseminate self-protection concepts to residents in wildland-urban interface areas, providing guidelines on evacuation, preparedness, and behaviour during emergencies.

Cooperation efforts also continued with the Austrian partners of the State of Carinthia under a specific general cooperation protocol for the cross-border areas of Val Canale and the Gail Valley, focusing on the agricultural and forestry sectors.g.

1. National and Regional Information Campaigns

The 2025 campaigns focused not only on protecting forest heritage but also on the concept of self-protection in wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas—the zones where residential areas directly border wildland vegetation.

- The "Io non rischio - Incendi boschivi" (I Don't Risk - Forest Fires) National Campaign: promoted by the Department of Civil Protection in collaboration with Associazione Nazionale Pubbliche Assistenze (ANPAS), stands for Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (INGV), and the CIMA Foundation, this campaign experienced a major digital relaunch in 2025. In addition to traditional information booths in public squares, specific guidelines were distributed to rural residents and tourists, explaining best practices to prevent accidental ignitions (such as the absolute ban on burning agricultural residues during the summer months).
- Targeted Regional Initiatives:
    - Calabria and Sicily: These regions intensified information campaigns aimed specifi-cally at farmers and livestock breeders, explaining the

severe penalties for unau-thorized agricultural burning and promoting alternative methods for disposing of ag-ricultural waste.

- Sardinia and Friuli Venezia Giulia: These regions distributed booklets and informa-tional brochures (such as those from the European CROSS ALERT project in Friuli Venezia Giulia) focusing on safety guidelines and rapid evacuation plans in the event of an emergency.

2. Mobile Apps and Alerting Systems

In 2025, the digitization of alerting systems made significant progress by integrating instant messaging with real-time meteorological and climate data.

— Consolidation of IT-alert: Although it is a cell-broadcast system (and thus does not require downloading an app), IT-alert was more systematically integrated into regional civil protec-tion planning in 2025 for rapid public warning during exceptionally severe wildfires threaten-ing residential areas.

— Regional Citizen and Volunteer Apps:

  - AllertaLOM (Lombardy): This app maintained and updated its dedicated forest fire risk section, sending real-time push notifications based on daily wildfire susceptibility bulletins.

  - Regional Civil Protection Systems (Tuscany, Piedmont, Emilia-Romagna): These regions utilized dedicated applications to monitor the fire danger index and coordinate volunteer teams on the ground via geolocation, while also allowing citizens to promptly report active fires.

3. School Initiatives

Schools served as the cornerstone for active citizenship and environmental education activities in 2025.

— Raising awareness among young people about the active role they can play, starting with small everyday actions, in protecting the environment, the territory, and the community: this is the goal of the 'Anch'io sono la protezione civile' (I too am civil protection) youth camps, organized by the Department of Civil Protection in collaboration with regional authorities and national and local volunteer organizations.

— Educational Programs by the National Fire and Rescue Service (CNVVF): Following the mas-sive safety campaign launched after 2024, the Fire and Rescue Service stepped up school meetings focused on fostering a culture of safety. Through simulations and demonstrations with small firefighting modules, they showed students how quickly fire can spread and the dangers of negligent behaviour.

Figure 54. A “post” from youth camps, organized by the Department of Civil Protection.



Source: Department of Civil Protection.

Injuries and loss of human lives

In 2025, six people lost their lives due to vegetation fires, four of whom were landowners who died while attempting to extinguish the flames. Only a single firefighting operator died during suppression operations; this figure represents a sharp decrease, due in part to the massive safety training campaign developed by the CNVVF following the 2024 campaign. Approximately 50 people were injured during the vegetation fires.

Figure 55. Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) fire in Punta Molentis, Villasimius.



Source: CNVVF.

Climate change

The reference document is the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which sets out three reference scenarios. In particular, under the scenario in which emissions growth remains unchanged, average temperature increases of +5°C are projected by the end of the century.

Under this same scenario, we can expect a significant rise in wildfire risk—up to 20% higher—with a particularly heavy impact across the Alps and the Apennines.

This issue is closely tied to another critical effect of climate change: the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events like droughts, floods, storms, and heatwaves. Phenomena like these act as natural transport vectors, carrying invasive alien species into entirely new areas. Once established, these non-native species weaken the natural resilience of local ecosystems, leaving them far more vulnerable. For instance, certain invasive trees and shrubs can drastically alter natural fire regimes—especially in regions that are becoming hotter and drier—making wildfires much more frequent and severe (IUCN, 2021).

The combination of this ecological shift with the ongoing abandonment of rural and forested areas, the situation becomes even more critical. Without proper land management and preventive measures, these combined forces threaten to trigger increasingly devastating fires, resulting in severe economic, environmental, and social losses.

Operations of mutual assistance

During 2025 eight forest fire fighting missions were carried out by the Italian AFFF module on request by the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. One or Two aircrafts Canadair CL-415 of the National Fire and Rescue Service (CNVVF) were engaged in the missions reported in **Table 38**.

Table 38. Forest fire fighting missions carried out by the Italian AFFF module on request by the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

DATE	COUNTRY	AREA	TYPE AND NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT	FLIGHT HOURS	DROPS	MISSION TYPE
01-03/05/2025	ISRAEL	JERUSALEM	2 CANADAIR CL-415	33:06	4	rescEU AFFF
27-30/07/2025	GREECE	ATTICA REGION	2 CANADAIR CL-415	30:40	39	rescEU AFFF
21-27/07/2025	ALBANIA	DELVINA – VALONA-DIBER	CANADAIR CL-415	18:37	39	Rapid Intervention
09/08/2025	ALBANIA	ALESSIO	CANADAIR CL-415	06:05	15	Rapid Intervention
12/08/2026	MONTENEGRO	BUDVA	CANADAIR CL-415	06:05	29	Rapid Intervention
13-15/08/2026	ALBANIA	DELVINA – SCUTARI - VALONA - LEZHE	CANADAIR CL-415	16:35	35	Rapid Intervention
14-15/08/2026	MONTENEGRO	BIJELO POLJE	CANADAIR CL-415	11:20	12	Rapid Intervention
16-23/08/2025	SPAIN	ALMANZA - OENCIA – PERANZANES	2 CANADAIR CL-415	98:10	172	rescEU AFFF

Source: Authors of the country report for Italy.

In 2025, Italy participated in the European pre-positioning program with a joint team composed of the National Fire Brigade (Vigili del Fuoco) and Regional Volunteers from Piedmont, deployed to southern France in July.

Figure 56. Italian and French Fire Fighters during a briefing in South of France.



Source: CNVVF.

Additionally, for the first time, a foreign team—also from France—was sent to Sardinia to work alongside local forest firefighting (AIB) forces.

Research activities

Scientific publications in 2025 on wildfire research carried out by Italian research groups provide new knowledge for fire risk assessment, prevention, and management in Italy. Costa-Saura et al. (2025a) highlighted the increasing link between heatwaves and megafires in the southern Mediterranean region of Europe, showing that the probability of megafires occurring during heatwaves increases with fire size. In the same direction, Cappelluti et al. (2026) showed that wildfire occurrence in Southern Italy is driven by the combined effects of drought, increasing landscape flammability, and expansion of the wildland–urban interface. At a more local scale, Mostafa et al. (2025) showed that road network connectivity significantly increases wildfire probability in Southern Italy, confirming the importance of human accessibility and landscape structure in shaping ignition and fire occurrence patterns.

Several studies focused on improving fire danger rating, fire spread modelling, and operational forecasting. Perello et al. (2025a) updated the RISICO fire danger system by introducing fuel-aware indices and hourly computations, improving the identification of risky periods and locations across Italy. Perello et al. (2025b) further contributed to operational fire danger assessment by proposing an adaptable dead fuel moisture model with hourly dynamics and fuel-specific parameters. Malanchini et al. (2025) compared FlamMap and PROPAGATOR using three Alpine fire case studies in Lombardia, showing that both models reproduced fire spread reasonably well, although FlamMap appeared more suitable for planning applications and PROPAGATOR for operational use. Sahila et al. (2025) showed that coupling PROPAGATOR with microscale wind fields is particularly relevant in complex terrain and under intense or long-duration fire conditions, confirming the critical role of wind data in fire spread simulations.

A third research line addressed the ecological interpretation of fire regimes and post-fire ecosystem responses. Costa-Saura et al. (2025b) showed that Italian tree species distributions across pyroregions are associated with fire regime and climate gradients, with fire-prone and arid regions hosting species characterized by thicker bark, denser wood, and lower maximum height. These findings suggest that plant functional traits can support the refinement of pyroregionalization and fire-risk assessment. Laterza et al. (2026) showed that fire severity and time since fire strongly influence biodiversity, ecosystem services, and multifunctionality in Mediterranean forests, with low-severity fires enhancing some ecosystem functions and high-severity fires reducing multifunctionality while increasing ecological uniqueness.

Post-fire tree mortality and vitality were also investigated through innovative diagnostic approaches. Bizzarri et al. (2025) reviewed latent mortality after fire in conifers and highlighted the need for better tools to link fire intensity, environmental stress, and physiological tree responses. Touloupakis et al. (2024) reviewed the potential of electrochemical biosensors to assess tree vitality after wildfires, focusing on molecules such as glucose, fructose, and ethanol. Frassinelli et al. (2024) proposed a field-oriented protocol based on glucose detection in the phloem to rapidly assess latent post-fire mortality in pine trees, suggesting promising applications for post-fire management.

Fuel management and governance emerged as further key themes. Gamba et al. (2025) showed that prescribed burning in Alpine Scots pine forests reduced surface fuel load by 51% without causing tree mortality or relevant alterations in plant hydraulics, wood anatomy, or soil properties after one year. This supports prescribed burning as a sustainable fuel-management practice also in Alpine contexts. Cappelluti et al. (2025) proposed the Pyro-Socio-Ecological Zones framework, integrating ecological, socioeconomic, and governance dimensions for fire risk management in

wildland–urban interface areas, and showing that governance factors significantly affect fire frequency and extent in Italy.

Finally, recent studies emphasized the importance of public perception, communication, and institutional learning. Calvani et al. (2025a) showed that wildfire risk perception in Tuscany differs between experts and non-experts, with local communities frequently underestimating risk despite broad support for prevention. Calvani et al. (2025b) analysed media trends and public interest in wildfires in Tuscany, identifying awareness gaps and a strong seasonal concentration of communication during summer. Leone et al. (2025), analysing firefighters involved in the 2017 extreme wildfires in Portugal, found that operational actors mainly emphasized strengthening suppression capacity, while giving limited attention to prevention, fuel management, and the limits of control capacity. Taken together, these studies suggest that future wildfire policies should combine improved forecasting systems, ecological knowledge, fuel management, governance innovation, and stronger year-round public engagement.

To what concerns relevant research project ended in 2025, the Workgroup "Fire and Biodiversity" of the National Biodiversity Future Centre analysed how fire frequency and severity affect vegetation, functional traits, soil processes, microbial communities, and carbon dynamics across representative Italian sites. The project showed that fire- and drought-adapted species contribute to long-term ecosystem resilience, while repeated fires can increase vulnerability by altering vegetation structure, soil biodiversity, and biogeochemical cycles. It also supported the development of integrated ecological and climatic models for forest management and wildfire prevention.

The DIVAS project[17] developed innovative tools for post-fire tree assessment, including a validated glucose biosensor and a dendrometer-based monitoring tool. These instruments are intended to support forestry technicians in the rapid evaluation of tree vitality after wildfire, also considering sugar translocation processes as indicators of post-fire physiological responses.

The REWILD-FIRE[18] project addressed the trade-offs between passive rewilding, carbon sequestration, biodiversity recovery, and wildfire risk in Alpine landscapes. By integrating land-use change, vegetation dynamics, and fire modelling, the project showed that rewilding can increase carbon storage but may also heighten wildfire risk and related emissions, requiring adaptive management strategies under future scenarios.

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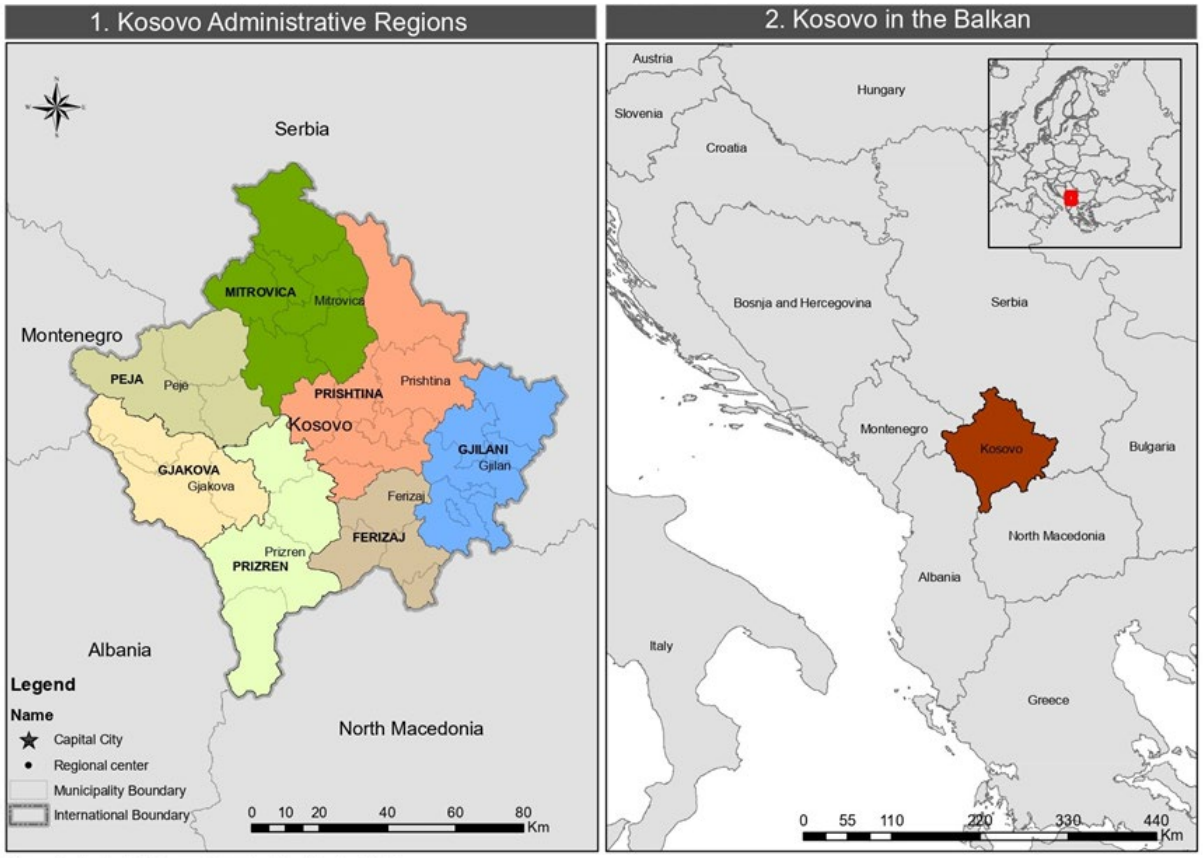
(Sources: National Fire and rescue Service – Forest fire Fighting Service; Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests – General Directorate of Mountain Economy and Forests; Comando Unità Forestali, Ambientali e Agroalimentari dell'Arma dei Carabinieri; Regional Forest Corps, Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia; Forestry Service, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano; Department of Civil Protection, Forests and Fauna, Provincia Autonoma di Trento; Regional Forest Corps, Regione Sardegna; Regional Forest Corps, Regione Siciliana; Regional Forest Corps, Regione Valle d'Aosta; Italy).

2.2.15. Kosovo[19]

Introduction

Kosovo is located in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula in Southeast Europe. Its geographical position, mountainous terrain and climatic characteristics significantly influence forest ecosystem distribution and wildfire susceptibility.

Figure 57. Geographic location of Kosovo.



Kosovo is located in the central part of the Western Balkans.
It shares borders with Serbia to the north and east, North Macedonia to the south, Albania to the southwest, and Montenegro to the west.

Source: University of Prishtina – Department of Geography, 2025.

Forest ecosystems and forest resources in Kosovo

According to the National Forest Inventory (FAO, 2012), forests and forest land cover approximately 481 000 hectares, representing around 44.7% of the total territory of Kosovo. Public forests account for approximately 62% of the total forest area, while around 38% are privately owned forests.

Broadleaf forests dominate the forest structure in Kosovo, covering approximately 93% of the total forest area, with beech (Fagus sylvatica L.) and oak species (Quercus spp.) representing the most widespread tree species. Coniferous forests account for approximately 5% of the

[19] This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

forest area and are mainly distributed in mountainous regions.

Forest ecosystems in Kosovo provide important ecological, environmental and socio-economic functions, including biodiversity conservation, soil protection, water regulation, carbon sequestration and climate regulation. However, increasing climate variability, prolonged drought periods, heatwaves and anthropogenic pressures have contributed to growing wildfire susceptibility in recent years.

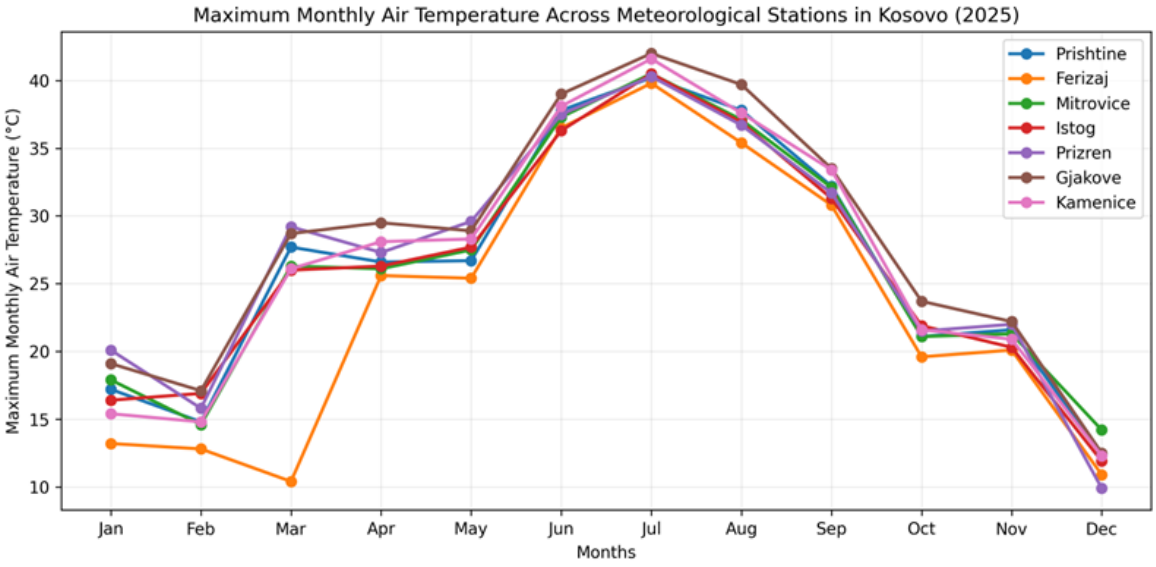
A new national forest inventory process was finalized in 2024 under the coordination of the Kosovo Forest Agency and international partners. However, the final official results and statistical datasets had not yet been publicly released at the time of preparation of this report.

Fire danger

Meteorological conditions during 2025 were characterized by high summer temperatures and prolonged dry periods, especially during July and August. The maximum air temperatures recorded at several meteorological stations reached approximately 38°C, while precipitation during the summer months remained below seasonal expectations in many regions. These conditions significantly increased vegetation dryness and the probability of forest and grassland fires.

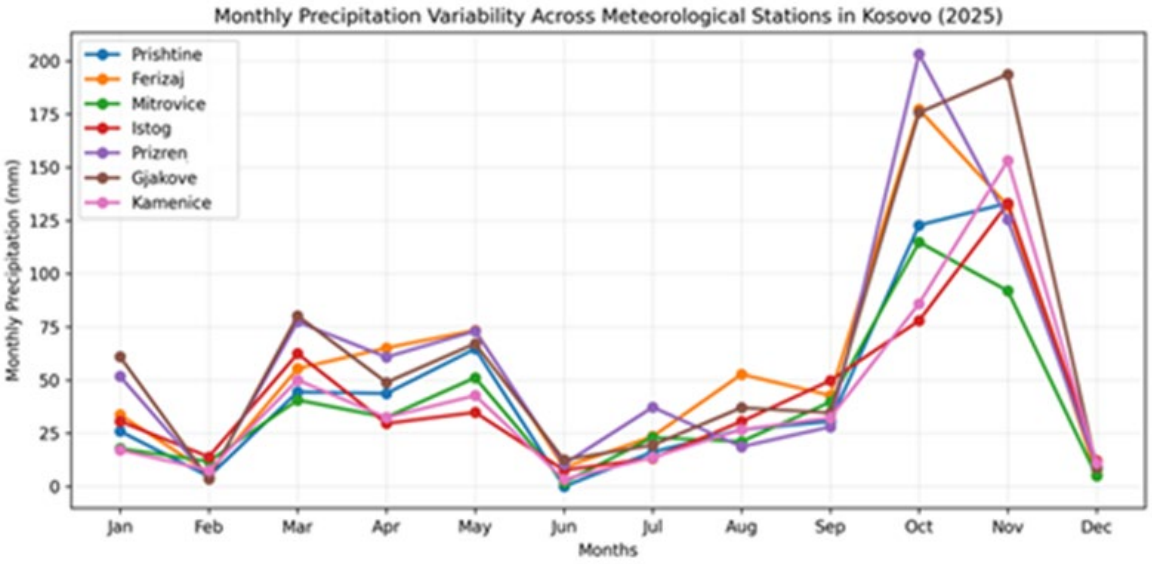
The critical fire danger period occurred during the summer season when high temperatures, reduced soil moisture and dry vegetation created favorable conditions for fire ignition and spread. According to institutional assessments, these climatic conditions contributed to elevated wildfire risk across Kosovo.

Figure 58. Spatial variation of mean annual air temperature across meteorological stations in Kosovo during 2025.



Source: Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo, 2025.

Figure 59. Annual precipitation distribution across meteorological stations in Kosovo during 2025.

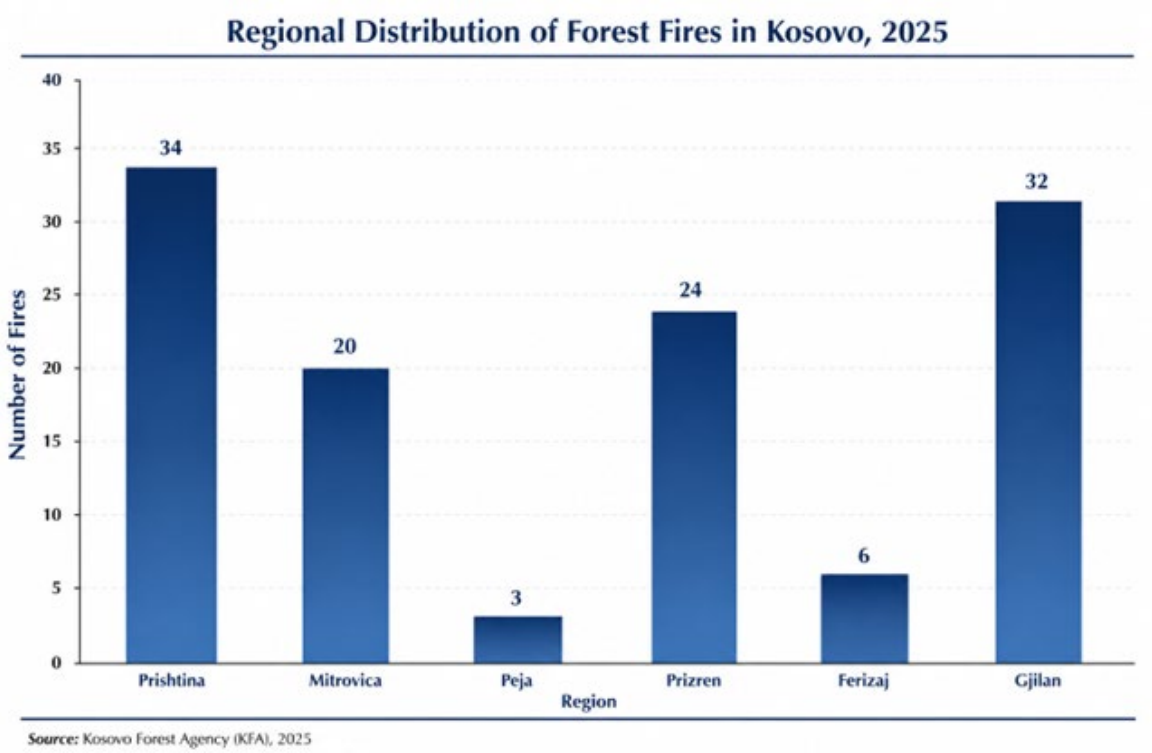


Source: Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo, 2025.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

During 2025, a total of 119 forest fire events were officially recorded in Kosovo. The total burnt area reached 2279.69 hectares. Of this area, 1369.79 hectares affected state forests and forest land, while 882.9 hectares affected private forests, shrublands and other privately managed vegetation areas (Kosovo Forest Agency, 2025).

Figure 60. Regional distribution of forest fire events in Kosovo during 2025.



Source: Kosovo Forest Agency, 2025

The spatial distribution of forest fires was uneven across the country. The highest number of fire events was recorded in the Prishtina and Gjilan regions, followed by Prizren and Mitrovica. Peja region recorded the lowest number of fire incidents.

Fire causes

Human activities were identified as the dominant cause of forest fires in Kosovo during 2025, accounting for approximately 99% of all recorded fire events. Based on institutional experience and historical records, most wildfires are caused directly or indirectly by human actions, while natural causes such as lightning or spontaneous ignition account for only about 1% of reported cases.

Human-induced fires are primarily associated with negligence, lack of awareness, agricultural activities, pasture management practices, uncontrolled waste burning, hunting activities, forestry operations and intentional fire setting. In some cases, fires are also linked to pyromania or deliberate acts aimed at causing damage.

Wildfires resulting from negligence and insufficient awareness are particularly common among individuals working in forests, pastures and agricultural areas. Such incidents are frequently associated with operational activities carried out in rural environments, including the collection of non-timber forest products, medicinal plants, hunting activities and agricultural land management. Farmers, hunters and forest users therefore represent important target groups for wildfire prevention and awareness campaigns.

The highest wildfire risk occurs during specific periods of the year when climatic and environmental conditions favour ignition and fire spread. In Kosovo, the summer season represents the most critical period, characterized by high air temperatures, often reaching around 38°C, and prolonged periods without precipitation. During this period, grasslands, shrublands and forest litter become highly combustible, while soil moisture decreases significantly. These conditions substantially increase fire susceptibility and facilitate rapid fire spread across forests, pastures and other open landscapes.

Although wildfires may occur throughout the year, the combination of elevated temperatures, drought conditions and human activities during summer makes this period the critical wildfire season in Kosovo.

Fire fighting resources

Fire suppression activities in Kosovo were primarily conducted by municipal firefighting units, emergency management authorities and the Kosovo Forest Agency. Operational activities included direct fire suppression interventions, active surveillance, early fire detection and coordination of emergency response mechanisms.

Preventive infrastructure and preparedness measures included the construction of firebreaks, maintenance of access routes, and establishment of active monitoring systems and preparation of annual operational fire protection plans.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

Preventive activities included legal, educational and awareness-raising measures implemented throughout the year. Public information campaigns, educational lectures, printed materials, internet-based information dissemination and local awareness initiatives were used to reduce wildfire risk and improve public understanding of fire prevention.

Fire prevention measures were implemented throughout the year through legal, educational and awareness-raising activities. Public institutions conducted information campaigns aimed at reducing human-caused fires and improving public awareness regarding wildfire risks.

Educational activities included lectures, printed materials, online information campaigns and local awareness initiatives targeting different

social groups, including farmers, hunters and rural communities.

Injuries and loss of human lives

No official information on fatalities or injuries among firefighters or civilians was reported in the submitted dataset.

Operations of mutual assistance

During 2025, no international assistance operations were reported under the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) or RescEU. Forest fire management and suppression activities were primarily carried out by the responsible national and local institutions. In specific situations and when required, logistical support may also be provided by international partners present in Kosovo.

Climate change

Climate variability and increasing summer temperatures continue to influence wildfire regimes in Kosovo. Extended drought periods, reduced summer precipitation and more frequent heatwaves contribute to increased fuel dryness and wildfire susceptibility, particularly during the summer season.

Meteorological data for 2025 indicate that several regions experienced prolonged periods with high temperatures and limited precipitation, creating favourable conditions for wildfire ignition and spread. These conditions are consistent with broader climate change projections for Southeast Europe, which indicate an increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including heatwaves and droughts.

Climate change is expected to increase pressure on forest ecosystems by affecting vegetation health, soil moisture and fuel availability. Consequently, future wildfire management strategies should strengthen climate adaptation measures, early warning systems, remote sensing and Earth Observation monitoring, as well as integrated fire risk assessment and management approaches. Enhanced cooperation among environmental, forestry and emergency management institutions will be essential to improve preparedness, response capacity and long-term resilience to wildfire risks.

Research activities

Research activities related to wildfire risk assessment, GIS-based fire mapping, remote sensing monitoring, climate analysis and spatial modelling are increasingly being developed by universities, research institutions and environmental agencies in Kosovo.

Recent research initiatives have focused on the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Earth Observation technologies and Copernicus data for wildfire susceptibility assessment, burned area mapping, vegetation monitoring and environmental risk analysis. Particular attention has been given to the integration of climate variables, land cover characteristics and topographic factors into spatial models designed to support wildfire prevention, preparedness and management.

The use of satellite imagery and geospatial technologies is expected to enhance wildfire monitoring, early warning capabilities and evidence-based decision-making. Continued investment in scientific research, institutional cooperation and capacity building will contribute to improving national wildfire risk management, climate adaptation and the resilience of forest ecosystems in Kosovo.

Appendix: Climate data Summary

Table 39. Regional temperatures in Kosovo in 2025.

Station	Mean Annual Temp (°C)	Maximum Temp (°C)
Prishtine	12.2	40.2
Ferizaj	11.3	39.8
Mitrovice	12.0	40.5
Istog	12.5	40.5
Prizren	13.4	40.3
Gjakove	14.3	42.0
Kamenice	11.4	41.6

Source: Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo.

Table 40. Regional precipitation in Kosovo in 2025.

Station	Annual Precipitation (mm)
Prishtine	520.7
Ferizaj	676.7
Mitrovice	451.0
Istog	495.3
Prizren	699.1
Gjakove	742.5
Kamenice	475.9

Source: Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo.

(Sources: Kosovo Forest Agency; Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo; University of Prishtina – Department of Geography, Kosovo).

2.2.16. Latvia

Fire danger

In 2025, the forest fire risk period was declared from May 1 and continued until October 6.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

Overall, the fire season 2025 was the lowest in the last 10 years, with relatively low fire. In total, 189 forest fires were detected and extinguished during the fire season. Totally, fire affected 69 ha of forest land, including 18 ha of young growth. Additionally State Forest Service (SFS) has extinguished 12 fires with total area – 4.05 ha outside forest land areas (e.g., grass fires).

The largest forest fire occured on March 23, 2025 in Centra Forestry District, Garkalnes Parish, where 10.2 ha of forest land and grass were affected.

The average forest fire area in 2025 was 0.36 ha, which is one of smallest values during last decades.

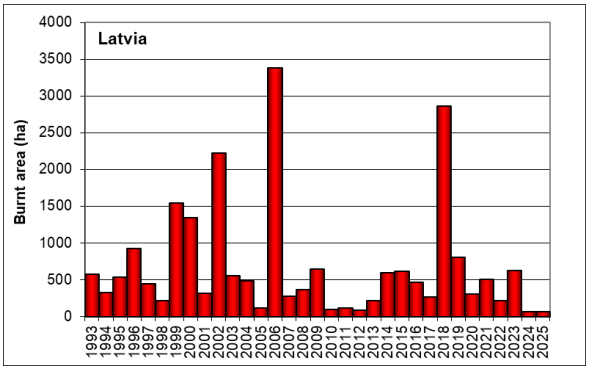
Table 41. Number of fires and burnt areas by month in Latvia in 2025.

Month	Number of forest fires	Burnt area (ha)
January	4	0.0185
February	0	0
March	31	11.1343
April	66	26.333
May	40	18.4603
June	10	3.0579
July	28	6.8532
August	3	0.0419
September	5	3.9084
October	2	0.0527
November	0	0
December	0	0
Total	**189**	**69.8602**

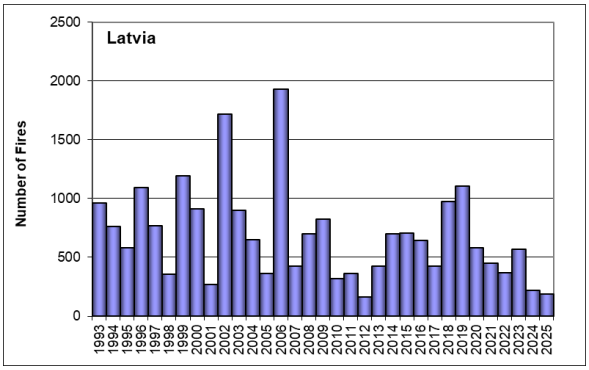
Source: State Forest Service, Environmental and Forest Protection Department, Latvia.

The trends of the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Latvia for the years 1993 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 61**.

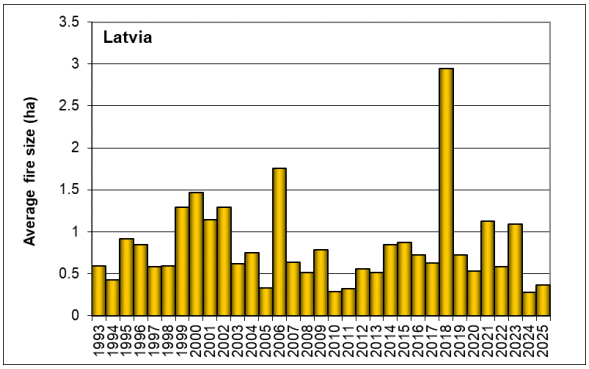
Figure 61. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Latvia from 1993 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Latvia.

Preventive measures

For forest fire detection SFS has network of fire observation towers (173 fire observation towers), SFS installed the Remote Fire Detection and Monitoring System (RFDMS) in 23 fire observation towers in the Kurzeme region and the Riga.Fire prevention measures in 2025 costed 108 883 Euro (**Table 42**).

Table 42. Expenditure on fire prevention measures in Latvia in 2025.

Title	Costs, EUR
Latvian State forest	
Existing fire break cultivation, 2934 km.	87 205
Other infrastructure maintenance measures	21 678
Total	**108 883**
Riga City Forest	
Creating new fire breaks, 0 km	
Existing fire break cultivation, 521km	

Source: State Forest Service, Environmental and Forest Protection Department, Latvia.

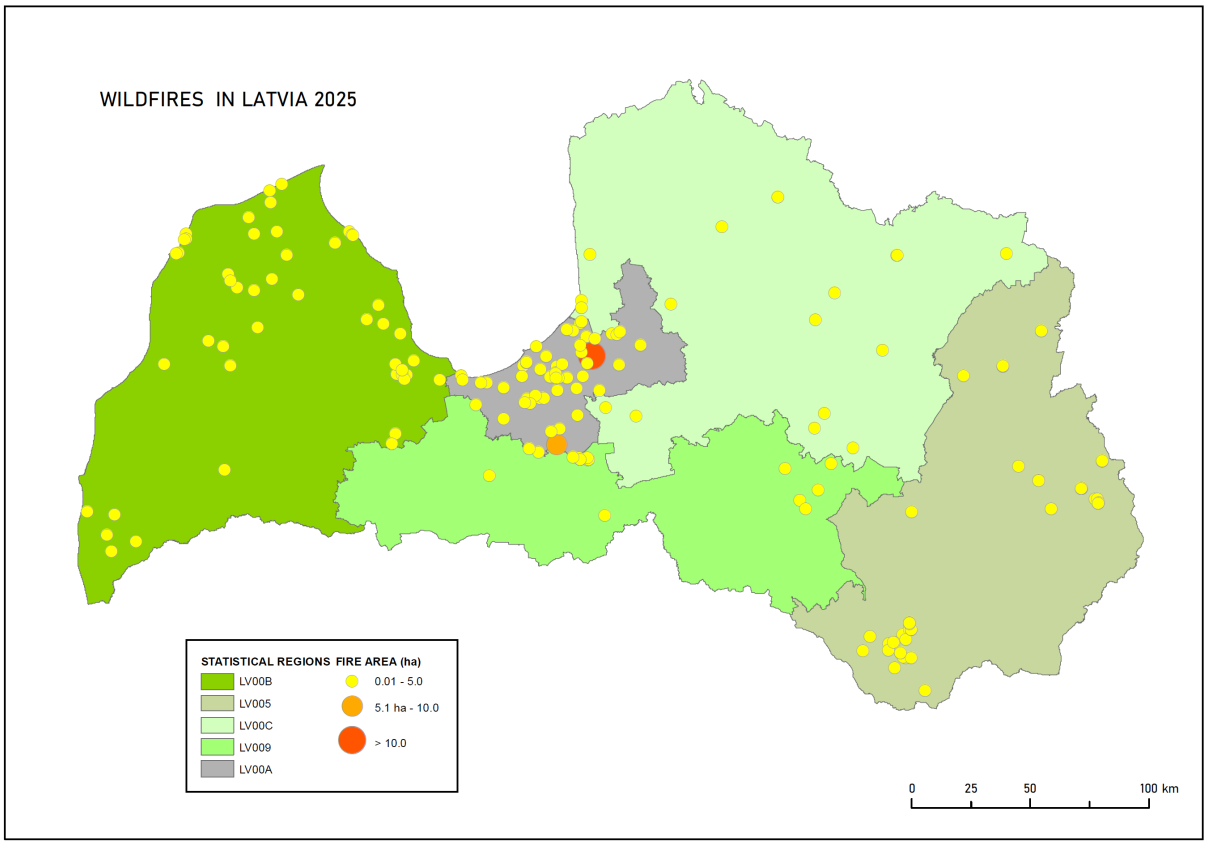
During the 2025 forest fire season, the SFS employed seasonal employees - an additional 363 employees (observers in fire towers, forest firefighters, truck drivers, RFDMS operators).

The SFS has 83 Toyota Hilux light 4x4 trucks equipped with firefighting equipment and 20 UTV for initial response and 35 firefighting trucks Mercedes Unimog 4x4, 5 water tenders Volvo FMX 6x6 with a water capacity of 10 000 litres for extended fire fighting operations.

No new fire technique units have been purchased in 2025.

Fire fighting means

Figure 62. Map of forest fire locations in Latvia in 2025.



Source: State Forest Service, Environmental and Forest Protection Department, Latvia.

(Source: State Forest Service, Environmental and Forest Protection Department, Latvia).

2.2.17. Lithuania

Fire danger

In 2025, both the number of fires and the total burned area were similar to those recorded in 2024. The first fire in 2025 was recorded in March, the last one in October. Fire danger during the fire season 2025 was characterized by temperatures levels. The most notable forest fires for season 2025 are listed in **Table 43**.

Table 43. The biggest forest fires in 2025.

Date	Burnt area, ha
2025.04.21	2.17
2025.04.29	2.00
2025.05.10	8.40
2025.05.13	2.97

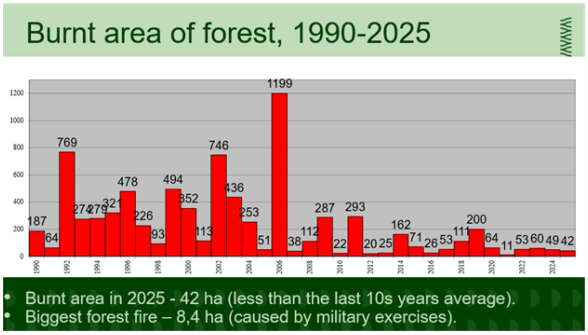
Source: Authors of the country report for Lithuania.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

In 2025, according to the data of the State Forest Enterprise, 110 forest fires occurred and damaged 42.44 ha of forest of which state forest 36.28 ha, forest fires in private forests cover 6.16 ha. In 2025, 7 forest fires were bigger than 1 ha, with total burnt area over 20.43 ha. The highest number of forest fires occurred in April -33, May - 37, the most burned forest area in May.

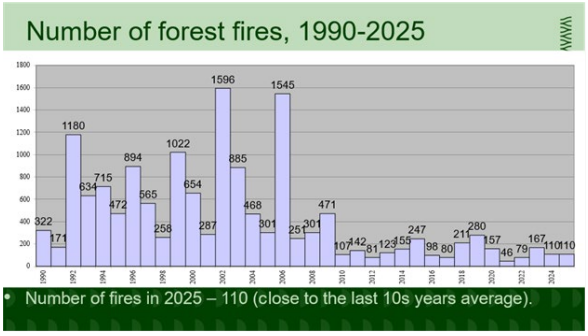
The yearly trends in terms of number of fires and burnt area in Lithuania are shown in **Figure 63**, **Figure 64**, **Figure 65** and **Figure 67**.

Figure 63. Burnt area in Lithuania, 1990-2025.



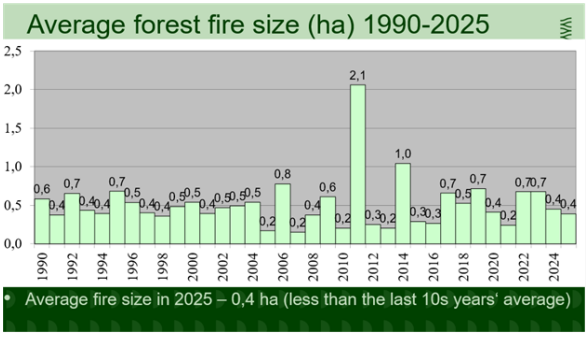
Source: State Forest Enterprise, Lithuania.

Figure 64. Number of fires in Lithuania, 1990-2025.



Source: State Forest Enterprise, Lithuania.

Figure 65. Average fire size in Lithuania, 1990-2025.

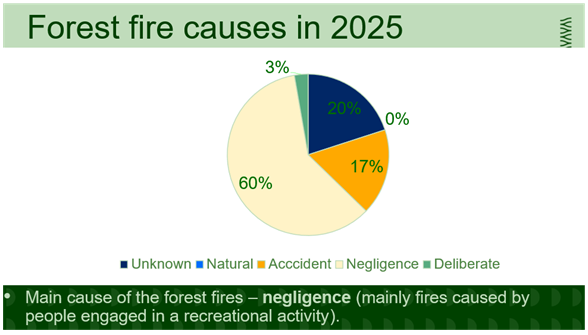


Source: State Forest Enterprise, Lithuania.

Fire causes

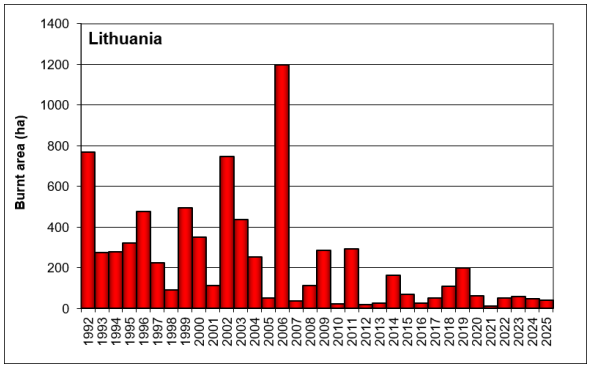
In many cases, the causes of most fire incidents are attributed to accidental factors—including power lines, railways, transportation, and logging—as well as negligent behaviour.

Figure 66. Forest fire causes in Lithuania, 2025.

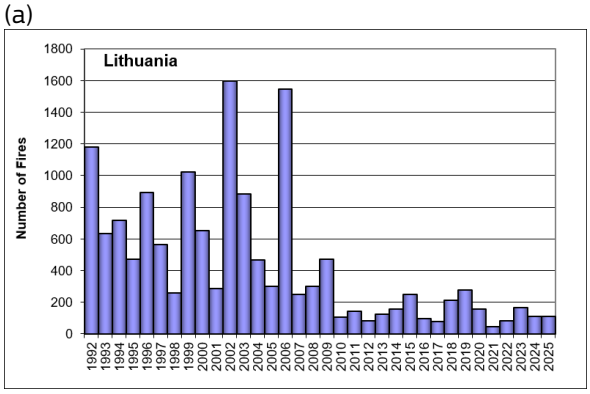


Source: State Forest Enterprise, Lithuania.

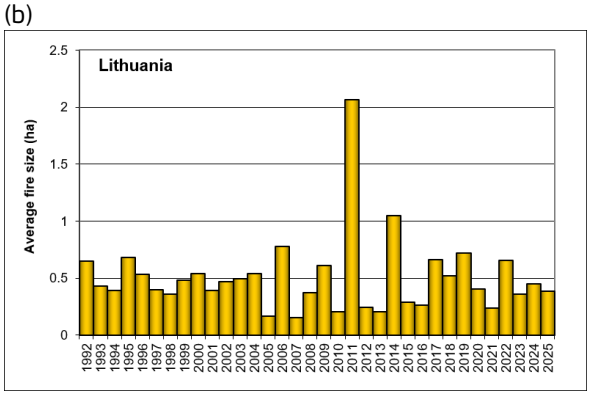
Figure 67. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Lithuania from 1992 to 2024.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Lithuania.

Economic costs

Fire departments of the regional units and forest officials have reportedly visited fireplaces more than 301 times, according to reports of forest fires. The total damage was estimated to be 41 865.54 euros (only value of wood) (40% less than in 2024). State Forest Enterprise spent 4.8 million Euro from their own funds and state budget in 2025 (0.3 mln. more than in 2024).

Fire prevention activities

The State Forests Enterprise organizes the establishment of the uniform system of state fire prevention protection measures. Annually contracts between Lithuanian Hydro meteorological Service and State Forests Enterprise are being signed concerning calculations of complex forest fire figures and pronouncements of classes of fire rates in each territory of state forest enterprise. Forest Fire Danger Map is updated daily (at 12 a.m.) from April to September and can be found on the website of the Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service[20]. Every year state forest enterprises together with Fire and Rescue Services and Armed Forces organize educational training in the forest to check, how organizations can organize forest fire extinction, manage difficult situations, control the actions, collaborate with each other and keep the connection. To sustain the system of general state fire protection measures State Forest Enterprise spent 4.8 million Euro from their own funds and state budget in 2025 (0.3 mil. more than in 2024), The total damage to the forest was estimated to be 48 000 Euro (only value of wood) (40% less than in 2024).

Automatic early warning systems for forest fire prevention "Fire Watch" are used in 25 regional division of State Forest Enterprise having forests with high fire risk (total 24 central stands and 84 detectors). Forest fire detection systems help to detect forest fire focus coordinates with better precision, for fire brigades to arrive to fireplace quicker, extinguishing the fire more operatively.

20 http://www.meteo.lt/lt/web/guest/misku-gaisringumo-klases-prognozes

Preparing for the 2026 forest fire season:

- Updating, coordinating and approving operational forest fire extinguishing plans (SFE, Fire and Rescue Services; Municipalities (25 valid operational plans in total).
- Formation and provision of main (47 units), mobile (41 units) and reserve (25 units) firefighting teams (SFE).
- Organization of inter-institutional forest fire extinguishing trainings in different conditions.
- Preparing of the possible scenarios for the suppression of the spread of crown forest fires and their extinguishing using aviation.

Operations of mutual assistance and loss of human lives

No operations of mutual assistance were taken, and no casualties were reported in Lithuania during the fire season of 2025.

Climate change

In 2025, the average annual air temperature in Lithuania was 8.4 °C, which is 1 °C above the 1991–2020 standard climate normal (SCN) of 7.4 °C. This tied 2025 with 2015 as the 5th–6th warmest year on record in the country's meteorological history.

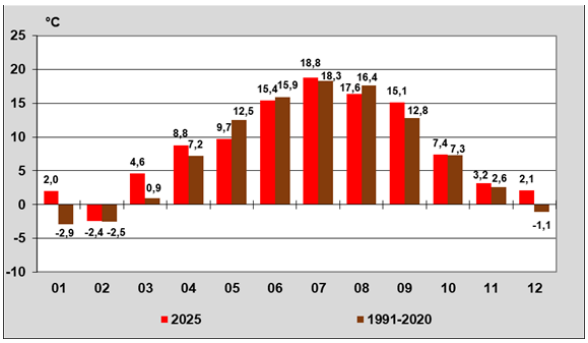
Over the course of 2025, seven months were warmer than usual, three were cooler, and two were close to the SCN. January, March, April, September, and December were unusually warm, all ranking among the top five warmest corresponding months since 1961. Conversely, May stood out with an average temperature of 9.7 °C (2.8 °C below the SCN), making it the fifth coldest May since 1961 (**Figure 68**).

Temperatures exceeded the SCN across the entire country. The largest positive deviations (1.1–1.2 °C) were recorded in Central and Northern Lithuania. The smallest deviations (0.8–0.9 °C) were observed in the northwestern part of the country, as well as along the coast and the Curonian Lagoon region.

In 2025, the highest daily temperature was recorded on July 3 in Druskininkai, where the thermometer hit 35.6 °C.

The lowest daily minimum temperature dropped to -17.7 °C, recorded on February 16 in Šalčininkai and on February 20 in Molėtai.

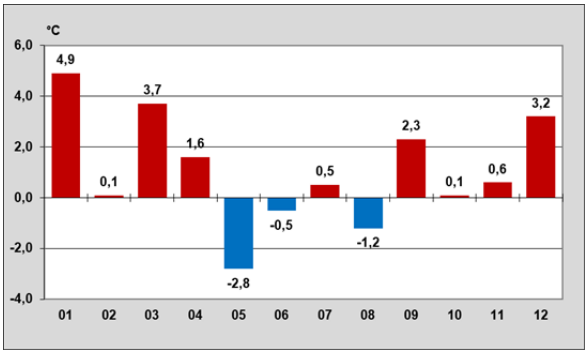
Figure 68. Average air temperature and SKN for the months of 2025 in Lithuania.



Source: Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service.

Based on the deviations of the monthly average air temperature from the SCN, May, June, and August were cooler than normal, while all other months were warmer (**Figure 69**). The average air temperatures in April and February showed the smallest deviation from the SCN, with a minor positive anomaly of 0.1 °C. In contrast, January, February, and December stood out with exceptionally high positive anomalies of 4.9 °C, 3.7 °C, and 3.2 °C, respectively.

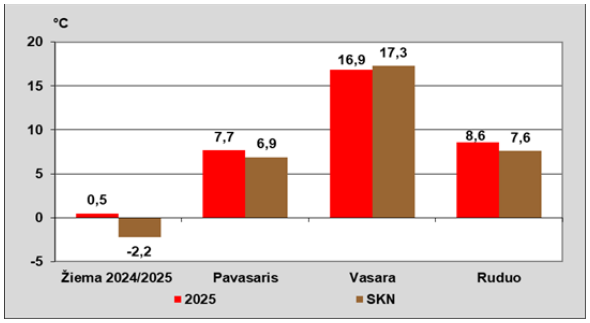
Figure 69. Deviation of the average air temperature from the SKN for the months of 2025 in Lithuania.



Source: Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service.

For the fourth consecutive year, the winter was warmer than usual – the average air temperature of this season was 0.5 ºC and, compared to the climate normal (SKN), the winter temperature average deviated the most, showing a positive anomaly of as much as 2.7 °C. In terms of average temperature, this winter ranked fifth since 1961. Autumn was also exceptionally warm (a positive anomaly of 1.0°C), ranking tenth since 1961. Summer was the only season that was slightly cooler than usual (a negative anomaly of 0.4 ºC) and deviated the least from the standard temperature.

Figure 70. Seasonal average air temperature (°C) and SKN for 2025 in Lithuania.



Source: Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service.

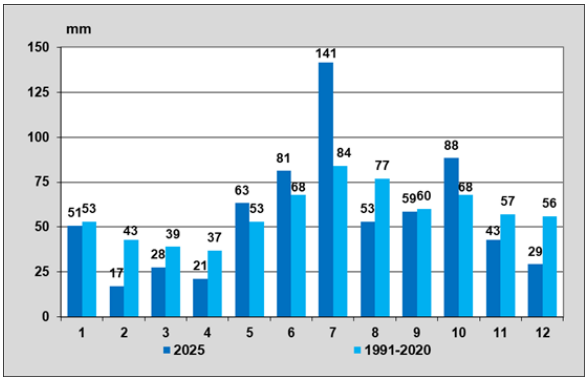
In terms of precipitation, 2025 in Lithuania was close to normal, with an average of 675 mm of rainfall, which represents 97% of the SCN (the 1991–2020 precipitation SCN is 695 mm). Annual precipitation across the country ranged from 489 to 904 mm, or 78–128% of the SCN.

The period from May to July 2025 was wet and characterized by higher-than-normal precipitation. July was exceptionally wet (141 mm), exceeding the SCN by nearly 170% (**Figure 71** and **Figure 72**). This month ranks as the third wettest July since 1961. A wet October (with 130% of the SCN) can also be added to this rainy group. The remaining nine months of the year were drier than normal.

Notably, February was very dry, with only 17 mm of precipitation, accounting for a mere 40% of the SCN. Low precipitation was also recorded in April and December, with 21 mm (42% of the SCN) and 29 mm (78% of the SCN), respectively. Dry weather prevailed in March, August, and November, which all saw nearly a one-third reduction in precipitation.

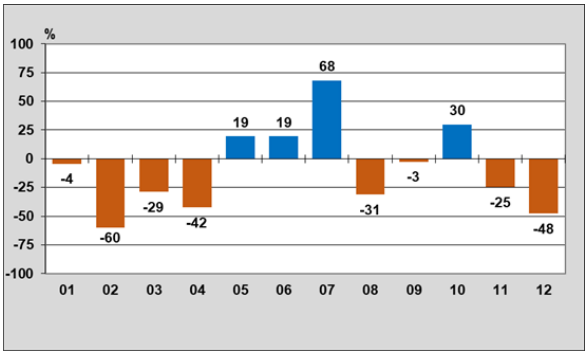
The months with precipitation levels closest to the norm were the first two months of winter and September

Figure 71. Monthly precipitation (mm) and SKN for 2025 in Lithuania.



Source: Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service.

Figure 72. Deviation (%) of precipitation amounts for the months of 2025 in Lithuania from the SKN (0 – norm, below 0 – less than the norm, above 0 – more than the norm).



Source: Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service.

In 2025, 22 hazardous and 3 disastrous meteorological events (hereinafter HME and DME), as well as 9 hazardous hydrological events (hereinafter HHE), were recorded. Among the hydrological events, 3 were related to river depletion and 6 to exceptionally high water levels. The majority of the HMEs (9) occurred during the summer. Additionally, 2 were recorded in winter, 6 in spring, 4 in autumn, and

1 during the last month of the year. Two instances of very heavy rainfall that reached DME thresholds were recorded in summer, and one in autumn. This phenomenon (along with very large hail, severe winds, and drought during the plant vegetation period) was recorded locally, with the exception of the July 30 event, which affected most of the country and caused extensive damage to agriculture. On June 5, a severe storm with squalls devastated personal property, forests, and crops in the southern and eastern districts of the country. For several consecutive years now, following an exceptionally warm first half of April, unusual amounts of damage have been caused by frosts during the active vegetation period, which this year lasted until mid-May and affected a large part of the country. At the end of November, a winter-specific weather event occurred—a winter weather complex (heavy snowfall, wet snow accretion, and strong winds)—causing damage to forests, power grids, and infrastructure. Also noteworthy was a prolonged rainy period that began in late May in the northern districts and continued throughout the summer, shifting across different territories of the country and finally ending in the second half of September. These rains significantly disrupted agricultural operations by waterlogging heavy-textured soils in certain northern and eastern districts.

(Sources: State Forest Enterprise; Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service, Lithuania).

2.2.18. The Netherlands

Fire danger

In 2025, the Netherlands experienced a warm and dry year. Spring was exceptionally dry, with March the driest since measurements began. Summer was warm and included two heatwaves. By late September, a substantial precipitation deficit had developed, particularly in the south-west.

Fire danger was therefore already high in early spring. By 5 April, all safety regions were at the highest of the two public wildfire-risk levels. The concentration of fire occurrence confirms the importance of this early season: 302 of the year's 919 reported fires (32.9%) occurred in April and May. The dry spring followed a very wet 2024, which had produced abundant vegetation and therefore additional fine fuel. During 2025, the national wildfire-analyst team combined meteorological information, fuel conditions and field intelligence. Its assessments were distributed through the National Wildfire Action Centre and the national crisis-management information system.

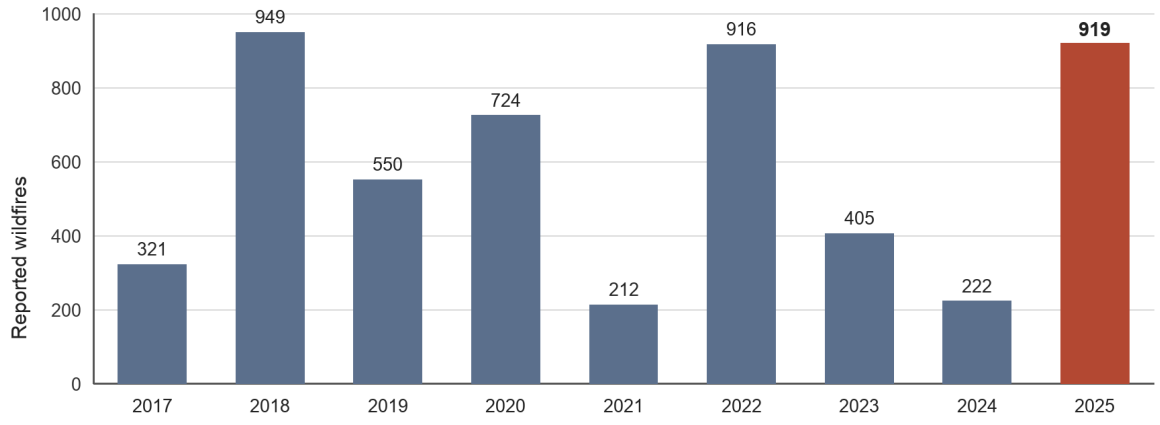
Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

In the Netherlands, 919 wildfires were recorded in 2025, with a total burned area of approximately 563 ha. Because these figures are compiled from open sources and reporting methods vary, the final totals may differ slightly. They include not only forest fires but also fires in other types of vegetation and natural areas, and therefore represent wildfire occurrence in a broader sense rather than forest fires alone.

EFFIS mapped four fires (equal or bigger than 30 ha) covering a total of 170 ha and 15 fires (equal or bigger than 5 ha) covering 330 ha in the Netherlands in 2025. EFFIS is based on mapped fire areas and therefore includes fewer fires than the national figures. The difference between the two sources is therefore not necessarily contradictory, as they are based on different types of data and coverage.

Reported wildfires in the Netherlands, 2017–2025 are presented in **Figure 73**; the trends regarding the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in the Netherlands for the years 2017 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 3**.

Figure 73. Reported wildfires in the Netherlands, 2017–2025.



Source: Netherlands country reports (2018–2024) and Netherlands Institute for Public Safety - NIPV (2025).

Table 44. Selected impact-relevant wildfires in 2025.

Date and location	Affected area	Context and consequences	Response features
3 April — Edese Heide	>64 ha (post-fire assessment)	A fast-spreading heathland fire started during a military training exercise. A small number of nearby homes were evacuated. No injuries were reported.	More than 500 firefighters were deployed, supported by a military Chinook helicopter, which carried out 24 water drops.
12 April — Loonse and Drunense Duinen	≈42 ha	A large forest fire developed after a prolonged dry period. The fire continued to smoulder in the ground after it was brought under control, requiring further extinguishing.	Around 100 firefighters were deployed, including a specialist wildfire handcrew. A public warning was issued and people were asked to leave the affected part of the park.
21 August — Brunssummerheide	≈7.5 ha	The fire spread rapidly across dry heathland. A children's camp was evacuated, while nearby residential areas experienced smoke and soot fall.	Fire crews from across the region responded, supported by specialised firefighting vehicles from Maastricht Aachen Airport and fire services from neighbouring Germany.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, and Netherlands Institute for Public Safety - NIPV.

Fire causes

A national breakdown of wildfire causes for 2025 that is compatible with the harmonised EU classification was not available. Available records therefore do not allow a consistent assessment of the main causes of wildfires in the Netherlands in 2025. Information is available for some individual incidents. Defence confirmed that the fire near Ede on 3 April started during a Royal Netherlands Army exercise.

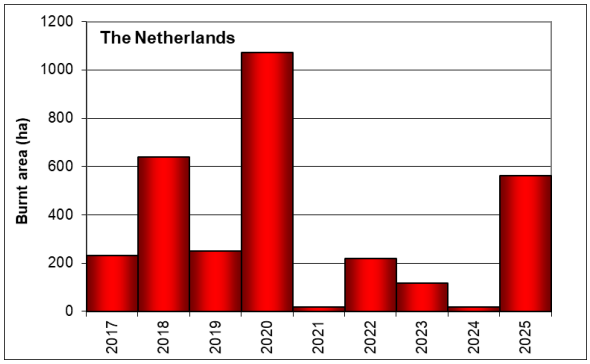
More generally, it is believed that human activity is responsible for a large share of wildfires in the Netherlands. Heathland is also considered particularly vulnerable to wildfire. However, these general observations cannot be directly translated into a cause breakdown for the fires recorded in 2025.

Fire fighting resources

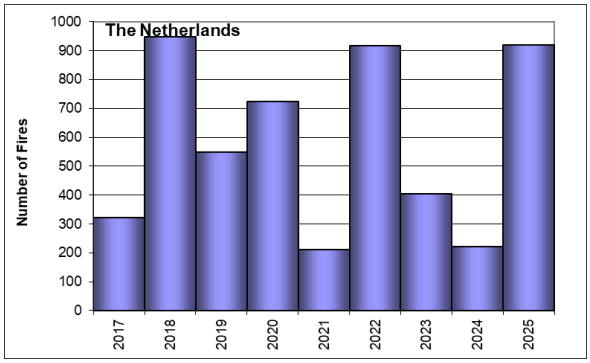
Wildfire response in the Netherlands is primarily organised by the regional fire services. During larger or more complex incidents, additional units and specialist support can be brought in from within or outside the affected region. Depending on the situation, this can include additional water supply, specialist wildfire teams, advisers and analysts, handcrews, drones and aerial support from Defence.

The fire near Ede was one of the larger wildfire responses in 2025, involving more than 500 responders. A Chinook helicopter carried out 24 water drops of around 7 600 litres each, and Defence also supported the response with fire-fighting vehicles. The fire spread rapidly and developed secondary fire spots beyond the main fire front. Later evaluation of the incident also identified difficulties with the effectiveness of stop lines and the availability of timely and consistent information, which complicated the response. A large response was also required during the fire in the Loonse and Drunense Duinen. Multiple fire-service units and specialist teams from different regions were involved, including Handcrew South Netherlands. At Brunssummerheide, the regional response was supported by fire services from neighbouring Germany and specialist fire-fighting vehicles from Maastricht Aachen Airport. These incidents show that larger wildfires can require considerable personnel and equipment from several regions and organisations.

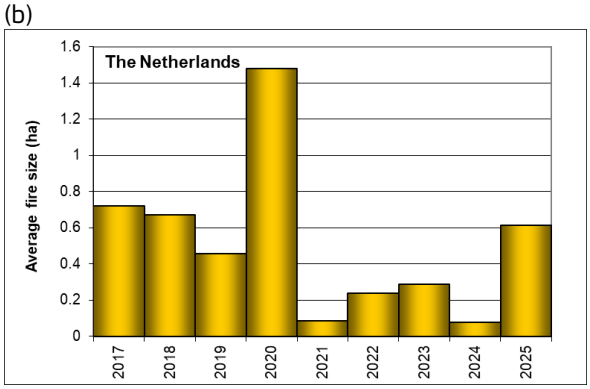
Figure 74. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in the Netherlands from 2017 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for the Netherlands.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

Wildfire prevention and preparedness received greater national attention in 2025. In May, the National Wildfire Crisis Plan was presented, setting out how government authorities, safety regions, emergency services, land managers and other partners are expected to cooperate during large or potentially escalating wildfires. The plan focuses mainly on coordination, responsibilities and decision-making when an incident requires cooperation beyond the normal regional response.

Further measures for wildfire management were presented later in the year. These included plans to strengthen provincial coordination, support prevention measures by land managers, develop national expertise and improve information on current wildfire danger. Funding had been reserved for these activities, although several measures were still being developed or were intended for implementation in the following years. The broader approach is aimed at combining prevention and risk reduction with preparedness, suppression and recovery.

Public awareness was another part of the prevention approach. In April 2025, the campaign "Preventing fire is in your nature" (Dutch: "Voorkomen van vuur is jouw natuur[21]") was launched by fire-service and safety-region partners. It provides residents, visitors and recreation businesses with practical information on behaviour that can help reduce the risk of wildfires. The campaign materials were designed for use throughout the year, with particular attention to people living in or visiting areas where wildfire risk is higher.

In 2026 the Dutch government broadened its wildfire-risk strategy, promoting natural-area management such as prescribed burning, grazing, hydrological restoration and diverse vegetation. A national fire-management centre, backed by the state forest service, will consolidate expertise and practical know-how. Approximately €86 million has been allocated for prevention and risk-reduction measures up to 2030, including planning, innovation and

21 https://www.brandweer.nl/onderwerpen/natuurbrand-voorkomen/

knowledge development. Fire-danger information will be added to the National weather-app and cross-border cooperation with Germany and Belgium will be strengthened by linking five existing wildfire projects.

Injuries and loss of human lives

No wildfire-related fatalities were identified in the national information reviewed for 2025. For the fire near Ede, no injuries or major physical damage were reported. The evaluation did, however, show that firefighters were exposed to considerable risk, as well as mental strain among some of the personnel involved. A consistent national overview of non-fatal injuries related to wildfires was not available.

Operations of mutual assistance

Cross-border and international assistance was also part of wildfire response activities. During the Brunssummerheide fire, German fire-service units supported the Dutch response, together with additional specialist fire-fighting vehicles. This reflects the practical importance of cross-border cooperation in the Dutch–German–Belgian border region. The Netherlands also provided wildfire assistance to Spain in 2025 through European cooperation. In July and August, two teams of 20 Dutch firefighters were deployed to Spain as part of the European Commission's pre-positioning programme under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The teams supported Spanish firefighters during wildfire incidents while also gaining practical experience with large-scale wildfire suppression and fire behaviour. In August, following a request from Spain for additional international assistance, the Netherlands deployed two Chinook helicopters equipped with water buckets, together with wildfire advisers. The helicopters operated from a base near León and were used for around two weeks, dropping approximately 3 million litres of water in almost 400 drops.

Climate change

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency of conditions that favour wildfire in the Netherlands, including higher temperatures, longer dry periods and drier vegetation. These conditions can increase the likelihood of ignition and allow fires to spread more quickly and intensely. Dry conditions during parts of 2025 were consistent with this broader trend, although individual wildfires cannot be directly attributed to climate change.

In response to this increasing risk, Dutch wildfire policy is placing greater emphasis on prevention and landscape management alongside fire suppression. Measures include improving water retention, reducing or managing combustible vegetation, creating more fire-resilient landscapes and ensuring that emergency services can access vulnerable areas. Attention is also being given to evacuation and escape routes and to preparing areas and emergency services for larger and more difficult-to-control wildfires.

Research activities

The fire near Ede became an important case for further evaluation. A multidisciplinary study published in 2026 examined how the fire developed, how the response was organised and what consequences the incident had for the surrounding area. Among the points identified were the need to better account for uncertainty during rapidly developing fires, improve the sharing of knowledge and strengthen cooperation between operational organisations, public authorities and experts.

Ecological monitoring after the Ede fire indicated that the overall fire severity was relatively limited and that vegetation had already started to recover within several months. The longer-term ecological effects, however, require further monitoring.

(Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (Directorate General for Nature, Rural Areas and Fisheries); Netherlands Institute for Public Safety – NIPV, The Netherlands).

2.2.19. Norway

Fire danger

Norway transitioned from the WBKZ-system to the FWI (Fire Weather Index) in 2021. The system is adapted to Norwegian conditions. Weather parameters encompass a range of factors, including air temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind, and snow.

The standard fire season typically spans from March to September. However, variations are anticipated given the length of the country, stretching 1750 km from south to north. This diversity can result in divergent conditions, such as flooding in one region of Norway while another area contends with a high forest fire index.

Initiating in the south-west during March and April, the fire season gradually extend southward and eastward as the season progresses. The western regions primarily encounter heather and scrub fires, while in the southern areas, swiftly drying pine trees on impoverished soil constitute the most prevalent fire risk. The largest forested regions are concentrated in the eastern part of Norway.

2025 was the warmest year ever recorded in Norway since measurements began in 1901, with a national mean temperature 1.5°C above the normal. The year was particularly extremely warm in Trondelag and Northern Norway, while the rest of Southern Norway experienced a very warm year. At the same time, 10% more precipitation than normal fell nationwide, making 2025 the eighth wettest year on record.

Trondelag and Northern Norway experienced consistently wet to very wet conditions, whereas Southern Norway saw more variable precipitation, with both dry and very wet periods. The year was marked by several temperature records, a very warm summer (the third warmest July recorded), and an unusually mild December.

Figure 75. Winter fires in Norway.



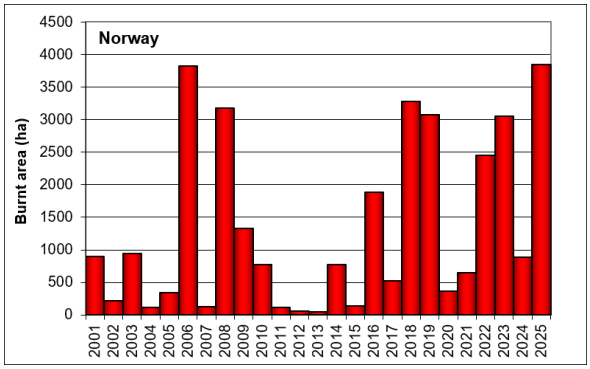
Source: Haugaland Fire Service.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

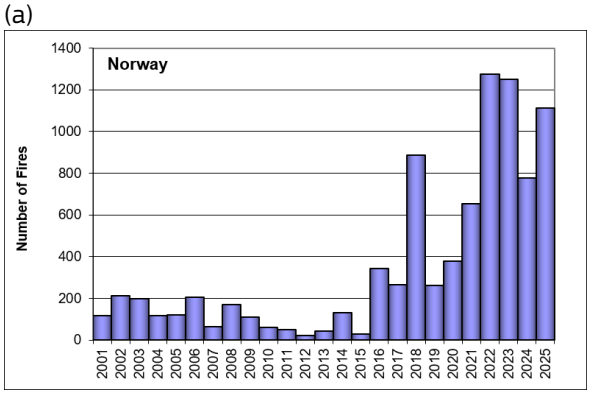
In 2025 there were 1111 wildland fires recorded in Norway. 188 ha of productive forest and 3657 ha of other wooded land. The statistics are for all fires, regardless of size.

The trends regarding the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Norway for the years 2001 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 3**.

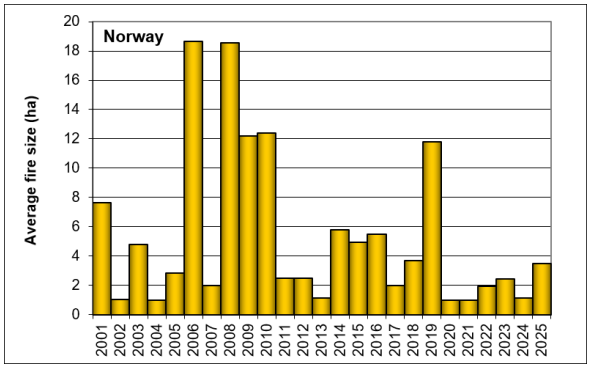
Figure 76. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Norway from 2001 to 2025.



(a)



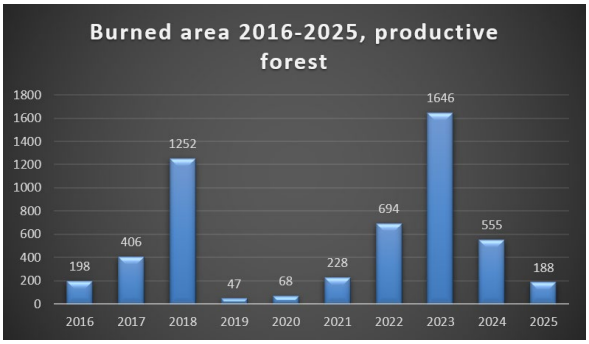
(b)



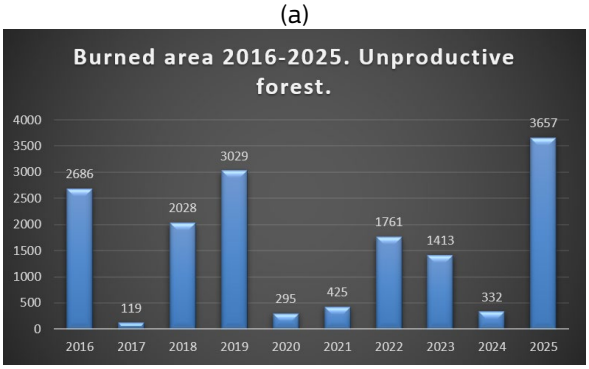
(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Norway.

Figure 77. Burnt area of productive(a)/unproductive(b) forest in Norway 2016-2025.



(a)



(b)

Source: Directorate for civil protection (DSB), Norway.

Fire causes

The primary causes of forest and wildland fires are typically man-made. Examples: burning debris or grass in the spring, activities related to forestry, ignition by purpose etc.

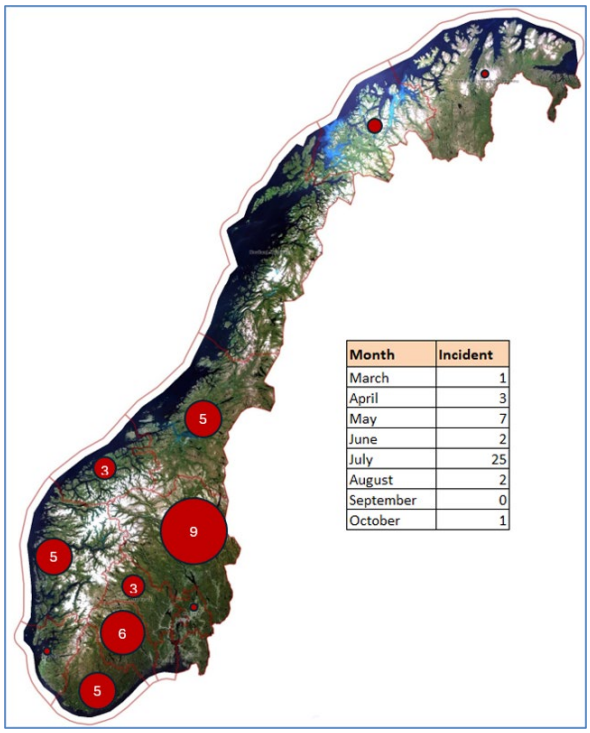
The primary natural cause is lightning during thunderstorms. These events can lead to fires either immediately, or they might ignite the following day as a result of drying processes.

Fire fighting resources

The Directorate for Civil Protection have a partnership with a private helicopter company. From April 15 to September 15, one helicopter is on standby in the eastern part of Norway (Skien). With several strategic bases nationwide and agreements with other entities, the company's reach is extensive. The number of standby helicopters increases during high fire risk periods.

In 2025, helicopters were deployed in 41 fires.

Figure 78. Deployment of helicopters in 2025.



Month	Incident
March	1
April	3
May	7
June	2
July	25
August	2
September	0
October	1

Source: Directorate for civil protection (DSB), Norway.

To ensure effective response during major forest fire outbreaks, the Directorate for Civil Protection has established a proficient expert team to support local fire chiefs upon request for helicopter assistance.

Norwegian fire services have approximately 3 700 full-time and 7 750 part-time firefighters, operating as an all-risk service.

Municipalities with significant forest fire risk have dedicated groups managed by the fire services for forest fire suppression.

Injuries and loss of human lives

None

Operations of mutual assistance

None

Figure 79. Fire in Norway, 2025.



Source: John Arne Hellesø, Fonna Fly.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

In Norway, municipalities are responsible for the Fire Services, which encompass both prevention and preparedness concerning forest fires. Nevertheless, certain activities are on a national level and are followed up by the Directorate for Civil Protection.

Figure 80. Prescribed burning in Norway, 2025.



Source: Haugaland Fire Service.

<u>The responsibilities of the Directorate of Civil Protection include:</u>

- Framing regulations and legislation for the population in generally and Fire Services particularly. Using fires in forests or wildlands is prohibited by law from April 15th to September 15th in Norway.
- Manage and maintain agreements with air resources, coordinating the deployment and quantity of helicopters.
- Managing and upholding agreement with the forest fire management support group.
- Developing and sustaining a statistical reporting system for fires known as BRIS.
- Facilitating the Norwegian Forest Fire Committee, comprised of members representing the Directorate for Civil Protection, Fire Services, The Norwegian Meteorological Institute, Insurance agencies, Aerial resource providers, and Fire Associations.

<u>The responsibilities of the Norwegian Meteorological Institute include:</u>

- providing information on forest fire index through the internet and provide information through television (Forecast) when the forest fire index is high.

The responsibilities of the Fire Service and municipalities include:

- Preparedness: focusing on effective handling of fires, particularly emphasizing initial attack approaches, considering the fire's potential impact.
- Prevention: risk analysis, aerial and ground monitoring, skill building exercises, information campaigns and controlled prescribed burning. Prescribed burning is important for maintaining forest and heathland areas, thereby reducing the occurrence of forest fires and the risk of spreading towards urban areas.

  For controlled prescribed burning, there have been 80 activities, and 600 hectares of wildland is burned. The controlled prescribed burning is mainly for the maintenance of the pasture areas/vegetation, but there is also a biodiversity effect.

For the first time in Norway, controlled conservation burning was carried out to restore forests and save endangered species.

A total of 12 hectares were burned in Gutulia National Park and in a nature reserve in Akershus. The aim of the initiative is to recreate natural processes in the forest and ensure better living conditions for species associated with fire and dead wood.

Figure 81. Conservation burning in Norway, 2025.



Source: Norwegian Environment Agency.

Climate change

Climatic conditions and how they impacted the fire season

Climate changes in Norway leads to higher air temperature and it is expected more precipitation, but also droughts due to increased temperature. The consequences of this are increased growth in grass, shrubs and trees. This leads to overgrowing of cultural landscapes, longer fire season and larger fires while as a result of more fuel.

National adaptation strategies / plans and in particular regarding plans to adapt the forest sector to climate change in order to limit forest fire risks

A national preparedness analysis has been developed to assess the extent to which Norway is capable of facing future forest fires.

A “design-basis forest fire” (level of ambition) has been defined based on a risk assessment as well as an evaluation of expected climate change up to 2030. Existing preparedness has been assessed against the defined design-basis forest fire scenario. Based on this, the measures required to manage the design-basis forest fire identified in the analysis have been evaluated.

Research activities aimed at improving fire management

Project: → Treeads, funded by EUs Horizon 2020

Period: → December 2021 – May 2025

Owner: → RISE Fire Research as

Contact: → Kemal S. Arsava, project coordinator

Description: → TREEADS aims to increase environmental sustainability and urban/ rural ecosystems safety through redefining and reinforcing forests protection and management by developing and validating an innovative, sustainable and applied holistic wildfire management approach.

Webpage: Homepage - TREEADS Project[22].

Project: → WildfireSafe, Wildfire safety of homes and other vulnerable establishments in the wildland-urban interface

Period: → March 2025-August 2028

Owner: → RISE Fire Research

Contact: → Ragni Fjellgaard Mikalsen, project leader in Norway

Description: → Wildfires are becoming more common and intense due to climate change, urban growth, and changes in how land is used, posing new risks for communities in areas where wildlands meet towns and cities (the Wildland-Urban Interface, or WUI). The goal of the WildfireSafe project is to help protect homes and communities in these areas by creating practical advice and tools suited to local conditions in Norway and South Africa.

Webpage: RISE Fire Research[23].

Project → Prediction of ignition and spread of wildfires in Scandinavia: from experiments to models (PREWISS)

Period: → October 2021 – September 2025

Owner: → Western Norway University of Sciences

Contact: → Maria de Las Nieves Fernandez Anez, Associate Professor

Description: → Global warming induces hotter, drier conditions, increasing wildfire risk in Northern Europe. PREWISS aims to predict and mitigate wildfires by studying vegetation flammability and developing a mathematical model with geospatial data. Understanding ignition conditions is crucial. The project addresses the need for effective wildfire management in Scandinavian vegetation.

Webpage: Prediction of ignition and spread of wildfires in Scandinavia: from experiments to models - Western Norway University of Applied Sciences[24].

In addition, there are several projects in Europe that have Norwegian partners (e.g. Fire Res).

(Source: Directorate for civil protection (DSB), Norway).

22 https://treeads-project.eu/

23 https://www.risefr.no/en/forskningsprosjekter/wild-firesafe

24 https://www.hvl.no/en/project/2531935/

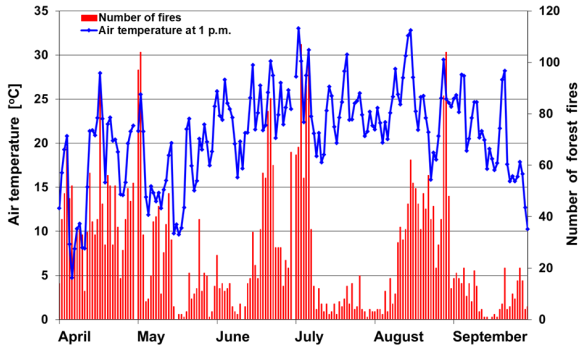
2.2.20. Poland

Fire danger

Meteorological conditions are a decisive factor in determining fire danger risk in forest areas. Data for 2025 are shown in **Figure 82** - **Figure 84**, covering air temperature, precipitation, and relative air humidity. **Figure 85** - **Figure 87** present pine (Pinus sylvestris L.) litter moisture, the national degree of forest fire danger risk (NDFFDR) in relation to the number of fires during the fire season (April–September), and the average degree of forest fire danger for the forecast zones.

The average air temperature in the 2025 fire season was 15.8°C at 9.00 a.m. and 21.0°C at 1.00 p.m. It was lower than the average temperature of the last decade (2015-2024), which was 16.5°C and 21.4°C respectively. In 2024, it was 17.5°C and 22.9°C respectively. In April, the coolest month of the 2025 season, the average temperature was 10.6°C at 9.00 a.m. and 16.9°C at 1.00 p.m.

Figure 82. Air temperatures and number of forest fires in Poland in fire season 2025.



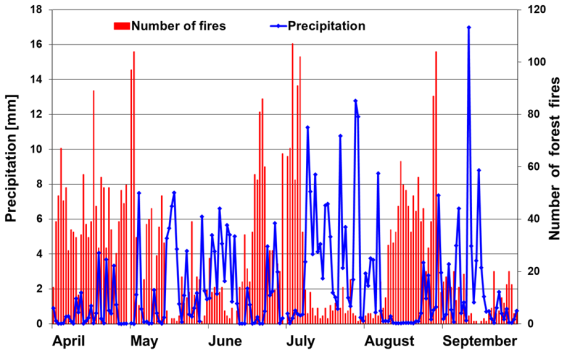
Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

In May, the average air temperature increased to 12.8°C at 9.00 a.m. and up to 16.8°C at 1.00 p.m. In June, July and August were similar in terms of temperatures, which were respectively 19.0°C, 19.9°C and 18.8°C at 9.00 a.m. and for 1.00 p.m. it was 23.5°C, 24.1°C and 24.2°C.

The warmest month of the 2025 season was July. In September, the air temperature dropped to 14.1°C at 9.00 a.m. and 21.0°C at 1.00 p.m. The maximum air temperature occurred on 2 July at 1.00 p.m. and was 33.0°C.

The average daily precipitation in the 2025 season was 2.1 mm (similar to the 2024 season). By comparison, the mean daily rainfall in 2015-2024 was also 2.1 mm. The highest mean daily rainfall occurred in July, amounting to 3.9 mm/day. The maximum value of precipitation (17.0 mm/day) in the 2025 season was recorded on 11 September.

Figure 83. Precipitation and number of forest fires in fire season 2025 in Poland.

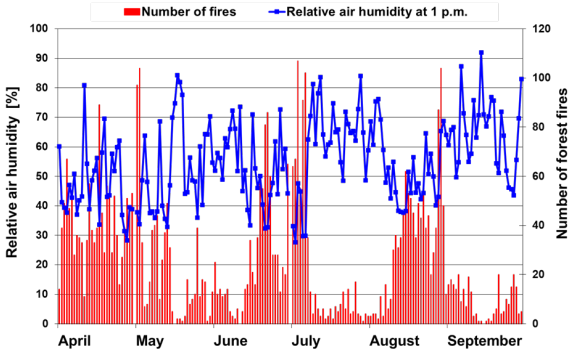


Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

The average relative humidity in the 2025 season was 77.2% at 9.00 a.m. and 55.1% at 1.00 p.m. It was similar to the value of the average relative humidity in 2015-2024 for 9:00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. (76.2% and 55.1%, respectively). For comparison, in 2024 it was 76.5% and 52.9% respectively.

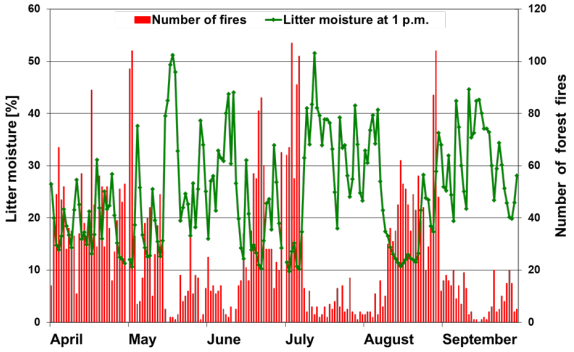
The lowest values (below the average for the 2025 season) at 9.00 a.m. were recorded in April, May and June (73.0%, 69.5% and 71.3%). The highest morning relative humidity values for the season occurred in September (92.0%). In the afternoon observation period, air humidity below the average for the season were in April (47.7%), May (52.5%), June (52.9%) and August (52.9%). The highest afternoon values of relative air humidity occurred in September (64.4%).

Figure 84. Relative air humidity and number of forest fires in fire season 2025 in Poland.



Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

Figure 85. Litter moisture and number of forest fires in Poland in fire season 2025.



Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

The average moisture content of pine litter (*Pinus sylvestris* L.), an indicator combustible material in for Polish forests, was 30.1% at 9.00 a.m. and 25.1% at 1.00 p.m., which is below the flammability threshold for dead ground cover, which is 30%. In the 2023 and 2024 seasons, they were 29.9% and 24.3% and 29.0% and 23.2%, respectively. For comparison, in the last decade, covering the years 2015-2024, they were at the level of 30.6% and 25.1%, respectively. In April 2025, the lowest values were recorded (24.3% and 19.0%, respectively). In May, June and August, the litter moisture was similar to the average for the 2025 season. The highest average litter moisture was in July (33.8% and 29.2%) and September (35.7% and 30.8%) respectively.

In Poland, the degree of forest fire danger is determined for 60 prognostic zones, which have been separated on the basis of, among others, the presence of large dense forest complexes, homogeneity in terms of climate, habitat conditions, frequency and size of forest fires and the presence of large urban agglomerations. This degree is determined at 9.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. on the basis of measurements of meteorological parameters:

- air temperature and relative humidity,

- daily precipitation total,

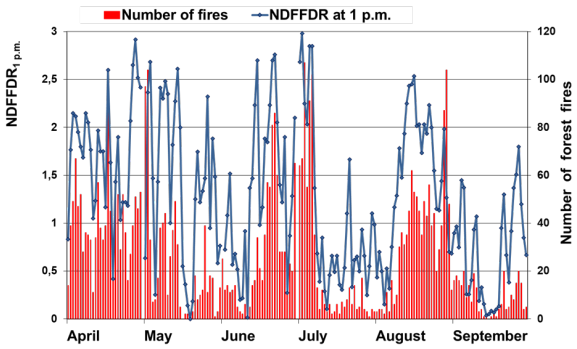
- moisture content of the pine litter.

The determination of the degree of forest fire danger is carried out by the organisational units of the State Forests using their own automated network of meteorological measuring points in the forest areas.

The average national degree of forest fire danger (NDFFDR) in the four-degree scale (0, 1, 2, and 3) reached 1.0. at 9 a.m. and 1.3 at 1 p.m. It was similar compared to the 2024 season, when it was 1.1 and 1.3 respectively. This means that the fire danger in the whole analysed period was low.

The greatest forest fire danger appeared in April, when NDFFDR reached 1.3 at 9 a.m., and 1.7 at 1 p.m.

Figure 86. The National Degree of Forest Fire Danger Risk and number of forest fires in fire season 2025.

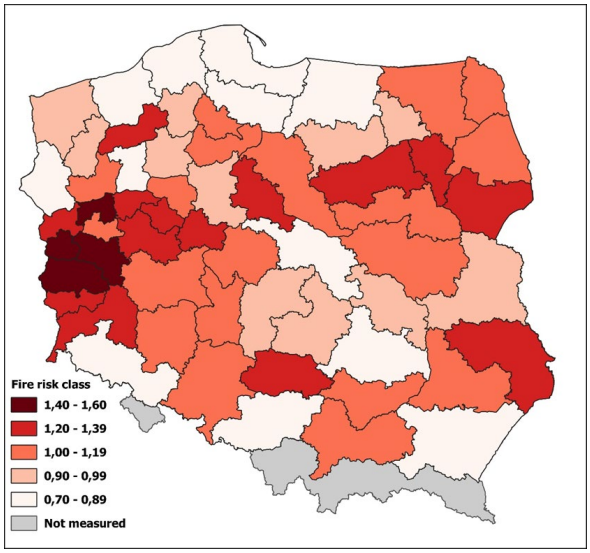


Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

The percentage of occurrence in the third level of forest fire danger in the afternoon was 19.9% in April, 19.3% in May. The lowest forest

fire danger was in September, when NDFFDR reached 0.5 at 9 a.m. and 0.7 at 1 p.m., and the percentage of occurrence in the third level of forest fire danger was 0.3% in the morning, and 0.5% in the afternoon.

Figure 87. Average degree of forest fire danger for forecast zones in the fire season in 2025 in Poland.



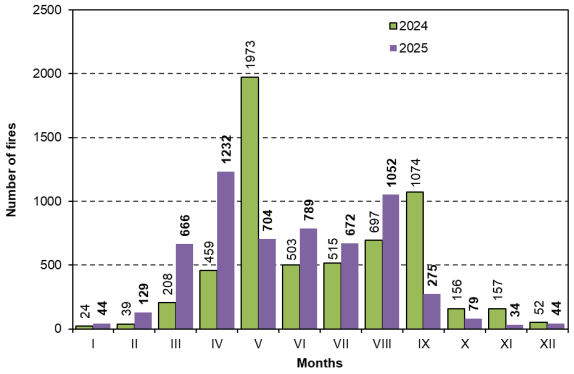
Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

In 2025 in Poland, a total of 5 720 fires broke out (3 448 in forest, 367 other wooded land and 1 905 in other non-wooded natural land), 137 less than in 2024 (5 857 fires), with a surface area of 1 459.04 ha (1024.83 ha forest, 22.69 other wooded land and 411.52 ha other non-wooded natural land), over 101.24 ha more than in the last year (1 357.80 ha) - **Table 45** and **Figure 89**.

The greatest proportion of fires occurred in April (21.54%; i.e., 1 232 fires) - **Figure 88**. This was followed by August (18.39%) and June (13.79%). The lowest number of fires in the fire season (April - September) occurred in July (11.75%), and September (4.81%). 82.59% of fires occurred in the fire season.

Figure 88. Distribution of number of forest fires by months in 2024 and 2025 in Poland.



Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

The largest number of fires in 2025, similar to last year, occurred in Mazowieckie Province (1 676 – 29.30%).

The lowest number of forest fires occurred in Opolskie Province (102 – 1.78%) and Warmińsko-Mazurskie Province (110 – 1.92%). These data are illustrated in **Figure 92** - **Figure 94**.

The largest burnt forest areas, other wooded land and other non-wooded natural land were recorded in:

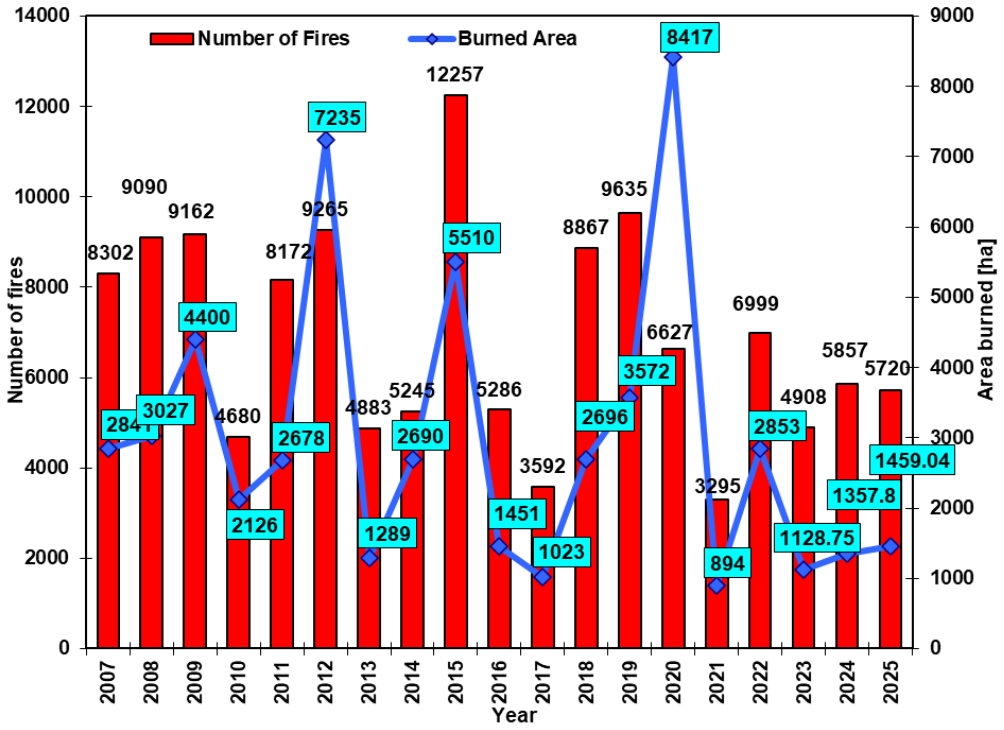
- Mazowieckie Province (367.46 ha),
- Podkarpackie Province (302.08 ha),
- Świętokrzyskie Province (126.04 ha).

The smallest area was in Opolskie Province (14.29 ha) and Pomorskie Province (17.05 ha).

Small fires; i.e., with a surface area of less than or equal to 1 ha, represented 94.11% of all the fires in 2025 (**Figure 91**), with the burnt area amounting to 41.40%.

Fires with a surface area of between 1 ha and 10 ha represented 5.73% of all the fires, with the burnt area representing 44.33%. Large fires with a surface area of between 10 ha and 100 ha represented 0.16% of all the fires, with the burnt area representing 14.27%. The largest fire had an area of 43.55 ha.

Figure 89. Total number of fires on high forest and area burned (ha) in Poland in the period 2007-2025.



Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

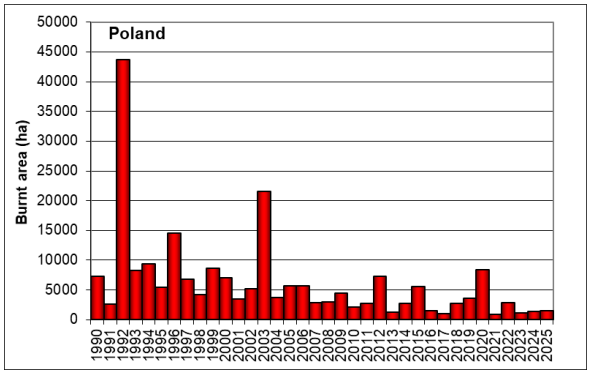
Table 45. Forest fires in Poland in the period 2007-2025.

Year	Number of fires			Burnt area (ha)		
	Forest and other wooded land	Non wooded	Total	Forest and other wooded land	Non wooded	Total
2007	5 086	3 216	8 302	1 642.64	1 198.24	2 840.88
2008	5 568	3 522	9 090	1 810.74	1 216.39	3 027.13
2009	5 633	3 529	9 162	2 524.58	1 875.90	4 400.48
2010	2 975	1 705	4 680	1 358.26	767.98	2 126.24
2011	5 126	3 046	8 172	1 526.11	1 151.66	2 677.77
2012	5 752	3 513	9 265	4 781.65	2 453.62	7 235.27
2013	3 168	1 715	4 883	810.42	478.12	1 288.54
2014	3 603	1 642	5 245	1 956.90	733.55	2 690.45
2015	8 292	3 965	12 257	3 765.87	1 744.03	5 509.90
2016	3 545	1 741	5 286	862.37	588.68	1 451.05
2017	2 334	1 258	3 592	692.73	329.80	1 022.53
2018	5 947	2 920	8 867	2 047.26	648.87	2 696.13
2019	6 532	3 103	9 635	2 340.74	1 231.73	3 572.47
2020	4 458	2 169	6 627	1 842.34	6 574.30	8 416.64
2021	2 243	1 052	3 295	575.42	318.32	893.74
2022	4 806	2 193	6 999	2 207.65	645.09	2 852.74
2023	3 278	1 630	4 908	771.21	357.54	1 128.75
2024	3 877	1 980	5 857	933.50	424.30	1 357.80
2025	3 448	2 272	5 720	1 024.83	434.21	1 459.04

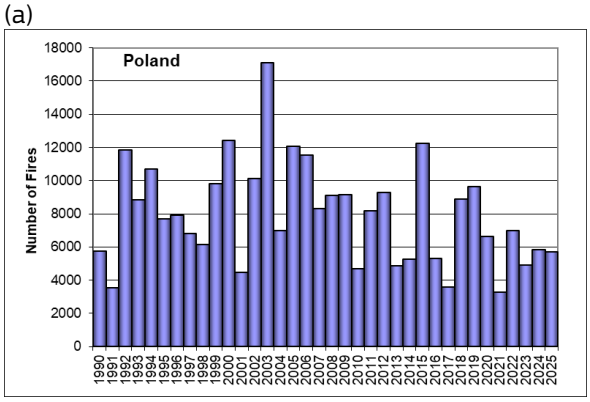
Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

The trends of the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Poland for the years 1990 to 2024 are shown in **Figure 90**.

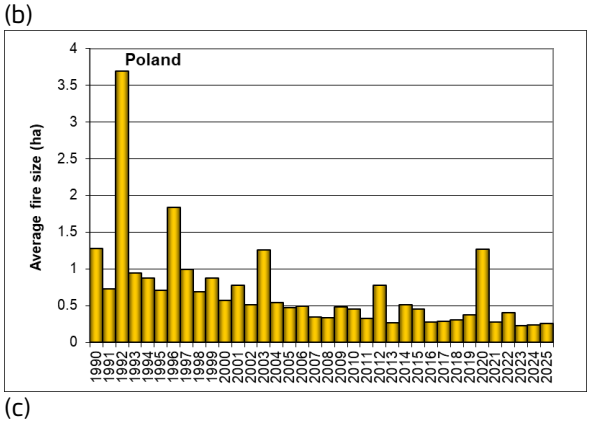
Figure 90. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Poland from 1990 to 2025.



(a)



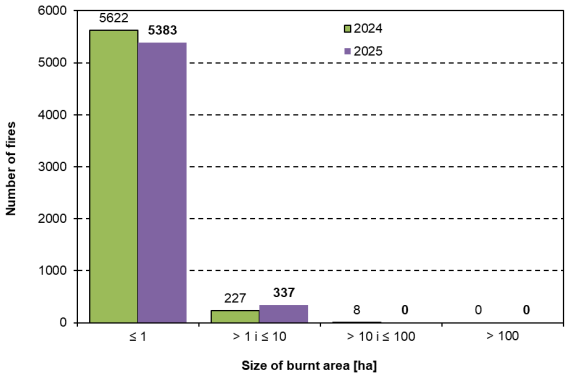
(b)



(c)

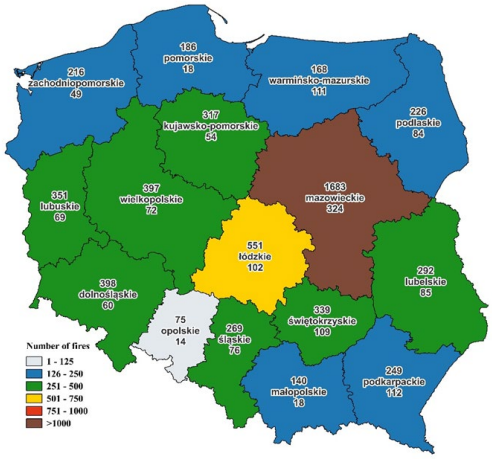
Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Poland.

Figure 91. Distribution of the number of forest fires by size of burnt area in the years 2024 and 2025.



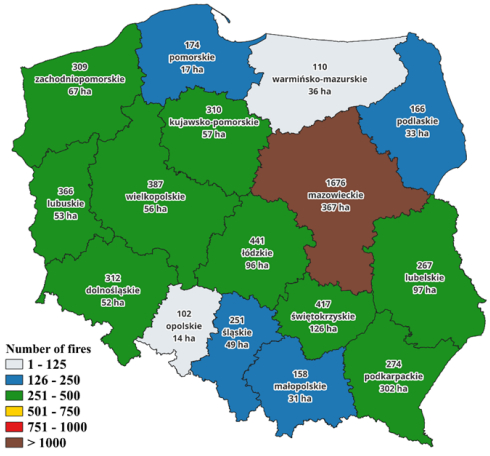
Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

Figure 92. Number of forest fires and burned areas in Poland by provinces (NUTS2) in 2024.



Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

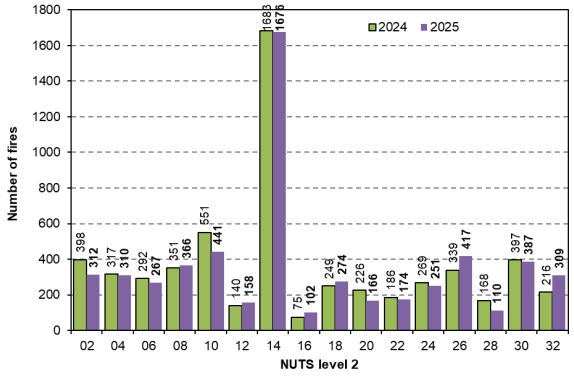
Figure 93. Number of forest fires and burned areas in Poland by provinces (NUTS2) in 2025.



Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

Figure 94. Distribution of the number of forest fires by province (NUTS2) in 2024 and 2025 in Poland.

(02 - dolnośląskie, 04 - kujawsko-pomorskie,
06 - lubelskie, 08 – lubuskie, 10 - łódzkie,
12 – małopolskie, 14 – mazowieckie, 16 – opolskie,
18 – podkarpackie, 20 – podlaskie, 22 – pomorskie,
24 – śląskie, 26 – świętokrzyskie,
28 – warmińsko-mazurskie, 30 – wielkopolskie,
32 – zachodniopomorskie).

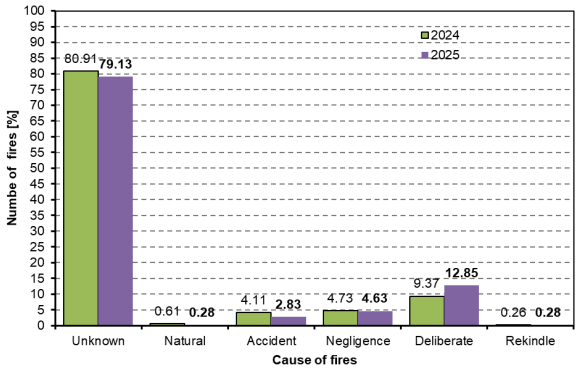


Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

Fire causes

The main causes of fires in 2025 were identified as unknown, accounting for 79.13% (4 526 fires). Forest fires related to human activity, including "deliberate", accounted for 12.85% (735 fires), "accidents" 2.83% (162 fires) and "negligence" 4.64% (266 fires) (**Figure 95**).

Figure 95. Distribution of the number of forest fires by causes in 2024 and 2025 in Poland.



Source: Authors of the country report for Poland.

Fire prevention activities[25]

In forest areas managed by the "State Forests" National Forest Holding (covering 75% of Poland's forest area), work was carried out to prevent the occurrence and spread of fires, renewing 3 228.36 km of firebreaks, establishing 66.34 km of new ones, and tidying up the forest on an area of over 15 674 ha, reducing the amount of flammable biomass.

In 2025, the State Forests had at its disposal equipment, consisting of:

- 30 firefighting airplanes, 8 helicopters using the "Bambi Bucket", and 4 patrol airplanes,
- 323 light patrol vehicles, including 316 (97%) with a firefighting module,
- 5 medium and 2 heavy fire trucks,
- 239 portable fire pumps, including 161 floating pumps,
- 717 fire lookout towers, including 433 (60%) equipped with television camera systems.

25 Prepared on the basis of: Wysocka S. (2026), "Analiza stanu ochrony przeciwpożarowej w Lasach Państwowych w 2025 roku" (Analysis of the state of fire protection in the State Forests in 2025), only Polish version.

Aviation infrastructure is available, which includes 30 forest air bases and approximately 50 operational landing sites.

In the areas administered by the State Forests, the effectiveness of fire detection was found to be:

- 63% by bystanders (1 209 forest fires),
- 31% of fires were detected from fire lookout towers (596 forest fires),
- 4% of incidents were observed during fire patrols by State Forests employees (76 forest fires),
- 2% of fires were detected by aircraft patrol (33 forest fires).

The State Forests have an internal communication system. This improves communication between units during firefighting operations.

The communication system consists of: 5 408 radio-telephones, including 1 813 mobile sets, 882 base sets, 78 converters to the frequency band used by the State Fire Service.

The water supply for fire suppression was provided by 10 828 water supply points, including 3 744 natural points and 2 413 artificial points.

Moreover, additional water was supplied by 4 671 hydrants located in the nearby of the forests.

Maintaining the efficiency of the forest fire protection system requires significant annual financial investment by the State Forests in fire protection.

In 2025, forest fire protection costs totalled PLN 157.081 million, including over PLN 48.849 million (31%) for activities related to maintaining aviation services.

In 2025, the following activities were carried out as part of the State Forests' information and promotion efforts:

- over 45 600 posters, leaflets, and information brochures about forest fires were distributed,
- 4 387 information boards were displayed,
- 437 interviews were conducted in the mass media regarding forest fire protection,
- 145 competitions were organized on fire protection issues.

Scientific research

In 2025, the Forest Research Institute implemented research projects including:

- "Fire Hazard Monitoring in the Białowieża Forest as a Crisis Management and Response Tool – Phase II." This project was completed in 2025. Its aim was to monitor and provide substantive oversight for the preparation of the "Fire Prevention and Fire Suppression Plan for the Polish part of the Białowieża Forest Transboundary World Heritage Site." The project also involved monitoring forest fire hazards and monitoring changes in the quantity and quality of combustible material. In 2025, in cooperation with units of the State Fire Service and the State Forests, workshops combined with large-scale firefighting exercises were organised.
- "Monitoring Forest Fire Hazard and Improving the Fire Protection System." The project will be carried out from 2025 to 2028. As part of the project, data on forest fire hazards and fire occurrences will be collected and verified. Forest fire danger maps will be developed for 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, along with forecasts for the following day. Forest fire danger alerts will be prepared and transmitted. Data on the readiness of aircraft and helicopters for rescue and firefighting operations will be developed, and substantive oversight will be provided for the network of meteorological measurement points used to forecast forest fire hazards.

In 2025, scientific articles published in English:

— Szczygieł R., Tyburski Ł., Kwiatkowski M., Czubak D. 2025. Controlled burning as an active method of protecting heathlands – methodology of the procedure. Folia Forestalia Polonica, Series A – Forestry, Vol. 67 (4), 313–321, DOI: 10.2478/ffp-2025-0024.

— Szczygieł R., Kwiatkowski M. 2025. The economic aspect of establishing fire breaks along public roads and reducing the losses caused by forest fires. Folia Forestalia Polonica, Series A – Forestry, Vol. 67 (4), 279–288, DOI: 10.2478/ffp-2025-0022.

Since 2007, the Forest Research Institute has coordinated work and verified the accuracy of data contained in the National Forest Fire Information System[26]. This is the only system in Poland that collects fire data from the State Forests Information System, the State Fire Service, and national parks.

The Forest Research Institute is responsible for information activities related to forest fires. In The Forest Research Institute is responsible for information activities related to forest fires. In the season from March to October (at 9:00 am and 1:00 pm) a fire risk map[27] is prepared, presenting current conditions for 60 forecast zones for the entire country.

(Sources: Laboratory of Forest Fire Protection, Forest Research Institute; Forest Protection Department, General Directorate of State Forest, Poland).

[26] https://bazapozarow.ibles.pl

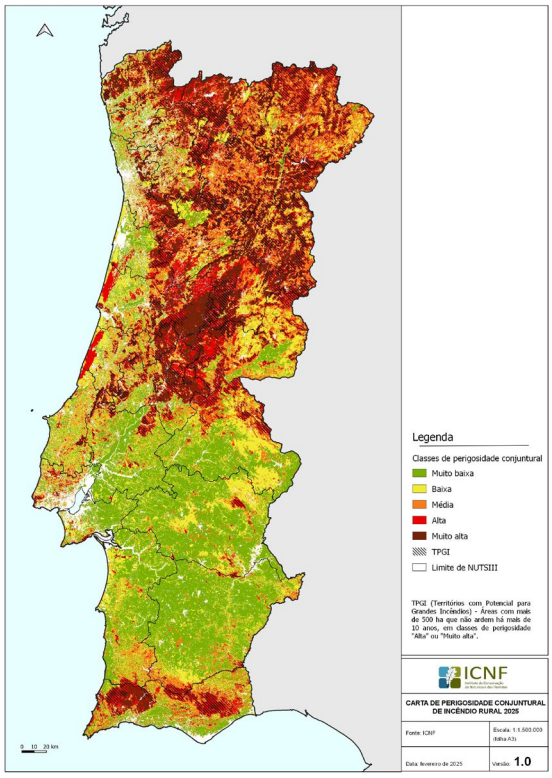
[27] https://bazapozarow.ibles.pl/zagrozenie/

2.2.21. Portugal

Fire danger

The information and maps regarding fire hazard are produced annually by the Portuguese nature conservation and forest service (ICNF – Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas) in the beginning of the year and are updated in late spring.

Figure 96. 2024 fire hazard map for Portugal.

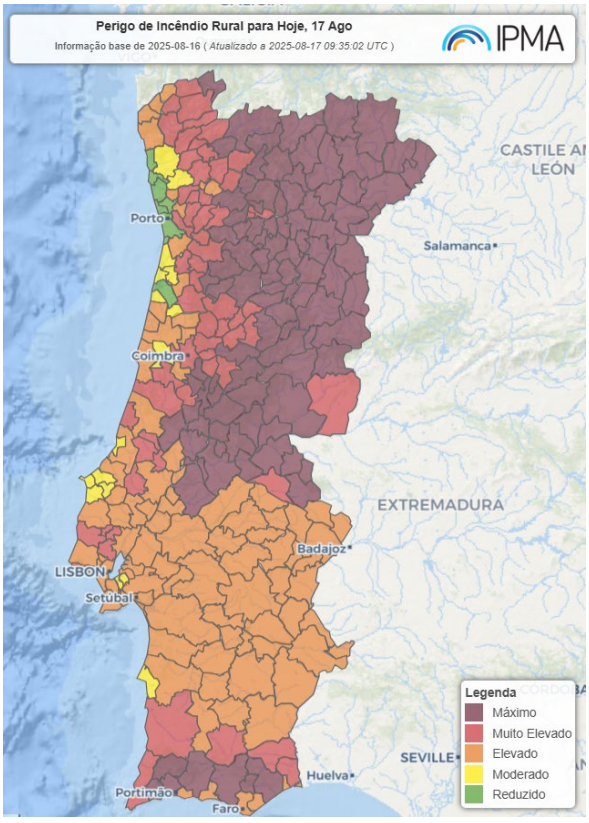


Source: ICNF.

The 2025 fire hazard map (**Figure 96**) shows the Portuguese mainland regions that were predicted as most exposed to wildfires, located mainly at interior of the Centre and North regions and in Algarve. This map contains not only the wildfire hazard scaled from 1 to 5 for each 25 meter pixel, but also the delimitation of TPGI ("territories with potential for large wildfires"), which are forest lands that, cumulatively: i) have 500 hectares or more, ii) have a high or very high wildfire hazard (top two classes) and iii) did not burn in the last 10 years. In 2025 approximately 84% of the area burned in 2025 occurred in areas of high or very high risk.

A local and daily wildfire danger evaluation is published for each of the 278 municipalities of Portuguese mainland territory (**Figure 97**) and for the Autonomous Region of Madeira by the Portuguese meteorological service (IPMA – Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera). This evaluation combines the annual wildfire hazard map (**Figure 96**) with the meteorological forecast for each day (FWI index).

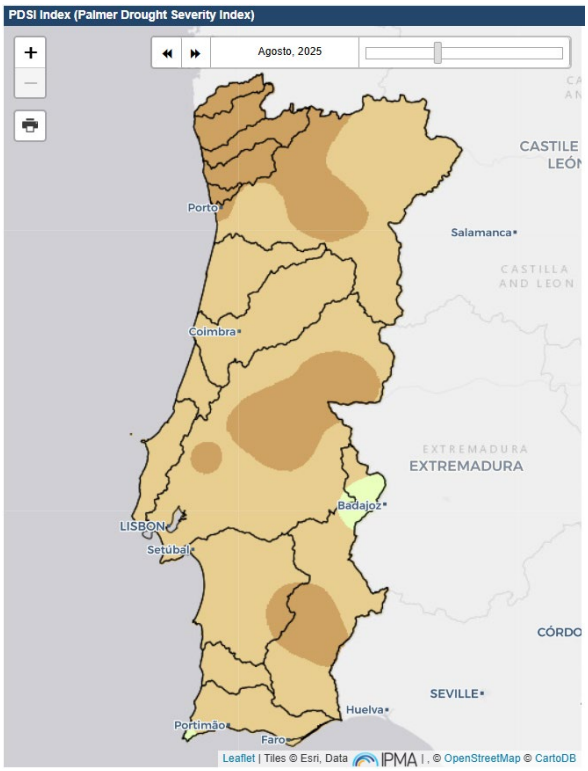
Figure 97. Example of evaluation of the daily wildfire danger in Portugal for a summer day in 2025 (17th of August).



Source: IPMA.

Figure 98 shows the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) for mainland Portugal in August 2025. August stood out as the month in which drought conditions were most widespread across mainland Portugal.

Figure 98. Palmer Drought Severity index (PDSI) for the Portuguese mainland (August 2025).



Color legend	PDSI Classes	Description
greater than or equal to 4,0	Extreme rain	Extreme rain
3,00 to 3,99	Severe rain	Severe rain
2,00 to 2,99	Moderate rain	Moderate rain
1,00 to 1,99	Weak rain	Weak rain
-0,99 to 0,99	Normal	Normal
-1,99 to -1,0	Weak drought	Weak drought
-2,99 to -2,0	Moderate drought	Moderate drought
-3,99 to -3,0	Severe drought	Severe drought
less than or equal to -4,00	Extreme drought	Extreme drought

Source: IPMA.

According to the Independent Technical Commission of the Portuguese Parliament for the 2025 wildfires, the pyrometeorological conditions of the summer of 2025 (especially from June to August) were one of the main factors explaining the high severity of the fire season, with the national average of the FWI index of meteorological fire hazard being the highest since 2000. The severe meteorological conditions were reinforced by high atmospheric instability during the peak of the largest fires in mid-August, which, combined with the characteristics of the fuels, favourable to propagation, gave rise to high fire speeds and intensities.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

With respect to total burned area, 2025 was the fourth largest wildfire year on record since systematic records began.

In mainland Portugal (NUTS I PT1) the burnt area in 2025 reached 270 695 hectares (**Table 46**), more than double the annual average recorded over the previous decade (123 938 ha). The largest wildfire in 2025 started in the Piódão–Arganil area (Centre Region), burning a total of 65 478 hectares (**Figure 99**).

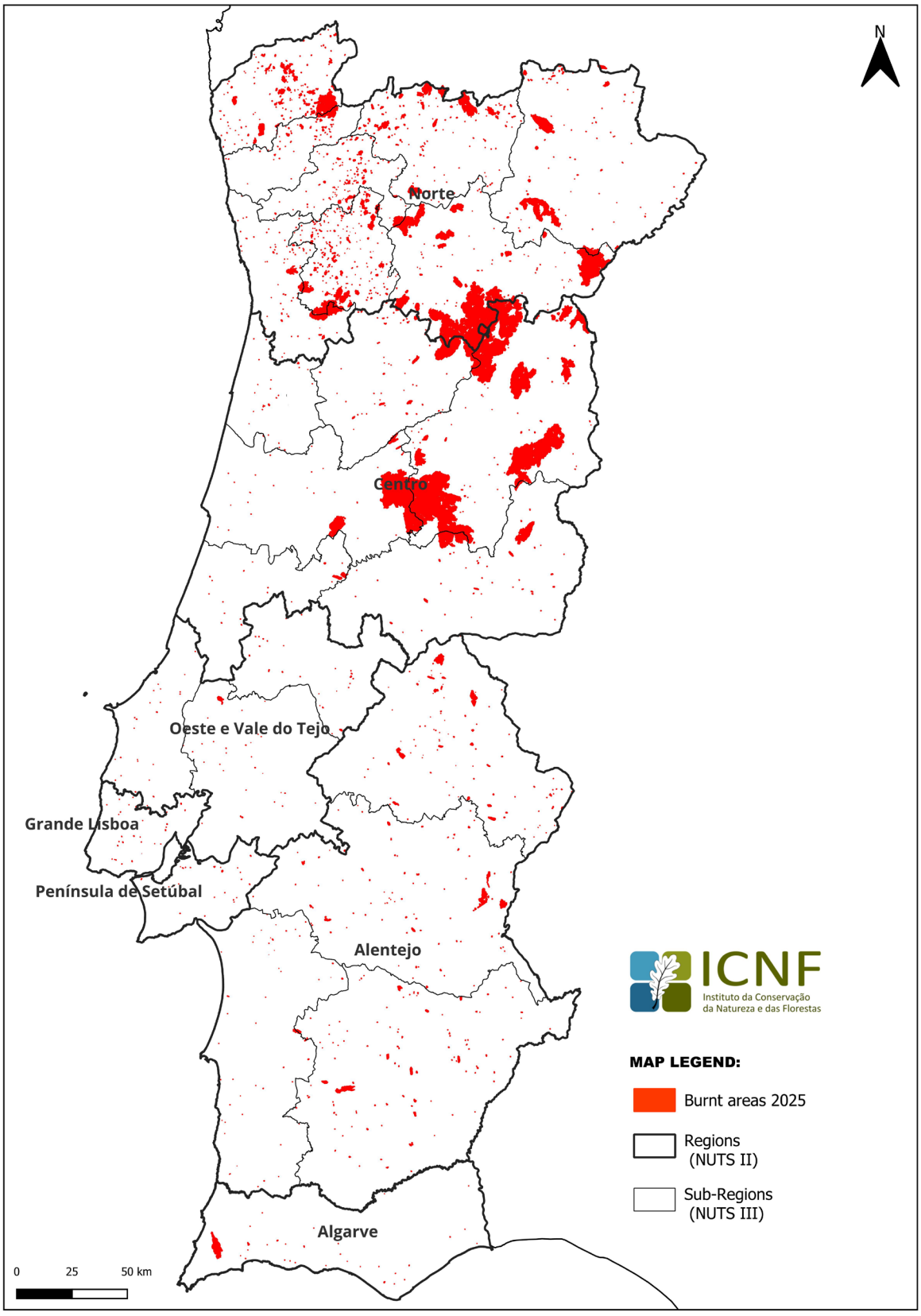
Regarding the number of wildfires, a total of 8 252 events were recorded in 2025, representing a 32% decrease compared to the average of the previous decade, but – coincidentally - a 32% increase relative to 2024.

Table 46. Number of wildfires and burnt area in Portugal mainland territory from 2015 to 2025.

Year	Number of wildfires	Burnt area (ha)
2015	19 643	67 200
2016	16 104	167 808
2017	21 006	539 921
2018	12 274	44 578
2019	10 832	42 085
2020	9 619	67 170
2021	8 186	28 360
2022	10 390	110 097
2023	7 524	34 510
2024	6 255	137 651
Annual average 2015-2024	12 183	123 938
2025	**8 252**	**270 695**

Source: ICNF.

Figure 99. Burnt areas in 2025 in the Portuguese mainland.



Source: ICNF.

The Centre Region was the most affected NUTS II region in 2025, with a total burnt area of approximately 186 thousand hectares, followed by the North Region with around 72 thousand hectares. Combined, these two regions accounted for 96% of the total burnt area (**Table 47**). Approximately 91% of all fires in 2025 occurred during August and September (**Table 48**). August alone accounted for the vast majority of the burned area, representing around 80% of the total area affected that year.

Table 47. Number of fires and burnt area in Mainland Portugal (NUTS II).

PT1 - NUTS II Region	Number of wildfires	Burnt area (ha)			
		Forest and other wooded land	Shrublands	Agricultural land	Total
Norte	4 763	25 308	42 386	4 718	72 412
Centro	1 381	75 584	92 295	18 157	186 036
Oeste e Vale do Tejo	729	288	81	137	506
Grande Lisboa	170	4	52	17	73
Península de Setúbal	177	14	29	35	77
Alentejo	790	2 381	4 182	2 823	9 386
Algarve	242	1 497	637	71	2205
TOTAL	**8 252**	**105 076**	**139 662**	**25 957**	**270 695**

Source: ICNF.

Table 48. Wildfires in Portugal Mainland (monthly distribution).

Month	Number of wildfires	Burnt area (ha)			
		Forest and other wooded land	Shrublands	Agricultural land	Total
January	95	16	139	4	158
February	32	3	17	2	22
March	330	567	2 103	20	2 690
April	253	282	650	7	939
May	439	85	184	277	546
June	1 156	637	1 404	1 337	3 378
July	2 067	12 686	14 385	2 046	29 116
August	2 102	85 795	110 738	20 792	217 325
September	883	4 721	8 126	1 232	14 079
October	812	273	1 775	121	2 169
November	63	10	111	119	240
December	20	1	30	0	31
TOTAL	**8 252**	**105 076**	**139 662**	**25 957**	**270 695**

Source: ICNF.

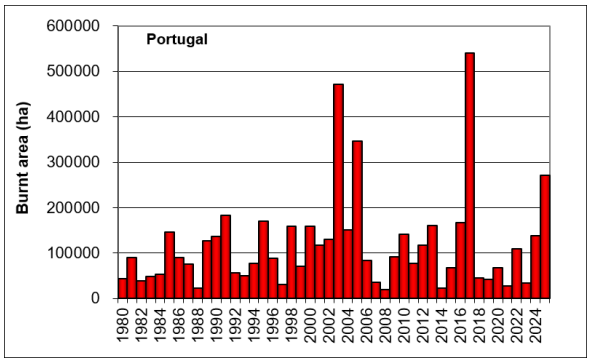
In the Madeira archipelago (PT3), 25 wildfires were recorded in 2025, marking the most favorable year ever observed in the Autonomous Region in terms of rural fire activity. The total burnt area was extremely low, amounting to just 2.95 hectares. No forest fires (>1 ha) or large fires were recorded during the year.

In the Azores archipelago (PT2), a total of 108 wildfires were recorded in 2025. Although the total burnt area was not systematically collected, available information indicates that it

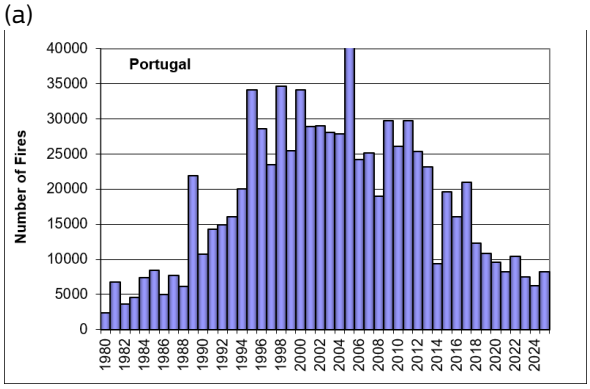
remained very limited. This suggests that fire events were generally of low magnitude and effectively contained, resulting in negligible impact in terms of area burned.

The trends of fire statistics in Portugal for the years 1980 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 100**.

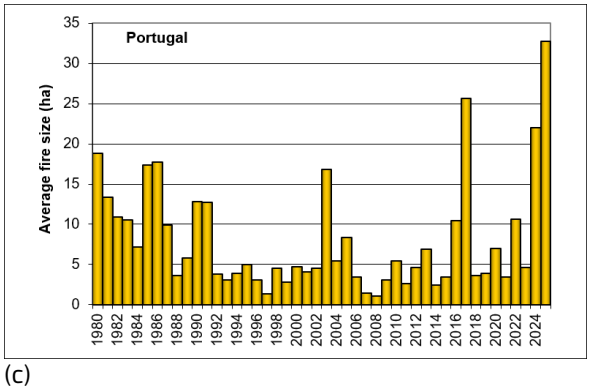
Figure 100. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Portugal from 1980 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



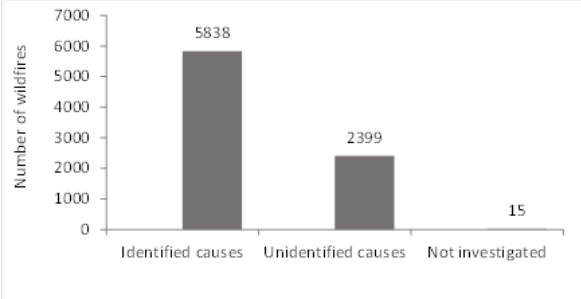
(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Portugal.

Fire causes

Of the 8 252 occurrences registered in 2025, the National Republican Guard (GNR) proceeded with the investigation of causes for 8 237 wildfires (99.8%), of which 2 399 were of unknown origin (**Figure 101**).

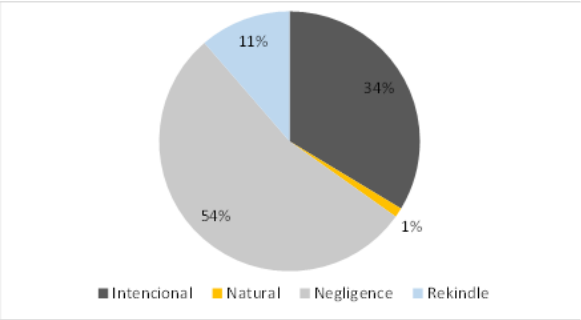
Figure 101. Wildfires 2025 causes investigation.



Source: ICNF.

Among those fires with determined cause, intentional acts (arson) corresponded to 34% and accidents or negligence caused the ignition of 54% of the total number of fires (**Figure 102**).

Figure 102. Main causes of wildfires in 2025.



Source: ICNF.

In 2025 despite remaining at a very low percentage of occurrences, wildfires of natural causes (due to lightning from thunderstorms) were responsible for an abnormally high percentage of burned area (32%) and for the largest wildfire ever recorded in Portugal (Piódão Fire).

The use of fire for renewal of pastures in mountainous regions still has a strong impact on the amount of burnt areas. In 2025 the application for fire permits allowed a more controlled use of fire (see “Assistance phone-line and burning permit”) and the project

"MARQ" (short for "Support mechanism for pastoral burning") helped 38 shepherds and treated 1 180 hectares of grazing lands with prescribed burnings.

Fire fighting resources

Between June and October 2025, the Portuguese national rural fire suppression system (DECIR), coordinated by the National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection (ANEPC), operated in accordance with the National Operational Directive (DON No. 2/2025). During the peak fire danger period, the system maintained 2 295 response teams comprising 11 165 personnel and 2 419 vehicles in permanent readiness. This capacity could be reinforced within 24 hours through the mobilization of an additional 279 teams, corresponding to 3 863 personnel and 999 vehicles from the various civil protection agencies and partner entities involved in wildfire suppression operations.

The Directive also established a phased deployment of aerial firefighting resources throughout the year, aligned with the anticipated wildfire risk levels. During the Delta operational level (1 July to 30 September), a total fleet of 79 aircraft[28] was available, including light and heavy helicopters, fixed-wing firefighting aircraft and aerial coordination platforms. The fleet performed 9 012 operational missions in 2025, accumulating 11 063 flight hours and delivering 62 256 suppression drops.

A significant innovation introduced in 2025 was the reintroduction of aerial fire retardant operations through a pilot project involving two Air Tractor AT-802 aircraft. The initiative aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of retardant-based suppression tactics under Portuguese operational conditions and within the framework of the national wildfire management system. During the fire season, 217 retardant drops were carried out. The results obtained demonstrated operational benefits that support the continuation and expansion of this capability during the 2026 fire season.

Operational performance remained at a high level, with 93.35% of all rural fire incidents contained within 90 minutes of the initial alert. Only 662 incidents exceeded this threshold, while 29 fires required more than 24 hours to achieve containment.

The 2025 National Operational Directive introduced a range of measures designed to strengthen operational preparedness, command effectiveness and evidence-based decision-making. Key developments included the revision of training methodologies for Incident Command Post personnel, the implementation of dedicated operational training programmes for ANEPC staff, the updating of qualification frameworks for Sector and Group Commanders, and the provision of specialised training in the use of heavy machinery for wildfire suppression operations (**Figure 103**).

[28] The global fleet was composed by 2 coordination airplanes, 4 coordination helicopter, 40 light Helicopters (5 pax crew), 5 heavy helicopters, 18 medium amphibious airplanes (Airtractor Fireboss), 02 medium airplanes (Airtractor AT802) and 2 heavy amphibious airplanes (Canadair CL215).

Figure 103. Training course on the use of heavy machinery, in May 2025, in the Leiria National Forest (municipality of Marinha Grande). The use of heavy machinery has expanded greatly in recent years, not only in fuel and infrastructure management in forest areas, but also in fighting wildfires.



Source: ICNF.

The Directive also reinforced multi-level governance by strengthening cooperation with municipal civil protection authorities and enhancing interoperability mechanisms at the local level. Furthermore, several technological innovations were integrated into operational procedures, including the use of multispectral airborne imagery to support fire perimeter mapping and hotspot detection, as well as the progressive digitalisation of Incident Command Post processes through the SIGO platform. Collectively, these measures improved situational awareness, resource allocation, command-and-control processes and overall operational efficiency, contributing to a more resilient and adaptive wildfire suppression system.

Since 2018, Portugal has progressively developed specialised fire analysis capabilities to support operational decision-making. In 2025, these capabilities comprised two Fire Analysis and Suppression Fire Use Teams (EAUF), one National Decision Support Unit for Rural Fires (NAD-AIR) and two Reconnaissance and Coordination Aircraft (AVRAC), operating under the Special Force for Civil Protection (FEPC).

Each EAUF consists of three specialists in fire behaviour analysis and the application of technical fire. These teams are deployed to support suppression operations or fuel management activities, providing direct advice to Incident Commanders. During 2025, the EAUFs were mobilised in 97 wildfire incidents, contributing a total of 515 operational hours.

NAD-AIR operates at national level as a strategic and operational decision-support capability. The unit is responsible for collecting, analysing and interpreting information related to wildfire risk, expected fire behaviour and operational impacts. On a daily basis, it produces strategic assessments of meteorological conditions and their implications for fire risk at national and regional levels.

During significant incidents, NAD-AIR prepares dedicated operational support products (INFOP), providing Incident Commanders with forecasts of fire behaviour, weather evolution, tactical priorities and operational safety considerations.

The AVRAC platforms provide near real-time airborne intelligence directly to the operational command structure. Equipped with RGB, infrared and multispectral sensors, these aircraft support fire perimeter delineation, hotspot identification and situational assessment. Information collected during flight is transmitted through satellite communication systems and integrated into national decision-support platforms. The AVRAC crews include a FEPC fire analyst who maintains continuous coordination with NAD-AIR. During 2025, the AVRAC fleet conducted 393 aerial intelligence missions, accumulating 672 flight hours in support of wildfire operations.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

Planning

In 2025, the implementation of the National Action Program (PNA) of the National Plan on Integrated Management of Rural Fires (PNGIFR 2020-2030) continued, although its evaluation and review has begun. The National Plan's vision is "Protect Portugal from severe rural fires" and, despite the likely increase of the fire risk, the targets for the 2020-2030 planning horizon are:

- The loss of lives in fires, although possible, is rare.
- The ratio of fires extending across more than 500 ha is below 0.3% of the total number of fires.
- The cumulative burned area over a period of eleven years is less than 660 000 ha.

Figure 104). The 62 Integrated Landscape Management Operations (OIGP) continued to

According to the annual report on the implementation of the Integrated Rural Fire Management System (SGIFR) in 2025, the intermediate year of implementation of the PNA, the 97 structural projects of the SGIFR reached a cumulative execution of approximately 53%, above the 48% recorded at the end of 2024. This progress demonstrates the continuity of the reform implementation, although delays persist in essential structuring initiatives to achieve the objectives defined for 2030.

In 2025, investment in the SGIFR reached €600 million, representing a reduction of €38 million (-6%) compared to 2024, but remaining the second highest value since the implementation of the PNA in 2021.

Regarding the mid-term evaluation of the PNGIFR 2020-2030, conducted independently by the OECD at the mandate of AGIF, several data collection activities were carried out with the main stakeholders. The process aims to assess the relevance of the projects defined in 2020, analyze the need for their continuity, reformulation, or conclusion, and gauge the level of strategy implementation against the targets set for 2030.

Forest fuels management

In 2025, approximately 196 000 hectares of fuel management interventions were carried out, exceeding the annual target. This achievement was driven by the expansion of extensive grazing, the mobilization of public and private stakeholders, and the implementation of agri-forestry support measures.

In this year, about 2 200 thousand hectares were managed with prescribed burning, and 8 800 ha of shaded fuelbreaks were implemented (

advance, covering approximately 100 000 hectares and representing a total investment of more than €180 million.

Figure 104. For the implementation of the regional network of the shaded fuel breaks network, such as this one in the municipality of São Pedro do Sul (Centre region), since 2022 the Government has already established administrative easements over private properties covering approximately 23 000 hectares and encompassing 32 000 plots of private and local communities land, within the scope of the European Union Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).



Source: ICNF.

Water reservoirs

During 2025, 875 water reservoirs (including water tanks) had maintenance and improvement works and 26 new water reservoirs were created.

Forest roads

In 2025, near 20 thousand kilometres of forest roads were created or under heavy maintenance.

"Portugal Chama" campaign

In 2025, the "Portugal Chama" ("Portugal is Calling") awareness campaign proceeded. Its main message is the individual responsibility in order to promote, among citizens, a more adequate behaviour and practices towards the reduction of the high number of ignitions and the increase of the territory resilience to fires.

It is a comprehensive nationwide campaign (mainly on TV, radio, printed press and social media) and door-to, however it focuses on the most relevant causes of rural fires, both in terms of the number of occurrences and in terms of the burnt area (heap burnings, renewal of pastures in mountain grazing areas, use of machinery and recreational activities and leisure in rural areas).

The awareness campaign "Portugal Chama" consisted of the broadcast of television and radio spots at national, regional, and local levels, as well as the publication of advertisements in the regional press, with the objective of reducing incidents that could lead to rural fires. It is complemented by programs such as "Raposa Chama" (Fox Calls), for younger people, and a closer approach to the rural population, ensured mainly by the National Republican Guard, forest sappers and local authorities. In the summer of 2025 was also implemented the "Emigrant Chama" (Emigrant Calls) campaign, promoted by AGIF in conjunction with the eBUPi Mission Structure,

reinforcing the importance of knowledge and registration of property as an instrument for prevention and enhancement of the territory.

"Safe Village – Safe People" Program

The "Safe Village – Safe People" Programme, launched in 2018, continued to be progressively implemented throughout 2025 as a key component of Portugal's strategy for enhancing community resilience to wildfires in rural and wildland-urban interface areas. The programme combines structural risk reduction measures with community preparedness initiatives, aiming to strengthen both territorial resilience and citizens' self-protection capabilities.

The "Safe Village" component focuses on improving the safety of settlements exposed to wildfire risk through the implementation of local protection measures, while the "Safe People" component promotes public awareness, preparedness activities, community engagement and evacuation exercises. The programme is jointly implemented by ANEPC, municipalities and civil parishes.

By 31 December 2025, a total of 2 386 villages were integrated into the programme nationwide. Of these, 2 235 had an appointed Local Safety Officer responsible for supporting preparedness and emergency response activities. In addition, 1 025 local evacuation plans had been developed and more than 3 050 refuge and shelter locations had been identified, significantly strengthening local emergency preparedness and evacuation capacity.

Public Warning system

Portugal operates a multi-layered public warning framework combining national and local alerting mechanisms to provide timely information to populations exposed to natural and technological hazards.

At the local level, authorities continue to rely on community-based warning systems, including sirens, public-address systems, church bells and door-to-door notifications, particularly in rural areas vulnerable to wildfires. At the national level, ANEPC disseminates warnings through mass media channels, institutional websites, social media platforms and the Location-Based SMS (LB-SMS) system.

The LB-SMS system represents Portugal's largest population alerting capability. Messages are transmitted by mobile network operators at ANEPC's request to all mobile devices located within predefined geographical areas, without requiring prior registration. The system also covers foreign mobile devices connected through roaming services.

In 2025, LB-SMS warnings were activated on two occasions, on 9 and 12 August, due to periods of very high wildfire risk and ongoing fire activity. Approximately 20.7 million warning messages were transmitted to mobile users located in high-risk areas, contributing to increased public awareness and preparedness during critical fire weather conditions.

Automatic daily emails service

ICNF provides an automatic daily email distribution service that provides useful information to all agents involved in wildfire prevention and suppression operations. Among the information that is daily spread within this service, stands out two email types:

- "Locais críticos" – This email provides the daily forest hazard information for the user region, showing the places (list and map) where the fire hazard is expected to be worst. The fire hazard is estimated with an algorithm that combines meteorological forecast with structural fire hazard, local ignition and burnt area historical statistics, among other variables.
- "Perigo de reacendimento" – This email provides a list and map of the recently extinguished fires that are, simultaneously, more probable to rekindle and are expected to do more damage.

Assistance phone-line and burning permit

During 2025 the official assistance phone line continued. Around 120 thousand calls were

received from citizens, mainly to obtain information and help with the web application that analyses fire hazard and gives individual authorization to the use of fire in vegetation debris burning and pasture renewal. The official phone line also provides information on fuel management prescriptions around houses and other infrastructures to reduce the fire risk.

The burning permit application processed of 1 361 669 permits in 2025 (with a maximum of 18 164 permits processed in just one day, on March 28th) and has around 860 thousand registered users. The permits are granted if the local weather forecast analyses shows that the burning can be executed in a safe way. This programme is a very important tool in reducing the number of fires (and burnt area), as burnings are one of the most significant causes of wildfire in Portugal.

Post-fire management

In 2025, 101 burned areas exceeding 500 hectares were recorded. A total of 35 emergency stabilization reports were produced, covering 251 303 hectares of burned area, with an overall planned investment of €20 million from national and European funding.

On the other hand, in 2025, between August and October, emergency stabilization interventions carried out with resources and under the technical guidance of ICNF involved 1 596 operational personnel, integrated into 346 teams/brigades. These personnel were present in 14 burned areas in 34 municipalities. The maximum daily commitment was 310 operational personnel (September 7th), mainly forest sappers.

Figure 105. Post-fire emergency stabilization works, combining forest residue mulching and contour cordons, in the Piódão Wildfire burned area, municipality of Arganil (September 2025).



Source: ICNF.

Injuries and loss of human lives

Wildfires and associated emergency operations resulted in four fatalities during 2025, including two members of civil protection operational agencies.

A total of 694 injuries were recorded during the year. Of these, 244 individuals received on-site medical assistance and did not require transportation to healthcare facilities. Firefighters accounted for 149 of the injured personnel, highlighting the demanding operational conditions experienced during the most severe wildfire events.

Operations of mutual assistance

Cross-Border Cooperation with Spain

Under the framework of the Portuguese-Spanish bilateral agreement on cross-border wildfire response, cooperation continued to play an important role in strengthening initial attack capability along the common border.

During 2025, Spanish resources intervened in 29 wildfire incidents within Portuguese territory, deploying 79 aircraft missions, 60 vehicles and 290 operational personnel. In turn, Portugal provided support to 14 wildfire incidents in Spanish border regions, deploying 324 firefighters, 89 vehicles and one firefighting aircraft.

Participation in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Portugal continued its contribution to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) through the rescEU reserve, making available two AT-802F Fire Boss amphibious firefighting aircraft.

International cooperation was further strengthened through the pre-positioning of two Ground Forest Firefighting (GFFF) modules provided by Latvia and Malta. The two teams, comprising a total of 56 firefighters, operated in Portugal between 1 August and 15 September. During this period, they trained and worked alongside teams from the Special Force for Civil Protection (FEPC), participating in several significant wildfire suppression operations during the peak fire season.

International Assistance Requested by Portugal

The exceptionally high number of wildfire ignitions recorded up to 11 August 2025, together with the complexity of ongoing incidents, forecasts indicating the persistence of severe fire weather conditions and the temporary unavailability of some aerial assets, created substantial operational pressure on the national suppression system. These factors justified the activation of international assistance mechanisms.

Portugal initially activated its bilateral cooperation agreement with Morocco on 11 August, considering the simultaneous occurrence of large wildfires across Europe, particularly in Spain, France, Italy and Greece, countries that traditionally support Portuguese emergency response efforts. Subsequently, on 15 August, Portugal formally activated the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

The following countries responded to Portugal's requests for assistance:

- Morocco: 2 Canadair amphibious firefighting aircraft;
- Sweden: 2 AT-802F Fire Boss aircraft deployed under rescEU;
- France: 1 Super Puma helicopter deployed under rescEU;
- Greece: 2 Canadair amphibious firefighting aircraft deployed under rescEU.

Between 12 and 30 August, the seven international aerial assets conducted a total of 76 operational missions, accumulating 203 flight hours and performing more than 764 water drops in support of wildfire suppression operations. The rapid deployment and integration of these resources significantly contributed to reinforcing national response capacity during one of the most demanding periods of the 2025 fire season.

Climate change

In 2025, rural wildfires contributed to the release of 3.6 million Mt of carbon, approximately twice the historical average. This amount represents around 24% of Portugal's annual carbon emissions. The temporal distribution of emissions shows a marked concentration over a short summer period, associated with large-scale and high-intensity wildfire events.

(Sources: Ministry of Agriculture and Sea, Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF), SGIF/System for Forest Fire Information Management; Ministry of Internal Administration, National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection (ANEPC); Ministry of Agriculture and Sea, Agency for Integrated Rural Fire Management (AGIF); Regional Government of the Azores, The Azores Regional Civil Protection and Fire Service; Regional Government of Madeira, Institute for Forests and Nature Conservation; Independent Technical Commission for the Assessment of the August 2025 Wildfires in Mainland Portugal, Assembly of the Republic, Portugal).

2.2.22. Republic of North Macedonia

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

During 2025, a total of 769 fires were recorded, of which 176 were forest fires. Forest fires affected an area of 17 610.21 ha, while agricultural fires affected 325.03 ha and other fires affected 687.04 ha. The total affected area was 18 622.28 ha. Forest fires accounted for 94.57% of the total number of fires.

Table 49. Number of fires and burnt area per fire type in Republic of North Macedonia, 2025.

Fire in	Number of fires	Area
Forests	176	17 610.21
Agricultural	374	325.03
Others	219	687.04
Total	**769**	**18 622.28**

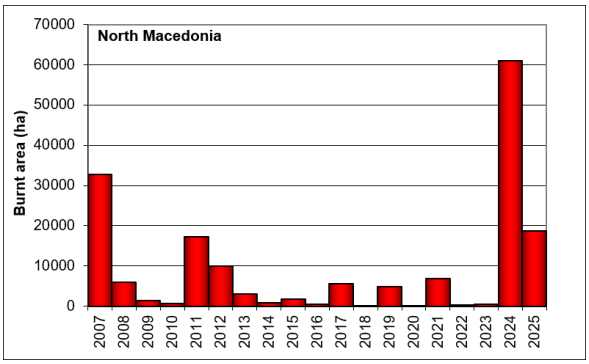
Source: Protection and rescue directorate, Republic of North Macedonia.

The analysis of the preconditions, reasons and factors lead to the conclusion that North Macedonia is a region with a high risk of fires on its territory.

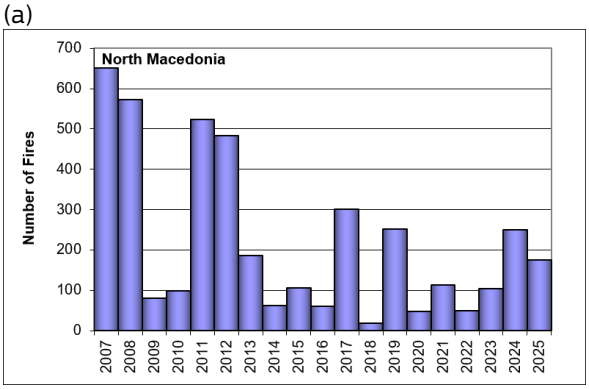
The damages were not only economical ones but on a much bigger scale-inestimable damage for plant conditions.

The comparative charts for burnt area, number of fires and average fire size for the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 as well as number of fires and burnt area according to types of fires for the year 2025 are shown in **Figure 106** and **Figure 107**.

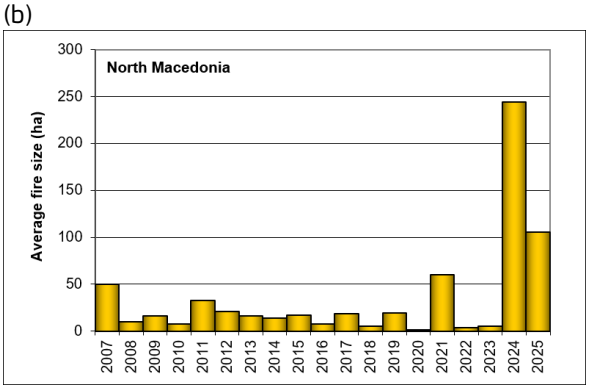
Figure 106. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in the Republic of North Macedonia from 2007 to 2025.



(a)



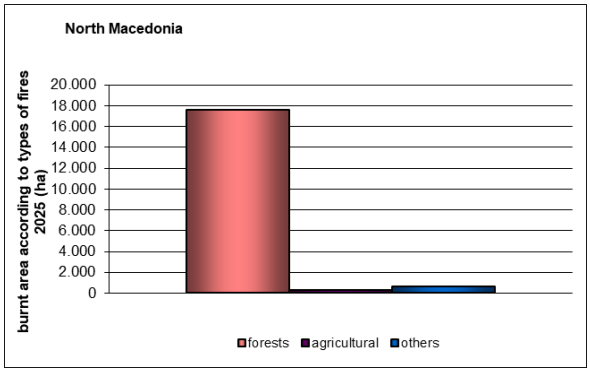
(b)



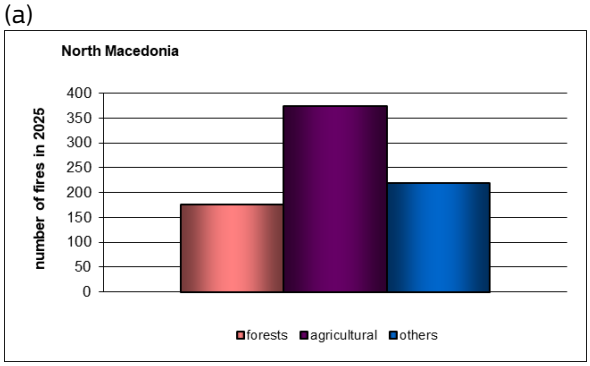
(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for the Republic of North Macedonia.

Figure 107. Burnt areas (a) and number of fires (b) in the Republic of North Macedonia according to types of fires for 2025.



(a)



(b)

Source: Source: Protection and rescue directorate, Republic of North Macedonia.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

Fire prevention and fire fighting activities were undertaken along with public information campaign. For the purpose of awareness rising media events such as press conferences, shot reports and announcements on the TV and radio were organized.

The protection and rescue directorate through the department has started preparations for the upcoming fire season. The preparations began with updating the planning documents, checking the condition of equipment for extinguishing fires, the condition of the protection and rescue forces. The problems were noted and approaches were taken to resolve them.

The Annual operational plan for forest fire management “Fire management Plans” were updates by the PC “National forests" and its subsidiaries. The prevention activities start with pruning and firebreaks. The National Forest Authority kept its efforts in the forest fire planning at the local, municipal levels.

The municipal planning objective is pursued by the technical support to the municipalities forest offices, based in the municipal plans for forest fire prevention and the Municipal Operational Plans, which are part of the previous plans and are updated on a yearly basis. The municipalities provide technical support, by the end of the year there were established Plans for Forest Fire Prevention and Municipal Operational Plans.

As part of the campaign, manuals for reducing the risk of fires were distributed in major cities in the country, in rural areas, in National Parks, picnic places where posters with steps of forest fire protection were placed.

We have developed a public awareness campaign for forest fires prevention. The main goal of the campaign was the protection and preservation of green forest areas, agricultural land, meadows and pastures from fires, primarily by raising the awareness of citizens about the risks of fires and their damages.

In the public information domain, the National Authority of Civil Protection –Protection and Rescue Directorate-PRD made significant efforts on the availability of on-line information.

We have organized school campaigns through presentations in schools and colleges, giving information to raise awareness on environmental issues, social and economic factors caused by fires, its causes and how it can be avoided.

The Ministry of Interior through its organizational units realized a preventive activity regarding fire in an open space. During immediate meetings, leaflets with practical advice for greater protection were distributed to the citizens, and through short educational talks, they were informed about the risks of lighting a fire in an open space and its consequences.

Operations of mutual assistance

North Macedonia requested assistance for wildfire through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism three times of which in the period from 09.07 to 27.07.2025, requesting 5 firefighting aircraft.

The request was updated on 27.07.2025 with additional firefighting aircraft, and on 28 July 2025, with a request for GFFF-V modules for ground firefighting with vehicles.

Greece - 2 firefighting aircraft - engagement on 12 and 19 July 2025.

Czech Republic - engagement from 27.7 – to 4.08.2025.

An operational briefing was held with the crew of the Czech Black Hawk helicopter at Skopje Airport. The briefing was conducted by officers from the Army Aviation WING, during which the crew was thoroughly briefed on the fire raging on Mount Goten on the Berovo side.

The most suitable source for water filling was the artificial lake Turija, which is located only ten kilometers as the crow flies from the location of the fire. The crew consisted of seven members.

Slovenia- engagement 29.07 - 3.08.2025.

In addition to air support, we also had support from Slovenia with a convoy of 61 Slovenian firefighters, who moved with 18 vehicles, including specialized equipment for extinguishing forest fires in inaccessible terrain.

Rapid response Teams - RRTs were deployed in the regions from–Dojran Municipality, Goten and Jasen. All RRTs are equipped with personal and common firefighting equipment operating in cooperation with ground forest firefighting modules through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

From Protection and rescue directorate, Sector for operation and logistic 3 air tractor within 3 pilots, air tractor: Z3-BGT, Z3-BGU and Z3-BGV

Specialized aircraft services department at Sector for operation and logistic were engaged in total time of 489:00, number of flights:1128, Water discharged:2 675 000, and fuel spent: 124 897 l.

Climate change

The climate is changing and it is evident in whole territory of the country. Rural fire management actions play a central role in national policies to combat and adapt to climate change National adaptation strategies / plans and in particular regarding plans to adapt the forest sector to climate change in order to reduce the probability of catastrophic forest fire seasons which greatly increase the emission of CO^2 take a specifies the main objectives for forest-based business and activities.

(Source: Protection and rescue directorate, Sector for planning, prevention and development, Department for analytics and research, Republic of North Macedonia).

2.2.23. Romania

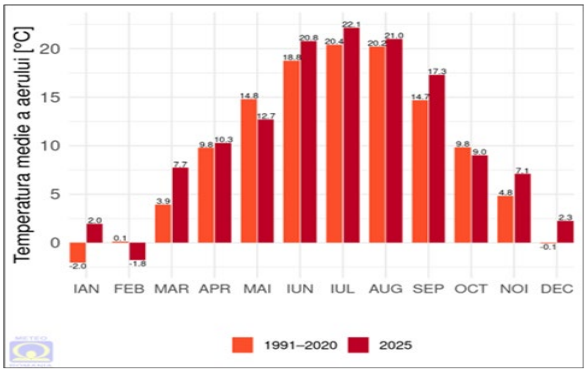
Fire danger

The year 2025 was notable in Romania for its extremely warm temperature profile and a dominantly deficient rainfall regime at the national level, confirming recent climate warming trends.

The average temperature per country in 2025 was 12.0 ºC, 1.2 ºC higher than the median of the standard reference interval (1991 – 2020).

The year 2025 ranks 4th in the top warmest years in Romania, based on data from 29 meteorological stations with a complete series during the period 1901 – 2025. This ranking is also confirmed by the analysis based on the average temperature values per country calculated from data from 129 meteorological stations with complete data series during the period 1961 – 2025.

Figure 108. The national mean monthly temperature in Romania in 2025, compared with the standard climatologically normal (1991-2020).

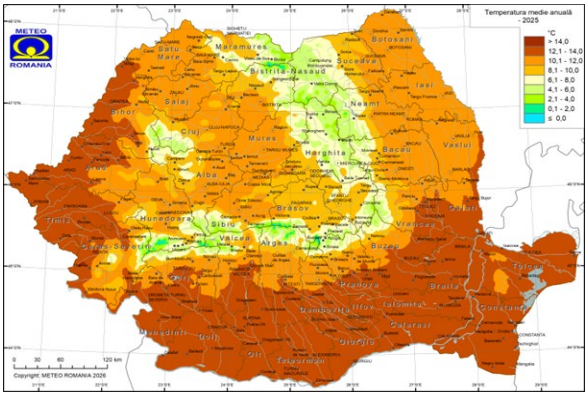


Source: Authors of the country report for Romania.

The average air temperature in the country in 2025, calculated from data from 129 meteorological stations, was 10.9 °C, 1.1 °C higher than the median for the 1991-2020 period.

In 2025, in the months with a predominantly warm thermal regime, temperature deviations were positive at most meteorological stations. It is worth noting that January was very warm, with positive anomalies ranging between 4.0 and 6.5 ºC. In the colder months (February, May and October), many meteorological stations recorded negative anomalies, ranging between - 5.5 and - 0.5 ºC. Also, the average monthly temperatures in the country rank the last five years among the warmest in the period 1961 - 2025.

Figure 109. Annual mean air temperature in 2025 in Romania.



Source: Authors of the country report for Romania.

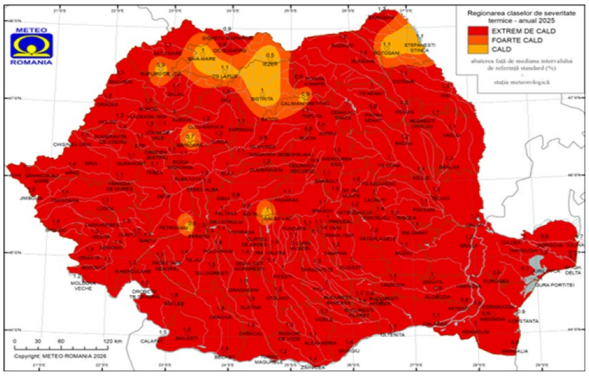
The average annual air temperature in 2025 ranged from –0.6 °C at the Vf. Omu meteorological station to 13.9 °C at Drobeta Turnu-Severin and Constanța. The highest average annual temperatures, above 13.5 °C, were recorded in southern Oltenia (Calafat, 13.7 °C) and locally in Muntenia (Bucharest-Filaret, 13.5 °C), as well as in the southern Black Sea littoral area (Constanța, 13.9 °C and Mangalia, 13.5 °C). High thermal values, ranging between 12.0 and 13.5 °C, characterized extensive areas of Dobrogea (including the Danube Delta), Oltenia, Muntenia, southern Moldova, as well as most of Banat and Crișana. In the other regions of the country, including a large part of Transylvania and Moldova, the Subcarpathian regions and, in isolation, northern Dobrogea, the average annual temperatures generally ranged between 10.0 and 12.0 °C. The low mountain areas and some intramountain depressions (Brașov, Întorsura Buzăului, Petroșani, Voineasa) were

characterized by values between 8.0 and 10.0 °C, while in most of the mountain areas, the average annual temperature was between 4.0 and 8.0 °C. At high altitudes, above 1700-1800 m, the thermal values fell below 4.0 °C, reaching isolated negative values on the highest mountain peaks, at about 2500 m.

The maximum temperature in 2025 varied between 18.8 ºC, at Omu Peak, on July 26, and 43.4 ºC, a value recorded in Calafat, on July 26.

The minimum temperature in 2025 varied between -22.5 ºC, at Omu Peak and Întorsura Buzăului, recorded on December 31 and February 22, respectively, and -5.5 ºC, in Constanța, on February 24.

Figure 110. Regional classification of thermal severity classes in 2025.

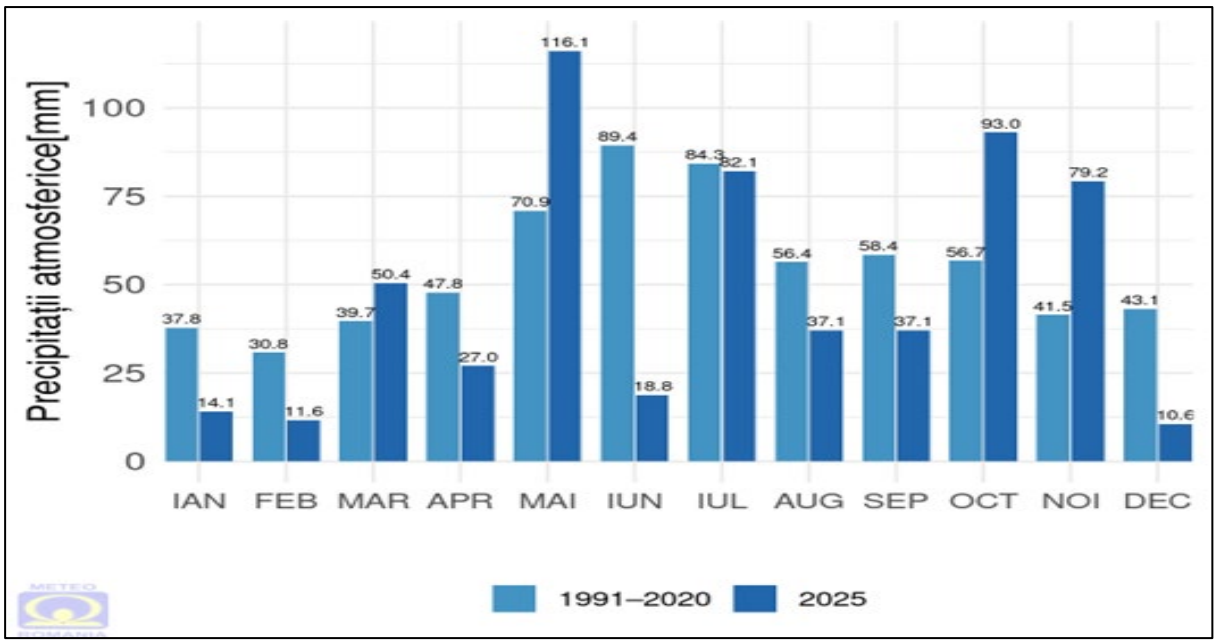


Source: Authors of the country report for Romania.

The average annual precipitation per country, 541.4 mm, was 13.4% lower than the median of the standard reference interval (1991 – 2020).

The average annual precipitation per country, calculated from data from 128 meteorological stations, in 2025 was 578.3 mm, being 13.4% lower than the median of the interval 1991 – 2020.

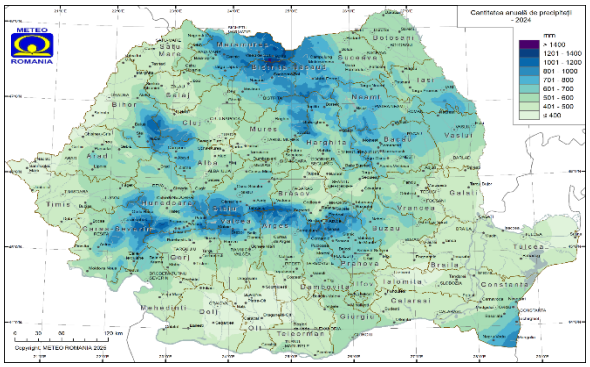
Figure 111. Evolution of Monthly Precipitation Amounts (mm), National Average for Romania in 2025, compared to the median of the Standard Climatic Period (1991 - 2020).



Source: Authors of the country report for Romania.

The deviation of the amount of precipitation in 2025 from the median of the standard reference interval (1991 - 2020), calculated in percentages, was negative in most of the country. The negative deviations generally had values below 50%. Values above 40% were recorded locally, in Banat and Crișana. The largest negative deviation was 49.2% and was recorded at the Chișineu Criș meteorological station, in the Western Plain. Positive values of the annual pluviometric deviations were recorded in central and eastern Moldova, in Dobrogea, the Danube Delta and isolatedly, in the rest. These generally ranged between 1 and 66% in restricted or isolated areas, in Transylvania, Moldova, eastern Muntenia, the Danube meadow, Maramureș, the Danube Delta and the coastal area, but also in the mountains, in the Eastern and Southern Carpathians and in some depressions within them. The largest positive deviation was 183.2%, at the Obârșia Lotrului meteorological station, in the Southern Carpathians.

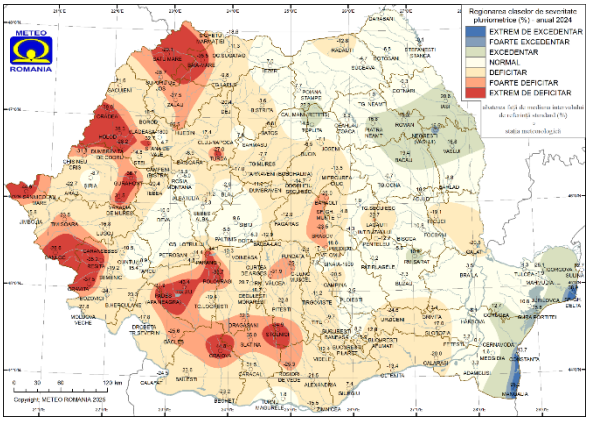
Figure 112. Annual precipitation in 2025.



Source: Authors of the country report for Romania.

The classification of the annual precipitation amounts in 2025 into the pluviometric severity classes highlights notable spatial alternations between deficient and surplus areas. During this year, the pluviometric regime was within normal limits in the northwest, center and southeast of Moldova, the Maramureș region, most of Transylvania, Oltenia and Muntenia, western Dobrogea, the south of the Danube Delta, as well as some isolated areas in Crișana and Banat. The deficient nature of the pluviometric regime was specific, mainly, to the west of the country, corresponding to some extended areas in Banat and Crișana, but also to Dobrogea, the Danube Delta and the coastal area. At the same time, in the center and west of Crișana (isolated, in the north), the west and southwest of Banat, as well as in the south and southwest of Dobrogea, the pluviometric regime was very deficient. In the eastern half of the country, on extensive areas of Moldova, as well as the mountainous and sub-Carpathian area bordering this region, in the northeast of Muntenia and isolated in eastern Transylvania, as well as in the center and south of Muntenia and Oltenia, the classification into pluviometric severity classes indicated an excess pluviometric regime. Exceptionally and with a very isolated character, the pluviometric regime was very excess or extremely excess in a few restricted areas in northern Moldova (Darabani), northern Banat (Vărădia de Mureș) and in the high area (over 1500 m) of the Eastern (Ceahlău-Toaca and Lăcăuți) and Southern (Parâng) Carpathians.

Figure 113. Regional classification of Pluviometric Severity Classes in 2025.



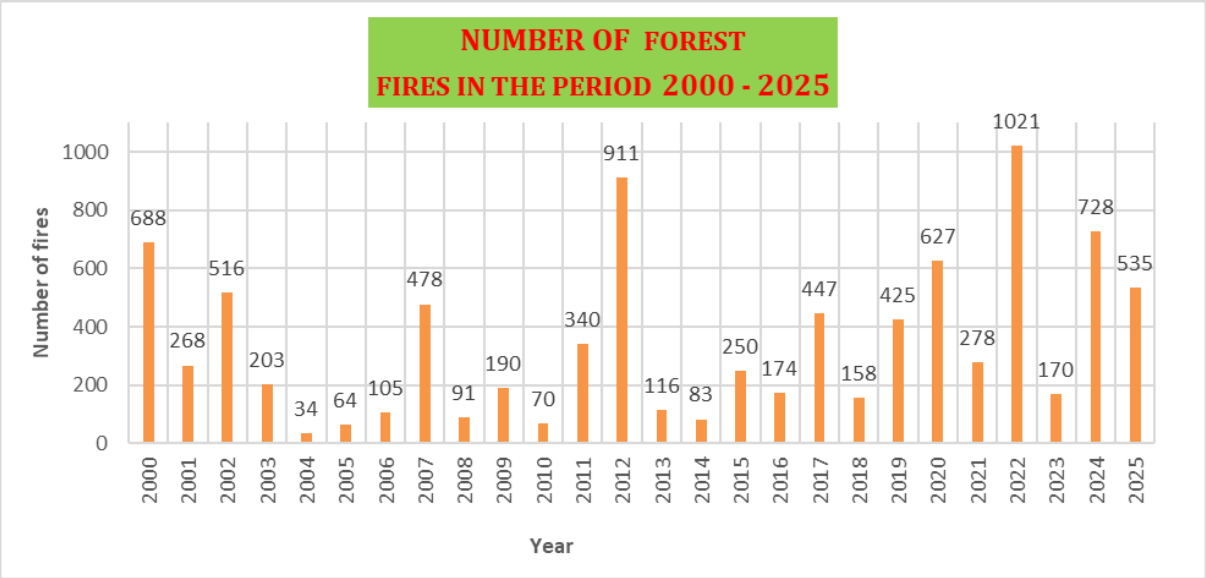
Source: Authors of the country report for Romania.

The highest total annual precipitation (mm) in 2025 was 1393.0 mm and was recorded at the Bâlea Lac meteorological station, and the lowest, 176.8 mm, at Sulina. The highest 24-hour precipitation (mm) recorded in 2025 was 117.3 mm, at the Giurgiu meteorological station, on October 8.

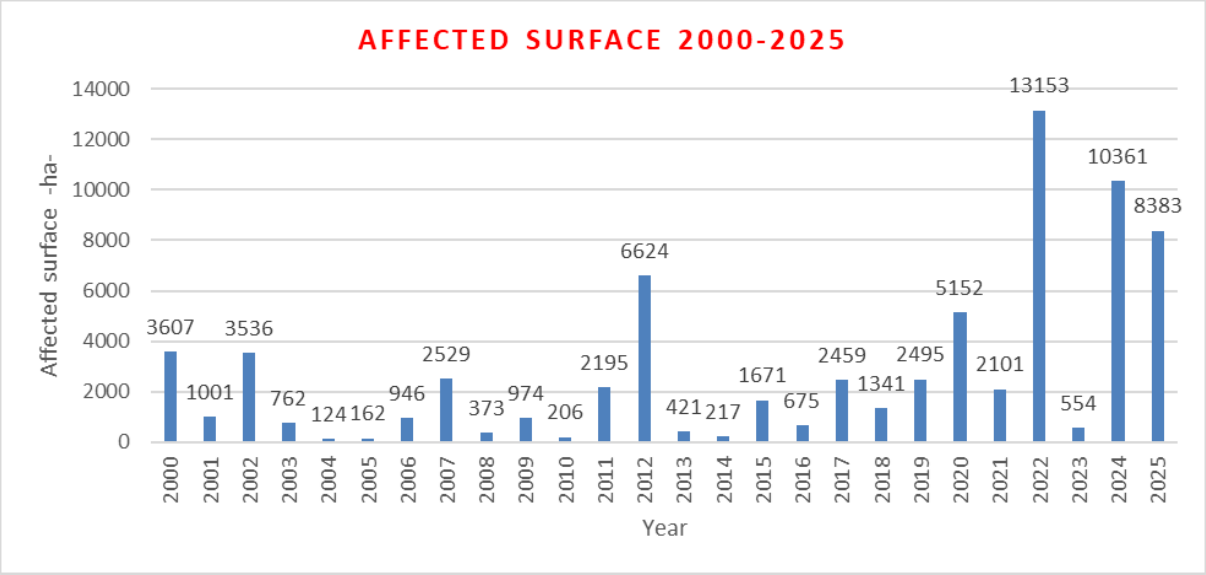
Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

In 2025, 535 forest fires occurred in Romania, affecting a 8 383.40 of the forest fund Compared to 2024, in 2025 the number of forest fires decreased from 728 to 535 and the affected area decreased from 10 630 ha to 8 383 ha. The first fire burst in Romania on the 20th of January and the second fire burst was reported on the 30th of January. The last reported fire was on the 3rd of November. In 2025, the months of March and August saw the most forest fires, namely 362 fires affecting 7 038 ha of forest. In contrast, in January there were 2 fires affecting an area of 4.80 ha, and in December no fires were reported. A comparison for the period 2000-2025 of the affected area and number of fires is presented in **Figure 114**.

Figure 114. Number of forest fires (a) and affected area (b) in Romania from 2000 to 2025.



(a)

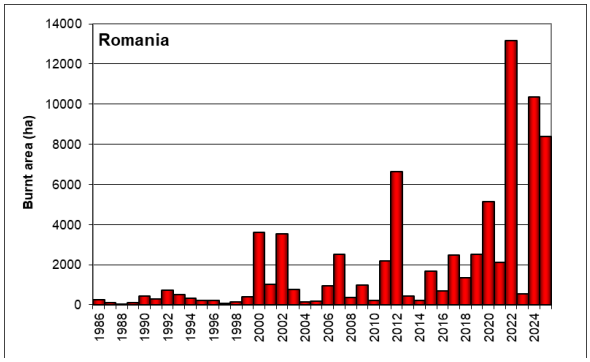


(b)

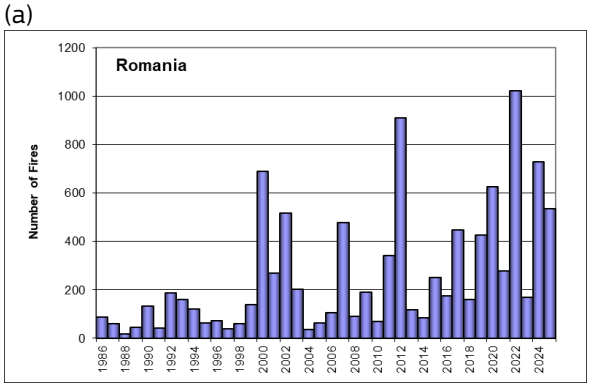
Source: Authors of the country report for Romania.

The historical trends of burnt area, number of fires and average fire size for the years 1986-2025 are shown in **Figure 115**.

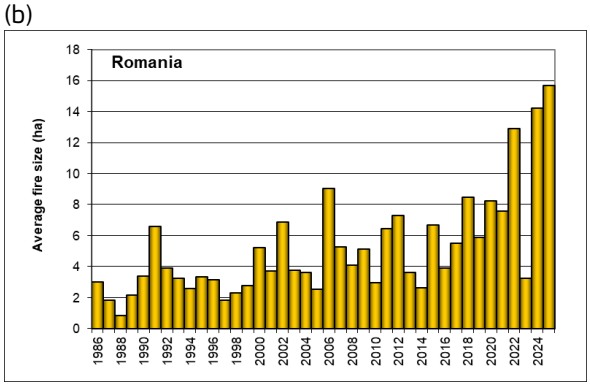
Figure 115. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Romania from 1986 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Romania.

All the forest fires of 2025 are classified as presented in **Table 50**, and **Table 51**.

Table 50. Nature of the affected property in Romania in 2025.

Public property of State	298 fires on 4312.39 ha
Public/private property of Communities	61 fires on 1417.98 ha
Private property	133 fires on 1378.24 ha
(9 fires occurred on lands belonging to several forms of ownership)	

Source: Authors of the country report for Romania.

Table 51. Type of fire in Romania in 2025.

Litter fires	465 fires on 7367.24 ha
Mixed fires (litter, canopy, underground)	70 fires on 1016.58 ha

Source: Authors of the country report for Romania.

The fire with the longest duration was recorded in the Chilia Veche commune, Tulcea county, which broke out on 04.08.2025. It was extinguished on 25.08.2025, affecting an area of 335.22 ha of forest vegetation.

The largest area affected by a single fire was 347 ha, within the Dobraia commune, Caraș-Severin county, which broke out on 07.03.2025 and was extinguished after 5 days.

In Romania, generally forest fires occur during the period of vegetative rest, so the damage caused is not great, being litter fires for the most part, which only superficially affect the organic horizon of the soil and the organisms in this area. On the other hand, if there is a young plantation in the path of the fire, especially one that includes resinous species in its composition, due to the small height of the saplings, we are faced with the complete burning of their crown, causing a total loss of the plantation, and subsequently it is necessary to replant the respective lands.

Fire causes

Table 52. Causes of forest fires in Romania in 2025.

Cause of fire	EFFIS code	Number of fires	Burnt area (ha)
Unknown	100	196	3636.67
Natural	201	5	4.3
Electrical power	301	11	78.62
Vehicles	303	4	91.84
Self-ignition	306	1	0.15
Other accident	307	2	3.78
Vegetation management	411	230	3229.62
Agricultural burnings	412	17	404.79
Waste management	413	2	25.53
Other negligent use of fire	415	44	482.13
Cigarettes	422	11	54.22
Other use of glowing object	424	2	5.01
Revenge	512	4	2.83
Children	522	1	0.20
Rekindle	600	5	358.23

Source: Authors of the country report for Romania.

Fire fighting resources

The firefighting actions involved a total of 11 810 people, as detailed in **Table 53**.

Table 53. People involved in firefighting actions in Romania.

Forest rangers	3263
Military and civilian fire-fighters	4757
Policemen and gendarmes	437
Volunteers (Citizens)	3353

Source: Authors of the country report for Romania.

This report is prepared by The National Forest Guard (Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests) for the forest fires data with the collaboration of the Romanian National Meteorological Institute for the meteorological data.

(Sources: Romanian Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, National Forestry Guard (forest fires data); Romanian National Meteorological Institute (meteorological data), Romania).

2.2.24. Republic of Serbia

Introduction

Data from the second national forest inventory, published in 2023, indicates that the Republic of Serbia has a total forest area of 2 854 955.8 hectares, excluding the administrative province of Kosovo and Metohija.

Forests owned by the state account for 58.3% of this area, while 41.7% is privately owned. Broadleaved forests, primarily consisting of beech and oak species, are the most prevalent, whereas purely coniferous forests make up less than 8% of the total forest area. Serbia's elevation spans from 28 to 2 169 meters.

The annual air temperature ranges from 11°C at altitudes up to 300 meters to 6°C at elevations exceeding 1 000 meters.

Precipitation in lower regions varies between 540 and 820 mm, whereas areas above 1 000 meters in elevation typically receive between 700 and 1 000 mm annually.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

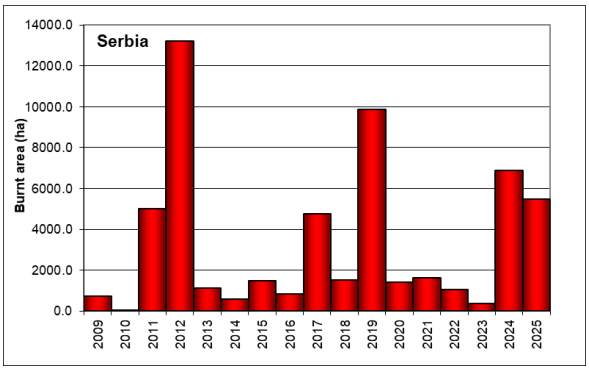
Fire season 2025 was much intense than an average fire season in Serbia. In total 191 forest fires were recorded with more than 5459 ha of total burnt area and with 28.58 ha of forest fire in average (**Figure 116**).

The biggest forest fire, with 250. ha of burnt area, was recorded in the forest district Zaječar, which is situated in the eastern part of Serbia.

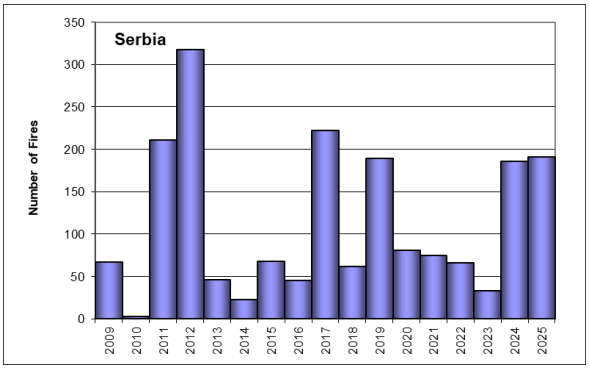
Usually, Serbia has two peaks of forest fire activity. The first one occurred in March or April and the second one in July and August, depending on the season. Contrary to the previous fire season of 2024, when the highest fire activity was recorded in August, the 2025 season saw its highest fire activity in July, with fires in that month accounting for 53.2% of the total burned area and more than 46% of the total number of forest fires recorded that season (**Figure 117b**).

The trends of the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Serbia for the years 2009 to 2024 are shown in **Figure 116**.

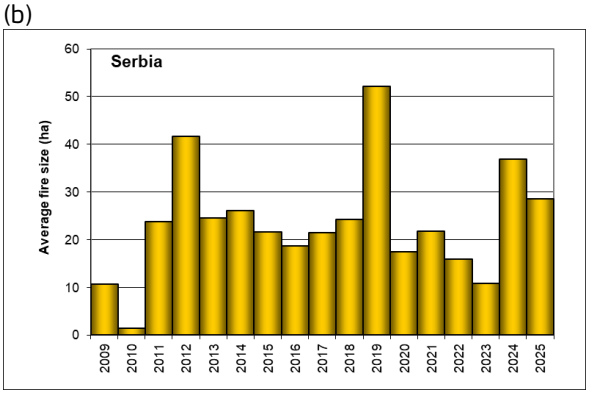
Figure 116. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Serbia from 2009 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

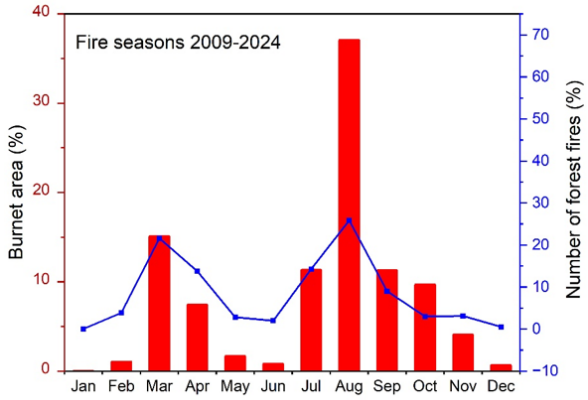
Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Serbia.

Table 54. Number of fires and burnt area in Serbia.

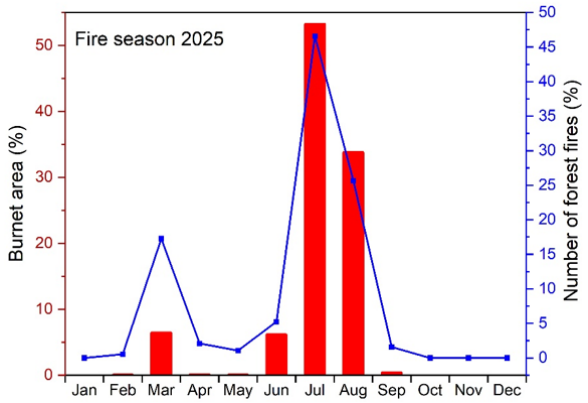
Year	Number of fires	Burnt area (ha)	Average burnt area (ha)
2012	318	13 226.44	41.59
2013	46	1 131.83	24.61
2014	23	599.19	26.05
2015	68	1 474.24	21.68
2016	45	843.29	18.74
2017	222	4 756.80	21.43
2018	62	1 501.92	24.22
2019	189	9 871.73	52.23
2020	81	1 417.43	17.50
2021	75	1 633.53	21.78
2022	66	1 052.99	15.95
2023	33	358.22	10.86
2024	186	6 870.00	36.94
2025	191	5 459.12	28.58

Source: Authors of the country report for Serbia.

Figure 117. Monthly distribution of forest fires in Serbia: (a) for the years 2009-2024, (b) season 2025.



(a)



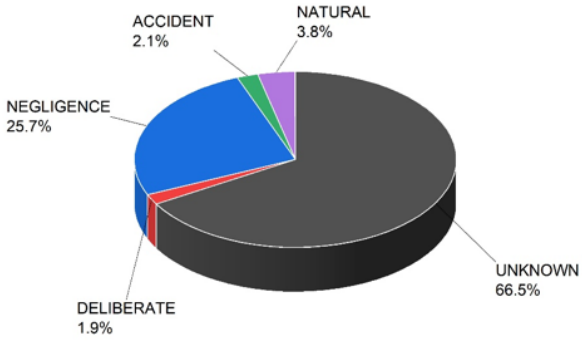
(b)

Source: Authors of the country report for Serbia.

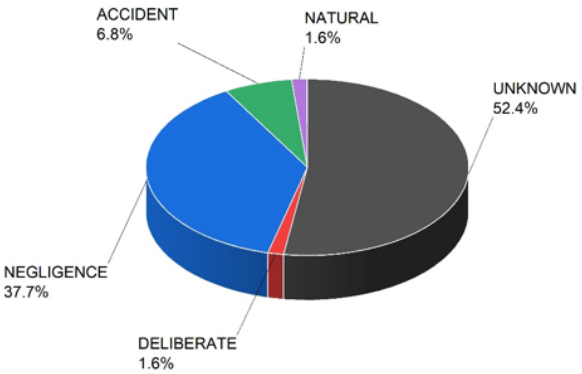
Fire causes

The comparison of fire causes shows that unknown causes remained dominant in both periods, but their share decreased from 66.5% in 2009–2024 to 52.4% in 2025. At the same time, the share of fires caused by negligence increased markedly, from 25.7% to 37.7%, confirming that human carelessness was the most important identified cause of forest fires in Serbia. Accidental fires also increased in 2025, from 2.1% to 6.8%, while natural causes decreased from 3.8% to 1.6%, and deliberate fires remained low in both periods. Overall, the 2025 data indicate a stronger dominance of human-related causes, particularly negligence, together with a reduced but still very high share of fires with unknown origin (**Figure 118**).

Figure 118. Causes of forest fires in Serbia: (a) for the years 2014-2024, (b) fire season 2025.



(a)



(b)

Source: Authors of the country report for Serbia.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

Details regarding the FWI are supplied daily by the Republic Hydrometeorological Service of

Serbia (RHS) for each administrative unit in Serbia at the NUT2 level. From 2025 onwards, RHS has been offering FWI forecasts one day ahead. During the fire season, all forest areas prohibit fire-related activities. Each year, prior to the fire season, State Forest Enterprises launch a public media campaign to raise awareness about the risk of forest fires.

Climatic conditions[29] and how they impacted the fire season

Serbia's climate in 2025 was again dominated by exceptional warmth and several critical dry periods, creating highly favourable conditions for wildfire ignition and spread. The year was the third warmest in Serbia since 1951, with a mean annual air temperature of 12.4°C, or +1.3°C above the 1991–2020 average. In Belgrade, 2025 was the fourth warmest year since records began in 1888, with an annual mean temperature of 14.7°C and an anomaly of +1.5°C. Most meteorological stations ranked 2025 among their four warmest years on record.

Extreme heat reached its peak on 26 July, when Kruševac recorded 44.0°C, breaking its previous absolute maximum of 43.7°C from 2007. On the same day, Banatski Karlovac reached 42.0°C, also setting a new station record. Tropical days were significantly above average across most of the country. The highest number was recorded in Ćuprija and Leskovac, with 89 tropical days, while most of Serbia experienced 54–85 tropical days, or 19–38 days above the 1991–2020 average. Belgrade recorded 71 tropical days, which is 26 more than normal. Tropical nights were also above average in most areas, with Belgrade recording 45 tropical nights, 19 above the average. These prolonged warm conditions increased fuel dryness and extended the period of elevated fire danger.

Heat waves were frequent throughout the year. During winter 2024/2025, three heat waves occurred, including one affecting most of Serbia at the end of January. Spring brought another heat wave in March, lasting up to 12 days at Crni Vrh, Vranje and Dimitrovgrad. The summer fire-risk period was especially important: five heat waves were registered, including episodes in early June, late June–early July, late July and mid-August. Autumn also remained unusually warm, with two heat waves in September and additional warm episodes from late October into early November. This persistence of heat, especially during June, July and September, strongly increased the likelihood of ignition and supported rapid drying of fine fuels.

Precipitation conditions further contributed to fire vulnerability. The year 2025 was the 20th driest in Serbia since 1951. Annual precipitation totals ranged from only 408.1 mm at Kikinda to 784.9 mm at Dimitrovgrad, while mountain stations recorded between 716.5 mm at Sjenica and 949.2 mm at Kopaonik. Compared with the 1991–2020 normal, precipitation ranged from only 67% at Banatski Karlovac to 118% at Dimitrovgrad. Most western, central and southern parts of Serbia had annual precipitation near average, but northern, eastern and parts of western and central Serbia were dry, with Kikinda, Novi Sad, Banatski Karlovac and Belgrade classified as very dry.

The most critical period for wildfire risk was early summer. June 2025 was both the warmest and the driest June in Serbia since 1951. Precipitation was not recorded at eight meteorological stations, and many stations registered a record-low number of precipitation days. At the same time, record-breaking numbers of summer and tropical days were observed across the country. This combination of exceptional heat, almost complete absence of rainfall in many areas and high solar

[29] https://www.hidmet.gov.rs/data/klimatologija/eng/2025.pdf

radiation created conditions highly favourable for the drying of grasses, shrubs and forest litter. Summer as a whole was the third warmest and fourth driest summer for Serbia since 1951, while Negotin experienced its driest summer on record, with only 24.1 mm of precipitation, or 15% of normal.

In essence, the 2025 fire season in Serbia was shaped by a combination of exceptional warmth, frequent heat waves, very dry conditions in key regions, the warmest and driest June on record, and very limited snow cover during winter. Although some parts of southern Serbia received abundant precipitation later in autumn, the main fire-prone period was strongly influenced by heat and drought. These conditions created a highly combustible environment, particularly in northern, eastern and central Serbia, increasing wildfire ignition probability, accelerating fuel drying, and complicating fire prevention and suppression efforts during the most critical months of the year.

National adaptation strategies / plans

The Serbian Law on climate change, enacted on 18 March 2021, aims to create a framework for cutting greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to altered climate conditions. This legislation aligns with the commitments of the UN Framework Convention and the Paris Agreement, while also synchronizing national laws with European Union standards. Serbia has formulated a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and an associated Climate Change Adaptation Programme for 2023-2030, accompanied by an Action Plan for execution from 2024 to 2026. The NAP's objective is to incorporate climate change adaptation into both national and local planning processes and to enhance the legal structure for tackling climate change vulnerabilities.

Research activities aimed at improving fire management

During 2025, research activities were not supported by the Forest Directorate.

Firefighting means

In Serbia, the Sector for Emergency Situations, a division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is tasked with overseeing all firefighting efforts. The operational backbone of this Sector is formed by members of the fire and rescue units, with 3700 personnel on standby at any given time. The Sector's headquarters is organized into various departments, such as the Directorate for Fire and Rescue Units and Civil Protection. Locally, the Sector is structured into 27 organizational units, including four Emergency Situations Administrations located in Belgrade, Kragujevac, Nis, and Novi Sad, as well as 23 Departments for Emergency Situations spread throughout Serbia. In addition to ground forces and firefighting vehicles, the Sector can deploy at least four helicopters, including two specialized Kamov Ka-32 helicopters, for fire suppression, sourced from other divisions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs if necessary.

Operations of mutual assistance

Serbia assisted in combating forest fires in the region during the 2025 fire season. Helicopters were sent as assistance to North Macedonia on July 16 and July 30, while a KA-32 helicopter was sent to Montenegro on August 11. On August 13, a team of 35 firefighters from the Sector for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Interior, equipped with 12 vehicles, was deployed to Greece through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, together with one helicopter. Additional helicopter assistance was provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina on August 13, and to Greece again on October 2, October 10, and October 29.

(Sources: Forest Directorate - Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Centre for Forest Fire Research - University of Belgrade Faculty of Forestry, Serbia).

2.2.25. Slovakia

Fire danger

Meteorological context

The spatial average annual air temperature in Slovakia reached 9.5 °C in 2025, making it the 8th warmest year since 1931. The warmest year remains 2024 (10.8 °C), while the coldest was 1940 (5.4 °C). Compared to the 1991–2020 normal, 2025 was warmer by 0.9 °C.

Only four months recorded below-normal temperatures: February (-0.4 °C), May (-2.2 °C), October (-0.6 °C), and November (-0.1 °C). The highest positive anomalies occurred in January (+3.1 °C) and December (+3.0 °C).

Winter 2024/2025 ranked as the 14th warmest since 1931, spring as the 17th warmest, and summer as the 12th warmest. Autumn ranked 27th The highest temperature of the year, 38.7 °C, was measured at Slovenský Grob on 3 July, while the lowest, -23.3 °C, was recorded at Lomnický štít on 31 December. Dudince recorded the most tropical days (50), D. Plachtince the most summer days (107), and Bratislava Koliba the most tropical nights (8).

December was marked by persistent temperature inversions with fog and low cloud cover below approximately 1000 m a.s.l., resulting in very limited sunshine until 24 December.

Atmospheric precipitation

Precipitation in 2025 showed strong contrasts. From the beginning of the year until early July, Slovakia experienced a prolonged precipitation deficit that had persisted since autumn 2024, causing severe to extreme drought. In contrast, July to November brought abundant rainfall, followed again by an exceptionally dry December. Annual precipitation totals ranged from just over 400 mm in parts of the southern Danube Plain to more than 1500 mm in the Tatras and Low Tatras.

Snow cover

Snow cover conditions continued the trend of recent years, with below-normal numbers of snow-cover days across Slovakia, although conditions were not as poor as in 2024.

Drought

Dry conditions affected most of Slovakia already in January, particularly western and central regions, due to the lack of precipitation since November 2024. In many areas, the 90-day precipitation deficit exceeded 50 mm, and in mountainous regions more than 100 mm. Soil moisture deficits intensified during spring, with only temporary improvement at the turn of March and April.

Drought culminated at the beginning of July, when extremely dry conditions covered up to 87.5% of Slovakia — about one quarter more territory than during the severe drought of 2022. The situation resulted from prolonged precipitation shortages during winter and spring combined with high summer evaporation.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

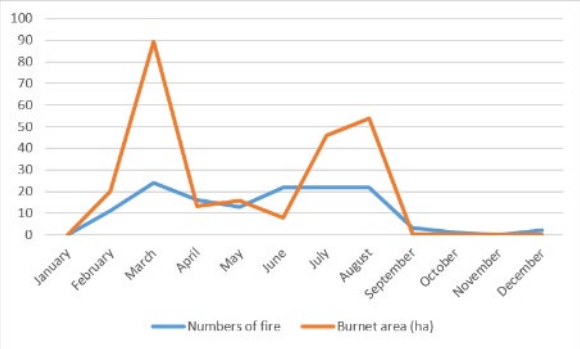
The number of forest fires in 2025 can be assessed as average in terms of long-term development, both in terms of the number of events, the extent of the burned area and the amount of damage. One person was killed in forest fires (Žarnovica District) and one person was injured (Prievidza District). The number of fires in 2025 is 136, slightly higher than the previous year (2024: 102 fires), while the total burned area has increased significantly to 245.9 ha (2024: 81.73 ha). On the contrary, the total calculated damage in 2025 has decreased significantly year-on-year to EUR 1 128 510 (2024: EUR 1 919 550).

The average area per fire was 1.81 ha, the average damage per fire reached EUR 8 300 and the average damage per hectare was EUR 4 590/ha.

The highest number of fires was recorded in the districts of Poprad (11 fires), Čadca and Liptovský Mikuláš (9 fires each), Kežmarok and Spišská Nová Ves (7 fires each). These are

mainly the northern and northeastern regions of the Slovak Republic with a high proportion of forest cover, which correlates with a higher incidence of forest fires.

Figure 119. Number of fires and burnt area by month in Slovakia 2025.



Source: Institute for Fires and Expertise of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

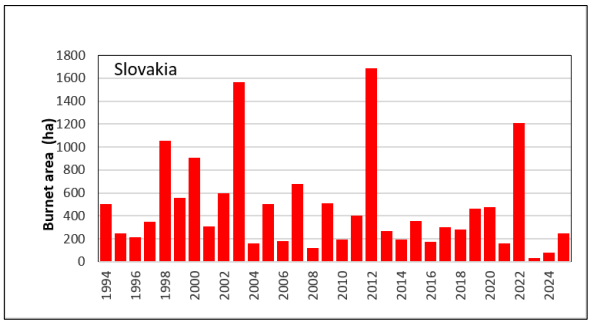
The largest area of areas affected by forest fires was recorded in the districts of Rožňava (58 ha), Levice (36.19 ha), Námestovo (30.91 ha), Kežmarok (20.29 ha) and Poprad (19.63 ha). These data indicate that the number of fires is not directly proportional to the total burned area. For example, the district of Rožňava with 6 fires shows the largest total area of the affected area.

The greatest damage was recorded in the districts of Levice (EUR 500 200), Námestovo (EUR 206 325), Gelnica (EUR 106 500), Poprad (EUR 91 600) and Kežmarok (EUR 89 805). The significant disparity between the area affected and the amount of damage points to the different age and value structure of the stands, as well as to the fact that machines or objects were damaged in the fire. The most extensive fire was recorded on 24. 7. 2025 in Malé Kozmálovce on an area of 35.69 ha. The cause of the fire was not determined. The fire spread from the field and grassland to the deciduous forest and caused damage in the amount of EUR 2000. The second largest fire occurred on March 10, 2025 in a mixed forest in the municipality of Oravská Jasenica on an area of 30 ha. The estimated damage reached EUR 200 000. The cause of the fire was not determined.

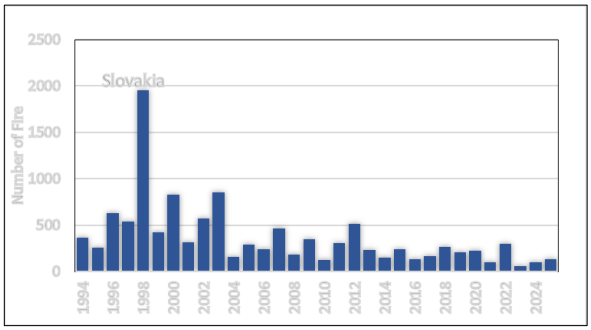
The highest single-event damage was caused by a forest fire in the municipality of Bohunice on February 28. 2025 on an area of 0.24 ha, with direct damage reaching EUR 500 000. The fire was caused by deliberate arson by an unknown person and two tractors burned down in the event.

The trends regarding the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Slovakia for the years 1999 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 120**.

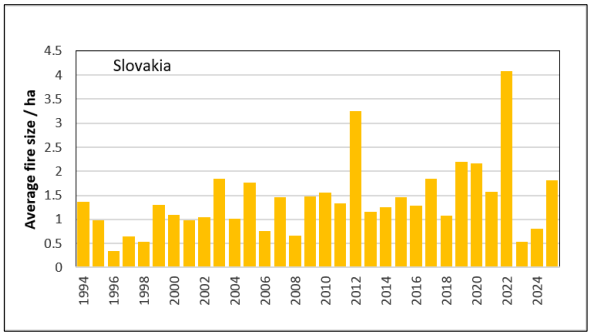
Figure 120. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Slovakia from 1999 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



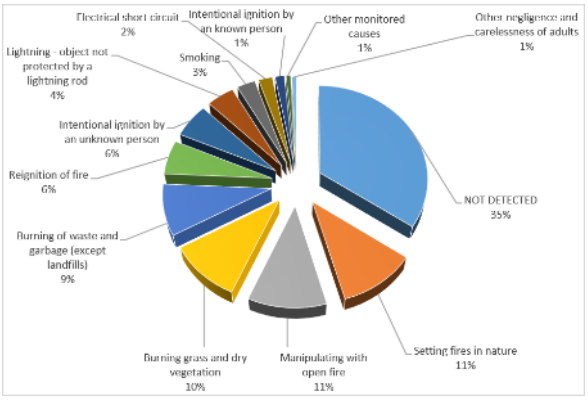
(c)

Source: Institute for Fires and Expertise of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

Fire causes

The most common cause of forest fires was an undetermined cause (47 cases). The following were also involved: setting fires in nature (15), handling open fire (15), burning grass and dry vegetation (14), burning waste outside landfills (12), reigniting a fire (8), intentional ignition by an unknown person (a total of 10 cases), lightning striking an object not protected by a lightning rod (6), smoking (4), electrical short circuit (3), other monitored causes (1) and other negligence and carelessness of adults (1).

Figure 121. Causes of forest fires in Slovakia in 2025.



Source: Institute for Fires and Expertise of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak republic.

Injuries and loss of human lives

During the 2025 fire season in Slovakia, one person died and one person was injured in forest fires.

International cooperation

The cooperation of the Fire and Rescue Corps of the Slovak Republic (HaZZ) in combating wildland fires abroad is primarily carried out through the Ground Forest Fire Fighting Module (GFFF-V), which is integrated into the EU Civil Protection Network under the rescEU Transition framework. The module consists of 107 professionally trained and internationally certified firefighters and is fully self-sufficient, capable of continuous 24-hour operations during large-scale emergencies and disasters abroad. Within the framework of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, Slovak firefighters cooperate closely with partner emergency services across Europe and are deployed directly to the most affected areas, including Greece and the Czech Republic.

An important component of this international cooperation is the Aerial Forest Fire Fighting Module using helicopters (AFFF-H), which forms part of the rescEU programme. In 2025, the module supported firefighting operations in Bulgaria, Albania, and Spain. Thanks to European Union support, Slovak firefighters had access during the fire season to a helicopter with a water-carrying capacity of at least 3 000 litres, available from 1 July to 15 September 2025. The operation of this capability was financed through the rescEU-AFFF-H-SK project under the rescEU Transition programme, with the European Union. The total eligible costs amounted to EUR 2.425 million excluding VAT. The European Union covered 75% of these costs (EUR 1.819 million). The service contract has been concluded for four years at a fixed price, strengthening the operational readiness of HaZZ while ensuring efficient use of public resources.

The aerial firefighting capability is primarily intended for deployment within Slovakia; however, when required, it can also be mobilised internationally through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Both the GFFF-V and AFFF-H modules maintain their own logistical support, including accommodation and catering, ensuring that their deployment does not place additional burdens on the resources of the affected country and enabling the effective provision of international assistance.

Fire prevention activities

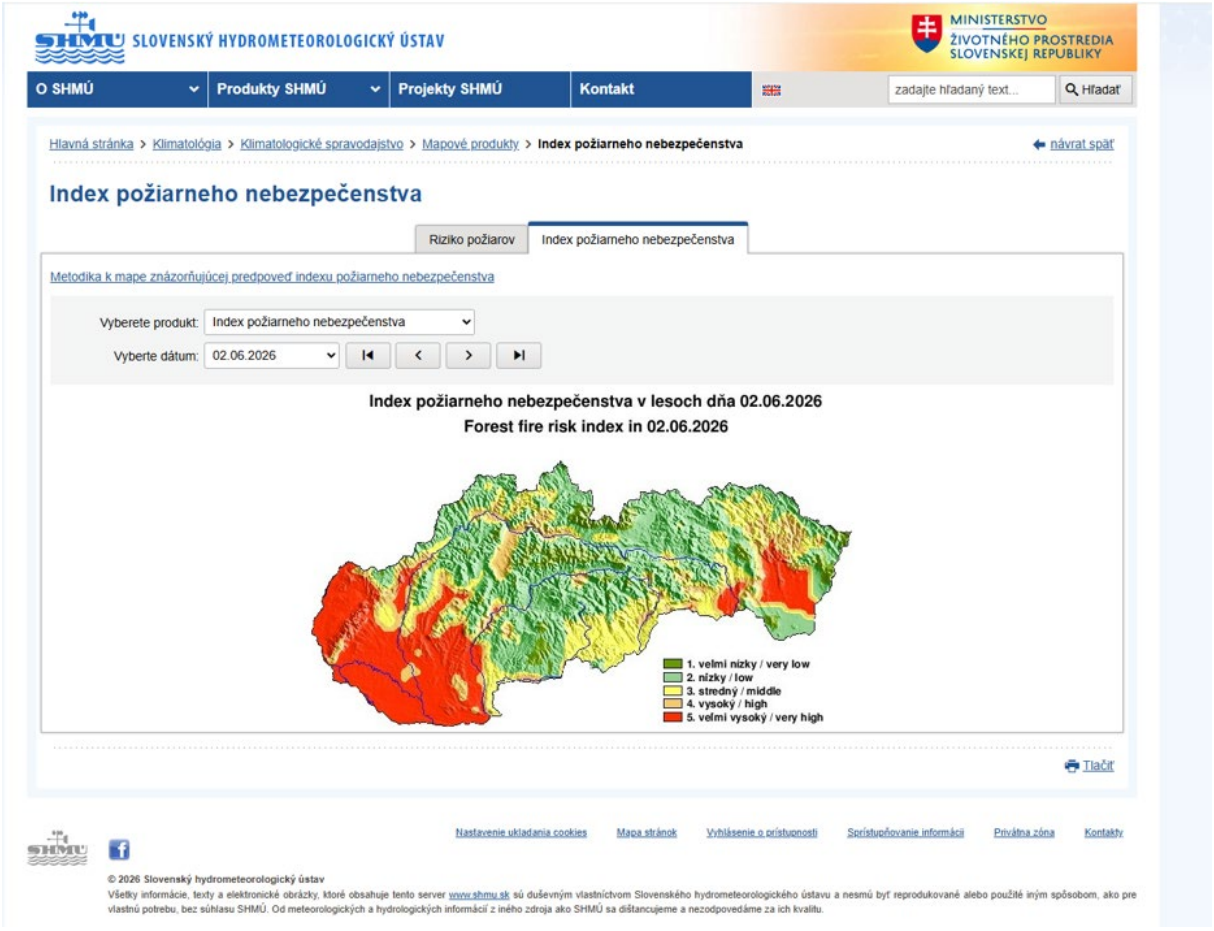
Forest fire prevention measures were implemented by forest owners and forest managers, particularly during periods of increased fire danger, in accordance with Section 6b(1)(c) of Act No. 314/2001 Coll. on Fire Protection, as amended.

An important part of the system is the early detection of fires and monitoring of risk areas.

In practice, ground controls, aerial monitoring, camera systems and drones are used. Information on the current risk of fires is provided mainly by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, which evaluates meteorological conditions influencing the risk of fire occurrence and spread.

The Fire and Rescue Service regularly informs the public, especially in periods of increased risk of fires, which is mainly related to long-term drought, high temperatures, low humidity of vegetation and increased movement of people in the natural environment. Information is provided through press releases, websites, social networks, media and through preventive and educational activities at the regional level.

Figure 122. Day information on the forest fire index in Slovakia.



Source: Slovak hydrometeorological institute.

Figure 123. Fire fighters operations.



Source: Fire and Rescue Corps of the Slovak Republic.

Figure 124. Fire fighters operations.



Source: Fire and Rescue Corps of the Slovak Republic.

Figure 125. Fire fighters operations.



Source: Fire and Rescue Corps of the Slovak Republic.

(Processed: National Forest Centre - Forest Research Institute Zvolen, Slovakia; Source: Institute for Fires and Expertise of the Ministry of Interior; Fire and Rescue Corps, Slovak Republic).

2.2.26. Slovenia

In 2025, 27 forest fires smaller than a hectare and 4 greater than a hectare were reported, with a total burnt area of 16.01 ha. These figures include only fires that occurred in forests or spread into forest areas, not all fires in natural areas.

The 2025 fire season can be considered relatively mild in Slovenia. No fire exceeded 100 ha (biggest fire burnt surface of 4.23 ha) and the total burnt area was substantially below the levels recorded in recent years. As in previous years, the Karst region (Sežana Forest Management Unit) recorded the highest number of forest fires. The most affected land cover type is woodland.

Table 55. Number of forest fires and burnt area in Slovenia in 2025.

Number of fires	< 1 ha	27
	>= 1 ha	4
	>=100 ha	0
	>=500 ha	0
	Total	31
Burnt area (ha)	Woodland	9.32
	Bushes	1.54
	Non woodland	5.15
	Total	16.01

Source: Slovenian Forest Service, Slovenian Forestry Institute.

Figure 126 shows the trends in terms of number of forest fires and related burnt area in Slovenia from 2002 to 2025.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

Slovenia has also continued to strengthen wildfire prevention measures. A lot of work was put into forest fire prevention infrastructure, almost 500 km of forest fire access roads were improved (486.82km) and 50.63 km new forest fire access roads were established, together with additional water supply points and hydrants for firefighting operations.

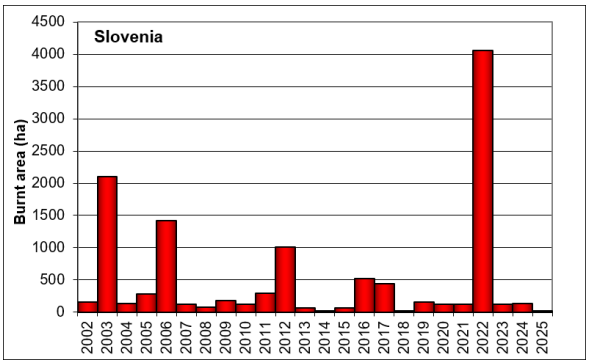
Further information

Additional information can be found in the Report on Forests 2025:

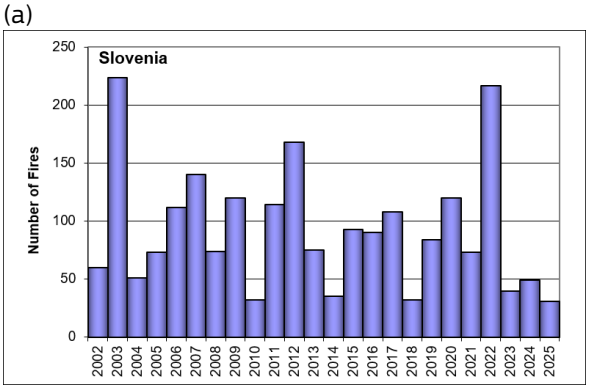
https://www.zgs.si/assets/uploads/files/vsebine/1/7/4/porgozd-2025-mkgp.pdf

In particular, please refer to Annex 16 (page 120 and following pages), which contains detailed information on forest fires and burned areas

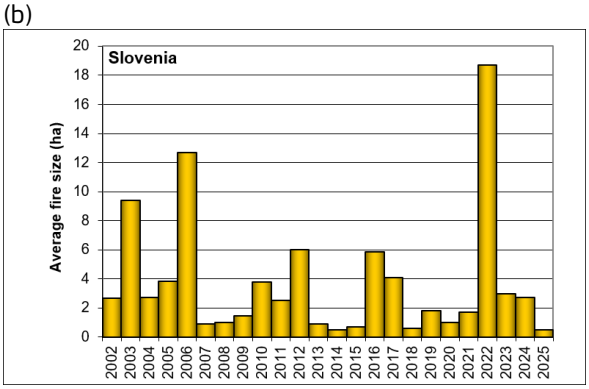
Figure 126. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Slovenia from 2002 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Slovenia.

Figure 127. Off-airfield helicopter landing site.



Source: Slovenian Forest service

Figure 128. New firefighting water refill point.



Source: Slovenian Forest service

Table 56. Number of forest fires and burnt area by regional unit in Slovenia in 2025.

	Number of fires					Burnt area (ha)			
Regional unit	**<1 ha**	**≥1 ha**	**≥100 ha**	**≥500 ha**	**Total**	**Woodland**	**Bushes**	**Non woodland**	**Total**
Tolmin	1	0	0	0	1	0.52	0.00	0.00	0.52
Bled	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kranj	1	0	0	0	1	0.03	0.00	0.24	0.27
Ljubljana	1	2	0	0	3	6.53	0.00	0.01	6.54
Postojna	0	1	0	0	1	0.00	0.44	4.40	4.84
Kočevje	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Novo mesto	3	1	0	0	4	0.74	0.90	0.18	1.82
Brežice	1	0	0	0	1	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.74
Celje	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nazarje	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Slovenj Gradec	3	0	0	0	3	0.10	0.13	0.09	0.32
Maribor	2	0	0	0	2	0.09	0.05	0.00	0.14
Murska Sobota	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sežana	15	0	0	0	15	0.57	0.02	0.23	0.82
Total	**27**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**31**	**9.32**	**1.54**	**5.15**	**16.01**

Source: Slovenian Forest Service, Slovenian Forestry Institute.

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(Sources: Slovenian Forest Service; Slovenian Forestry Institute, Slovenia).

2.2.27. Spain

Fire danger

According to the State Meteorological Agency (AEMET), the year 2025 in Spain was extremely warm, with an average temperature of 15.0ºC in the Iberian Peninsula. 2025 was the third warmest year of the historical record, which started in 1961.

It should be noted that the year was extremely warm in the majority of Spain. In the Canary Islands, the year was regular or very warm.

In 2025, there were three heat waves in the Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands, occurring in these dates: 18 June-4 July, 15-17 July, 23 July-1 August and 3-18 August. In the Canary Islands, there were two heat waves, occurring in these dates: 16-17 July and 17-20 September.

Regarding rainfall, 2025 was humid in most of the Iberian Peninsula, becoming the 25th wettest year since 1961, and the 8th in 21st century. 2025 was also humid in the Canary Islands, and regular in the Balearic Islands.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

The provisional statistics for the period between January 1 and December 31, 2025, are compiled with the information sent by the Autonomous Communities on a weekly basis during the high-risk season (i.e., from 1st June to 15th October) and monthly for the rest of the year.

Number of forest fires

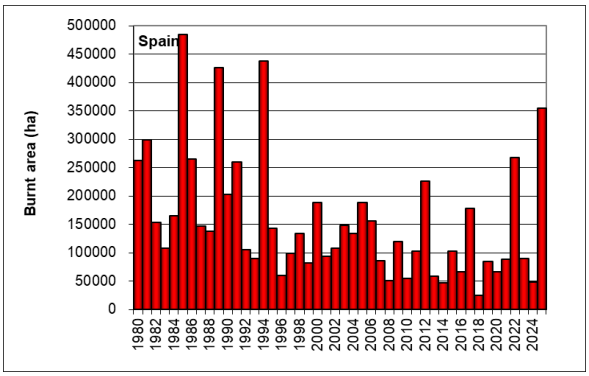
Table 57. Number of forest fires in Spain in 2025 compared with 10 year average.

Number of fires	*Average 2015-2024*	*2025*
Number of fires <1ha	6 110	5 601
Number of fires ≥1ha	3 061	2 598
Total	**9 171**	**8 199**

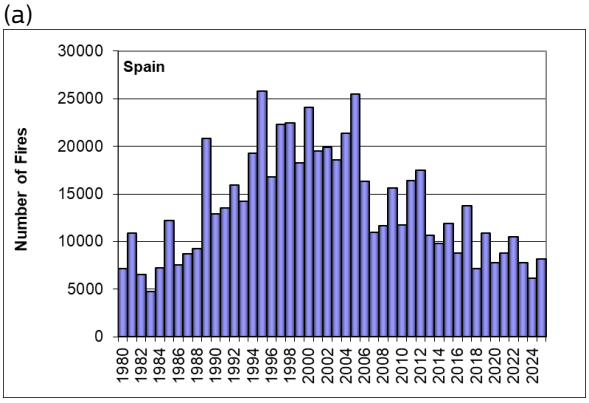
Source: Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Wildland Fire Management Service, Spain.

According to these data, the total number of fires has decreased by 10.60% compared to the average of the last decade, with a decrease of 8.33% in the number of small fires (area <1 ha) and 15.13% in larger fires (area ≥ 1 ha), respectively. 2025 is the 5th year with less forest fires of the decade.

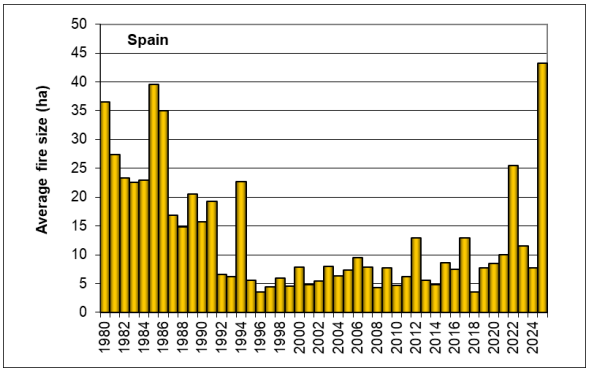
Figure 129. Burnt area of forests (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Spain 1980 - 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Wildland Fire Management Service, Spain.

Burnt areas

Regarding the burnt areas, there was an increase compared to the 10-year average of 178.89% in wooded lands, 266.59% in non-wooded lands and 235.89% in forest areas (sum of wooded and non-wooded lands). 2025 is the year with most affected forest area of the decade.

Table 58. Burnt area in Spain in 2025 compared with 10 year average.

Burnt area (ha)	*Average 2015-2024*	*2025*
Wooded land	36 971.00	103 108.31
Non-wooded land	68 643.00	251 638.36
Forest	**105 614.00**	**354 746.67**

Source: Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Wildland Fire Management Service, Spain.

The yearly trends in terms of burnt area of forest, number of fires and average fire size since 1980 in Spain are shown in **Figure 129**.

Large fires

According to the provisional statistics compiled by the relevant departments in the Autonomous Communities, during 2025 there were 63 large forest fires (Grandes Incendios Forestales, GIF), a category which includes fires affecting more than 500 hectares. In 2025 there were 40 large forest fires above the average of the decade.

In total, the GIFs accounted for 87.42% of the total burnt area, but only 0.77% of the total number of fires that occurred in the year.

Regarding the incidence of GIF by geographic regions, the Northwest experienced 50.79% of the GIF.

Table 59. Large forest fires in Spain (>500 ha) in 2025.

Province	*Municipality of origin*	*Start date*	*Burnt area (ha)*
Almería	Huércal de Almería	3-may	1 305.00
Sevilla	Burguillos y Castiblanco de los Arroyos	10-jun	1 377.07
Cáceres	Campo Lugar	16-jun	836.97
Cáceres	Cáceres/Trujillo	17-jun	1 050.66
Badajoz	Casas de Don Pedro	20-jun	761.59
Lleida	Torrefeta i Florejacs	1-jul	1 304.00
Tarragona	Paüls	7-jul	2 190.00
Cáceres	Trujillo	16-jul	837.00
Toledo/ Madrid	Méntrida/Villamanta	17-jul	1 736.73
Ávila	Navaluenga	18-jul	1 171.10
Badajoz	Valdecaballeros	19-jul	2 368.30
Cáceres	Arroyomolinos	24-jul	675.00
Ávila	Cuevas del Valle	28-jul	3 118.99
Cáceres	Caminomorisco	29-jul	2 564.15
Ourense	Vilardevós - Terroso	1-aug	563.62
Badajoz	Oliva de Mérida	4-aug	788.00
León/ Asturias	Páramo del Sil (Le)/Degaña (Ast)	8-aug	7 159.00
León	Benuza	8-aug	22 258.20
León/ Asturias	Villablino-Orallo (Le) / Cangas de Narcea-Genestoso (Ast)	8-aug	4 247.50
León	Murias de Paredes - Fasgar	8-aug	6 091.06
Ávila	San Bartolomé de Pinares	8-aug	734.64
Cáceres	Aldea del Cano /Sierra de Fuentes	8-aug	1 233.00
Ourense	Chandrexa de Queixa - Requeixo	8-aug	6 320.29
Ourense	Maceda- Castro de Escuadro	9-aug	1 856.18
León	Puente de Domingo Florez	9-aug	3 804.06
Ourense	Vilariño de Conso - Mormentelos	10-aug	5 490.00
Palencia	Cervera de Pisuerga	10-aug	1 269.50
Zamora/ León	Molezuelas de la Carballeda (Za) / Castrocalbón (Le)	10-aug	24 426.00
León	Villafranca del Bierzo	10-aug	547.50
Madrid	Tres Cantos	11-aug	1 844.95
Toledo/ Cáceres	Navalmoralejo (To) - Villar de Pedroso (Cc)	11-aug	2 733.78
Zamora	Gallegos del Río	11-aug	4 958.80
Ourense	Vilardevós - Moialde	11-aug	1 106.12
Asturias	Cabrales	12-aug	1 090.00
Ourense	Maceda-Santiso	12-aug	2 649.50
Cáceres	Arroyo de la Luz / Casar de Cáceres	12-aug	3 261.00
Cáceres	Jarilla	12-aug	16 315.06
Ourense	Oímbra - A Granxa	12-aug	22 414.00
Ourense	A Mezquita	12-aug	10 743.00
Ourense	Chandrexa de Queixa - Parafita	12-aug	12 851.81

Province	*Municipality of origin*	*Start date*	*Burnt area (ha)*
León	Boca de Huérgano	13-aug	14 462.00
Ourense	Vilardevós - Vilar de Cervos	13-aug	1 807.94
Ourense/ Lugo/León	Larouco (Ou) - Quiroga (Lug)- Oencia(Le)	13-aug	37 765.00
Salamanca	Cipérez (Puertas)	13-aug	9 684.07
Badajoz	Azuaga	14-aug	845.48
Zamora/ León/ Ourense	Porto (Za) - Encinedo (Le) - Carballeda de Valdeorras (Ou)	14-aug	21 373.00
Badajoz	Burguillos del Cerro	14-aug	538.37
Badajoz	Llerena	14-aug	4 867.35
Badajoz	Alburquerque	14-aug	2 217.46
León	Acebedo / Burón	14-aug	549.09
León/ Palencia	Almanza (Le)/Guardo (Pa)	14-aug	6 887.00
Pontevedra	Agolada	15-aug	522.32
Ourense	Xinzo de Limia	15-aug	10 230.35
Ávila	El Herradón / Tornadizos de Ávila	15-aug	2 975.81
Cáceres	Cáceres	15-aug	3 697.75
Ourense	Carballeda de Avia - Vilar de Condes	15-aug	3 017.90
León	Igüeña	19-aug	860.24
León	Soto y Amio	24-aug	1 627.00
Lugo	A Pobra do Brollón	25-aug	1 015.36
Almería	Lubrín	28-aug	783.30
Ourense	Carballeda de Valdeorras - Casaio	6-sep	973.56
Lugo	Pantón	18-sep	1 909.54
Guadalajara /Segovia	El Cardoso de la Sierra (Gu) y Cerezo de Arriba (Seg)	21-sep	2 652.00
Total burnt area			**310 108.07**

Source: Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Wildland Fire Management Service, Spain.

Of the 63 large fires, 45 (71%) had consequences on the population or their assets. In 50 (79%) of these large fires participated the resources of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge (Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico, MITECO). The Emergency Military Unit (Unidad Militar de Emergencias, UME) was activated in 32 (51%) of them.

Figure 130. BRIF of Laza (Ourense) working on fire suppression activities during the severe simultaneity episode in August 2025.



Source: Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Wildland Fire Management Service, Spain.

Geographical distribution of forest fires

Given the heterogeneity of the national territory in terms of meteorology, topography, vegetation and socioeconomic factors, forest fires are traditionally analysed by region according to four zones that are considered homogeneous. The defined zones are the following:

NORTHWEST: includes the Autonomous Communities of Galicia, Asturias, Cantabria and the provinces of León and Zamora.

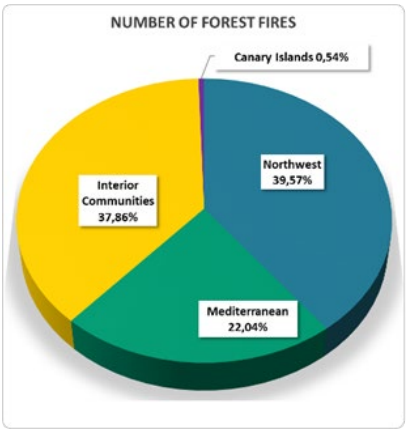
MEDITERRANEAN: includes the coastal Autonomous Communities with the Mediterranean Sea, including its interior provinces.

CANARY ISLANDS: includes the entire Canary archipelago.

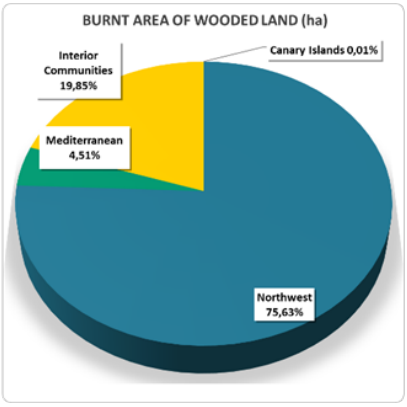
INTERIOR COMMUNITIES: includes the provinces of the rest of the non-coastal Autonomous Communities, except León and Zamora, as well as the Basque Country.

The geographical distribution of forest fires in Spain in 2025 is shown in **Figure 131**.

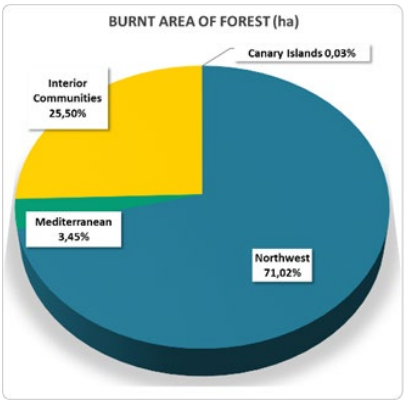
Figure 131. Number of forest fires (a), burnt area of wooded land (b), and burnt area of forest (c) in 2025 by geographic region.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Wildland Fire Management Service, Spain.

The Northwest region suffered the highest number of fires, with 39.57% of the annual total. It is followed by the Interior Communities (37.86%), the Mediterranean region (22.04%) and, finally, the Canary Islands with less than 1% of the total number of fires.

Considering the wooded land, the highest percentage of burnt area occurred in the Northwest region (75.63%), followed by the Interior Communities (19.85%).

Regarding the burnt area of forest, the Northwest region depicts 71.02% of the total, followed by the Interior Communities (25.50%).

Civil Protection in forest fires

Loss of human life and injuries

In 2025, we regret to report the death of 8 individuals due to forest fires, 5 of them belonging to the suppression teams.

In 26 forest fires, at least 86 people had to be assisted by health services, 50 of them belonging to the suppression teams.

Damage to infrastructure

Due to the continuity of the houses with the forest, the risk of so-called Urban-Forest Interface Fires causes damages to houses and other infrastructures. In 2025, 22 forest fires caused damage to infrastructures.

Evacuations and disruption to transport

Preventive evacuations were carried out in 110 fires, affecting more than 42913 people, highlighting:

- 9161 evacuees, Porto (Zamora), August 16
- 7209 evacuees, Molezuelas de la Carballeda (León), August 10
- 2827 evacuees, Gallegos del Río (Zamora), August 11
- 2536 evacuees, Puente de Domingo Flórez/Yeres/Las Médulas (León), August 9
- 2000 evacuees, Tarifa (Cádiz), August 11

Roads were cut in 83 fires, mostly regional and local, but on 24 occasions the State Road Network was affected. In 14 occasions, the railroad network was interrupted due to forest fires.

Operations of mutual assistance

Cross-border cooperation with Portugal

In 2025, as in previous years, the Protocol between Spain and Portugal on technical cooperation and mutual assistance in Civil Protection matters and the Additional Protocol on mutual aid in border areas was applied and thus support was given to Portugal in the following operations:

Support with Spanish resources in cross-border fires in Portuguese territory:

- 15 with regional resources of Castilla y León, 4 of them with the intervention of MITECO resources;
- 11 with regional resources of Galicia, 1 of them with the intervention of MITECO resources;
- 3 with regional resources of Extremadura.

Support with Portuguese resources in cross-border fires in Spanish territory.

These mutual aid protocols also imply aid from Portugal in the Spanish territory, which materialised in the following operations:

- Castilla y León, on 1 occasion;
- Andalucía, on 3 occasions;
- Extremadura, on 5 occasions;
- Galicia, on 5 occasions.

Cross-border cooperation with France

During 2025, there was not any cross-border intervention between France and Spain.

Operations of assistance through European Union Civil Protection Mechanism

During August 2025, Spain requested assistance through the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism to provide support during the severe fire simultaneity episode. Spain received support from 9 countries, with 8 aerial resources, 220 firefighters and 46 vehicles:

Aerial resources:

- France (14-15 Aug): 2 Canadair, in Galicia;
- Italy (16-23 Aug): 2 Canadair, in Cáceres, Zamora and Léon;
- The Netherlands (18-30 Aug): 2 Chinook helicopters, in León and Zamora;
- Czech Republic (19-28 Aug): 1 Black-Hawk helicopter, in Cáceres, Zamora and León;
- Slovakia (19-28 Aug): 1 Black-Hawk helicopter, in Cáceres, Zamora and León.

Terrestrial resources:

- France (18-26 Aug): 65 firefighters, 26 vehicles and heavy machinery, in León and Pontevedra;
- Germany (19-26 Aug): 60 firefighters and 20 vehicles, in Cáceres and Zamora;
- Finland (19-26 Aug): 26 firefighters, in Ourense;
- Greece (22-26 Aug): 20 firefighters, in Asturias;
- Romania (21-28 Aug): 50 firefighters, in Ourense.

Figure 132. Support of The Netherlands aerial resources (2 Chinook helicopters) during the severe fire simultaneity episode in August 2025. FAST experts participated in the frame of a national advisory mission supporting on aerial resources coordination and UCPM international teams' integration.



Source: Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Wildland Fire Management Service, Spain.

State resources for prevention and suppression

Integral Prevention Teams (Equipos de Prevención Integral de Incendios Forestales, EPRIF) and Prevention and Assessment Teams (Equipos de Prevención y Análisis de Incendios Forestales, EPAIF)

In 2025, MITECO deployed 18 Integral Prevention Teams (EPRIF) and 7 Prevention and Assessment Teams (EPAIF).

18 EPRIF were operational during 2025: 8 annuals centred in prevention all year and 10 operational during off-summer months.

EPRIF mainly work on prescribed and controlled burns, training activities and meetings with various groups, including ranchers, farmers, hunters, neighbourhood associations, representatives of town halls or teachers, in order to reconcile interests and raise awareness of forest fire prevention.

From January 2022, 7 EPAIF were put in place, bringing together prevention and assessment activities. During low-risk season, they work on prevention tasks. In summer season, they associate with Assessment and Planning Mobile Units (UMAP vehicles) in order to participate in suppression activities, such as giving support to Autonomous Communities or MITECO's Operational Centre by elaborating risk bulletins, meteorological assessments or post-fire analyses. During 2025, these teams have continued their work, coordinating with competent administrations and defining their action lines.

It is worth mentioning that, during 2025, these teams treated 1610.23 hectares by executing 224 prescribed and controlled burns. This helps to reduce the risk of forest fires by reducing forest fuel and creating discontinuities in the vegetation, while also achieving other objectives such as improving pastures, favouring the habitat of various species or

improving accessibility in the forest areas. A total of 695 plots were prepared for burning, although the weather conditions did not allow all of the work to be completed.

Preventive Work Brigades (Brigadas de Labores Preventivas, BLP)

The Preventive Work Brigades acted, in collaboration with the autonomous administrations, from the beginning of the year until the beginning of the summer campaign. Once the summer campaign was over, preventive work was resumed, which ended at the end of December.

During these two work periods, they carried out fire prevention work on more than 1600 hectares of forest land, which mainly consisted of construction and maintenance of strips and areas of greater resistance to forest fires, through clearing, thinning, pruning and prescribed burning.

In total, more than 600 workers distributed in the 10 Preventive Work Brigades carried out preventive forestry work close to the surroundings of BRIF bases. BLP also work from time to time in support of EPRIF in the execution of prescribed and controlled burns (592.09 ha).

The Preventive Work Brigades also collaborate in suppression activities. During 2025 the BLP carried out 19 actions in 11 forest fires.

Reinforcement Brigades in Forest Fires (Brigadas de Refuerzo en Incendios Forestales: BRIF)

MITECO deploys 5 BRIF-i during the winter-spring campaign in the Northwest of the Peninsula, and 10 BRIF during the summer campaign distributed throughout the national territory.

In the summer campaign the BRIF are composed of three teams, each comprising 2 foremans and 14 specialists under the command of 1 technician. For transport and support for fire suppression they have two transport and suppression helicopters with 1200 litres of capacity. In Puerto del Pico (Ávila) aerial base, a BRIF-B type brigade is available, which is smaller in size and similar to the brigades of the BRIF-i winter campaign, consisting of 3 teams of 7 specialists, 1 foreman and 1 technician equipped with a single helicopter.

These highly specialised helicopter transport personnel units can operate anywhere in the country where needed. BRIF personnel receive continuous education and training that allows them to act in the most demanding situations and the most complicated fires. The mastery of all techniques of suppression, including backburning, is essential in their performance.

In 2025 campaign, the BRIF worked for 6642 hours in 482 fire operations and suppressed a total front length of 571521 metres. The BRIF with the highest activity during this campaign was Laza (Galicia), with 82 operations summing up the summer and winter campaigns.

During the winter campaign, the BRIF of Ruente (Cantabria) operated 23 times.

Aerial resources[30]

The Wildland Fire Management Service of MITECO coordinates the deployment of the State aerial resources, which cover the national forest area throughout the year. During the two periods of highest occurrence of forest fires, winter-spring and summer campaigns, the number of available resources is strengthened.

During 2025, MITECO's aerial resources carried out a total of 2475 operations in 447 forest fires, in support of the Autonomous

[30] Complete information on these resources is available on: https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/incendios-forestales/extincion/medios_aereos.aspx

Communities. In total, they flew for 8742 hours, making 47664 drops.

Table 60 details the number of State aerial resources operations in support of the Autonomous Communities and other countries.

Table 60. Number of State aerial resources operations in support of the Autonomous Communities and other countries in Spain in 2025.

Autonomous Community/Other country	*Number of fires*	*Number of operations*	*Flight hours*	*Drops*
Andalucía	33	62	190:22	1193
Aragón	17	45	133:25	561
Asturias, Principado de	40	195	672:18	4741
Balears, Illes	4	3	4:06	9
Canarias	2	10	36:50	258
Cantabria	26	30	42:27	313
Castilla y León	97	899	3584:12	17520
Castilla-La Mancha	17	156	617:36	2590
Cataluña	10	41	136:59	378
Ceuta	0	0	0	0
Comunidad Valenciana	5	13	32:03	66
Extremadura	66	298	1120:38	7651
Galicia	95	629	1910:34	10424
Madrid, Comunidad de	2	2	2:30	12
Murcia, Región de	4	4	4:37	55
Navarra, Comunidad Foral	18	73	239:09	1807
País Vasco	1	1	0:39	2
Rioja, La	10	14	13:55	84
NATIONAL TOTAL	**447**	**2475**	**8742:20**	**47664**
OTHER COUNTRIES TOTAL	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

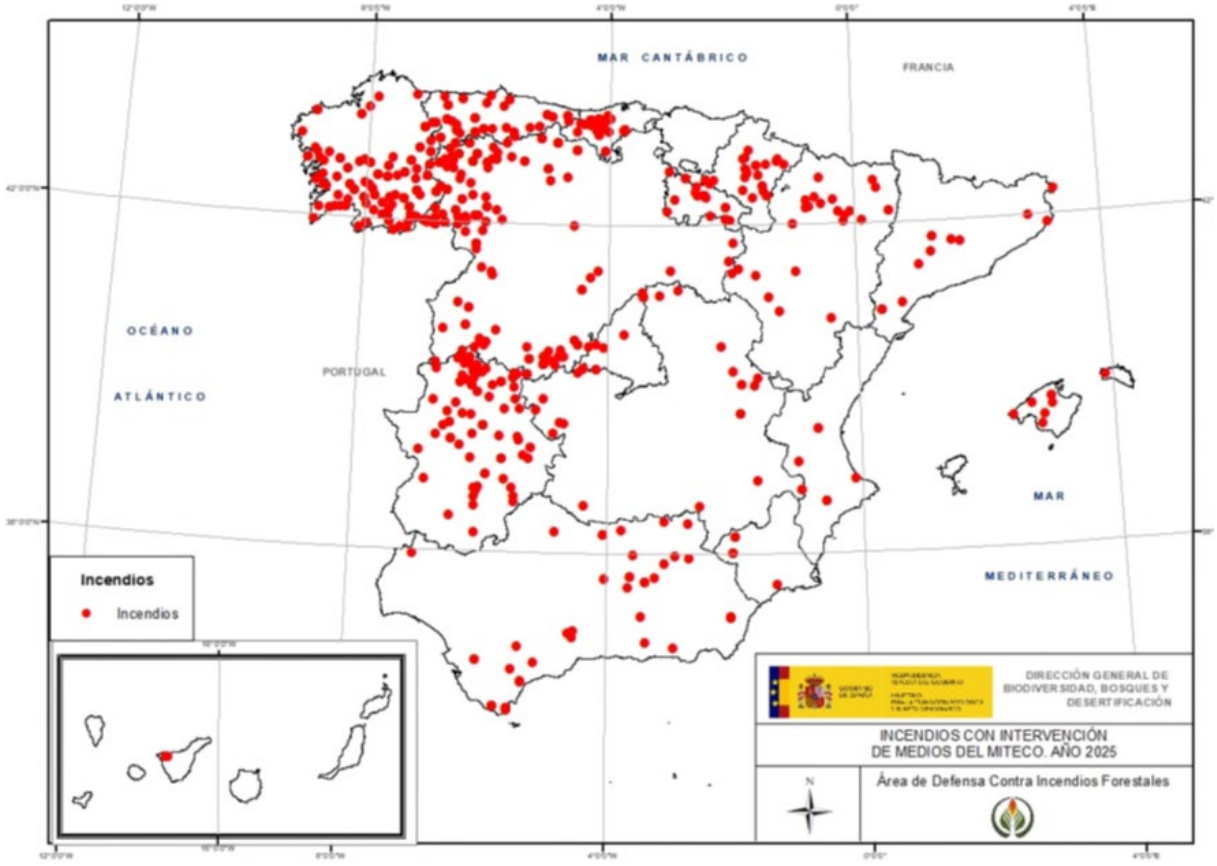
Source: Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Wildland Fire Management Service, Spain.

Figure 133. BRIF of Pinofranqueado (Cáceres) working on fire suppression activities during the severe simultaneity episode in August 2025.



Source: Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Wildland Fire Management Service, Spain.

Figure 134. Location of forest fires with the participation of MITECO resources of suppression during 2025.



Source: Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Wildland Fire Management Service, Spain.

Other prevention activities

Training and awareness actions against forest fires

During 2025, the traveling exhibition entitled "50 years of knowledge and prevention of forest fires", created in 2019 to commemorate 50 years of the National Forest Fire Statistics (Estadística General de Incendios Forestales, EGIF), was shown in various centres and public spaces of several provinces (Lugo, Cantabria, Asturias, La Rioja and Cáceres).

Artificial intelligence techniques for the analysis and prediction of forest fires

During 2025, ARBARIA project continued. This is a computer system for the analysis and prediction of forest fires making use of artificial intelligence techniques associated with Machine Learning and Deep Learning. It has been developed together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

ARBARIA uses historical data on forest fires that have occurred in Spain in recent decades and open data related to meteorology and socioeconomic factors. Applying two different algorithmic models, ARBARIA makes possible to explain and predict the weekly occurrence of fires at the provincial level, as well as to identify patterns of forest fire causality associated with the socioeconomic characteristics of each municipality. The predictive and explanatory capacity of both models provides valuable information for prevention and suppression actions.

Coordination and planning actions

Joint Commission, Ministry of Defence - Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge

During 2025, two meetings of the Joint Commission were held in order to coordinate the operational, maintenance and availability

needs of the Canadair aircrafts owned by MITECO and operated and maintained by the 43-Group of the Air Forces. Meetings were held on March 11 and December 1, respectively, to agree on the deployment and renewal of the aircraft fleet, as well as to analyse aspects of the 2024 campaign.

Committee for the Fight against Forest Fires (CLIF)

This is a technical committee for coordination between the competent administrations in the management of forest fires, chaired by the Deputy Director General for Forest Policy. During 2025, there were two ordinary meetings, before and after the summer season (May 8 and October 27-28, respectively).

Centre for the Coordination of National Information on Forest Fires (CCINIF)

In accordance with Royal Decree-law 11/2005, the main functions of the CCINIF are to channel and make available to all the competent public administrations and in real time, all the available information related to: evolution of fire risk; material, technical and personal resources available at all times; and forest fires, once they occur.

Information on operations involving the MITECO's State resources is updated twice a day on the webpage. Likewise, the operations of the State resources in the forest fires that occurred the previous day are published daily, and the link to the fire risk map published by the State Meteorological Agency for the next seven days is shown.

This information can be consulted updated daily on MITECO's website[31].

National Wildfire Preparedness Programme

Regarding to the preparedness actions promoted in 2025 by MITECO in the frame of this Programme, we can highlight the following:

- Expert exchange: an exercise was held in Murcia, focusing on forest fire communication planning and management.
- Forest Fires Assessment and Advisory Team (FAST): the team is formed by fire experts mainly from the Autonomous Communities and the State Administration, and they carry out assessment and advisory missions. During 2025, FAST team participated in international assessment and training missions in Colombia, Bolivia and Brussels. FAST also participated in a national advisory mission during the severe fire simultaneity episode in August. FAST team supported remote assessment, aerial resources coordination and UCPM international teams' integration.

(Source: Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Wildland Fire Management Service, Spain).

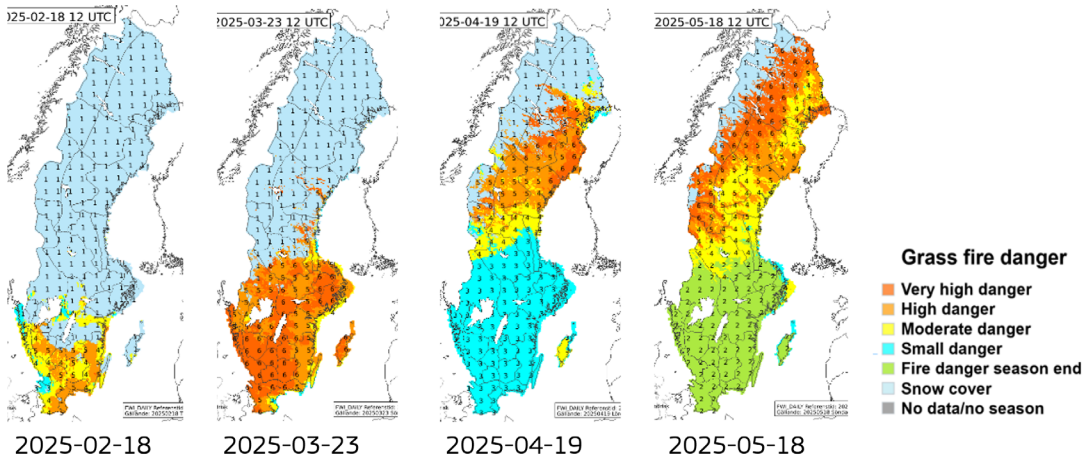
[31] https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/incendios-forestales/estadisticas-actuaciones.aspx

2.2.28. Sweden

Fire danger

The grass fire danger season started in mid-February in the southernmost parts of Sweden, although there were only a few days with grass fire danger during this month. The grass fire season as a whole developed in a fairly usual pattern with increasing risk for the southern parts during March and then spreading north through April with dry and warm weather. May turned cold but windy with increasing risk in the northern parts of Sweden. In the southern parts new green grass grew and reduced the grass fire danger. The season for the whole country was finished in mid-June.

Figure 135. Grass fire danger in Sweden in February – May 2025.



Source: Authors of the country report for Sweden.

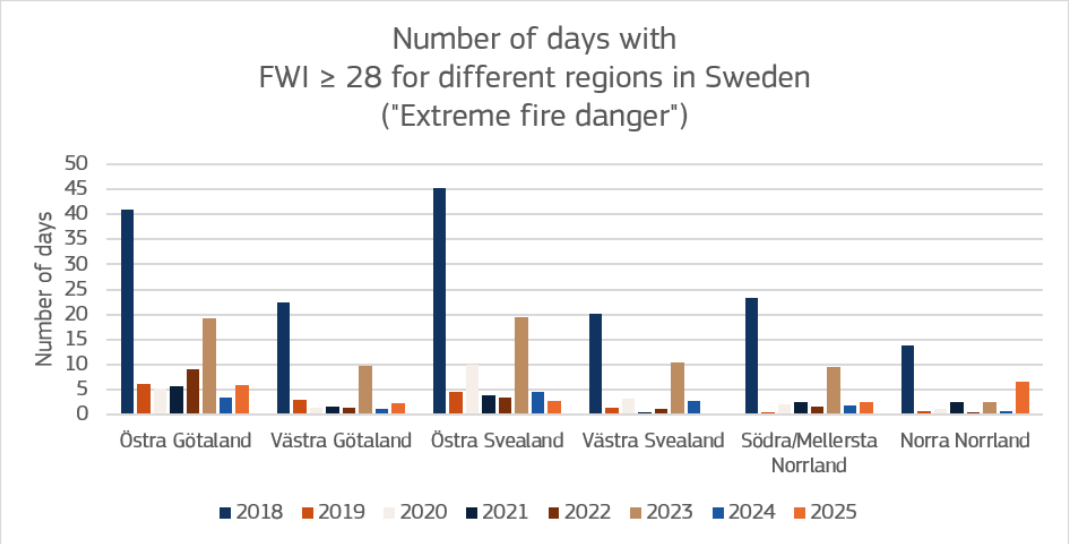
The forest fire danger season started already on April 3, which is a record in Sweden. This was due to a high-pressure system that affected the south-eastern parts of Sweden. It didn´t last long however, but it might be an indication that even April can become a month prone to forest fires. A comparison between the years 2018-2025 is presented in **Figure 136**, where the number of days with FWI≥28 (daily values) is plotted for different regions in Sweden. In general, 2025 was a rather normal year in comparison with the other years. However, in the northernmost region in Sweden (Norra Norrland) the year 2025 had considerably more days with FWI≥28 compared to all other years except the extreme dry year 2018, reflecting the extreme fire danger in a couple of weeks in July. Remark; the mean values shown below are based on a selection of a few grid points in each region.

May was generally cold and windy with little precipitation, but by mid-May a warm mass of air reached Sweden with rising forest fire danger that followed. However, from the end of May and during most of the summer the weather was variable with low pressure system passages, much precipitation and humid air conditions. Nevertheless, some parts of eastern Sweden had less precipitation and intermittently higher forest fire danger.

However, starting the 10th of July, really warm temperatures and little precipitation reached the northern parts of Sweden and stayed for two weeks. As a result, fire danger increased to high or extremely high levels before a low-pressure system finally arrived with rain and cooler temperatures.

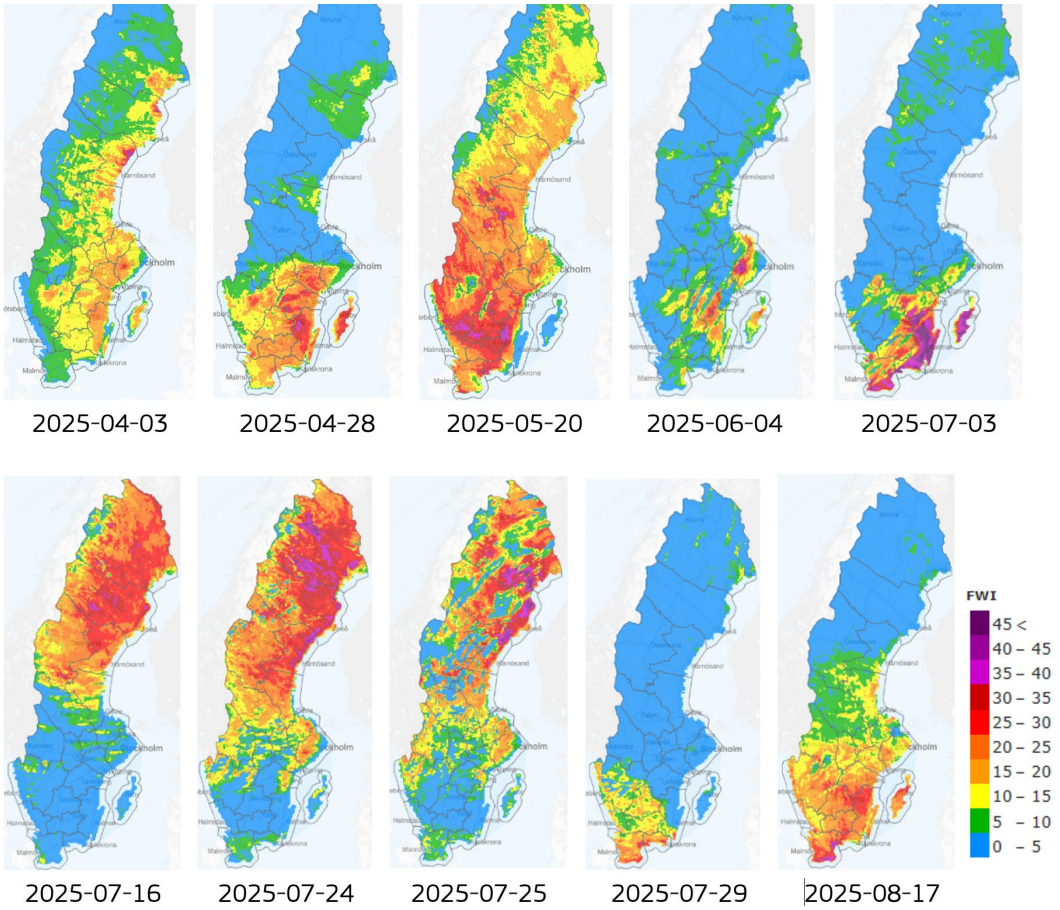
Mid and end of August again brought warm weather to the south but since the late season with a diurnal variation with a rather short time frame for fires, there were no large wildfires even though the forest fire danger was high during middays.

Figure 136. Number of days with FWI≥28 for different regions in Sweden for the years 2018-2025. The bars represent mean values from a selection of a few (6-8) grid points in each region.



Source: Authors of the country report for Sweden.

Figure 137. Some examples of forest fire danger (FWI) maps season 2025 in Sweden.



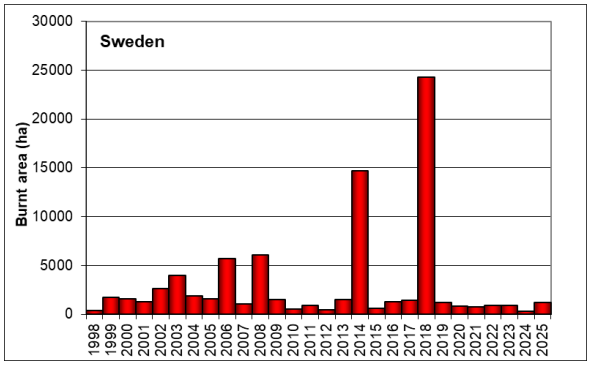
Source: Authors of the country report for Sweden.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

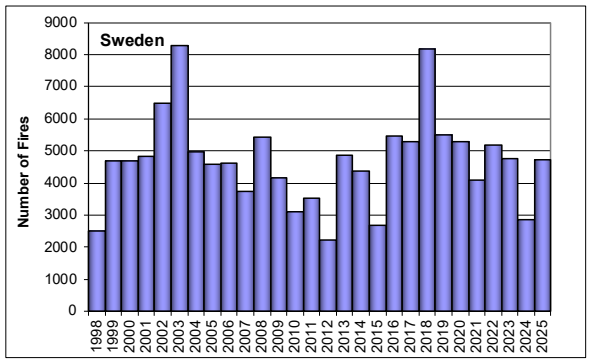
4724 fires in terrain were reported to The Fire and Rescue Service National Incident Database in 2025. The burned area consisted of 340 ha productive forest, 554 ha other wooded land, 157 ha other open land and 172 ha agriculture field or pasture.

The trends regarding the burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Sweden for the years 1998 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 138**.

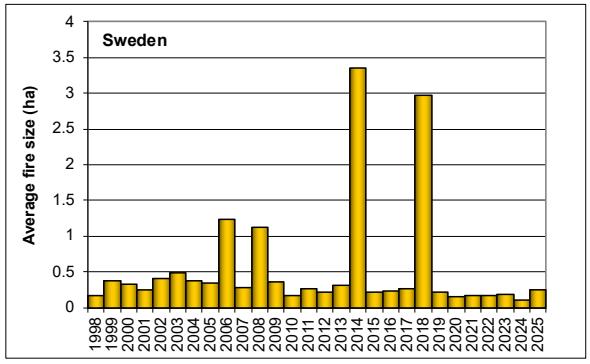
Figure 138. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Sweden from 1998 to 2025.



(a)



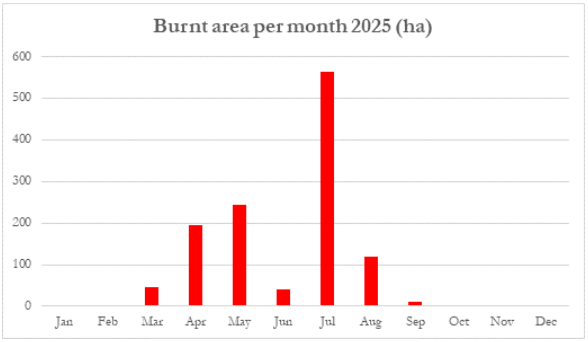
(b)



(c)

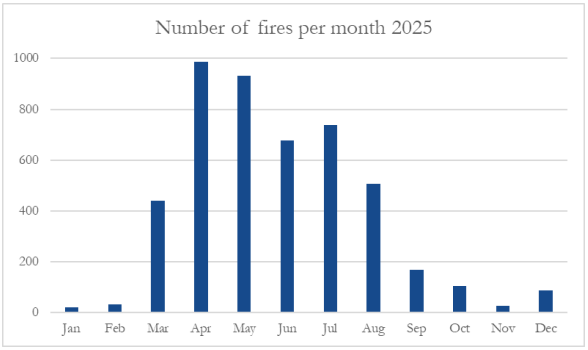
Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Sweden.

Figure 139. Monthly burnt area in Sweden in 2025.



Source: Authors of the country report for Sweden.

Figure 140. Monthly number of fires in Sweden in 2025.



Source: Authors of the country report for Sweden.

Notable fires 2025

Despite the challenging conditions with many lightning ignitions in the Swedish Arctic region in July, only two fires grew larger than 100 ha in 2025.

The fire in Hylte in southern Sweden in mid May occurred at a peat procession site and the cause is listed as presumed fault in equipment. In the dry conditions, the exposed peat at the site burned very well in the strong winds, and the fire spread into the forest around the site. Hylte is located in the south of Sweden where ground resources quickly could respond in large numbers. They subsequently received assistance from national aerial resources and material depots.

Figure 141. Photo from the air showing the heavy smoke from peat burning and smouldering.



Source: Authors of the country report for Sweden.

Challenges here were heavy smoke (and not high intensity) from the burning peat that made it impossible to attack the head of the fire. Strong winds made the fire over-run a wetline and a railroad and a subsequent shift in wind direction made the fire grow large during the first day. Aerial drops from helicopters were inefficient on the burning peat and the water drops created dust clouds with embers that only spread the fire faster. So, rather than attacking the fire, the firefighters had to fall back until the fire reached the surrounding forests after which direct attack could stop the fire growth. Fire growth was restricted to the first day of the fire, after that it didn't grow in actual size, but as burning and smouldering peat is very difficult to put out completely, the operation continued for several days.

At the most 77 units from 24 stations were on the site at the same time, 4 helicopters and national material depots were used on the fire that lasted 10 days before it could be left to the peat procession operator. Before handing over the fire, the outer perimeters were checked for hidden smouldering peat using specially trained detection dogs. Final area: 140 ha.

The fire in Lillselet, in contrast, occurred in a very remote area in northern Sweden just above the Arctic circle. A heatwave followed by lightning storms over most of northern Sweden caused a large number of ignitions in areas that are sparsely populated and where response capacities are slim.

The risk development in the north was identified in advance analyses of fire danger forecasts, which allowed for preventative and preparedness measures to be taken both on regional and national level. Examples of the actions taken are regional fire bans, reduction of speed on railway stretches prone to ignitions from train brakes and adaption of forestry work to prevent ignitions and patrol flights for early detection. National aerial wildfire resources were prepositioned to northern Sweden.

The measures taken on regional and national level in combination with recent improvements of the organisation of rescue services under larger regional command centres contributed to quick and efficient suppression with assistance of national aerial resources, and very few of the fires grew beyond 10 ha. The development of these intense July weeks in the north is detailed in a storymap[32] where also the fire in Lillselet is described in more detail.

The fire in Lillselet, that would end up being the largest fire in Sweden in 2025 with a final area of 360 ha, was initially suppressed at an early stage but escaped to spread again.

Figure 142. Photo from air patrol, initial discovery of the fire at Lillselet at 17.15 on July 21st.



Source: Authors of the country report for Sweden.

Ignited by a lightning strike on the evening of July 20, the Lillselet fire was discovered by forest fire surveillance aircraft the following afternoon. The evening of July 21, helicopters

[32] Forest fires in the north 2025: https://gis.msb.se/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/2bbe3afbac3c4a45b34806fafca4677f

from the national aerial resources suppressed the spread of the fire at approximately 14 ha, but the location of the fire was 30 km from the nearest road and it was difficult to get personnel on the ground. The rescue services had many simultaneous fires to manage in the region and had to prioritize resources to other incidents. The fire at Lillselet did not at this point threaten economic or other values, since it occurred in a Natura 2000-area of oldgrowth forest where fire is a natural disturbance that is beneficial to the priority habitats of the area, and so the fire was left to the landowner to patrol without any intervention on the ground. The landowner had a helicopter working the fire, but no ground personnel, and due to the thick duff layers in Swedish boreal forests, a forest fire will re-ignite if the aerial response is not followed by containment efforts on the ground. At Lillselet the fire started to spread again in the following days, and on July 23, the fire had grown to 60 ha and was declared out of control again.

A forecasted wind shift threatened to bring the fire across the river, toward a group of buildings outside of the Natura 2000-area, making the incident high priority.

During July 23-27, AT802F Fire Boss scooping planes in combination with helicopters from national aerial resources operated on site around the clock together with ground resources from several rescue services, supported by a Coast Guard surveillance aircraft and other resources. During the operation, the Coast Guard used the Swedish model of ACO, including a Dash 8 aircraft and aerial surveillance with several different IR cameras. This made it possible to achieve optimized and precise coordination of aerial resources, supported by the distribution of KML files with a coordination grid and by plotting aerial assets using ForeFligh.

The main challenge of this fire was not the fire behaviour – it was the logistics. Due to the remote location, all personnel and materials were airlifted in and out from the incident command post located 28 km east of the fire. The oldgrowth forest had few openings large enough for helicopters to land, which further complicated the efforts.

From an operational standpoint, it is important to note the high efficiency of aerial resources this far north, where the sun barely drops below the horizon during the night even in late July, allowing the aircraft to operate all around the clock. However, this puts high demands on planning and sufficient recourses, service and staff as there is no natural break during night time. Also worth noticing is that firefighting on the ground above the arctic circle often is more offensive during night-time and more defensive during daytime, to make maximum tactical use of the slow fire propagation when the sun is standing low.

The fire was prevented from spreading across the river until the weather turned, when it was finally contained at 360 ha. On July 31, the incident commander was able to close the operation and hand over to the landowner again for monitoring and patrol.

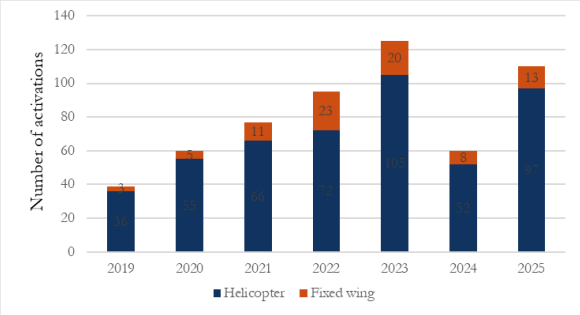
Injuries and loss of human lives

During 2025, 1 civilian died in connection with wildfires. Further, 21 civilians were injured, 15 of which were transported to healthcare.

Activations of national resources and assistance to rescEU 2025

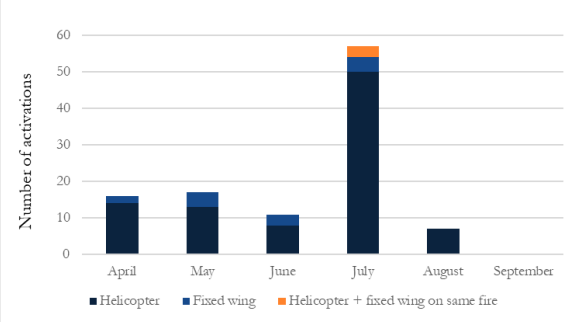
In 2025, the national aerial reinforcement resources were activated on 110 occasions on wildfires in Sweden, which is almost twice the amount compared to 2024. The most intense period was during the second half of July in the northern part of the country, where the airborne resources played a vital part in keeping most of the fires small. Overall, the airborne resources provided a fast and valuable support to the municipal fire and rescue services.

Figure 143. Number of activations of the national aerial force. Since the establishment of reinforcement resources, it increased steadily the first five years. Following the wet summer of 2024, 2025 showed an increase in activations and became the second busiest year since the reinforcements were put in place. Both fixed wing and helicopter resources can be used on the same fire, and the total number of activations may therefore be higher than the number of wildfires they assisted on.



Source: Authors of the country report for Sweden.

Figure 144. Activations of national aerial reinforcement resources per month in Sweden during 2025. July stands out and is clearly linked to the heat wave in the north during two weeks, followed by intense lightning that ignited many forest fires.



Source: Authors of the country report for Sweden.

The resources were reallocated on a daily basis to locations with the highest fire danger. The material depots that are also available as a national reinforcement resource were activated on four fires in 2025.

The Swedish rescEU resources (4 Air tractor Fire boss scooping planes) were activated in July and August 2025 to assist on wildfires in Bulgaria, Albania and Portugal.

Prescribed fire and controlled burns, including Natura 2000-areas

Prescribed fire is in Sweden mainly carried out as a habitat restoration measure in standing forest, but also to some extent as a forest regeneration measure to improve seeding on clear-cut areas. Reporting controlled burns is not mandatory. Estimates on area burned in controlled burns is therefore collected from several sources and the actual number is likely to be larger than the verified area reported here. 183 ha of the area EFFIS noted as burned in Natura 2000 areas are verified as controlled nature conservation fires.

The most comprehensive source of information comes from the Swedish Forestry Agency (SFA) who map burnt areas on forest land with the help of satellite imagery and incident coordinates. In 2025 the SFA mapped 770 ha of wildfires and an additional 950 ha of prescribed burns[33]. Since most wildfires in Sweden are very small and low intensity, and fires in stands with dense tree cover are difficult to identify in satellite imagery, the number of mapped wildfires will be fewer than the reported number of incidents.

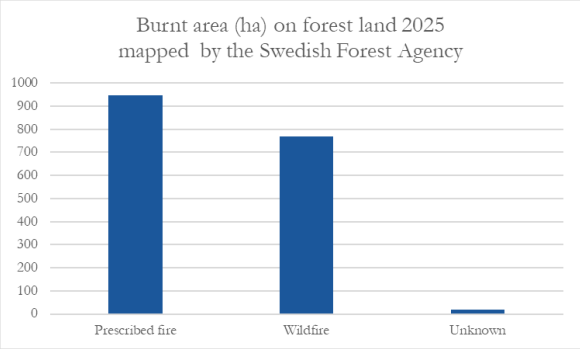
The LIFE2Taiga-project, an EU-financed project carrying out restoration of the priority habitat 9010 Western Taiga, reports 480 hectares burned by the project partners in prescribed habitat restoration burns in Natura 2000-areas in Sweden during 2025[34]. These areas are

33 https://www.skogsstyrelsen.se/globalassets/om-oss/rapporter/rapporter-2026/rapport-2026-05-skogsskador-i-sverige-2025.pdf

34 Map of project areas in LIFE2Taiga https://ext-webbgis.lansstyrelsen.se/cd35e760-0e9c-4e46-a94e-389a59c554be/

included in the mapping carried out by the Swedish Forest Agency.

Figure 145. 2025 was characterized by a dry start of the summer with good conditions for prescribed fire. The rest of the season was pretty ordinary, followed by a heatwave in the north with lightning that ignited many fires and out of which one became big.



Source: Authors of the country report for Sweden.

Fires detected by small-manned aircraft and satellites

Surveillance with small manned aircraft is performed in Sweden when the fire danger is high. These aircraft detected 87 wildfires during 2025 (in comparison with 44 during 2024) and for 43 additional (already detected) wildfires the aircrafts were used to position the fires.

Near real-time satellite detection of active fires with VIIRS satellites (NOAA-21, NOAA-20 and Suomi-NPP) has been implemented operationally in Sweden. Alerts are fully automatically sent to the national emergency dispatch and call centre (SOS Alarm) with a latency of 17 minutes on average.

During 2025, there were totally 683 satellites detections in Sweden; 92% have been verified as real fires or heat sources. 47 of totally 252 detected events were wildfires (in comparison with 35 during 2024). Furthermore, 30% of the wildfires were detected before any other alerts to the national emergency dispatch and call centre (for example from the public).

Fire causes

During 2025 almost half of the fires had unknown causes (46%) and 15% were deliberate. 13% were caused by use of fire, 6% known but not specified, 5% recreation and 5% lightning.

Climate change

During 2023 a study[35] of changes in forest fire danger under future climate scenarios was carried out by the Swedish meteorological and hydrological institute (SMHI) with fundings from the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). The results indicate a clear increase of high-risk periods of fire danger in southern Sweden and the eastern coastal land of northern Sweden.

Following this study, the Research Institute of Sweden (RISE) made a study[36] calculating the increase in both number of incidents and area burnt when comparing the years 1999-2018 with 2071-2100. The study only considered changes in climate and not potential changes in demography or efficiency with forest fire suppression. The results (at scenario RCP8.5) show an increase in both number of incidents and burnt area of 29% and 71% respectively on a national level. However, what stands out is that the relative change is the highest in the northern parts of the country, and not in the southeast where the increase of actual high-risk periods is predicted to be the highest. In Sweden it is clear that time from detection to the first response on-site is critical in keeping forest fires from becoming large.

35 https://www.mcf.se/sv/publikationer/framtida-brandrisk--forandringar-i-perioder-av-hog-brandrisk-enligt-fwi-modellen/

36 MSB dnr 2023-05749-59

Risk management in the forestry sector and preventive fire protection measures along railroads

The forestry sector is an important stakeholder for wildfire prevention and risk management in Sweden. A cross-sector working group with members from the forest industry, landowners, insurance companies, rescue services and relevant government agencies has been active since 2015, developing guidelines and information materials. The group also collects data on ignition sources from forestry activities which can be used to pin point the specific causes of ignition and target relevant preventive measures.

Ignitions from braking trains and railway maintenance are known to cause forest fires in Sweden and not seldom the fire fronts can quickly become very long. During 2025 the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency (MCF) and the Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket) have been working together to mitigate this problem. As a result, Trafikverket undertook several preventative measures, such as reducing the trains speed during high forest fire periods on strategic parts of the railroad network, where ignitions are particularly common. More, Trafikverket also conducted preventive watering measures of the terrain close to the railroad during maintenance work in high-risk periods. These measures are considered to have contributed to the fact that railway maintenance did not cause any ignitions in Sweden in 2025, despite periods of extreme high fire risks.

Preventive measures and information campaigns to the public

The mobile app[37], Fire Danger Outdoors (in Swedish: Brandrisk Ute), have been updated and made more accessible to people with different disabilities. The mobile app is available in both Swedish and English and presents current fire danger forecast and local fire bans and gives recommendations and advice on how to light a fire and barbeque safely.

Following research on wildfires, garden structure and building survival[38], Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE) and Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency (MCF) produced a fact sheet on how to protect your home against wildfires[39]. In addition, since most houses are damaged from fire during the grassfire season, a fact sheet on safe burning practices[40] was also produced. The fact sheets are available in both Swedish and English. During 2025, Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency have also published an updated brochure about lighting fires and the right of public access[41]. The brochure is available in six languages.

(Sources: Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency; Swedish Metrological and Hydrological Institute; Swedish Forestry Agency; municipal rescue services, Sweden).

37 https://www.mcf.se/en/about-us/communication-channels/the-app-brandrisk-ute-fire-danger-outdoors/

38 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0925753522002673?via%3Dihub

39 https://www.ri.se/sites/default/files/2026-03/Flyer_ProtectHome_ENG.pdf

40 https://www.ri.se/sites/default/files/2026-03/Flyer_SafeBurning_ENG.pdf

41 https://www.mcf.se/sv/publikationer/lighting-fires-and-the-right-of-public-access/

2.2.29. Switzerland

Weather conditions and state of the forests

In Switzerland, 2025 was the fourth warmest year on record.

The mild winter temperatures were mainly due to two warm spells that occurred in January and February. Between February and April 2025, precipitation levels were significantly below average across much of Switzerland. Eastern Switzerland was particularly affected by drought conditions. The lack of precipitation during this time of year caused a substantial local snow deficit in the eastern Alps. Summer was characterized by a heat wave in June and August. In June, high temperatures were recorded during three multi-day warm spells, during which daily maximum temperatures in the lowlands rose well above 30 °C. In July several severe thunderstorms and heavy rainfall on both sides of the Alps occurred. The slightly warmer-than-average September was followed by a cool October and a near-average November. December began with temperatures close to the seasonal norm. After the first week, however, conditions became significantly milder. The snow cover that had formed in November, particularly abundant in the western Alps, completely melted due to the mild temperatures, rainfall at high elevations, and at times strong southwesterly winds at mid-altitudes.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

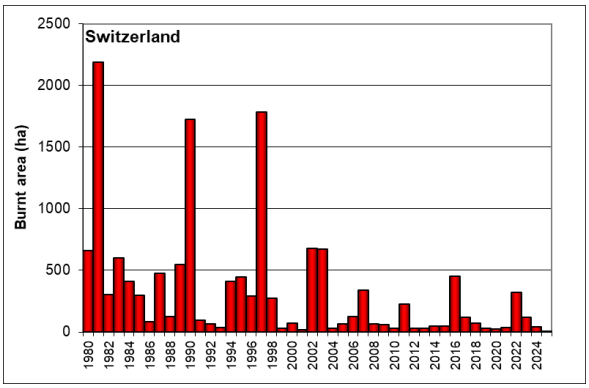
Despite favourable wildfire conditions, fire activity remained limited during the first half of 2025, with mostly small fires occurring on the northern side of the Alps. Fire activity increased following the June heatwave in Alpine regions. After a rainy July lightning-caused fires increased in frequency in August.

In total, 103 known wildfires burnt 8 hectares in 2025.

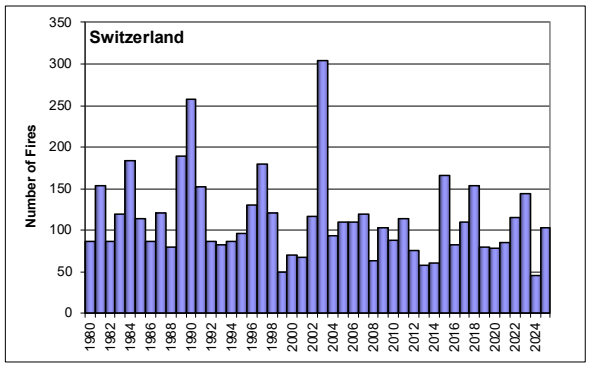
The summer half year was the season with most wildfires (69 in total) and a total burnt area of 3.4 ha. In the winter season 34 wildfires occurred for an area burnt of 5.2 ha.

The fire trends for the years 1980 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 146** and **Figure 147**.

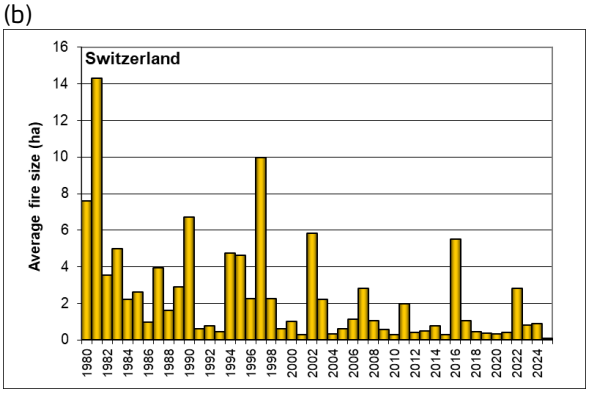
Figure 146. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Switzerland for 1980-2025.



(a)



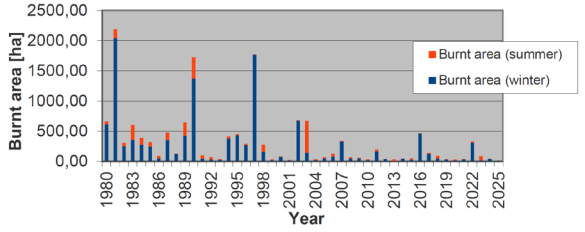
(b)



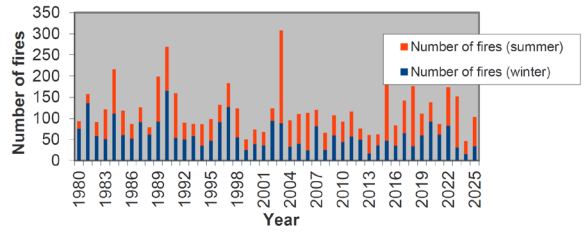
(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for Switzerland.

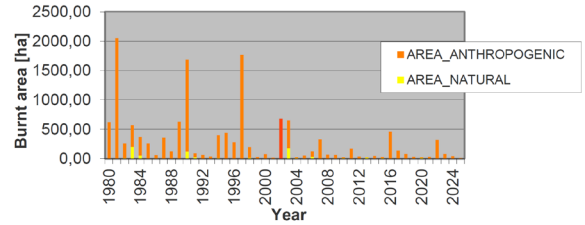
Figure 147. Burnt areas (a) and number of fires (b) in summer/winter; burnt areas (c) and number of fires (d) anthropogenic/natural in Switzerland for 1980-2025.



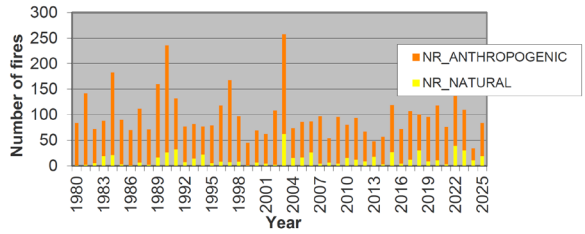
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

Source: Authors of the country report for Switzerland.

Fire causes

The main cause of the wildfires was negligence, whereas in summer 2025, 19 lighting-ignited wildfires occurred.

Fire prevention activity

Due to the spring drought of 2025, authorities in southern and western Switzerland imposed a fire ban in March to April, with wildfire danger reaching level 4 out of 5.

In the Alpine regions of the Canton of Valais, a fire ban was enforced from August to September due to persistent drought conditions and a heatwave, with wildfire danger reaching the maximum level (5/5) for several consecutive weeks.

Injuries and loss of human lives

No loss of life or major damage to buildings were reported in 2025.

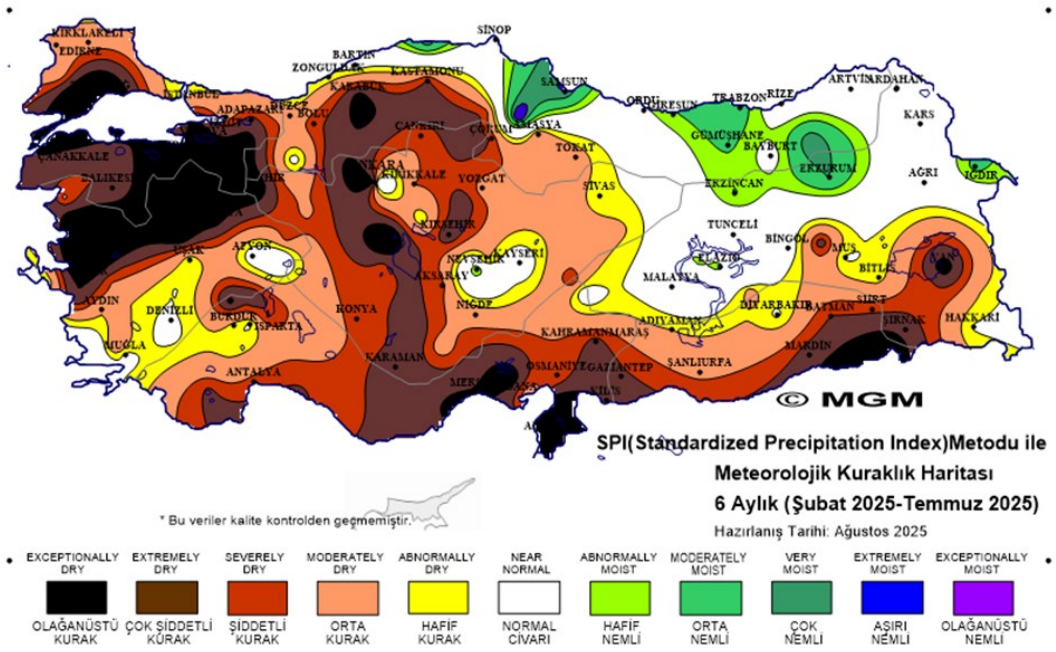
(Sources: Federal Office for the Environment FOEN; Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL (SwissFire database); MeteoSwiss (MétéoSuisse 2025: Klimabulletin 2025, Zürich), Switzerland).

2.2.30. Türkiye

Fire danger

Due to the extreme drought experienced during the pre-season, as seen on the map, and the adverse meteorological conditions, both the number and total area of forest fires increased in 2025 compared to the previous year. In 2025, the average area lost per fire rose by 18.1 hectares, reaching 25.3 hectares per fire.

Figure 148. Türkiye Drought Map.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

In Türkiye, the coastline, which starts from Hatay and extends through the Mediterranean and Aegean up to Istanbul, has the highest fire risk; in other words, approximately 64% (15 Mha) of Türkiye's forest area is located in fire sensitive areas.

Figure 149. Türkiye Forest Fire Sensitive Map.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

According to data derived from the General Directorate of Forestry, Department of Forest Fire Combating, in 2025 the total burnt area was 81 473 hectares. The number of fires was 3 224 in the same year.

Forest fires occurred mostly in March-December, especially in June, July, August and September. When we look at the number of forest fires, 746 fires in July and 38.079 ha are the highest in july. 71% of forest fires occurred in four months (between June and September) and 80.850 hectares of forest area were damaged during this period.

Table 61. Monthly distribution of forest fires in Türkiye 2025.

Month	Number of Fires	Burnt Area (ha)
Jan	53	16
Feb	55	14
Mar	238	220
Apr	75	13
May	186	66
Jun	588	19.521
Jul	746	38.079
Aug	530	19.170
Sep	425	4.080
Oct	117	63
Nov	185	227
Dec	26	4
TOTAL	**3 224**	**81 473**

Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

Table 62 gives the forest fire statistics for Türkiye 1990—2025.

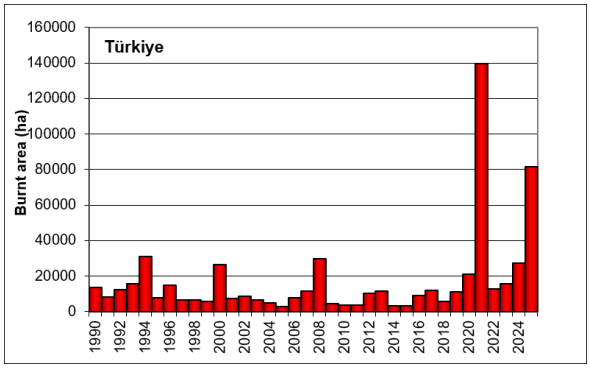
The yearly trends in terms of burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size in Türkiye for the years 1990 to 2025 are shown in **Figure 150**.

Table 62. Forest fires in Türkiye 1990-2025.

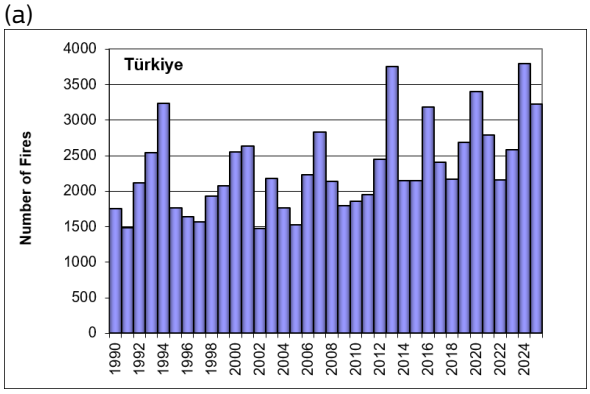
Year	Fire Number	Burnt Area (ha)
1990	1 750	13 742
1991	1 481	8 081
1992	2 117	12 232
1993	2 545	15 693
1994	3 239	30 828
1995	1 770	7 676
1996	1 645	14 922
1997	1 569	6 517
1998	1 932	6 764
1999	2 075	5 804
2000	2 555	26 653
2001	2 631	7 394
2002	1 471	8 514
2003	2 177	6 644
2004	1 762	4 876
2005	1 530	2 821
2006	2 227	7 762
2007	2 829	11 664
2008	2 135	29 749
2009	1 793	4 679
2010	1 861	3 517
2011	1 954	3 612
2012	2 450	10 455
2013	3 755	11 456
2014	2 149	3 117
2015	2 150	3 219
2016	3 188	9 156
2017	2 411	11 992
2018	2 167	5 644
2019	2 688	11 332
2020	3 399	20 971
2021	2 793	139 503
2022	2 160	12 799
2023	2 579	15 520
2024	3 797	27 485
2025	3224	81 473

Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

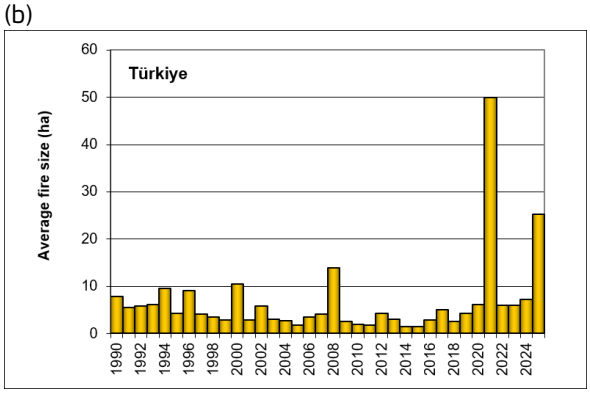
Figure 150. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in Türkiye from 1990 to 2025.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

In addition to forest fire, General Directorate of Forest has been intervening in agriculture fires (**Figure 152**) for the recent years, which is about 4 285 non- forest incidents in 2025.

Table 63. The most notable forest fires for 2025.

No	Date	Region	Affected Area (ha)
1	20.07.2025	Osmaneli, Bilecik	7.431
2	13.08.2025	Silike, Mersin	5.164
3	26.07.2025	Harmancık, Bursa	4.186
4	15.07.2025	Şarköy, Tekirdağ	4.022
5	29.06.2025	Menderes, İzmir	3.862

Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

Fire causes

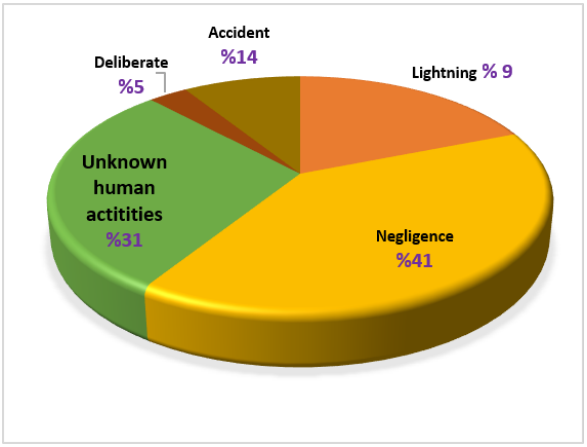
In Türkiye, 78% of forest fires take place in forested areas up to 400 meter altitude.

These areas are:

- High populated areas
- Areas of high migration
- Areas where there are valuable lands
- Places with cadastral problems
- Tourism areas.

Most of the fires in Türkiye were caused by human activities (91%) The causes of forest fires in 2025 are shown in **Figure 151**.

Figure 151. Fire causes in Türkiye in 2024.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

Figure 152. Agriculture fire in Türkiye.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

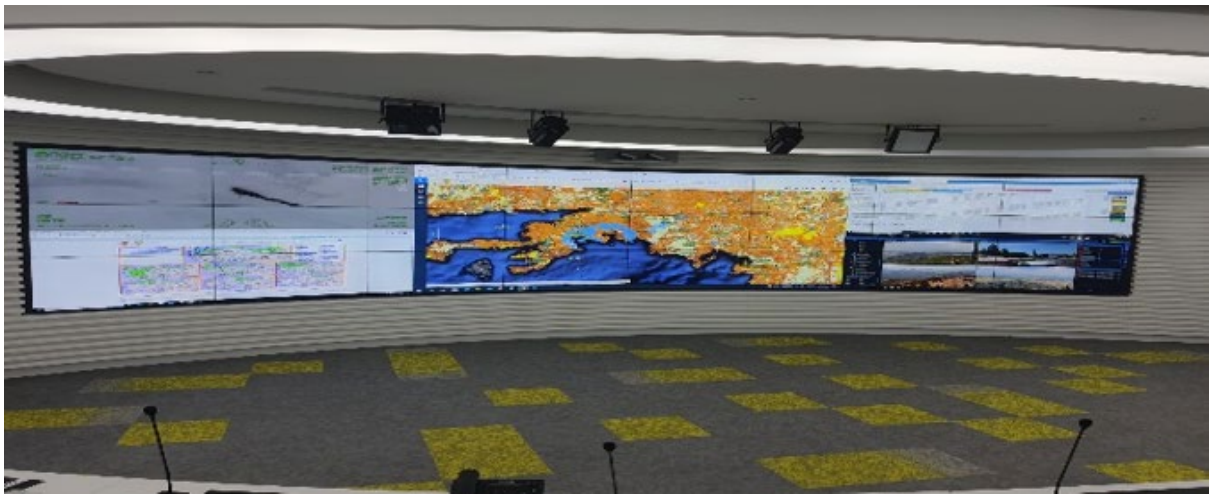
Fire management

Fire management in Türkiye is carried out under the responsibility of the General Directorate of Forest (GDF). Duties are carried out by state forest enterprises functioning under regional directorates.

Regardless of the high costs involved, all required activities are planned and implemented immediately.

Fire management deals mainly with activities concerning early detection, prevention and control.

Figure 153. Fire Management Center in Ankara.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

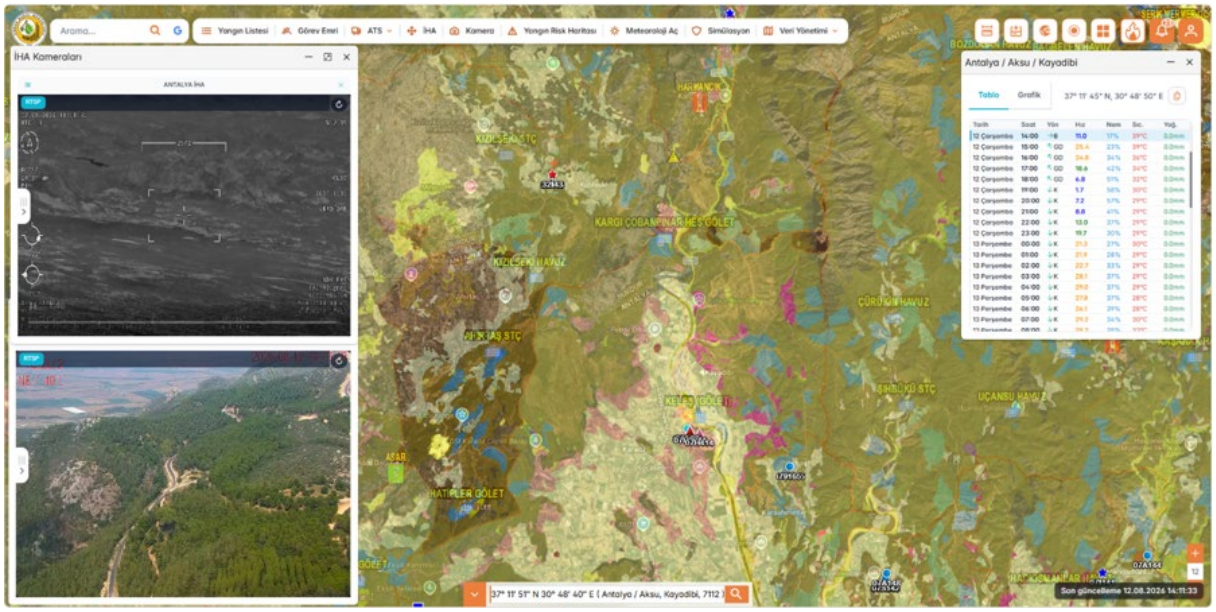
The most important factor that brings success in forest fires is early notice of forest fires, then early and effective response to the fire.

Türkiye is one of the countries that uses new generation technologies most effectively like artificial intelligence and machine learning in forest fires. In case of combating forest fires, Türkiye uses cameras, UAV (Unmanned aerial

vehicles) and Decision Support System (supported with artificial intelligence) to help spot and manage them.

With the Decision Support System, the probability of fire is estimated and possible causes of forest fires are determined. The infrastructure of this system consists of the behaviour patterns of forest fires that have occurred from the past to the present, the experience of the employees and the technical studies of the scientists. By integrating these into the system, a fire behaviour prediction system is formed and the predicted response methods against possible fires are modelled in real time by combining machine learning and artificial intelligence support. This system supports managers in the coordination and decision making of forest fires.

Figure 154. Decision Support System.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

Early Fire Warning Systems

So far, total of 776 fire towers have been built to detect fire report to firefighting teams. With 368 cameras at 184 points, fire detected in our forest in the fire sensitive zone area reported to the fire management centres and team are sent. In addition, forest fires are detected early thanks to 81 unmanned towers equipped with cameras and software.

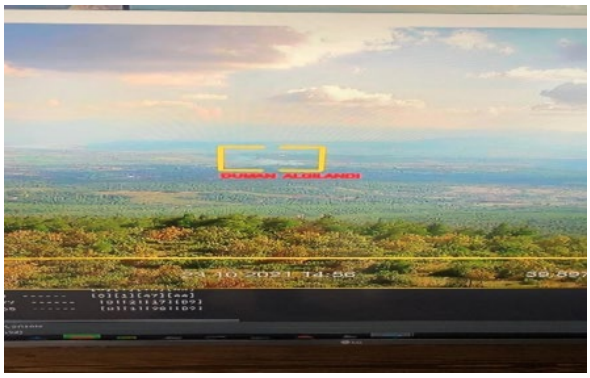
The system enables rapid detection of forest fire to visible range optical cameras. (Fire Management Centres can also monitor the progress through these cameras).

Figure 155. Fire tower.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

Figure 156. The camera images from fire towers.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

We have 14 UAVs stationed in Muğla, Manisa, Antalya, Adana, Kütahya, Mersin and Çanakkale, and during the fire season, the UAVs make continuous observations for fire detection and fire management. With the UAV, 3 million hectares of land can be scanned against fires in 1 minute. Base stations have been installed on UAVs in order to meet the communication needs in places where there is no GSM coverage area.

Fire detection can be done easily with thermal cameras. Thermal cameras have been found to be very useful for dangers in the ongoing fires at the decision stage. With these tools, he guided the managers in the detection and management of forest fires.

Figure 157. The camera images from unmanned aircraft.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

Construction of Pools and Ponds

During 2025, for the purpose of shortening the periods of forest fire attack in areas where water sources are scarce, 4 852 fire pools and ponds were used. With these water sources, the water intake times of the helicopters were shortened.

Figure 158. Fire pools and ponds.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

Fire fighting means

In 2025, 28 065 personnel participated in fire detection, communication and extinguishing activities.

Ground and air equipment used in firefighting in 2024 are as in **Table 64**.

Table 64. Firefighting means in 2025.

Bulldozer	221	Leased Helicopters	82
Grader	309	Aircraft	15
Fire Truck	1 561	Leased aircraft	11
Water Tank	392	Reserve helicopter	28
First intervention vehicle	2 766	Staff	28 065
Helicopters	9	Volunteer	132 000

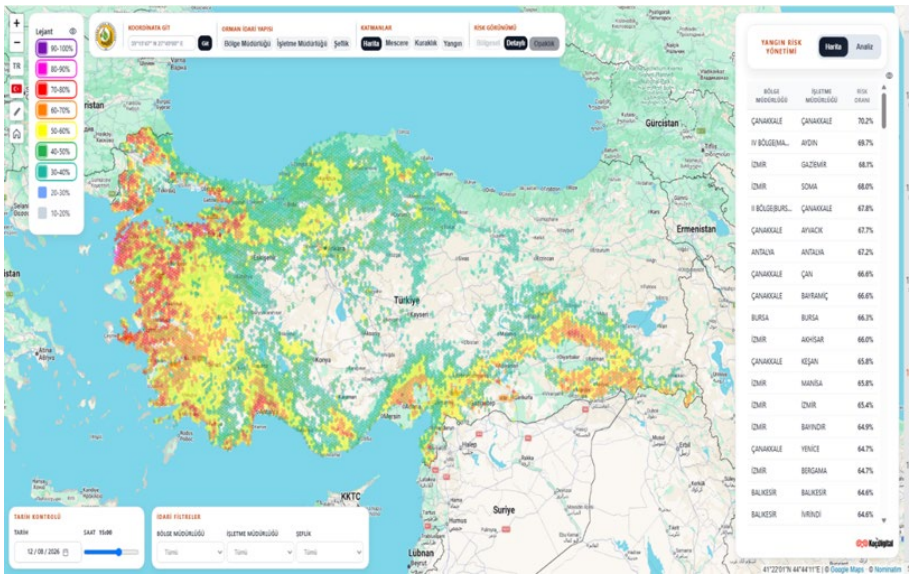
Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

Preventive measures

MEUS (Meteorological Early Warning System)

Risk maps that use artificial intelligence to predict fire risk seven days in advance—based on temperature, wind, humidity, topography, type of combustible material, drought, and many other parameters—were developed and put into use (in 2026).

Figure 159. Example of daily fire risk map.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

Fire prevention technical studies include:

- Construction of fire prevention facilities: between settlements or agricultural areas and forests, strips are created with fire resistant species. Thus, fires originating from settlements or agricultural lands are prevented from spreading to forests.
- By making silvicultural interventions in forests, it is ensured that the combustible material is reduced and the forests become resistant to fire.
- Fire safety roads and lanes are built and these lanes are maintained every year. In this way, physical barriers are created against forest fires on the one hand, and new fronts are created where fire can be intervened on the other.
- In order to reduce the combustible material load of our forests, cleaning of combustible materials on the roadsides and pruning of trees are carried out.

Figure 160. Preventive measures in Türkiye.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

Education, public awareness and information campaigns

Several education/training and awareness raising campaigns have been carried out.

A Fire Expert Training Program has been put into effect for personnel who will take charge in forest fires. Subjects such as fire-fighting methods, application of fire-use, first aid etc., have been given to technical staff in this training program.

Figure 161. International Forestry Training Centre in Antalya, Türkiye.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

In Antalya International Forestry Training Center for Personnel Training (

Figure 161), a total of 4 300 OGM personnel were trained, including 1 248 forest engineers for Fire Specialization Training, 1 073 sprinkler operators for advanced driving techniques, and 1 979 forest guards. Within the scope of the Fire Management System Training, 260 people from 21 different countries were trained, and 744 people were trained within the scope of other trainings. A total of 5 270 people received training at the Training Center.

Awareness-raising activities for target groups.

Figure 162. Awareness-raising activities in schools.



Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye.

Awareness-raising activities at national level

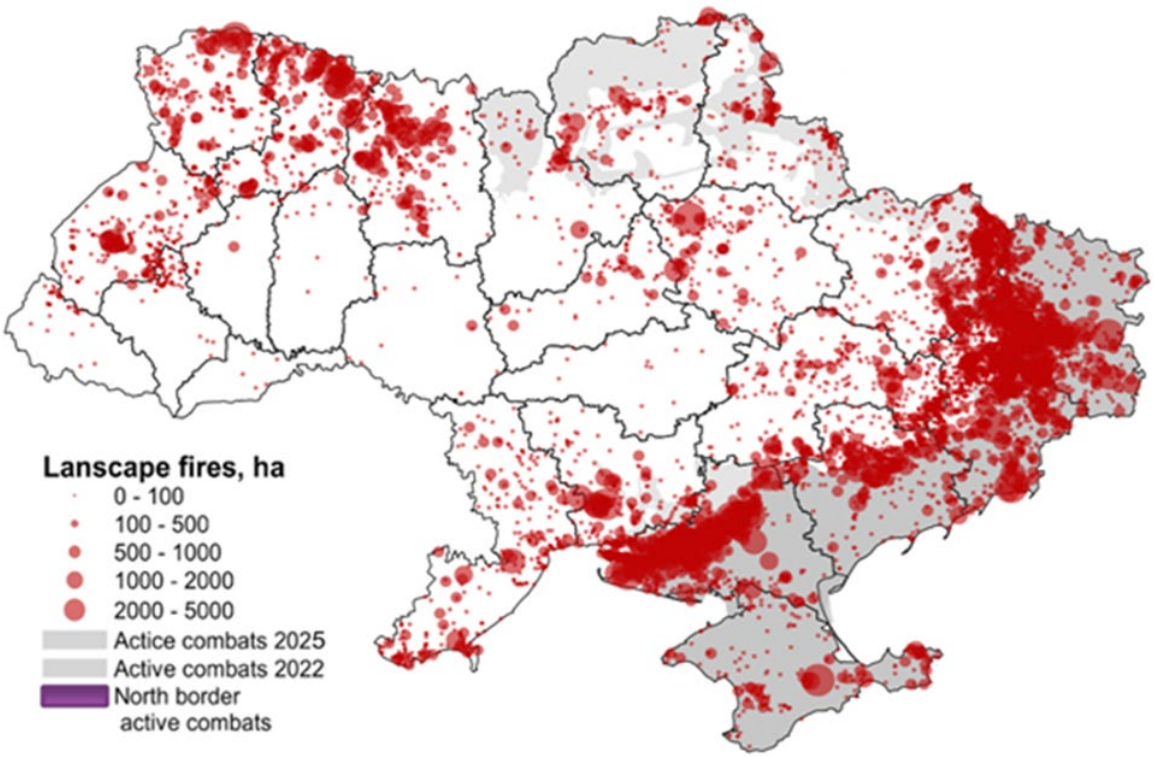
- Activities for specific days and weeks. (e.g. World Forestry Day)
- Coordination meetings with local authorities
- Cooperation with radio and television channels
- Cooperation with media and voluntary organizations
- Training of personnel working in travel agencies and tourist facilities in fire risk areas about forest fires and the preventative measures needed to be taken
- Training of soldiers and local fire departments.
- We reach our citizens through education and awareness-raising activities in schools throughout the year.

(Source: General Directorate of Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye).

2.2.31. Ukraine

Through 2025 – fourth year of full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation and active combats continue to be the primary driver affecting spatial and temporal trends in landscape fire distribution. Usually (before war) the largest forest fires in Ukraine occurred in locations where pine forests dominate. Last four years (2022-2025) spatial distribution of forest fires was determined mostly by the proximity to the front line and the combat intensity (**Figure 163**) and partly by UXO / mine pollution. In 2025, however, a substantial number of landscape fires, including forest fires, also occurred in the north-western regions of Ukraine due to unusually dry weather conditions persisting throughout the fire season, combined with an order-of-magnitude increase in ignition sources across the landscape associated with intensified long-range Russian attacks using unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

Figure 163. Landscape fires spatial distribution in 2025, based on European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) data.



Source: Authors of the country report for Ukraine based on EFFIS data.

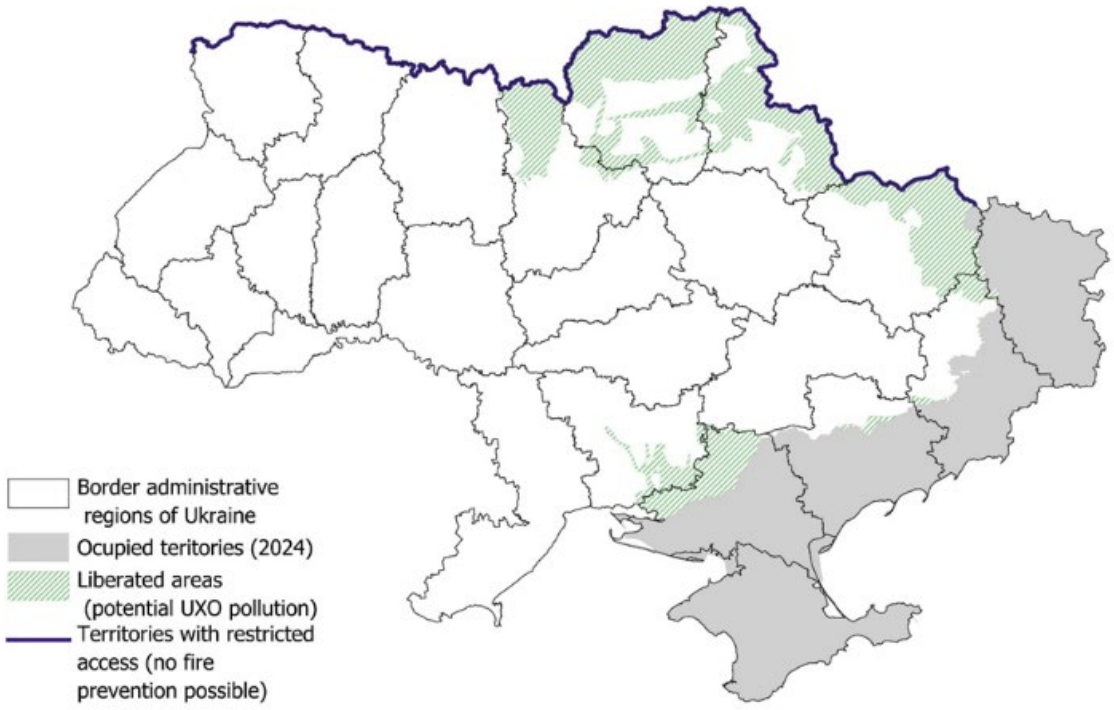
In 2025, we continue reporting significant impact of war to fire regime in Ukraine. Large areas of forest lands in Ukraine remain without fire prevention treatments and without any protection due to height risk to firefighter's lives, especially in occupied territories and areas close to the frontline.

By the end of 2025 over 0.9 million hectares of forests that are managed by forest enterprises, institutions and organizations that are coordinated by the State Forest Resources Agency in the territory controlled by Ukraine were designated as impacted by war (potentially has UXO pollution). Demining activities are ongoing in the territories liberated

from occupation. As of the end of 2025, 83.2 thousand hectares had been surveyed. At the same time, approximately 450 thousand hectares of forest land remain potentially contaminated with explosive ordnance and require detailed survey and clearance. This situation still had a serious impact on fire management effectiveness in Ukraine for now and potentially for decades in advance. The situation regarding forests contamination by UXO on temporally occupied territories of the forest fund (Autonomous Republic of Crimea, part of Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv and Kherson regions) remains unknown.

Access to parts of the forest fund territories along Ukraine's northern border is also restricted, in particular within Volyn, Rivne, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Sumy regions bordering the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation (**Figure 164**).

Figure 164. Map of Ukraine showing areas with restricted or no access for forest fire suppression and fire prevention.



Source: Authors of the country report for Ukraine.

Suppression of forest fires in the initial stage is usually the responsibility of the appropriate departments of forestry enterprises (branches of SE "Forests of Ukraine"). Usually if there is a threat of a large forest fire, units from the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, regional state administrations and other services are involved within their competence in order to extinguish the fire. Despite this the implementation of Martial Law by the Ukrainian Parliament in February 2022 changed situation with a scale of involvement of this services for large wildfires suppression – firefighters from the State Emergency Service of Ukraine have priority for fast response on fires in cities, towns and villages and fires connected with critical and civil infrastructure that are still remain the prime target for Russian missile and

rocket attacks. During the 2025 fire season interagency cooperation intensively improved: with the more active involvement of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) – 685 forest fires were extinguished, accounting for 55% of all forest fire cases.

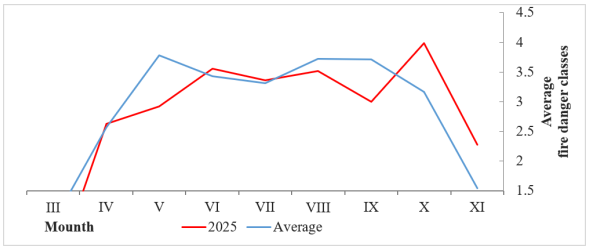
Significant amount of foresters every 7th that were involved in fire prevention and suppression activity had joined the Ukrainian Military Forces; as a result highly experienced personnel were temporally excluded from fire protection system.

During 2025 wildfires, occurred mainly in the War zone regions (Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, Zaporizzya directions). Distribution of fires were caused by changes in the nature of hostilities in 2024 with the transition to positional war and battlefront line became more stable compared to 2022 (it should be noted that new front line was open in north-east part of Ukraine – Kharkiv and Sumy regions), there was a significant increase in the density of fires near the frontline (this "kill zone" also were extend from up to 20 km in 2023 to up to 40 km buffer zone in 2025). At the same, time more and more fires occurred far away from frontline, in relatively safe regions due to increase in ignition sources across the landscape associated with intensified long-range Russian attacks using unmanned aerial systems (UAS).

Fire danger

Weather conditions in 2025 contributed to an early onset and prolonged duration of the fire season (**Figure 165**). The preconditions for this developed during winter, when precipitation was approximately 20% below the long-term average and the duration of persistent snow cover was considerably shorter than usual. The lack of snow combined with anomalously warm weather in March resulted in the early drying of fine dead fuels across natural landscapes. Consequently, conditions conducive to wildfire ignition developed as early as March, approximately one month earlier than the usual onset of the fire season.

Figure 165. Average fire danger classes by national KPN index in Ukraine during 2024 compared to average.



Source: Authors of the country report for Ukraine.

During April and May, relatively high air temperatures persisted alongside a precipitation deficit. The progressive drying of wildland fuels created increasingly favourable conditions for fire ignition and spread. Particularly hazardous were periods when dry weather coincided with stronger winds, allowing even small or localized ignitions to spread rapidly over larger areas.

Throughout the summer, fire danger remained high. Prolonged periods of high temperatures combined with insufficient precipitation resulted in a substantial increase in fire danger. In some regions, the situation was further aggravated by strong and gusty winds. A notable feature of 2025 was the occurrence of anomalously dry conditions in western and north-western Ukraine, where prolonged drought conditions of this magnitude are less typical. In the Carpathian region, anomalously dry weather persisted for approximately two months, with only localized precipitation, while in early July temperatures in Zakarpattia reached 35 °C on some days.

The most critical conditions for the development of large wildfires occurred in July, when persistent drought combined with high air temperatures created highly favourable conditions for rapid fire spread. Localized rainfall provided only temporary relief and was insufficient to substantially increase fuel moisture. In August, hot and predominantly dry weather continued to maintain high fire danger.

The fire season remained active into early autumn. September was warm and dry, while

the cumulative summer moisture deficit maintained very low live and dead fuel moisture levels. As a result, fire danger in September remained comparable to that observed during the summer months.

A substantial reduction in fire danger occurred only in October. Increased precipitation, combined with a sustained decline in air temperature, resulted in the rewetting of soils and fuels and consequently a sharp reduction in fire danger. In November, further cooling, persistently high soil moisture, and the onset of seasonal frosts effectively brought the active fire season to an end.

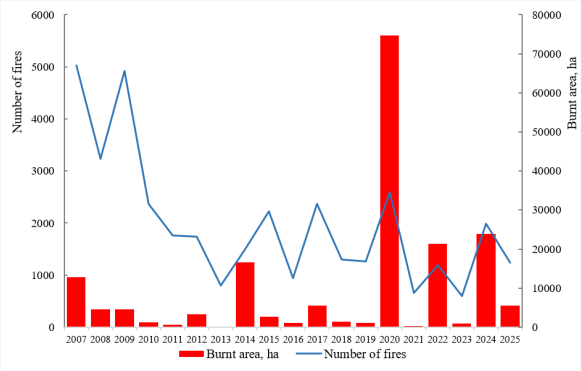
Overall, 2025 was characterized by a low-snow winter, an early and warm spring, precipitation deficits, prolonged summer droughts, and a dry first half of autumn. These conditions resulted in an early onset of the fire season and maintained elevated fire danger from March through the end of September. Only sustained precipitation and lower temperatures in October brought the active phase of the fire season to an end.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

Fire monitoring was carried out without taking into account a large part of the forests (in particular, Zaporizhzhya, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Donetsk, Kherson and other regions), where military operations were conducted, and part of the territories of these regions are currently under the control of the occupiers. Due to this, total burnt area will be corrected only after the liberation and demining of temporarily occupied territories. The fire statistics comes only from enterprises that are under subordination of State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine (73% of all forests).

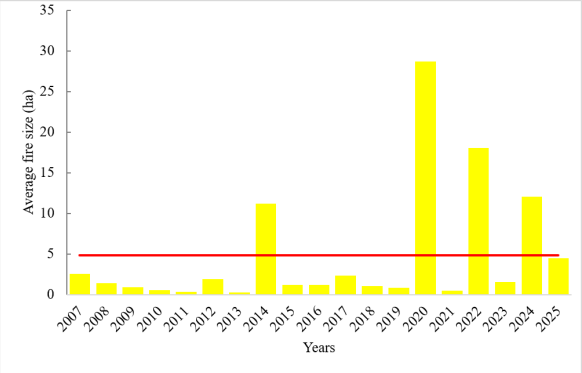
In 2025, on controlled by Ukrainian government forests – 1 238 fires with the total burnt area of 5 565.48 hectares were recorded in the forests belonging to the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine (**Figure 166**). The average area of one fire amounted to 4.49 ha (**Figure 167**).

Figure 166. Burnt areas and number of in Ukraine from 2007 to 2025 (official statistics is available only from liberated areas and only after verification by ground teams, so the real burnt area is much larger).



Source: Authors of the country report for Ukraine.

Figure 167. Average fire size in Ukraine from 2007 to 2025 (official statistics is available only from liberated areas and only after verification by ground teams, so the real burnt area is much larger).



Source: Authors of the country report for Ukraine.

The highest number of forest fires was recorded in Kharkiv region (308 cases with a burned area of 2 074.19 ha), Kyiv region (170 cases with a burned area of 109.91 ha), Dnipropetrovsk region (128 cases with a burned area of 118.95 ha), Donetsk region (100 cases with a burned area of 1 996.74 ha), and Chernihiv region (96 cases with a burned area of 68.78 ha). Together, these regions accounted for approximately 65% of the total number of forest fires and 79% of the total burned area.

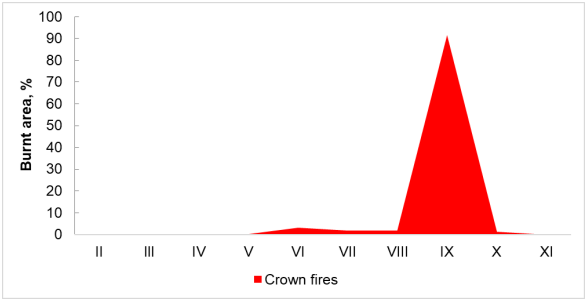
During 2025 fire season, a total of 19 emergency events caused by forest fires were

recorded on 2 803.6 ha of forests, including: Kharkiv region – 9 fires covering 897.6 ha, of which 28.0 ha were crown fires; Donetsk region – 5 fires covering 1 557.0 ha; Cherkaska region – 1 emergencies that damaged 123.3 ha of forests, including 15.5 ha of crown fires.

At the same time, it is currently impossible to fully assess and include all forest fires in the database due to security factors. Therefore, the data are planned to be adjusted after the end of hostilities and the liberation and demining of temporarily occupied territories.

In the course of 2025, a total of 121 large forest fires were recorded within the forestry sector, affecting a total area of 4 420.6 ha, including 98.4 ha of crown fires (**Figure 168**).

Figure 168. Crown fires distribution by month in 2024 fire season in Ukraine.



Source: Authors of the country report for Ukraine.

The largest number of large forest fires occurred in Kharkiv region (63 fires; 1 783.2 ha) and Donetsk region (23 fires; 1 868.0 ha) (**Figure 169**). Together, these two regions accounted for approximately 71% of all large forest fires and 83% of the total area affected by large fires.

Figure 169. Forest fire in Donetsk region (up to 1400 ha), August 2025.

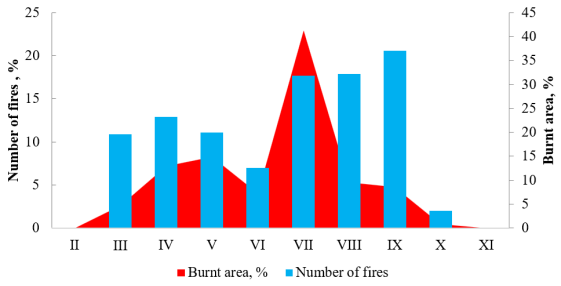


Source: State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU).

Forest fire activity in 2025 peaked during the summer and early autumn. The highest number of fires was recorded in September (254 fires; 20.5% of the annual total), followed by August (221; 17.9%) and July (218; 17.6%). However, July was by far the most severe month in terms of burned area, accounting for 2 296.8 ha, or 41.3% of the total annual burned area. In comparison, the large number of fires recorded in August and September resulted in

considerably smaller burned areas of 529.3 ha (9.5%) and 479.4 ha (8.6%), respectively. This indicates that the most favourable conditions for the development and spread of large forest fires occurred in July, when prolonged drought, dry fuels coincided with a high number of ignition sources because of war.

Figure 170. Number of fires and burnt area distribution by month in 2025 fire season.



Source: Authors of the country report for Ukraine.

Fire causes

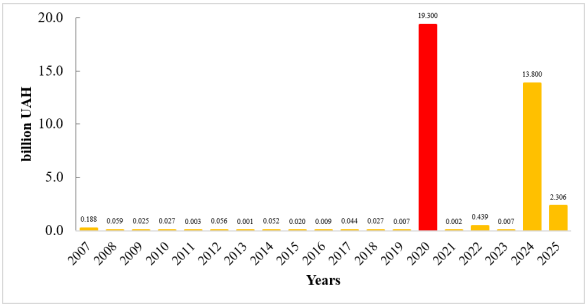
During the last decade, the majority of forest fires (more than 85%) was caused mainly by the negligence of local people. The main cause of forest fires was the violation of the fire safety requirements in forests during the fire season. But last 4 years in a row the main cause of forest fires was the ignitions as a result of active hostilities, and shelling, as well as the presence of UXO and their detonation in the forested lands, 62% of all forest fires – in 2022; 48% in 2023; 45% in 2024 and 45% in 2025 were still ignitions in the forest stands resulting from Russian aggression (45%). Significant share from those fires were started after a Russian strike UAVs (Shahed/Geran) that often caused a forest fire upon detonation. For instance, more than 100 thousands UAVs of this type were launched by Russia against the territory of Ukraine throughout 2025. Most of them were either shot down by the defense forces or lost in location. The falling fragments of such UAVs often become a source of ignitions in forests and open landscapes.

The share of forest fires caused by the negligence of local people was around 35%, while other causes account for 20%

Economic losses

The economic losses caused by forest fires are shown in **Figure 171**. In 2025, economic losses from forest fires were 2.3 billion UAH, significantly lower than in 2024 (13.8 billion UAH), but still remained well above the long-term average (1.9 billion UAH). The difference is particularly pronounced compared with the period before the beginning of Russia's aggression against Ukraine in 2014, when annual economic losses from forest fires were substantially lower (0.05 billion UAH).

Figure 171. Economic losses caused by forest fires.

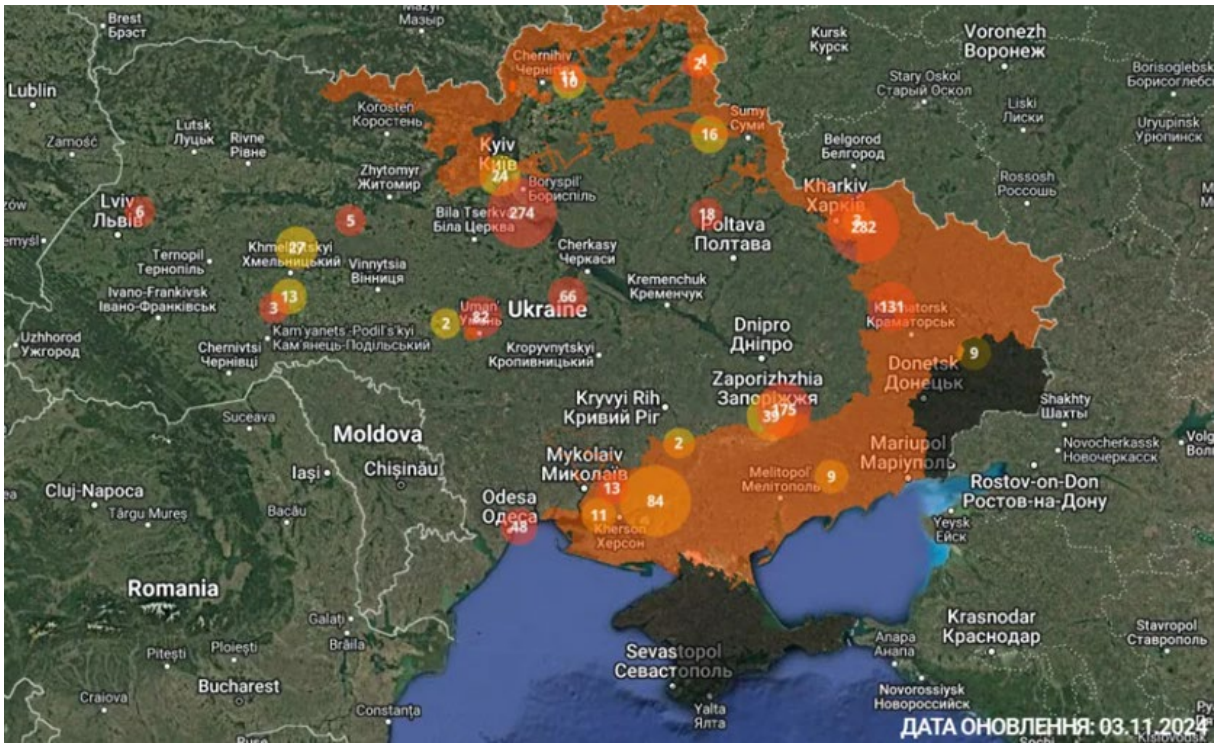


Source: The State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine and State Service of Statistics.

Fire fighting means and fire prevention activities

A vast proportion of Ukraine's forested areas remain untreated and unprotected from fire with a limited fire prevention posibility due to the extreme risks to firefighters' lives posed by landmines and unexploded ordnance, particularly in territories near the frontline and in areas under occupation (**Figure 172**).

Figure 172. Map of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) showing potentially contaminated areas with UXO/mines.



Source: https://deminingua.com/karta-rozminuvannya.

In the territories liberated from the occupation of the russian federation, demining activities are currently underway. As of the end of 2025, a total of 83.2 thousand hectares have been cleared (surveyed). SE “Forests of Ukraine” is actively demining forest areas by engaging contractors through open tenders, which strengthens forest fire prevention and opens opportunities for large-scale international projects.

At the same time, by the end of the year, approximately 450 thousand hectares of forest lands remained potentially contaminated with UXO and required detailed surveys and clearance. The demining of forests is further complicated by their classification under the third priority category out of three existing ones, which places them below critical infrastructure and agricultural lands in terms of urgency. As a result, the process of clearing forests from mines and UXO may take decades, restricting access to natural resources and recreational areas.

Ongoing shelling in or near combat zones prevents the full assessment of forest damage by fires, meaning that the overall extent of damage will continue to grow due to the inability to conduct surveys in occupied and mined areas.

Once the situation normalizes in territories that were liberated from temporary occupation, forestry enterprises carry out the following priority actions:

- inventory of forest stands to assess fire damage during occupation period;
- inventory of fire-fighting vehicles, equipment, and tools;
- restoration of the forest fire protection system;
- a set of measures aimed at protecting forests from fires, damage, weakening, and other harmful impacts, including pests and diseases;

— restoration of State Forest Protection Service (Forest Guards).

One of the main tools for addressing forest fires in Ukraine is the network of fire observation towers. These structures enable surveillance of large areas of forest land, contributing to the timely detection of ignitions. Currently, Ukraine operates a network of 460 (26 were destroyed during a year as a result of military activities) fire observation towers, of which 387 are equipped with modern television monitoring systems for the rapid detection of forest fires. In addition, to enhance accuracy and timeliness, the State Forest Resources Agency have started to use satellite imagery to identify thermal anomalies within forest areas. These data help to detect ignitions even in remote or hard-to-access regions, particularly those not covered by fire observation towers.

Furthermore, enterprises, institutions, and organizations in the forestry sector actively participate in extinguishing fires occurring in natural ecosystems outside forest lands (fields, meadows, peatlands, dumps, agricultural lands, etc.). To prevent the occurrence of forest fires, 2.5 km of wide fuel breaks and 39.7 thousand km of narrow firebreaks (up to 5 m width) were established, and 187.6 thousand km were maintained. In addition, 5700 visual fire-prevention posters were installed. Public outreach included 1including 23 on television and 33 on radio), 233 published articles, and 8 100 lectures and discussions. The State Forest Guard conducted approximately 9 400 patrols to ensure compliance with the Fire Safety Rules in the Forests of Ukraine.

To improve visitor control and reduce potential fire sources in forests, within the framework of the nationwide recreation development program, the State Enterprise “Forests of Ukraine” established 40 new standard recreational sites, additionally, 10 sites were reconstructed in 2025. Currently, approximately 1 200 recreational sites are available in forests. It is planned to create five categories of recreation facilities across the country - ranging from small, basic sites to complexes with full infrastructure. The design follows a modular approach based on standardized small architectural forms, ensuring high fire safety standards and enhanced fire-prevention measures in buffer zones surrounding these sites. During a year, these recreational facilities were visited by over 2 million people.

Fire research

Wildfire research in Ukraine has increasingly shifted towards understanding the impacts of war on fire regimes and forest ecosystems. Current studies focus on war-related ignitions, changes in fire occurrence and spatial patterns, restricted suppression due to active hostilities and UXO contamination, and the resulting environmental and economic impacts. Remote sensing and spatial analysis have therefore become particularly important for monitoring fires and assessing damage in inaccessible and war-affected territories:.

Development of Innovative Web Tools for Improving Wildfire Safety of Rural Populations, Landscapes and Forest Fire Brigades in the Region of HALO Trust Tasks in Ukraine / *Zibtsev S., Myroniuk V., Holiaka D., Bogomolov V., Vasylyshyn R., Roth B., Zibtseva I., Soshenskyi O. Regional Eastern Europe Fire Monitoring Center (REEFMC), National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine (NUBIP).*

The project focuses on the development of innovative web-based tools to improve wildfire risk assessment and enhance the safety of rural communities, landscapes, and forest fire brigades in areas where The HALO Trust operates in Ukraine. A key project output is a high-resolution (100 m) fuel type map and an improved Daily Fire Hazard Index (DFHI) adapted to Ukraine’s diverse ecological conditions. Using multi-year Sentinel-2 satellite time series, Continuous Change Detection and Classification (CCDC), and Random Forest classification, the project mapped land cover, dominant tree species, and fire-relevant fuel types, achieving an overall land-cover classification accuracy of 84%, with particularly high reliability for fire-prone pine forests.

The project also improves the estimation of fuel moisture within the DFHI by introducing a logistic-based moisture model with internal "memory", which better represents temporal changes and inertia in forest litter moisture. The resulting web-based product provides spatially explicit information on fuels and daily fire hazard, supporting wildfire risk assessment, operational safety in areas affected by mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO), environmental protection, and community resilience, while providing practical decision-support information for HALO Trust operations and wildfire management in Ukraine.

Wildfires of war in Ukraine: Implications for fire governance in a changing world. *Sydorenko S., Kaczmarowski J., Newman Thacker F., Warner J.F., Sydorenko S., Stoof C.R. Ambio, 2026.*

The article examines how war and armed conflict reshape wildfire regimes through both direct and indirect mechanisms. It demonstrates how military activities increase ignition sources, while land abandonment, displacement, destruction of forests and fire-management infrastructure, and contamination with mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) increase fuel loads and reduce fire prevention and suppression capacity.

The study also highlights broader cascading impacts of war-related wildfires, including smoke exposure, contaminant redistribution, greenhouse gas emissions, forest degradation, and changes in agricultural landscapes and shelterbelts (**Figure 173**).

Figure 173. War and conflict affect fire regimes both directly and indirectly, making it easier for wildfires to start, spread, and posing risks to human and ecosystem health and well-being. The artwork's peace dove and warm colours are intended to give hope in dark times.



Source: design by artist Sofiia Sydorenko (11 years old) and artist Anastasiia Fenenko (final design), based in the Poltava region, Ukraine.

The article proposes four key directions for improving fire governance in conflict-affected landscapes: recognizing war-related wildfire impacts in fire governance; systematically collecting data to support environmental damage assessment, ecocide claims and restoration; adapting fire management through risk-based fuel management, demining and specialized training; and strengthening the capacity of affected communities and professionals. These recommendations provide a framework for integrating wildfire risk reduction into post-war forest and landscape restoration and recovery planning in Ukraine and other conflict-affected regions.

Assessment of the Impact of Military Actions on Forest Fire Occurrence and Fire Density / *Sydorenko S.H., Melnyk Ye.Ye., Kharkiv: URIFFM, 2025. 20 p.*

The document presents methodological approaches for assessing war-induced changes in forest fire occurrence and landscape fire density in Ukraine during the full-scale Russian invasion. The assessment is based on a comprehensive spatial and temporal analysis of remote sensing data, including EFFIS fire perimeters verified using Sentinel-2 imagery, and examines burned areas, fire density, landscape flammability, fire seasonality and fire recurrence in relation to proximity to the frontline.

Assessment demonstrates that military activities have become a major driver of fire regimes in Ukraine through increased ignition sources, restricted access to forests, disruption of fire prevention and suppression activities, and contamination of forest areas by mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). It also provides an assessment of potentially fire-damaged forests and timber-stock losses and proposes approaches that can support the prioritization of post-fire restoration, assessment of war-related environmental and economic losses, and long-term adaptation of landscape fire management during the war and post-war recovery.

(Sources: Ukrainian Research Institute of Forestry and Forest Melioration named after G. M. Vysotsky; The State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine; The State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine"; State Enterprise Forestry Innovation and Analytical Centre, Ukraine).

2.2.32. United Kingdom

Introduction

Parts of the UK experienced an eighth consecutive year of a prolonged dry period and England experienced above-average temperatures throughout the year.

However, this was accompanied by persistent and widespread rainfall in winter, limiting prevention measures, such as burning and cutting for fuel load management.

Fire danger

The Met Office reported that summer 2025 is the warmest on record for the UK, 1.5°C above the long-term average.

In contrast rainfall during summer was below average, but with significant variation across the UK, with the central, south and eastern parts of England and Wales being especially dry, whilst north-western part of the UK, especially Scotland, were much wetter. England is the dryest of the UK nations, and Scotland the wettest.

This was to high-pressures dominating during the summer keeping the weather stable, a significant marine heatwave enhancing air temperatures and the role of climate change.

Scotland

2025 was the driest hydrological year (1 October 2024 – 30 September 2025) in eastern Scotland since 1976. Below-average rainfall over autumn and winter 2024/2025 meant that groundwater recharge was limited and there was an increased risk of drought. After this, Scotland recorded the hottest March – August period since records began in 1884 and the second driest spring in the east of Scotland for 100 years. Continued below average rainfall and warm temperatures caused significant water scarcity in parts of eastern Scotland in 2025. Rivers and groundwater levels reached record lows, with several north-east rivers experiencing the highest number of low-flow days recorded in a year.

The west and south-west didn't experience significant water scarcity this year with normal to wetter than average conditions following a dry spring.

Overall, autumn rainfall across most of Scotland was close to the long-term seasonal average. Some coastal and border regions experienced above-average rainfall, whilst parts of the north-east and Shetland saw below-average totals.

Despite recent rainfall causing some recovery to groundwater levels in the east, some monitored boreholes in Fife, Angus and Aberdeenshire recorded the lowest November level on record (between 17 to 30-year records).

Source: Autumn water situation report 2025 | Beta | SEPA | Scottish Environment Protection Agency[42]

United Kingdom

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

UKHSA engaged in the Yorkshire Fylingdales incident being part of the multi-agency response to this last scale incident in provision of public health advice. UKHSA was alerted to 55 wildfire incidents in 2025

UKHSA published Climate change and mental health report in 2025 (Climate change and mental health report - GOV.UK[43]).

[42] https://beta.sepa.scot/water-scarcity/water-scarcity-seasonal-reports/autumn-water-situation-report-2025/

[43] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-and-mental-health-report

England and Wales

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

In official fire and rescue incident statistics in England, MHCLG recorded 7 037 outdoor primary fires, an increase of 62% compared with the previous year (4 352), and an increase of 36% compared with 10 years ago (5 183).

Over the past decade, the number of fires attended by FRSs in England has fluctuated between around 136 000 and 184 000. The number of fires is affected by the weather. The summers of 2018, 2022 and 2025 were hot and dry, which caused high numbers of fires in those years, particularly outdoor primary and secondary fires.

A summer spike contributed to a higher annual total of secondary fires, with figures returning to typical seasonal levels by October to December 2025 (14 785). The total number of fires increased by 39 036 for the year ending December 2025, with a 45.6% increase in secondary fires.

To strengthen policy delivery and coordination across the short, medium and long term, MHCLG and Defra have established joint governance arrangements with relevant departments and partners. These arrangements are intended to support faster, more coordinated action across anticipation and risk assessment, preparedness, prevention, response and recovery.

Natural England

Natural England reported from its Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Wildfire Register that in 2025, 3 088.94 hectares of SSSI land were burnt across England.

Please note this is based on information reported to Natural England and is neither confirmed nor complete data for all wildfires in 2025.

National Fire Chiefs Council

2025 was a record-breaking year for wildfires in England and Wales, with the number of wildfire incidents responded to by fire and rescue services (FRSs) exceeding the previous record set in 2022. This followed two years of above average rainfall, with 2024 being the eighth wettest year ever recorded nationally, allowing substantial growth in vegetation and accumulation of fuel loads.

In 2025, there were 1 016 wildfires recorded by NFCC National Resilience in England and Wales. This compares to 200 in 2024, 293 in 2023, and 994 in 2021. The busiest month in 2025 was March, recording 220 wildfires, with August being the second busiest with 203. Most early-season fires occurred across the Welsh region, reflecting dry spring conditions and the availability of cured fine fuels. By August, wildfire activity had become more geographically widespread, with significant numbers of incidents recorded across South Wales, East Anglia, London, the Southeast and southern England. This shift reflects the seasonal transition from upland and moorland fires to fires involving grassland, crops, heathland and drought-affected vegetation across a much broader area.

FRSs in England and Wales apply the following criteria to differentiate between more severe and impactful wildfires and other vegetation fires. A wildfire is defined as any uncontrolled vegetation fire where a decision or action is needed about its suppression and will meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Involves a geographical area of at least one hectare (10 000 square metres).
- Has a sustained flame length of more than 1.5 metres.
- Requires a committed resource of at least four fire and rescue service appliances/resources.
- Requires resources to be committed for at least six hours.

— Presents a serious threat to life, environment, property and infrastructure.

This definition is taken from the NFCC National Operational Guidance (NOG) for Wildfires.

The wildfires in 2025 have continued to illustrate the changing threat to the UK with growing risks from extended periods of hot, dry weather and a lengthening fire season, highlighting the differences between early season fires, which burn over moist ground, and high-risk summer fires, where sub-surface spread often features and makes firefighting more challenging and protracted.

The wildfires that occurred during 2025 were operationally very different from those experienced in 2022. The weather conditions that developed during July and August 2022 were unprecedented for wildfire behaviour in the UK, with exceptionally high temperatures driving rapid rates of spread, extreme fire behaviour, and multiple simultaneous incidents. Whilst these fires were often intense and challenging, many were relatively short-lived, fast-moving events.

In contrast, the 2025 wildfire season was characterised by many campaign fires requiring prolonged operational commitments. Although fire behaviour was generally less extreme than that experienced during the 2022 heatwave, extended periods of dry weather and receptive fuels resulted in incidents that burned for days and, in some cases, weeks. These fires required sustained resource deployment, relief crews, national coordination and mutual aid arrangements. Operationally, 2022 was dominated by rapid, high-intensity fires, whereas 2025 was characterised by longer-duration campaign fires that tested resilience, resource availability and endurance across the fire and rescue sector.

Development of Wildfire Frameworks and Strategies: NFCC have continued to work with colleagues in MHCLG and DEFRA to develop the Wildfire Framework for England and investigate the need for a national wildfire strategy. These efforts aim to enhance wildfire management and strategic planning. MHCLG and DEFRA have developed a Cross-Government Wildfire Governance and Delivery Structure document to establish and build collaboration and coordination at a governmental level.

Enhancement of Wildfire Training and Standards: The development of a national wildfire competence framework is underway to provide a standardised approach to FRS Wildfire training and minimum standards for training at different levels (from basic / foundation through to specialist training for National Wildfire Tactical Advisors). The framework will support the delivery of national capability and the development of wildfire skillsets across the sector.

NFCC representatives have also attended a Train the Trainer course in the US for fires in the rural-urban interface which, with ongoing support from colleagues in the US, will be used to develop training for fire services in relation to fires in the rural-urban interface.

Improvement of Wildfire Data and Reporting: Extensive engagement has been undertaken with both FRSs and MHCLG to enhancing wildfire data collection and analysis. NFCC Wildfire Group members have been consulted and involved in the development of questions relating to wildfires in the new Fire and Rescue Data Platform that is in the final phases of development. Improved wildfire metrics will enable improved wildfire risk assessment and inform future prevention strategies.

Forestry Commission

Delivery of vegetation fire training across the UK as well as in Rep of Ireland and UK Overseas Territories continues with over 1 900 places delivered since 2021.

A review of UK Forestry Standard Practice Guidance for forest management planning has started in partnership with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Dept. for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

In September 2025, the Government amended the Heather and Grass etc. Burning (England) Regulations 2021 to further restrict routine burning on upland peat deeper than 30 cm, except where a licence has been granted. Licences may be granted where other measures cannot adequately reduce the potential impact of wildfire. The Regulations align with wider climate and biodiversity goals and increase the area protected from burning, except under licence, from 246 156 hectares to over 676 000 hectares.

By ensuring that any burning is subject to clear safeguards and justification, the Regulations support more resilient peatland habitats and a longer-term approach to wildfire resilience while also delivering wider benefits for climate mitigation and biodiversity.

England and Wales Wildfire Forum (EWWF)

The England and Wales Wildfire Forum (EWWF) is a multi-agency stakeholder group of public, private and third-sector parties which works to address wildfire issues. Throughout 2025, the forum welcomed new member organisations and shared updates amongst members about relevant policy, guidance, research, opportunities and news about wildfires.

In 2025, the forum continued its work with its wildfire management working group (set up in 2024), which will explore best practice around wildfire management planning. We also took steps to set up a working group around wildfire risk communication which will start in 2026. In preparation for hosting the 2026 UK Wildfire Conference[44], EWWF set up a conference steering group and appointed the Heather Trust as conference organisers - we look forward to welcoming you all to Leeds in November 2026.

Wildfire data (Scotland)[45]

In 2025, firefighters spent more than 100 days responding to more than 230 separate wildfires across the country, including the summer wildfire at Dava Moor which was one of the largest ever recorded in Scotland.

In response to the 2025 wildfire season, a new strategic action plan was launched to enhance multi-agency responses and improve public awareness of the risk communities face.

SFRS has reviewed and invested in equipment, including four new wildfire support units with enhanced equipment in Alford, Oban, Galashiels and Dornoch, two new interim wildfire units in Lockerbie and Thurso, and delivering controlled burn training.

SFRS collaborated with partners on a thorough review of the wildfire events from 2025 via Scottish Multi-Agency Resilience Training and Exercising Unit (SMARTEU), and the recommendations within the SMARTEU debrief will be taken forward by the Scottish Wildfire Forum.

Partners are also developing a multi-agency Concept of Operations through the strategic action plan to ensure consistent, coordinated responses across Scotland.

The Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024

The Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024 introduced a requirement for all muirburn to be carried out under licence. We are expecting this licence to be introduced in autumn 2026. Four of the licensable purposes are to prevent or reduce the risks of wildfires. The Act changes the muirburn season so that it will start on 15th September and end on the 31st March the following year.

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44 https://ukwildfireconference.co.uk/

45 Source: https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/

Scottish Wildfire Forum[46]

The Scottish Wildfire Forum is committed to reducing the number and severity of wildfires in Scotland through collaborative working across all relevant sectors.

The purpose of the Scottish Wildfire Forum is to create a focus for joint working between all interested stakeholders within Scotland to develop wildfire initiatives that will reduce:

- the risks to firefighters and members of the public
- the amount of damage to vegetation and biodiversity
- the negative impact on property, assets and ecosystem services.

Wildfire warnings (Scotland)[47]

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in partnership with the Scottish Wildfire Forum, alert the public to the threat of wildfires by issuing Wildfire Danger Assessments. SFRS issued 14 wildfire warnings in 2025, with the final one of the year distributed in October – well beyond the typical timeframe for heightened wildfire risk in Scotland.

Northern Ireland

The Department of Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland Environment Agency reported on 8 locations that affected Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) which burnt a total of 2 508 hectares, including 2 490.66 of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and 1 700 hectares of Special Protection Areas (SPA). The total area of designated sites burnt was 2 590 hectares.

Fire prevention activities and information campaigns

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland published its Wildfire Strategic Framework 2025-2030[48]

Operations of mutual assistance

No requests were made to the United Kingdom for mutual assistance for wildfire incidents during 2025.

Research activities aimed at improving fire management

Toward a UK fire danger rating system: Understanding fuels, fire behaviour and impacts

2025 saw the formal end of the UKFDRS research project in September 2025. Over 30 team members from all career stages worked on the project at different points over the years and have generated important new insights into wildfire occurrence, behaviour and risk for the UK. Further papers from the project were published during 2025 in open access peer-reviewed academic journals. For more information on all project activities, please visit the project website[49].

FireInSite, our fire behaviour prediction system for key UK fire prone vegetation types, continued to be developed during 2025, including testing with firefighters and land managers during the height of the fire season. We are working to integrate practitioner observations into the validation of the models. For further details of the system, visit the website[50].

A huge thanks from all the team to our project partners and all those organisations and

46 Source: https://www.scottishwildfireforum.co.uk/

47 Source: https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/

48 https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/wildfires-northern-ireland-strategic-framework-2025-2030

49 www.ukfdrs.com

50 www.fireinsite.org

individuals who supported the project over the years. Although the funding has ended, our work will continue into 2026 so keep an eye out for future developments.

Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society

The Leverhulme Centre for Wildfires, Environment and Society[51] conduct global wildfire research, including work with a UK focus. In Scotland, this includes research with crofters (small-scale upland farmers) to examine the drivers behind declines in muirburn (burning to manage grazing land for livestock) and livestock grazing, and the associated increase in wildfire risk on common grazing land. In parallel, the Centre is investigating the UK's current capacity to manage escalating wildfire risk. This research applies a novel conceptual framework that integrates resilience theory, integrated wildfire management and social–ecological systems perspectives to analyse empirical evidence from wildfire professionals across governance, land management, emergency response and social domains. It identifies critical gaps, emerging strengths and priority actions required to respond effectively to future wildfire regimes in the UK.

UK Wildfire Research Group

The UK Wildfire Research Group continues to link wildfire researchers to practitioners by raising awareness of opportunities and key research.

To connect with the group, visit the website[52].

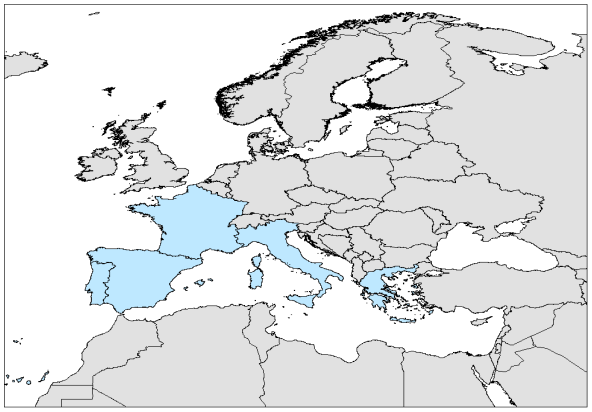
(Source: Forestry Commission, United Kingdom).

[51] www.centreforwildfires.org

[52] https://ukwildfireresearch.co.uk/

2.3. Comparison of Southern EU countries with longer time series (1980-2025)

Figure 174. The five Southern EU countries with longer time series.



Source: JRC's elaboration.

The long time series of forest fire data available for these Portugal, Spain, France, Italy and Greece justifies a separate analysis as in previous reports.

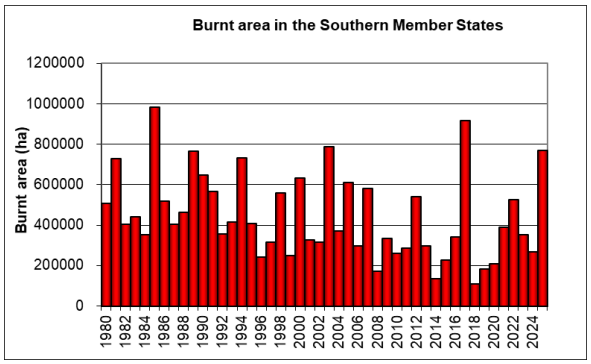
Figure 175a shows the burnt area in the five large Southern Member States since 1980. The annual variations reflect dependence on seasonal weather. The total burnt area in 2025 was 770 211 ha, ranking as the fourth biggest burnt area since 1980. Of the five countries, Spain was the most affected one in 2025, with 354 747 ha burnt.

Figure 175b shows the yearly fire count in the same five countries since 1980. After a 1990s increase (partially due to improved recording), fire numbers stabilized for a decade before generally decreasing in the last ten years. In 2025 the total number of fires was 23 893, close to the average 2020-2025 and approximately half of the 1980-2025 average; see **Table 65** and **Annex 1** for details.

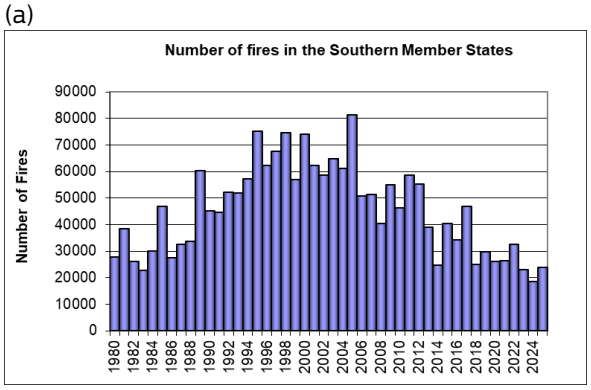
Figure 175c shows that the average fire size in the five countries has generally decreased since 1980, with a notable change after 1990. This trend mirrors the number of fires, partly because improved statistical systems now record more of the smallest fires and is largely due to better fire protection services. However, recent years show values comparable to the 1980s.

In 2025 the average fire size was 32 ha, approximately double than the average 2020-2025 and more than three times bigger than the average 1980-2025. Greece had the highest average fire size among the five countries in 2025, while France had the smallest.

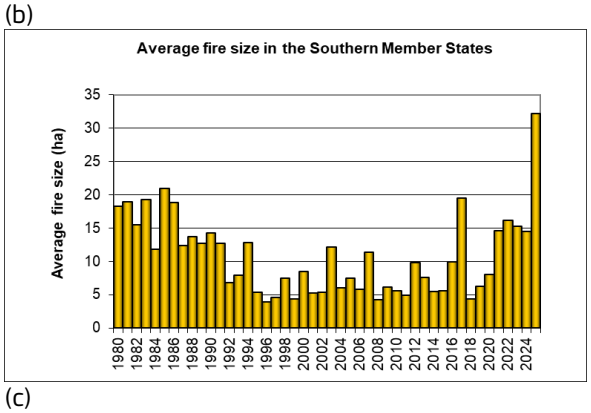
Figure 175. Burnt area (a) number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in the five Southern Member States since 1980.



(a)



(b)

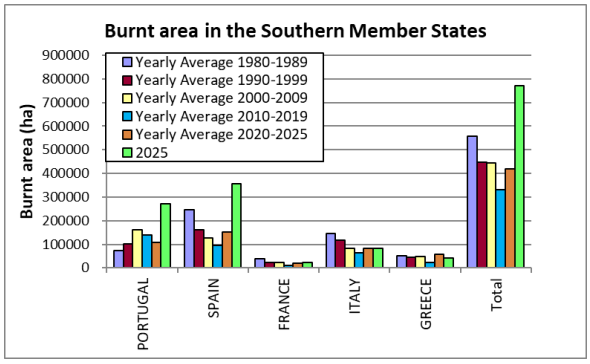


(c)

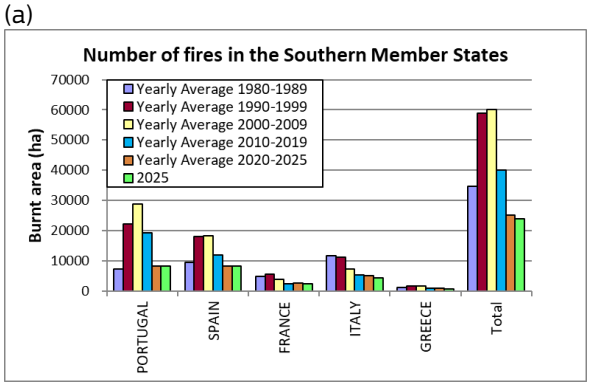
Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for the five Southern EU countries.

Figure 176 compares the yearly averages of burnt areas, number of fires and average fire size for the periods 1980-1989; 1990-1999, 2000-2009, 2010-2019 and 2020-2025 with the figures for 2025. It shows each of the 5 countries separately and also their total.

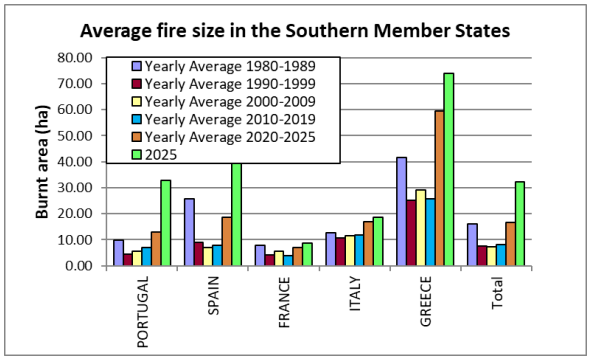
Figure 176. Burnt areas (a), number of fires (b) and average fire size (c) in the five Southern Member States in the year 2025 as compared with average values for previous decades.



(a)



(b)



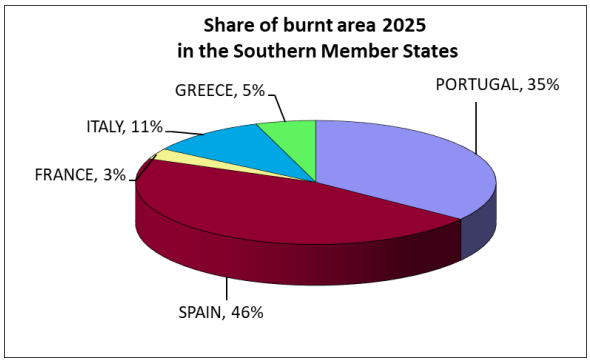
(c)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for the five Southern EU countries.

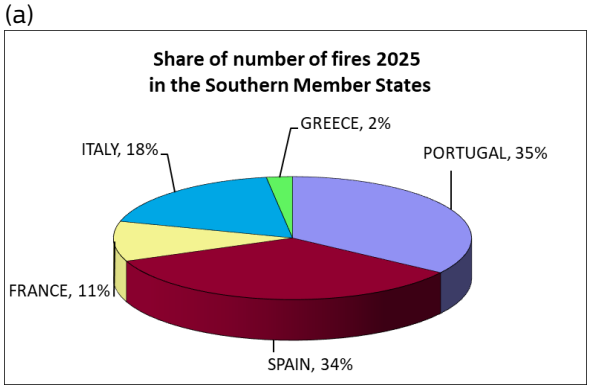
Figure 177 shows the contribution of each of the five Member States in terms of burnt areas and number of fires to the overall figures for all five countries in 2025.

Since the area of each country is different, and the exposed area in each country is also different, the comparisons among countries cannot be absolute. It should also be borne in mind that different ways of recording fires, e.g. through satellite mapping rather than ground measurements, may lead to an under-representation of the smallest fires and result in an inflated figure for average fire size.

Figure 177. Share of the total burnt area (a) and the total number of fires (b) in each of the five Southern Member States for 2025.



(a)



(b)

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for the five Southern EU countries.

In 2025, Spain and Portugal recorded 34% and 35% respectively of the total number of fires in the region (**Figure 177b**); Spain experienced the highest proportion of burnt area (46% of the total, **Figure 177a**).

Table 65 gives a summary of the number of fires and burnt areas for the period 1980-2025, the average for the decades, the last 5 years and the 2025 alone. The patterns of the burnt area and number of fires over time are presented in **Figure 178**.

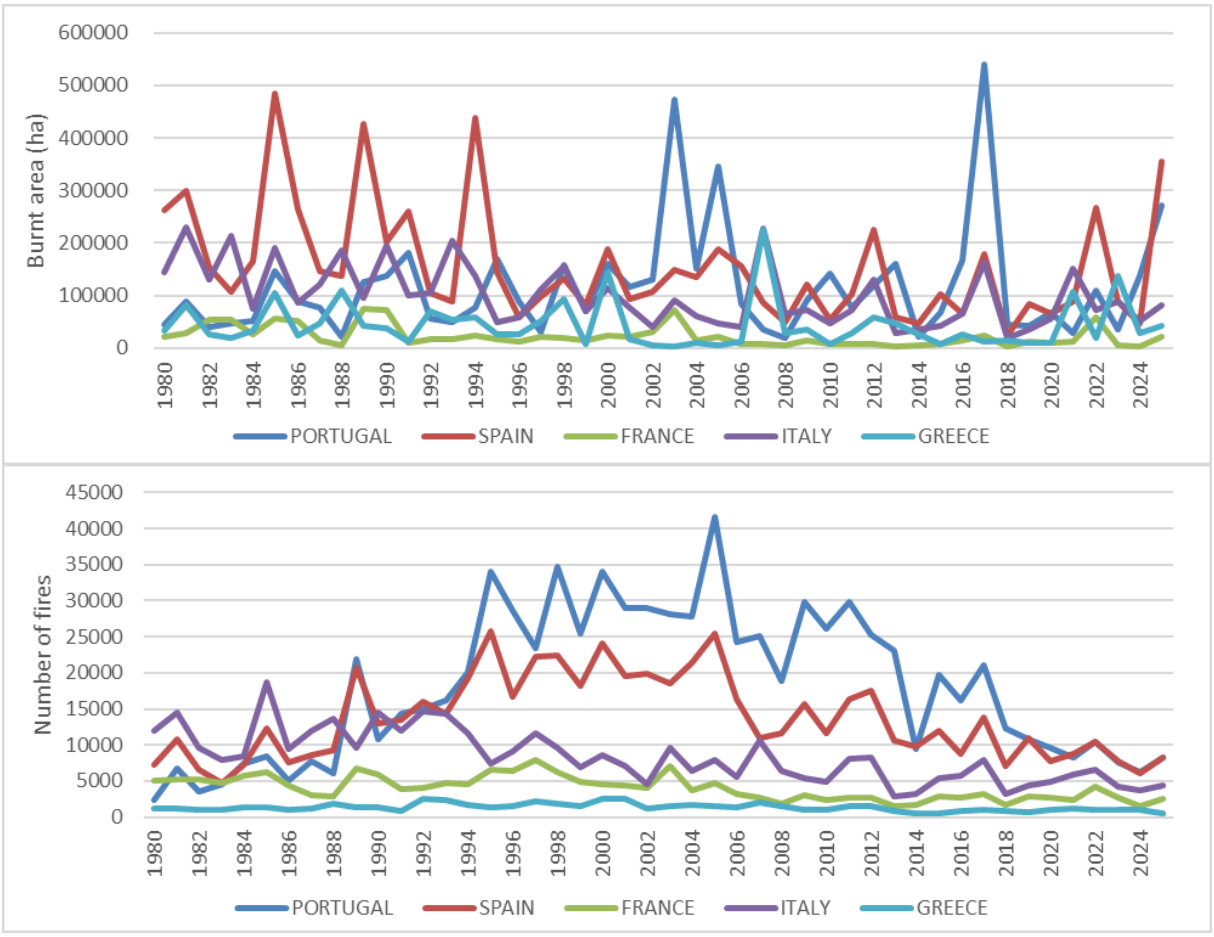
Table 65. Number of fires and burnt area in the five Southern Member States in the period 1980-2025.

Number of fires	PORTUGAL	SPAIN	FRANCE	ITALY	GREECE	TOTAL
2025	8 252	8 199	2 511	4 370	561	23 893
% of total in 2025	35%	34%	11%	18%	2%	100%
Average 1980-1989	7 381	9 515	4 910	11 575	1 264	34 645
Average 1990-1999	22 250	18 152	5 538	11 164	1 748	58 851
Average 2000-2009	28 774	18 369	3 924	7 259	1 695	60 020
Average 2010-2019	19 362	11 860	2 470	5 420	946	40 057
Average 2020-2025	8 371	8 186	2 656	4 967	959	25 139
Average 1980-2025	17 998	13 654	4 007	8 347	1 354	45 360
TOTAL (1980-2025)	827 898	628 067	184 344	383 975	62 271	2 086 555

Burnt areas (ha)	PORTUGAL	SPAIN	FRANCE	ITALY	GREECE	TOTAL
2025	270 695	354 747	21 747	81 481	41 540	770 211
% of total in 2025	35%	46%	3%	11%	5%	100%
Average 1980-1989	73 484	244 788	39 157	147 150	52 417	556 995
Average 1990-1999	102 203	161 319	22 735	118 573	44 108	448 938
Average 2000-2009	160 985	127 229	21 741	83 878	49 238	443 071
Average 2010-2019	138 084	94 514	9 308	63 907	24 220	330 033
Average 2020-2025	108 081	152 213	18 614	83 704	57 142	419 753
Average 1980-2025	117 305	156 343	22 632	100 811	44 406	441 497
TOTAL (1980-2025)	5 396 051	7 191 774	1 041 078	4 637 301	2 042 678	20 308 883

Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for the five Southern EU countries.

Figure 178. Time series comparing burnt area and number of fires in the 5 large EU-Med countries.



Source: JRC's elaboration of the country reports for the five Southern EU countries.

2.4. Middle East and North Africa Countries

2.4.1. Israel

Executive summary

Israel recorded 424 forest and wildland fires during 2025, affecting approximately 9 738 hectares.

Although meteorological conditions remained close to the long-term average, two significant wildfires in the Jerusalem Hills during April required a large-scale national response.

Several communities were evacuated and around 150 firefighting crews, supported by aerial resources, volunteers and partner agencies, participated in suppression operations.

Fire danger

The 2025 fire season was characterized by near-average meteorological conditions.

No exceptional Fire Weather Index (FWI) values, prolonged droughts or unusual heatwaves were recorded.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

The most significant events occurred in the Jerusalem Hills.

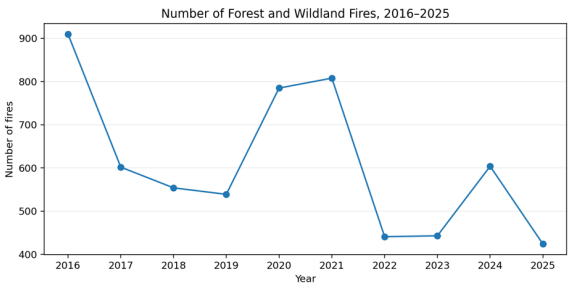
The incidents demonstrated the importance of rapid interagency coordination and integrated aerial and ground suppression.

Table 66. 2025 key indicators.

Indicator	Value
Forest & Wildland Fires	424
Burned Area	9 738 ha
Major Fires	Jerusalem Hills
Communities Evacuated	Several
Firefighting Crews	~150
International Assistance	Cyprus – 24 July 2025

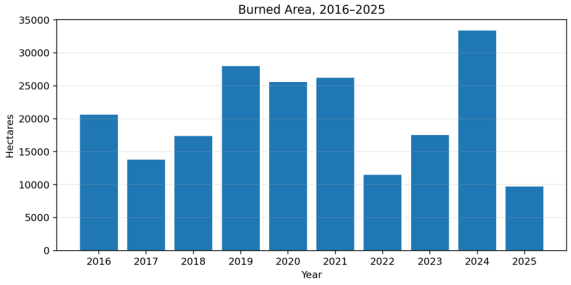
Source: Israel Fire and Rescue Authority.

Figure 179. Annual number of forest and wildland fires in Israel, 2016–2025.



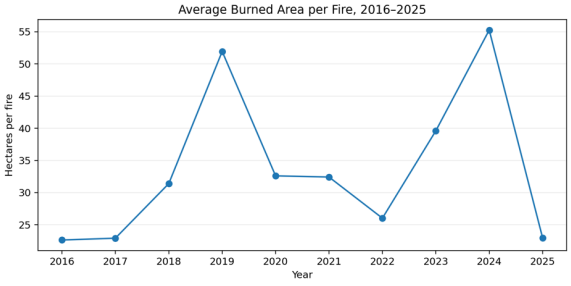
Source: Israel Fire and Rescue Authority.

Figure 180. Annual burned area in Israel, 2016–2025 (hectares).



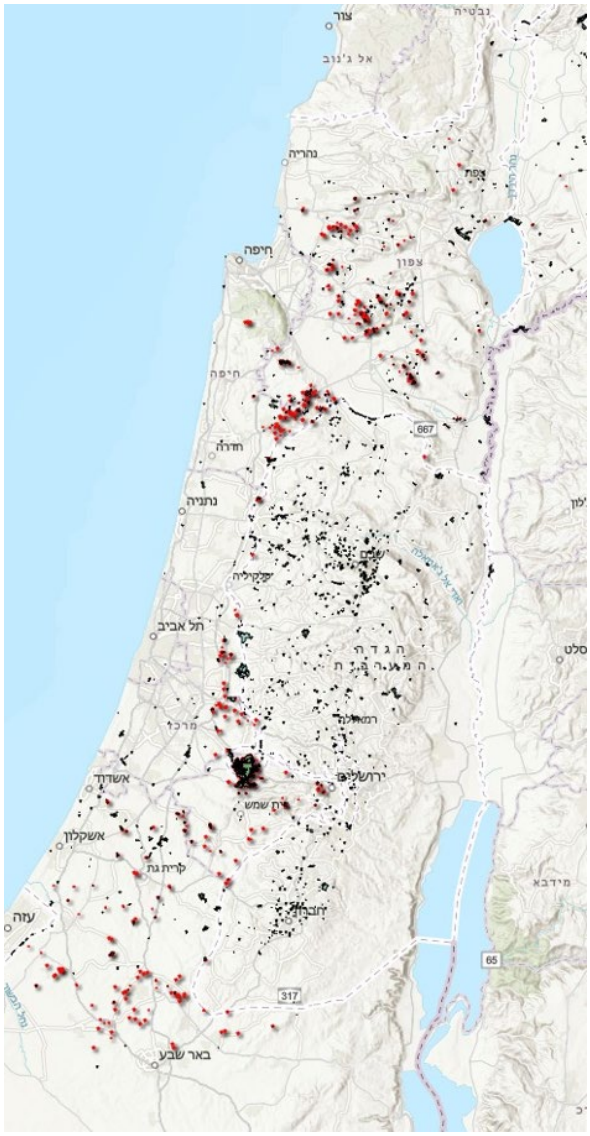
Source: Israel Fire and Rescue Authority.

Figure 181. Average burned area per reported fire, 2016–2025.



Source: Israel Fire and Rescue Authority.

Figure 182. Spatial distribution of burned areas in Israel during 2025.



Source: Israel Fire and Rescue Authority.

Comparative Analysis: 2016–2025

The long-term series shows that 2025 was a comparatively moderate year in national aggregate terms, despite the two major Jerusalem Hills incidents. Israel recorded 424 fires in 2025, the lowest annual total in the 2016–2025 series. This was 29.8% below 2024 and 32.9% below the 2016–2024 average of approximately 632 fires per year.

The total burned area reached 9 738 hectares, also the lowest value in the ten-year series. This represented a decline of 70.8% compared with the exceptional 2024 total of 33 382 hectares and was 54.8% below the 2016–2024 annual average of approximately 21 556 hectares.

Average burned area per fire fell from 55.3 hectares in 2024 to 23.0 hectares in 2025, a decrease of 58.4%. The 2025 value was close to the levels recorded in 2016 and 2017, indicating that most incidents remained relatively limited in size. Nevertheless, the two major fires in the Jerusalem Hills demonstrate that national annual totals can conceal short periods of severe operational pressure and high consequence.

The decade is characterized by substantial interannual variability rather than a uniform trend. Peaks in burned area were recorded in 2019, 2021 and especially 2024, while the lowest levels occurred in 2022 and 2025. This variability reflects the combined influence of ignition patterns, fuel conditions, local weather, security-related factors and suppression effectiveness.

Table 67. Comparison of main fire-related indicators.

Indicator	2024	2025	Change 2024–2025	2016–2024 average
Number of fires	604	424	−29.8%	632
Burned area (ha)	33 382	9 738	−70.8%	21 556
Average fire size (ha)	55.3	23.0	−58.4%	35.0

Source: Israel Fire and Rescue Authority.

Table 68. Historical data.

Year	Number of fires	Burned area (ha)	Average fire size (ha)
2016	910	20 600.0	22.6
2017	602	13 800.0	22.9
2018	554	17 400.0	31.4
2019	539	28 000.0	51.9
2020	785	25 600.0	32.6
2021	808	26 200.0	32.4
2022	441	11 480.0	26.0
2023	443	17 545.3	39.6
2024	604	33 382.1	55.3
2025	424	9 738.1	23.0

Source: Israel Fire and Rescue Authority.

Major Wildfire Event – Jerusalem Hills (April 2025)

Two major wildfires in the Jerusalem Hills became the defining events of the 2025 season. Several communities were evacuated while approximately 150 firefighting crews, aerial assets and rapid response teams worked to contain the fires.

Figure 183. Air Tractor aircraft performing a retardant drop over the Jerusalem Hills wildfire.



Source: Kobi Richter, Israel Fire and Rescue Authority.

Figure 184. Rapid response ATV operating in forest terrain during suppression activities.



Source: Kobi Richter, Israel Fire and Rescue Authority.

Figure 185. Ground firefighting operations during intense fire behaviour.



Source: Kobi Richter, Israel Fire and Rescue Authority.

Fire fighting resources

Israel employed professional firefighters, volunteer rapid response teams, ATVs, aerial firefighting aircraft, AI-supported detection systems and national command-and-control capabilities.

International Mutual Assistance – Cyprus (24 July 2025)

On 24 July 2025, Israel deployed an Israeli Air Force C-130 Hercules ('Shimshon') aircraft to the Republic of Cyprus to assist local authorities in suppressing a major wildfire. The deployment demonstrated Israel's commitment to regional cooperation and mutual assistance in large-scale wildfire emergencies.

Climate change and Research

Israel continues investing in AI-based detection, GIS, fire intelligence, remote sensing and decision-support systems while adapting wildfire management to long-term climate trends.

Figure 186. The Israeli Air Force C-130 Hercules ("Shimshon") aircraft dropping fire retardant over active wildfire fronts in Cyprus as part of Israel's international mutual assistance mission.



Source: Israel Fire and Rescue Authority.

(Source: Israel Fire and Rescue Authority).

2.4.2. Lebanon

Fire danger

The analysis presented in this report is based on an integrated approach combining satellite-derived data, high-resolution imagery, and field observations. This multi-source methodology enhances the accuracy of fire detection and spatial delineation of burnt areas.

During the 2025 fire season, Lebanon experienced a relatively high level of fire activity, both in terms of the number of recorded incidents and the overall extent of burnt areas.

This pattern may be associated with a combination of climatic factors, such as prolonged dry periods and elevated temperatures, as well as human-related drivers, including land-use pressures and ignition sources.

Together, these conditions contributed to heightened fire danger across multiple landscapes, reinforcing the need for strengthened prevention, early warning, and response mechanisms.

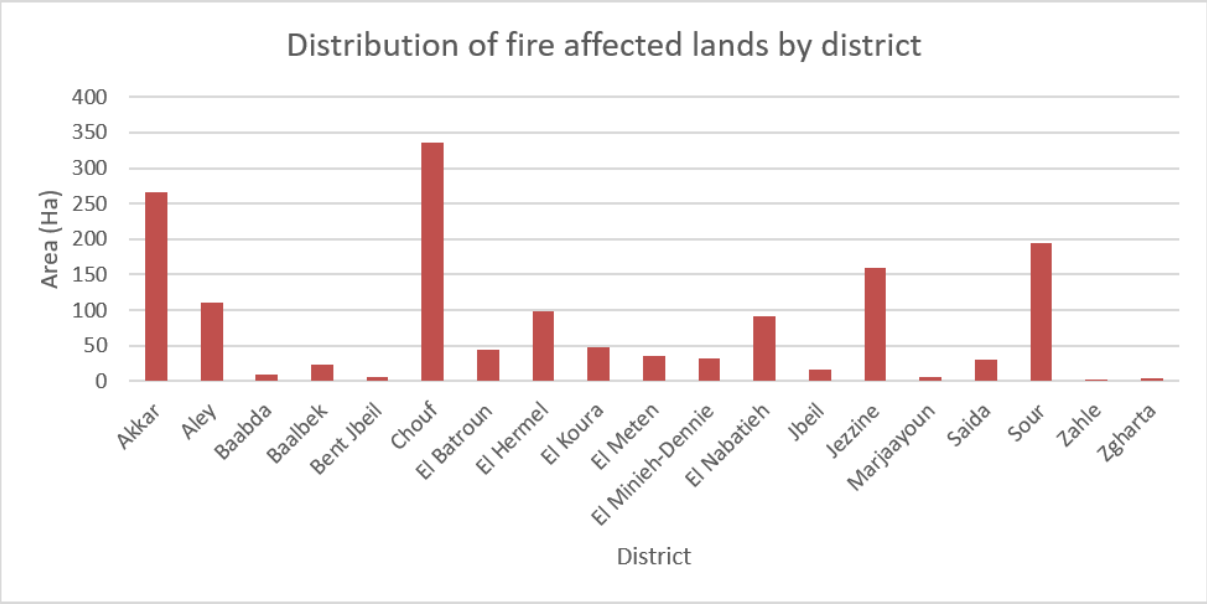
Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

Fire season

The fire season extended between April and November of the year 2025.

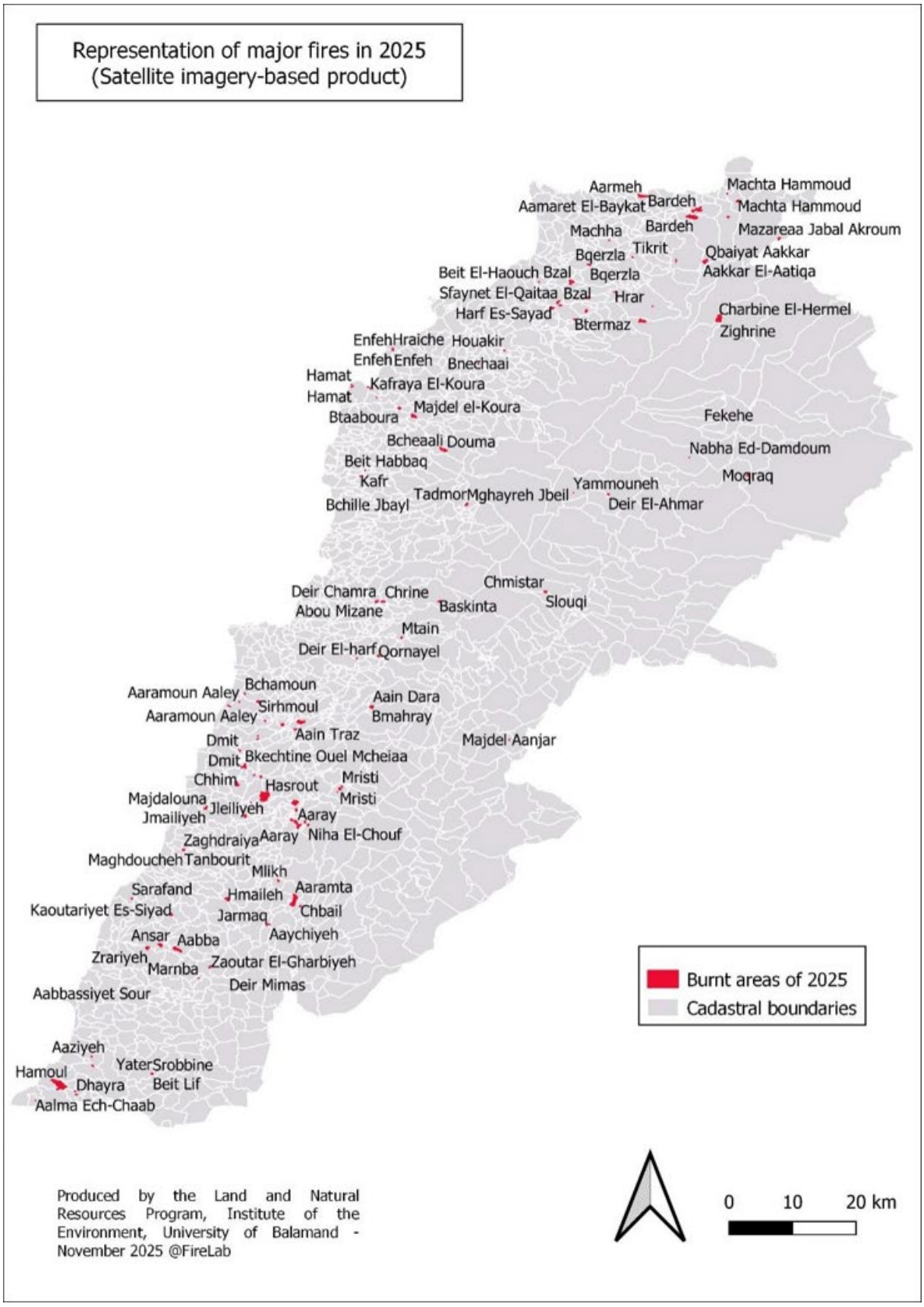
A total of 119 major fires were mapped, affecting a total area of 1 515 ha (**Figure 187** and **Figure 188**).

Figure 187. Distribution of burnt areas by district in Lebanon in 2025.



Source: University of Balamand.

Figure 188. Map of burnt areas in Lebanon in 2025.

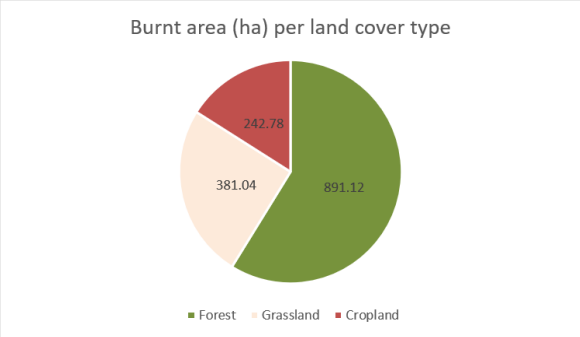


Source: University of Balamand.

Affected land cover type

The main land cover type of fire affected areas (**Figure 189**) comprised forest (891.12 ha), grassland (381.04 ha) and cropland (242.78 ha), with 216 ha of the 1 515 ha burned occurring within Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), highlighting the direct impact of fires on sites of high conservation value.

Figure 189. Land cover type of fire affected areas in Lebanon in 2025.



Source: University of Balamand.

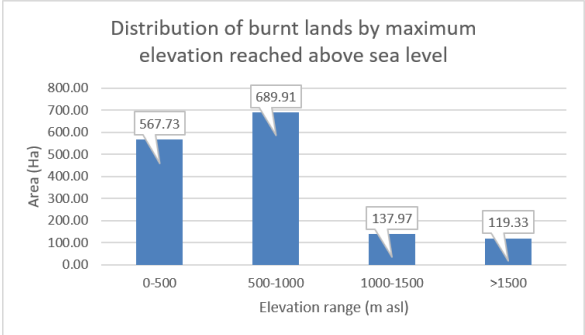
Altitudinal distribution of burnt areas

The largest proportion of burnt area is concentrated in the mid-elevation band of 500–1000 m, reaching approximately 690 hectares, indicating that this zone is the most affected by fires (**Figure 190**).

This is followed by the 0–500 m range, with around 568 hectares burnt, suggesting significant fire activity at lower elevations as well.

Although the burnt areas above 1000 m are comparatively smaller, they remain significant, as high-mountain ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to fire. Even limited fire events at these elevations can have disproportionate ecological impacts due to slower recovery rates, sensitive vegetation, and harsher climatic conditions.

Figure 190. Altitudinal distribution of burnt areas in Lebanon in 2025.



Source: University of Balamand.

Fire fighting resources

In 2025, forest fire response in Lebanon relied on a combination of national agencies, military support, and community engagement.

The Lebanese Civil Defense remained the primary operational force, deploying firefighting crews, trucks, and specialized equipment across affected regions (**Figure 191**).

The Lebanese Army played a critical complementary role, particularly through the use of helicopters for aerial firefighting in hard-to-access mountainous areas. However, prolonged interventions and challenging terrain often limited effectiveness, especially under strong winds and recurring flare-ups.

Fire suppression efforts were further supported by municipalities, local first responder teams, local organizations, and a large number of volunteers, highlighting the importance of community-based response.

Figure 191. Firefighting operations during wildfire response in Lebanon.



Source: Authors of the country report for Lebanon.

Research and pilot activities aimed at improving fire risk assessment and post-fire

In 2025, Lebanon launched a $3.5 million initiative aimed at reducing wildfire risks in vulnerable landscapes. The initiative, titled Forest Fire Risk Management in Natural Areas at Risk in Lebanon, focuses on early warning systems, local coordination and forest restoration. The project is being implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and with support from the World Bank.

Also, the MedFireWise project was launched under the Interreg NEXT MED programme, coordinated by the National Observatory of Athens, with the aim of advancing wildfire risk management across the Mediterranean region. In Lebanon, the project is implemented by the University of Balamand. The project adopts a proactive, ecosystem-based approach, promoting Nature-based Solutions (NbS) such as prescribed burning and silvopasture to reduce fuel loads, limit fire spread, and enhance ecosystem resilience. As part of its research and pilot activities, MedFireWise supports the development of improved fire risk assessment tools, including seasonal fire prediction models and scenario-based fire spread analyses, leveraging Earth Observation and geospatial data. These tools are designed to strengthen early warning systems and inform decision-making at multiple scales. Pilot implementations of NbS will be carried out across several Mediterranean regions including Lebanon to assess their environmental, social, and economic effectiveness. The project also includes key outputs such as needs assessment, regulatory review, development of NbS indicators, and awareness-raising campaigns in fire-prone communities.

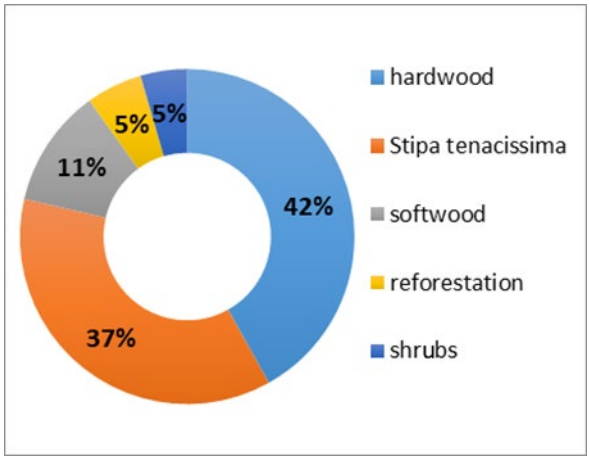
(Sources: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Natural Resources; University of Balamand, Land and Natural Resources Program, Institute of the Environment, Lebanon).

2.4.3. Morocco

Background

In over 9 million hectares of forests domain representing more than 12% of the national area, forest formations in Morocco cover an area of 5 814 000 ha (broadleaves, conifers ...) and 3 318 260 ha of stippa tenacissima (**Figure 192**), and are distributed among the different bioclimatic zones, from semi-arid to humid.

Figure 192. Composition of forest land in Morocco.



Source: Authors of the country report for Morocco.

As in Mediterranean countries, forested areas in Morocco are subject to a recurrent risk of fires, favoured by the extreme flammability of forest species during the summer.

The consequences of this risk are prejudicial in terms of social, economic and environmental components: the forest land is an open space where access (except rare situations) is free.

Riparian forest population live in a subsistence economy (using forests for their needs of construction wood and firewood, various non-timber forests products, and pasture). Consequently, forests are under a very strong human pressure.

Fire occurrence and affected surfaces

From 1960 to 2025

Through the analysis of annual reports of forest fires during the years 1960 to 2025, it appears an average of 309 fires per year for an annual average of affected area of 3320 ha (ANEF, 2025), with maxima of 22 762 ha in 2022 and 11 000 ha in 1983. The absolute minimum is recorded in 2002 with 593 ha (**Figure 194**).

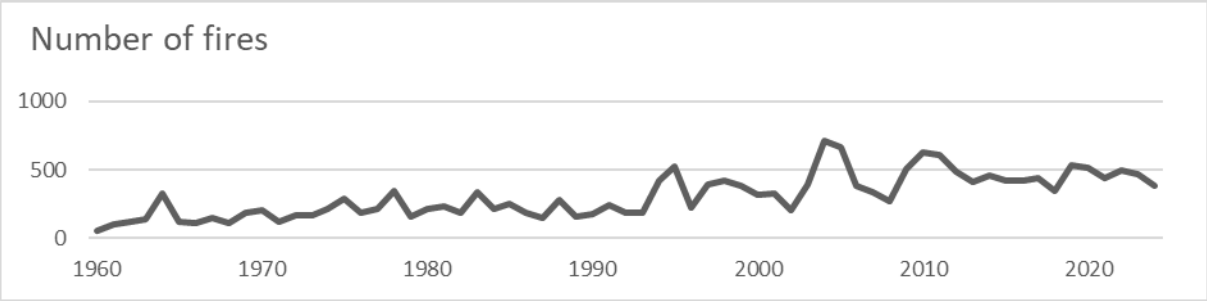
While the burned area may seem limited in comparison to other Mediterranean countries sharing similar climate and ecological conditions, its significance becomes apparent when considering the pivotal roles forests play and the difficulties associated with their rehabilitation and post-fire regeneration within the national socio-economic and environmental framework.

It's noteworthy that globally, since 1960, there has been a consistent upward trend in both the number of fires and the affected area.

However, comparing the past two decades, there's a notable shift: the average number of fires has actually decreased from 451 between 2006-2015 to 445 forest fires in the most recent decade (2016-2025) (**Figure 193**).

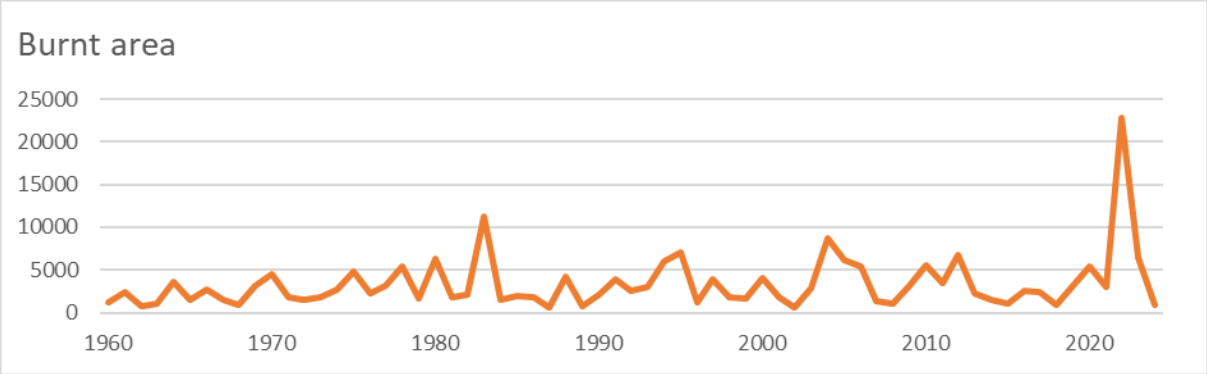
It's worth noting that the affected area per fire, which peaked at 10 hectares during the period from 2016 to 2025, has decreased compared to the national average recorded since 1960 (11 hectares per fire). (**Figure 195**)

Figure 193. Evolution of number of forest fires from 1960 to 2024 in Morocco.



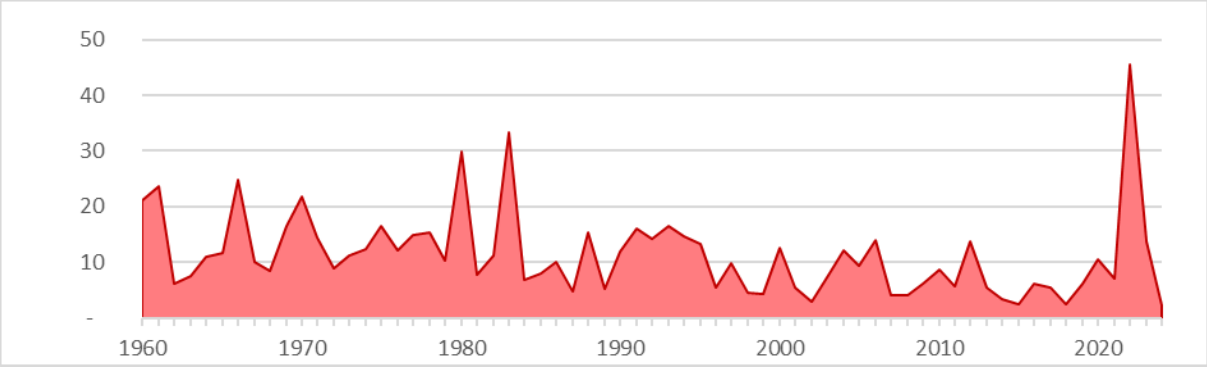
Source: ANEF, 2025.

Figure 194. Evolution of number of forest fire area from 1960 to 2024 in Morocco.



Source: ANEF, 2025.

Figure 195. Evolution of area affected per fire from 1960-2024 in Morocco.



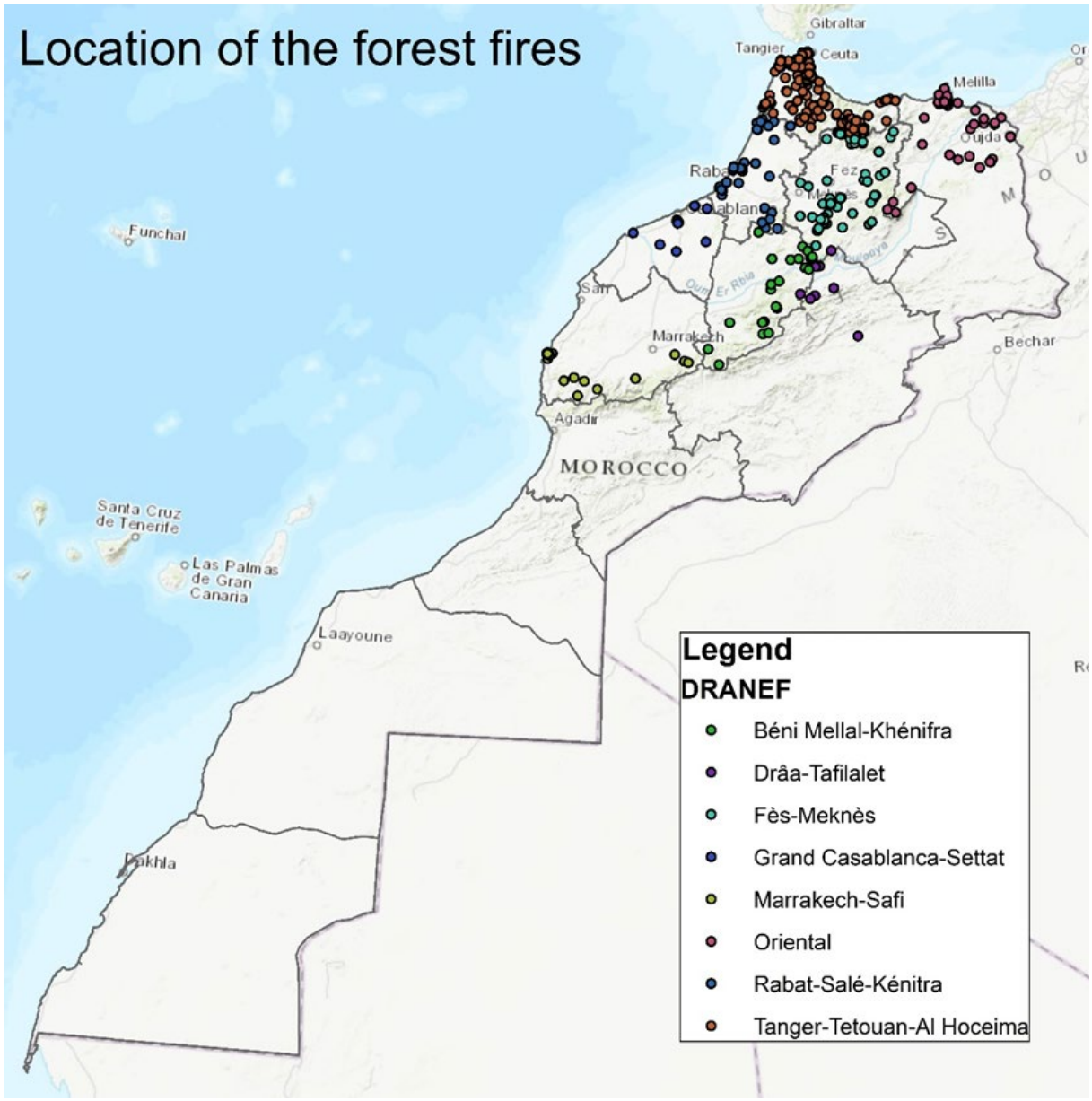
Source: ANEF, 2025.

2025 fire season

Throughout 2025, a total of 418 fire incidents were recorded, impacting a total area of 1728 hectares, averaging approximately 4 hectares per fire.

The data showing the distribution of fires by forest regions are reported, below, in **Figure 196**.

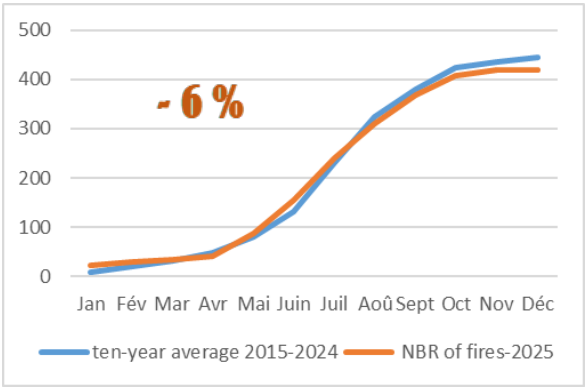
Figure 196. Location of the forest fires recorded in 2025 in Morocco.



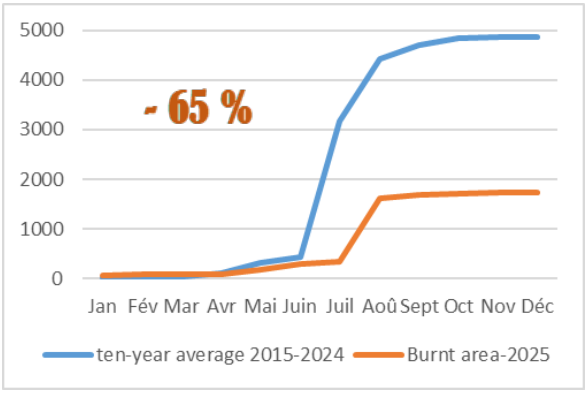
Source: Authors of the country report for Morocco.

In 2025, there was a notable decrease in both the number of fires, falling by approximately 6%, and the area burned, which dropped by about 65% compared to the previous decade (2015-2024). These results can be attributed to several factors, such as improved fire prevention and monitoring systems, the adoption of more appropriate land management strategies, as well as climatic conditions less conducive to fires. This decrease is a positive sign in the fight against fires, but it remains essential to maintain and strengthen these efforts to continue to limit the impacts of fires on ecosystems (**Figure 197**).

Figure 197. Evolution of number of fires (a) and burned area (b) in 2025 compared to the last decade.



(a)



(b)

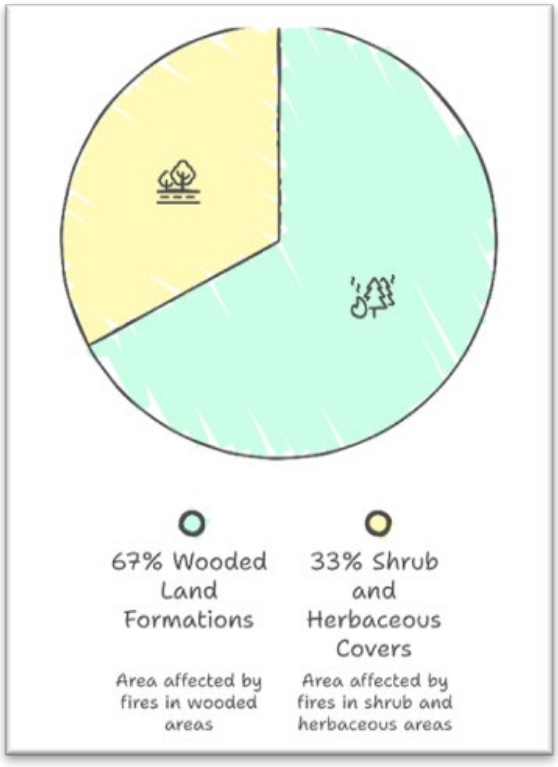
Source: Authors of the country report for Morocco.

Distribution of fires

The distribution of fires recorded in 2025, based on the type of vegetation affected, is as follows:

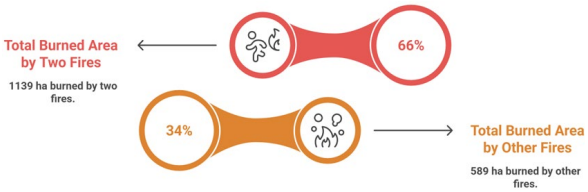
- For Wooded land formations, an area of 1157 ha (67% of the total area burned in 2025) was affected by fires;
- The shrub and herbaceous covers have known fires that have covered an area of 571 ha, equivalent to 33% of the total area burned in 2025;
- Cork oak trees are in first place with an area of 862 ha affected, equivalent to 50% of the total area burned in 2025.

Figure 198. Burnt area distribution by affected vegetation type in 2025 in Morocco.



Source: Authors of the country report for Morocco.

Figure 199. Impact of the two major fires in Morocco in 2025.



Source: Authors of the country report for Morocco.

In 2025, only two big fires ravaged an area of 1139 ha (66% of the total burned area). Human and material resources for all partners concerned were mobilized to deal with these fires.

Main achievement of forest fire management in 2024

A Community Engagement and Awareness Campaigns

The National Agency for Water and Forests has designated May 21 as a National Day to raise awareness of forest fires dangers and to inform populations about fire prevention methods, the importance of maintaining fire-resistant landscapes, and procedures to follow in case of wildfires.

This specific environmental initiative aims to increase awareness of forest fires risks and the behaviours that must be adopted to avoid the outbreak of fires and maintain the environmental balance among various forest visitors and users, including residents of neighbouring neighbourhoods and villages, farmers, owners and exploiters of lands adjacent to forests, hunting associations and forest exploiters, as well as for campers, and sports practitioners.

In 2025, and on the occasion of the National Forest Fire Awareness Day, targeted actions were organized in schools and urban forests, with the aim of raising awareness among the younger generations and citizens living near sensitive natural areas.

Awareness campaigns were conducted in several schools where information sessions and interactive workshops were held to explain the risks associated with fires and the prevention measures to be adopted. At the same time, awareness-raising actions also took place in urban forests, with the distribution of brochures and demonstrations on fire-fighting methods.

These awareness campaigns reached approximately 35 000 students and forest visitors in 300 schools and 100 urban forests.

Figure 200. Community engagement and awareness campaigns in Morocco.



Source: Authors of the country report for Morocco.

B Sharing experiences in integrated forest fire management

B1) Organization of an International Workshop on Integrated Forest Fire Management in Morocco

As part of its international cooperation program, the National Agency for Water and Forests (ANEF) organized, from 12 to 14 February 2025, in coordination with the FAO and the Near East and North Africa Forest Fire Network (NENFIRE), an international workshop dedicated to integrated forest fire management.

The objective of this meeting was to share knowledge and best practices in the areas of prevention, fire management, and post-fire restoration with representatives of the participating countries.

This event marked the first official meeting of NENFIRE members, chaired by Morocco, and

was held in the presence of representatives of the International Forest Fire Network (Fire-Hub). Discussions focused on capacity building, experience sharing, and the promotion of regional cooperation in the field of fire management, with particular emphasis on forest recovery and rehabilitation actions in post-fire areas.

In addition to the workshop sessions, a field visit was organized on 13 February 2025 in the province of Tangier, allowing participants to learn about the Moroccan experience in restoring forest ecosystems affected by wildfires.

Figure 201. International Workshop on Integrated Forest Fire Management in Morocco, February 2025.





Source: Authors of the country report for Morocco.

B2) Participation in the International Conference on “Forest Fires – Preparedness and Innovative Technologies” held in Istanbul

The National Agency for Water and Forests participated in the international conference on “Forest Fires – Preparedness and Innovative Technologies,” held from 20 to 22 October 2025 in Istanbul. This conference brought together policymakers, experts, and international institutions to address the growing challenge of forest fires and explore ways to strengthen global cooperation in tackling this issue.

Figure 202. International Conference on “Forest Fires – Preparedness and Innovative Technologies”, October 2025, Istanbul.



Source: Authors of the country report for Morocco.

Organized by Turkey in partnership with the FAO and the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the event was held as part of the Istanbul Forest Innovation Week and highlighted technological advances and innovative approaches to fire prevention, detection, and suppression.

Participants from various countries and specialized networks exchanged views on policies to enhance the resilience of forest landscapes, the importance of technological solutions such as drones, sensors, and early warning systems, and the role of local communities in preparedness and awareness-raising.

The conference was structured around thematic sessions focusing on international cooperation, capacity building, ecosystem resilience, and technological innovations, and was complemented by a field visit showcasing best practices in forest fire prevention.

The discussions resulted in recommendations aimed at developing data-sharing platforms, promoting pilot projects integrating new technologies, and strengthening regional and global cooperation for sustainable and integrated forest fire management.

B3) Participation in the First Plenary Meeting of the Global Fire Management Hub, held in Rome

The National Agency for Water and Forests participated in the first plenary meeting of the Global Fire Management Hub, held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome from 10 to 12 June 2025. This meeting marked the first time that the global Fire Hub community officially convened, providing a dynamic platform consisting of nine plenary sessions and nine side events.

Discussions focused on the need to connect existing capacities, bridge gaps between countries and regions, and build strong partnerships for coordinated action.Participants from governments, international organizations, and regional networks reviewed the collective progress made since the launch of the Hub, discussed future strategies, and emphasized

the importance of a collaborative and integrated approach.

The exchanges also highlighted the role of technological innovations in fire monitoring and detection, as well as the necessity of sharing data and best practices at the global level. This meeting enabled the initiation of new partnerships and laid the foundations for international governance of forest fires, with the objective of strengthening ecosystem resilience and ensuring shared success in fire management and the restoration of affected areas.

Figure 203. The First Plenary Meeting of the Global Fire Management Hub, June 2025, Rome.





Source: Authors of the country report for Morocco.

(Sources: Directorate of Reforestation and Environmental and Climate Risk; Department of Climate and Environmental Risk; Forest Fire Service, ANEF, Morocco).

3. The European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS)

The European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) has been established jointly by the European Commission (EC) services (Directorate-General for Environment (DG-ENV) and Joint Research Centre (JRC)) and the relevant fire services in the EU Member States and European countries (Forest Services and Civil Protection services). Research activities for the development of the system initiated at JRC in 1998 and the first EFFIS operations were in the year 2000.

In 2003, EFFIS was embedded in the Regulation (EC) No 2152/2003 (Forest Focus) [7] of the European Council and Parliament on monitoring of forests and environmental interactions until it expired in 2006. Since then, EFFIS operated as a voluntary system of information on wildfires until the end of 2015, when it became part of the EU Copernicus program, under the Emergency Management Services.

EFFIS supports the national services in charge of wildfire management providing information on forest fires. The EFFIS network, officially referred to as the Expert Group on Forest Fires (EGFF) includes more than 40 countries in Europe, Middle East and North Africa. EFFIS provides support to the Emergency Response Coordinating Centre (ERCC) of Civil Protection with near-real time information on wildfires and assists other DGs providing both pre-fire and post-fire information on wildfire regimes and impacts. It supports the European Parliament with information on wildfire management, impact in natural protected areas and harmonized information on forest fires in the EU.

The EFFIS Fire Database centralises the national fire data that the countries collect through their national forest fire services. The EFFIS web services[53] allow users to access near-real time and historical information on wildfires.

EFFIS provides a continuous monitoring of the fire situation in Europe and the Mediterranean area and regularly sends updates to EC services during the fire season. The information is continuously updated on the EFFIS web site (up to 8 times, daily), which can be interactively queried[54]. EFFIS provides daily meteorological fire danger [8] maps and forecasts of fire danger up to 9 days in advance, updated maps of the latest active fires, wildfire perimeters and post-fire evaluation of damage.

The EFFIS Danger Forecast module assesses the meteorological forest fire danger in Europe, part of North Africa and the Middle East, on the basis of the Canadian Fire Weather Index (FWI), allowing a harmonized evaluation.

The EFFIS Rapid Damage Assessment (RDA) module estimates the damage from forest fires in Europe and neighboring countries. Since 2000, burnt areas were annually mapped with satellite imagery. The process was more automated after 2003, using MODIS 250 m data for near real-time processing. EFFIS now processes two daily image mosaics of Europe to map burnt areas.

Since 2018, Sentinel-2 imagery has also been utilized, allowing for the mapping of fires smaller than 30 hectares and providing more precise perimeters for fires initially mapped from MODIS imagery. On average, EFFIS maps about 95% of the total area burnt in Europe each year. Additionally, the system analyzes the types of land cover classes [9][10] affected by these fires.

[53] https://forest-fire.emergency.copernicus.eu/

[54] https://forest-fire.emergency.copernicus.eu/apps/effis.csv

4. Wildfires in 2025: Country reports from EFFIS

4.1. The EFFIS Danger Forecast

The EFFIS Danger Forecast was developed to support the European Commission's DG for the Environment and EU Member State forest fire services.

Member States steadily requested to extend its operational period: in 2002 it was six months (May – October), then in2006 nine months (February - October) and since 2008, the system operates continuously monitoring, analysing and mapping the situation.

The geographic extent has been enlarged over the years from the Mediterranean region to the whole of Europe and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries.

The system started using forecasted data provided by Météo-France[55] with a spatial resolution of around 50 km. Then over time other providers were included, such as DWD[56] (Deutscher Wetterdienst) and ECMWF[57] (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecast) improving the resolution. Now the system runs with three different data sets from three providers: ECMWF (the primary), Météo-France and DWD; with a spatial resolution in a range from around 10 km to 25 km.

The following chapters present the fire danger trends for 2025 assessed by EFFIS in the different countries, comparing them with long term trends. To make this analysis we use the Fire weather Index (FWI) calculated on the base of the ECMWF ERA5 reanalysis dataset[58].

Because the relationship between FWI and fire control difficulty is nonlinear, the aggregated FWI values for each country are not calculated using a simple average. Instead, a transformation of FWI in Daily Severity Rating (DSR) is applied to ensure more accurate aggregated statistics (daily severity rating, DSR: Van Wagner, 1987). For each day, the DSR is computed, then aggregated (i) for a given country (spatial average) and (ii) on a 7-days period, more robust to short-term fluctuations (temporal average). The 7-days aggregation period always begins on January 1st of each year; allowing for more consistent comparisons between different years, regardless of the day of the week on which January 1st falls. The DSR aggregated value is then transformed back to the FWI scale. All fire danger figures in this report are computed and aggregated in this way.

For each country, three groups of statistics summarise the historical trend since 1980: the 7-days minimum and maximum; 10th and 90th percentile; and average. These historical trends are plotted against the 2025 trend (7-days country average):

- Historical trend — Min-Max FWI
- Historical trend — 10-90 Percentile FWI
- Historical trend — Average FWI
- 2025 trend — 2025 FWI

This comparison helps identifying the occurrence of extreme fire weather conditions.

4.2. Mapped burnt areas

The country chapters also detail the burnt areas mapped in each country in 2025.

European countries (EU and non-EU) are listed alphabetically, followed by the MENA countries.

55 https://meteofrance.com/

56 https://www.dwd.de

57 https://www.ecmwf.int/

58 https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/cdsapp#!/dataset/cems-fire-historical?tab=overview

Burnt areas are split into different land cover types using the CORINE Land Cover (CLC) 2018 database unless otherwise specified.

The figures may also include **agricultural and urban areas that were burned during the wildfires, or prescribed fires,** which may not strictly be considered forest fires in the countries concerned. The breakdown of totals into the different land cover types gives some ideas of the different areas affected.

Since 2018, fires smaller than 30 ha were mapped. These figures are displayed in the tables of land cover types and the charts of monthly numbers of fires/burnt areas.

However, when comparing the latest data with the historic records of previous years, a filter has been applied excluding fires under 30 ha, in order to make consistent comparisons. This applies to the charts showing the annual time series of mapped numbers of fires/burnt areas.

It is also worth noting, however, that almost all burnt area results from fires larger than 30 ha.

4.3. EFFIS Rapid Damage Assessment: 2025 results

4.3.1. Overview

The Rapid Damage Assessment module of EFFIS was set up to provide reliable and harmonised estimates of the areas affected by wildfires during the fire season. The methodology and the spatial resolution of the satellite sensor data used for this purpose, from the MODIS sensor, at 250 metre spatial resolution, allowed fires of about 30 ha or larger to be mapped. This methodology was enhanced in 2018 using Sentinel 2 imagery, at 20 metre spatial resolution, which allowed the mapping of fires of about 5 ha or larger.

When 2025 burnt area figures are compared with previous years, only fires and burnt area from fires larger than 30 ha are reported. This ensures the temporal consistency of the area burnt estimated from the initial reporting year. When only 2025 burnt area figures are reported, the fires and burnt area from all mapped fires is reported.

Although the number of fires mapped in EFFIS is only a fraction of the total number of fires in the countries, the area burned by these fires represent approximately 95% of the total burnt area reported by the countries.

The fires mapped in EFFIS include all those fires that burned natural land, including prescribed fires that are set for management or conservation purposes. Non-wildland fires are excluded from the statistics published in the system. Accordingly, fires that burn grassland, shrub land and other wooded land are included in the EFFIS statistics. If a portion of a mapped fire includes agricultural or urban areas, these land covers are included in the estimation of the area of the event. Information on each type of land cover that is affected by the fires mapped in EFFIS is provided for each fire event. However, total figures of burnt areas may not correspond with national statistics, given that different countries may rely on different definitions of wildland (e.g. forests, shrub land, etc.) and different local land cover data, typically not available outside each country.

In order to obtain harmonised statistics of the burnt area by land cover type, the data from the European CORINE Land Cover (CLC) database were used. Therefore, the mapped burnt areas were overlaid with the CLC data, making it possible to derive damage assessment results comparable for all the EU countries.

The results for each of the countries affected by forest fires are given in the following paragraphs in alphabetical order, followed by a section on the MENA countries.

The total area burned in 2025, as shown by the analysis of satellite imagery, is shown in **Table 69**; **Figure 204** shows the scars caused by forest fires during the 2025 season.

In 2025, fires were detected and mapped in 46 countries of the EFFIS area of interest and a total burnt area of 2 242 195 ha was mapped, recording a 20% increase in burnt area compared to 2024, and almost 2.5 times more than 2023.

While the burnt area in EU countries was 70% lower than those in European non-EU countries in 2024, both regions reached approximately 1 million hectares in 2025. The most affected country was once again Ukraine, contributing for almost 30% of the total mapped in EFFIS.

Table 69. Areas mapped in 2025 estimated from satellite imagery.

Country/territory	Area (ha)	Number of Fires
Albania	61 657	351
Algeria	22 030	847
Austria	434	4
Belgium	729	17
Bosnia & Herzegovina	39 709	299
Bulgaria	33 825	192
Croatia	3 823	69
Cyprus	13 677	24
Czechia	19	9
Denmark	415	27
Estonia	56	8
Finland	783	66
France	45 172	1 312
Germany	6 837	302
Greece	48 998	235
Hungary	766	20
Ireland	5 013	99
Israel	3 539	45
Italy	96 539	1 910
Jordan	130	5
Kosovo	18 467	283
Latvia	50	7
Lebanon	3 151	261
Lithuania	14	5
Libya	226	11
Moldova	9	1
Montenegro	29 438	300
Morocco	2 949	85
Netherlands	330	15
North Macedonia	32 619	196
Norway	3 360	128
Palestinian Territory	1 767	6
Poland	438	43
Portugal	284 012	999
Romania	134 370	974
Serbia	30 744	498
Slovakia	362	1
Slovenia	161	7
Spain	401 266	1 359
Sweden	1 449	79
Switzerland	1	1
Syria	29 940	228
Tunisia	6 830	122
Türkiye	162 188	1 391
United Kingdom	54 050	1 223
Ukraine	659 853	9 116
Total	**2 242 195**	**23 180**

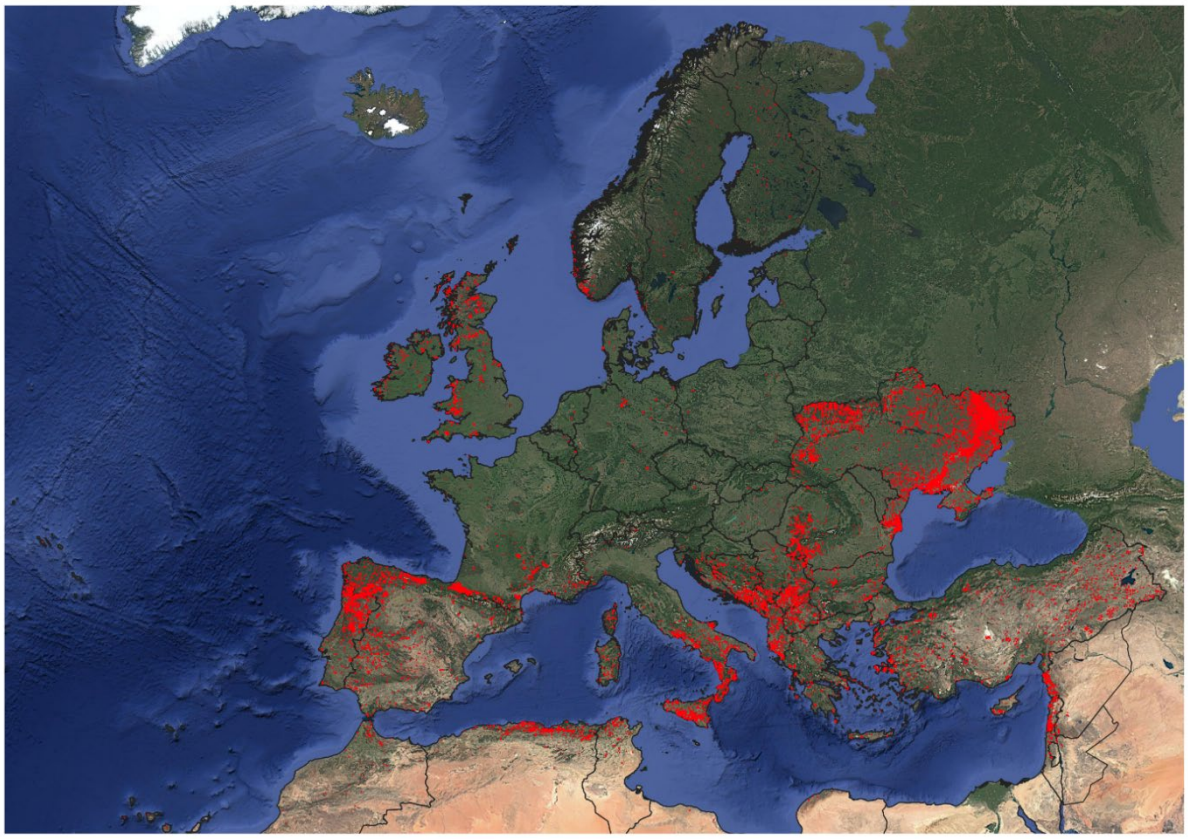
Source: EFFIS.

Table 70. Summary of the burnt area mapped in 2025, estimated from satellite imagery.

Region	Total Area (ha)
EU27	1 079 538
Other European countries	1 092 095
Middle East and North Africa	70 562

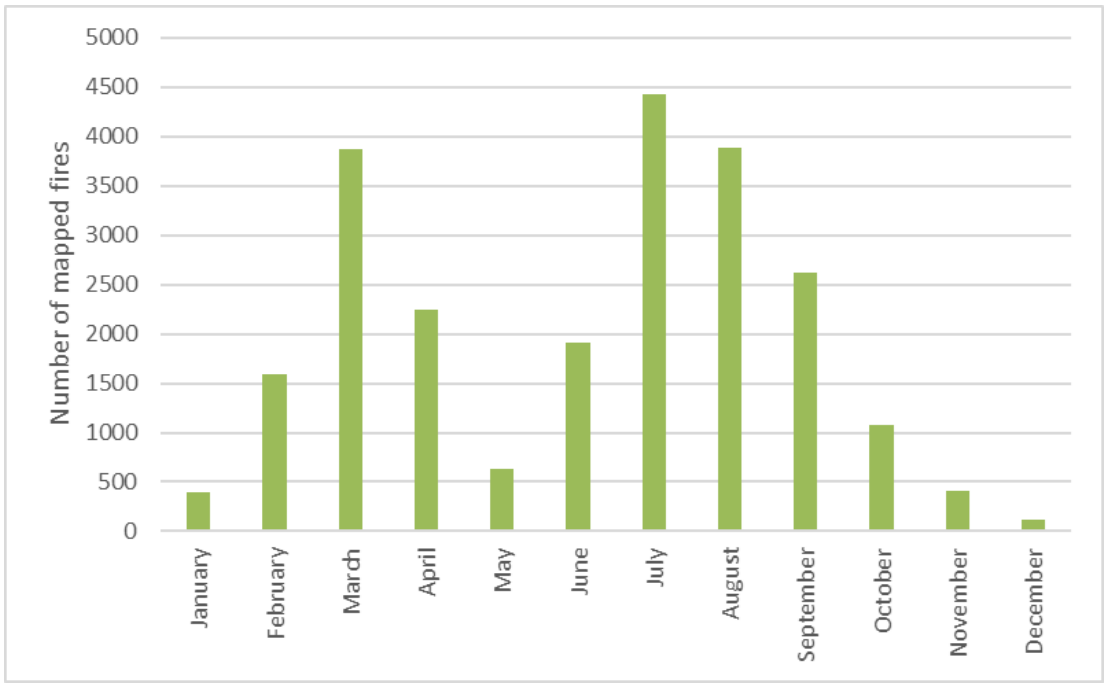
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 204. Burnt scars produced by wildland fires during the 2025 fire season.



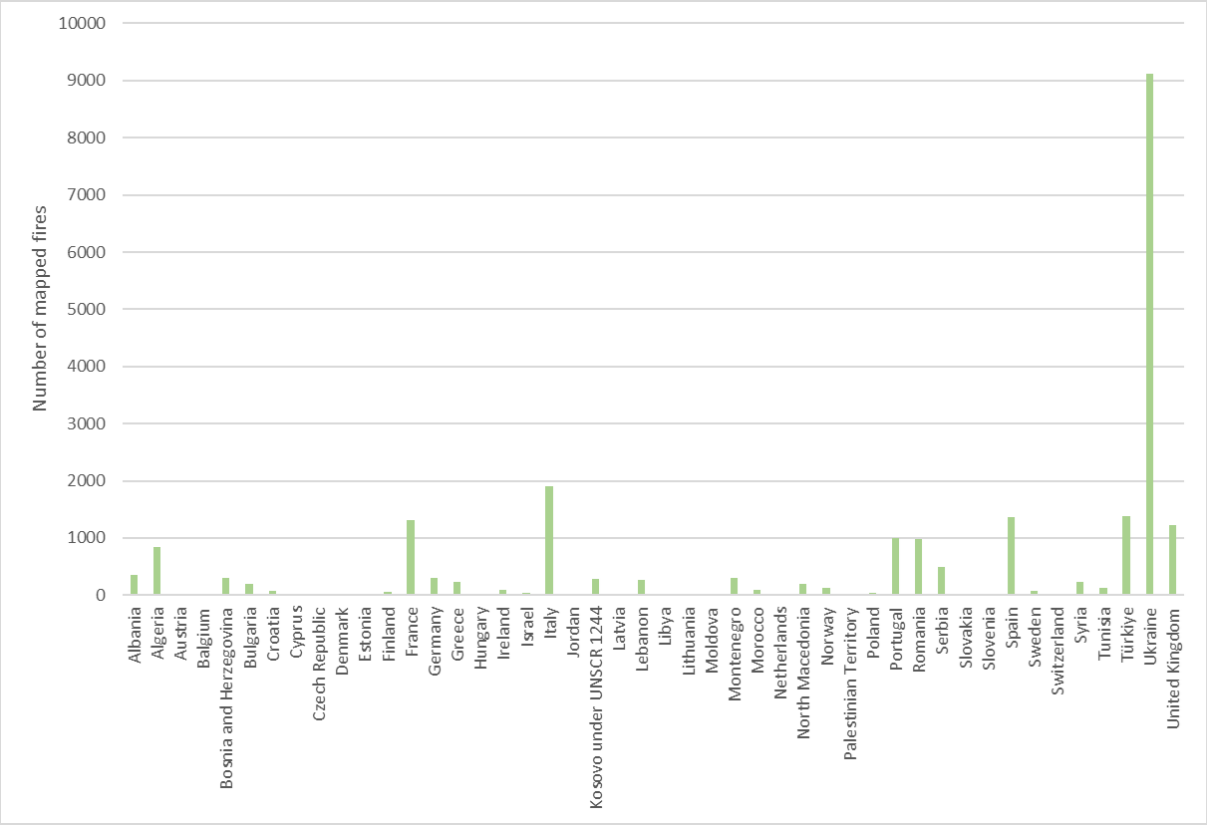
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 205. Number of fires mapped by month in 2025.



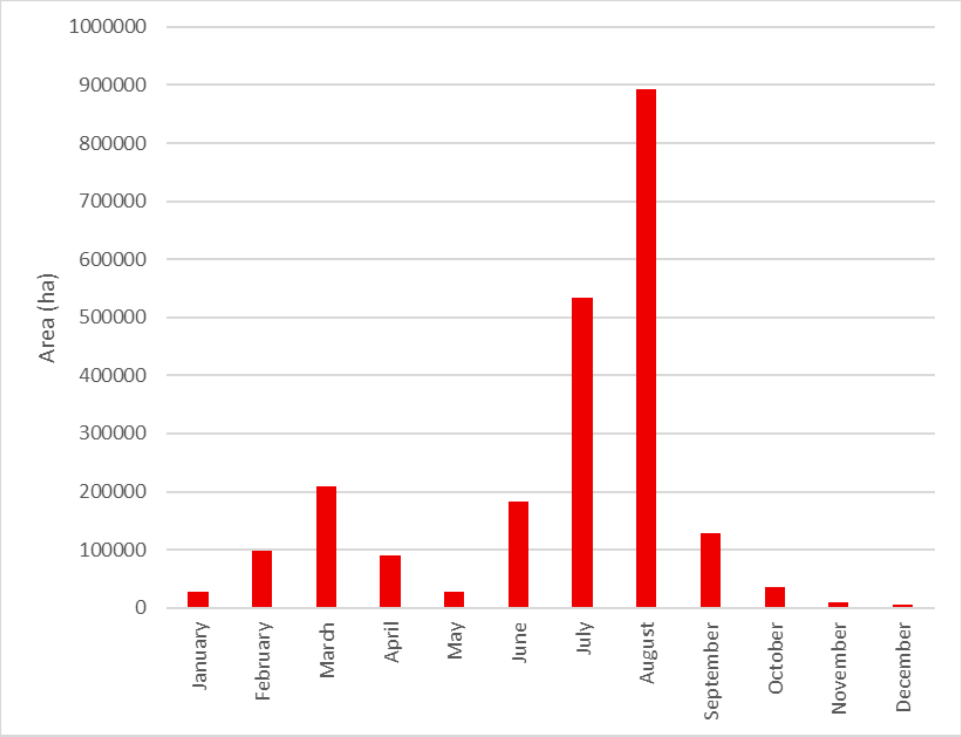
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 206. Number of fires mapped by country in 2025.



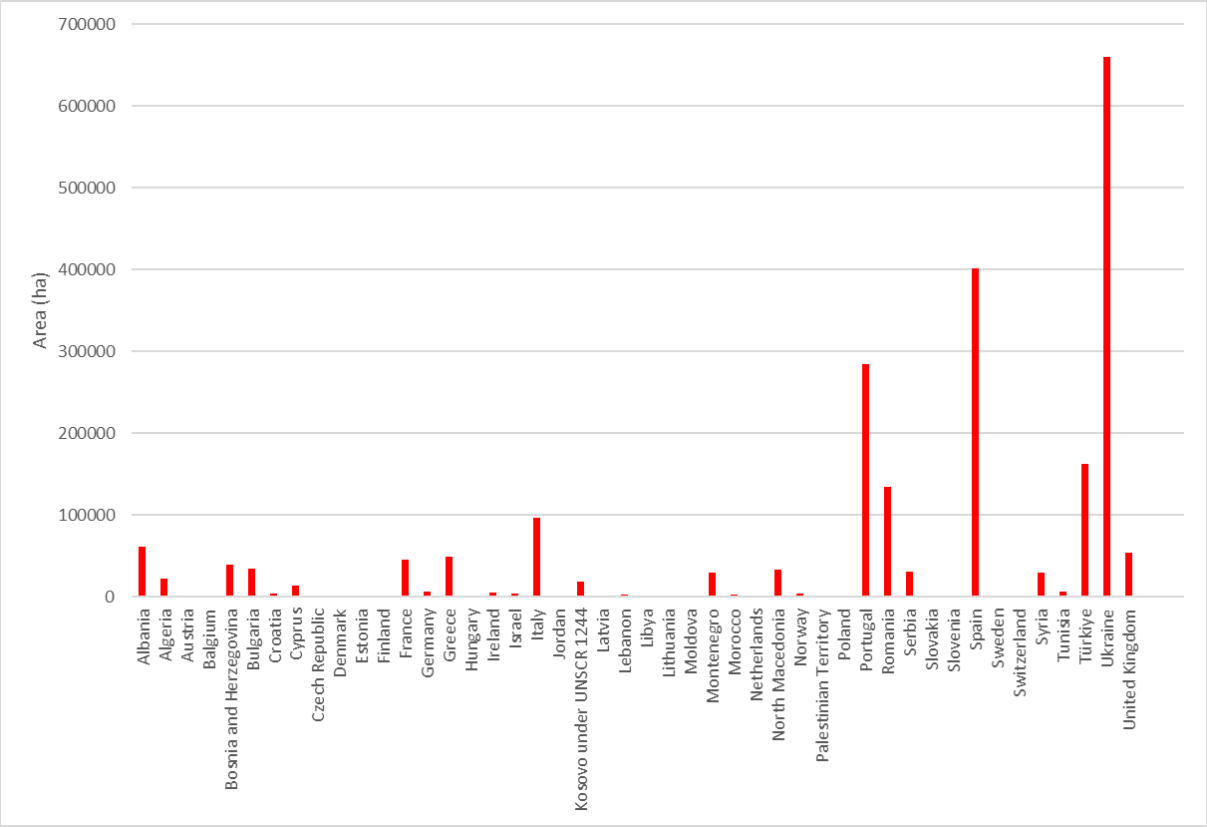
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 207. Total burnt area of fires mapped by month in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 208. Burnt area of fires mapped by country in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

4.3.2. Affected area in Natura2000 and other protected sites

Analysing affected areas in Natura2000 sites is of particular interest, as these areas contain especially important habitats for endangered plant and animal species.

Table 71. Affected Natura2000 and other protected sites in 2025.

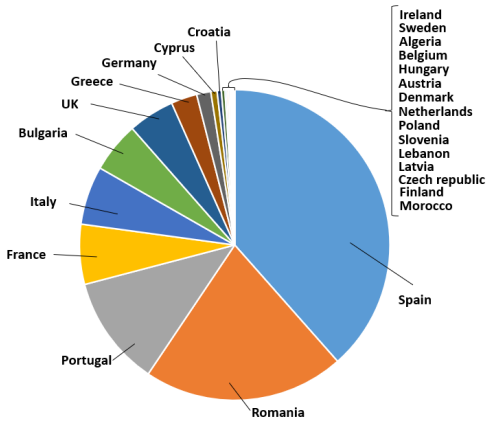
Country	Affected area (ha)[1]	% of Natura2000[2]	No. of Fires
Austria	420.6	0.03	2
Belgium	727.0	0.17	15
Bulgaria	23 470.7	0.42	107
Croatia	1 951.5	0.06	33
Cyprus	2 922.4	1.23	11
Czechia	19.0	0.00	9
Denmark	372.3	0.06	24
Finland	5.0	0.00	2
France	27 887.1	0.30	761
Germany	6 591.2	0.09	282
Greece	12 099.0	0.25	115
Hungary	472.5	0.02	12
Ireland	1 656.9	0.14	46
Italy	27 219.7	0.38	553
Latvia	39.0	0.01	4
Netherlands	329.3	0.04	15
Poland	296	0.00	27
Portugal	51 323.4	2.15	317
Romania	93 504.4	1.20	587
Slovenia	160.0	0.01	6
Spain	171 741.8	1.02	449
Sweden	814.0	0.01	28
EU27 total	**424 022.8**		**3405**
Algeria	810.6		15
Lebanon	42.0		1
Morocco	2.0		2
United Kingdom	21 552.9		344
Non-EU total	**22 407.5**		**362**
Total (all)	**446 430.3**		**3767**

1. mapped burnt areas from all fires are presented, including those that are prescribed for fire management purposes.
2. Percentage of affected Natura2000 area in the country.

Source: EFFIS.

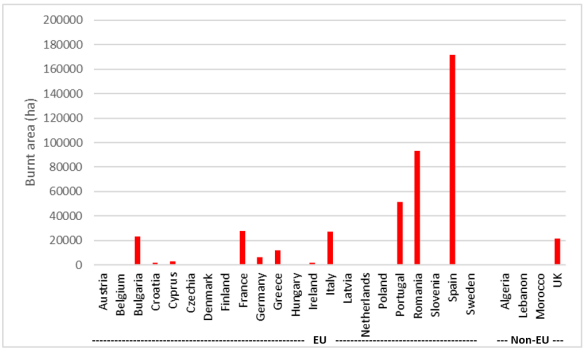
Natura2000 areas only exist in the European Union, but some other countries also report equivalent protected areas. Fires affecting Natura2000 areas were detected and mapped in 22 EU Member States, except in Estonia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia. Data for non-European protected sites was available for 4 countries. The total burnt area in EU27 Natura2000 areas in 2025 was 424 023 ha (39% of the total burnt area), the highest ever recorded (**Figure 211**), three times the amount of 2024 and twice the amount of 2023. In 2025, Spain was the hardest hit, followed by Romania and Portugal, all together representing nearly 75% of the total burnt area in protected areas. (**Figure 209**, **Figure 210**).

Figure 209. Total area burnt in Natura2000 sites and other protected areas in 2025.



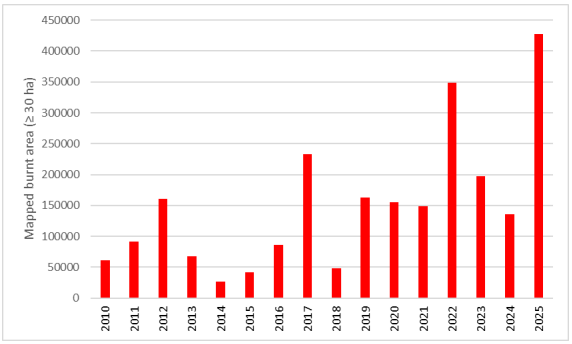
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 210. Mapped burnt area in Natura2000 sites and other protected areas in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 211. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha affecting Natura2000 and other protected sites.



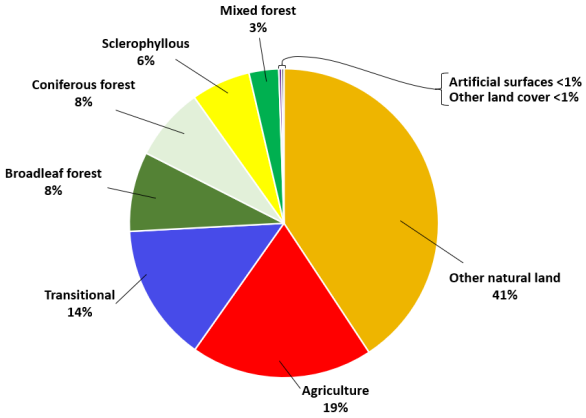
Source: EFFIS.

4.3.3. Affected land cover types

Totals from Ukraine are excluded from this section because its burnt area was significantly higher than in any other country covered by EFFIS, disproportionately affecting the results. Ukraine figures are discussed separately in section 4.4.37 on page 260.

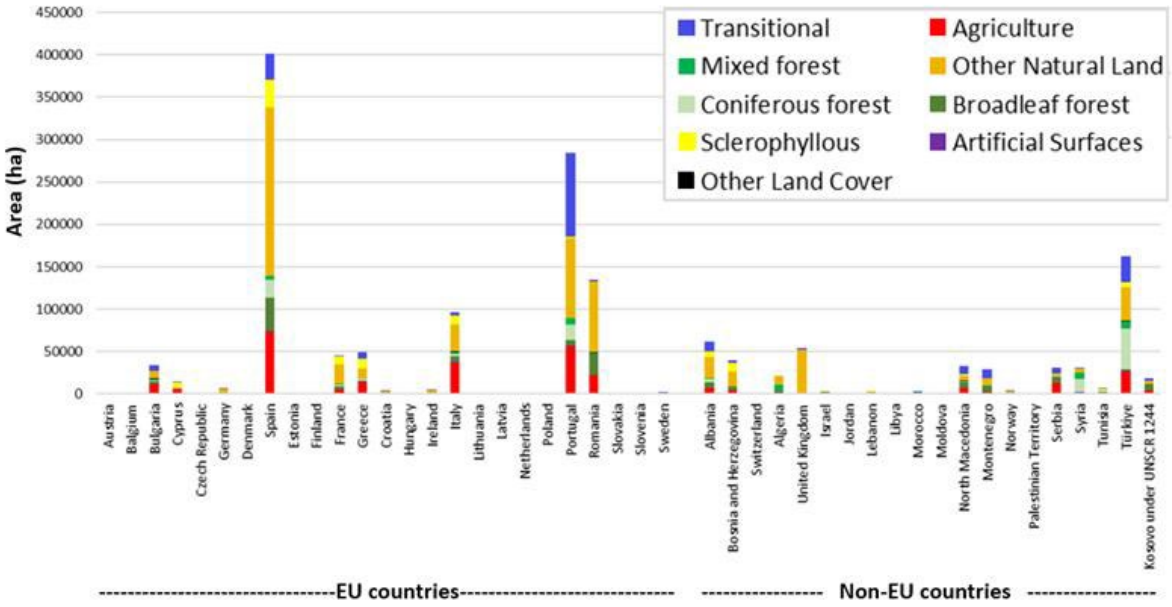
In 2025, excluding figures from Ukraine, 41% of the total burnt area occurred in Other Natural Land as identified by the 2018 CORINE Land Cover Type classification system and the 2019 Copernicus Globcover classification in regions where Corine was not available. A further 19% was mapped in Agricultural Land, while 25% affected forest (Broadleaf, Conifer, Sclerophyllous or Mixed). (Figure 212, Figure 213).

Figure 212. Proportions of land cover types affected in 2025 (all countries excluding Ukraine).



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 213. Burnt area in each country in 2025 by CORINE land class (excluding Ukraine).



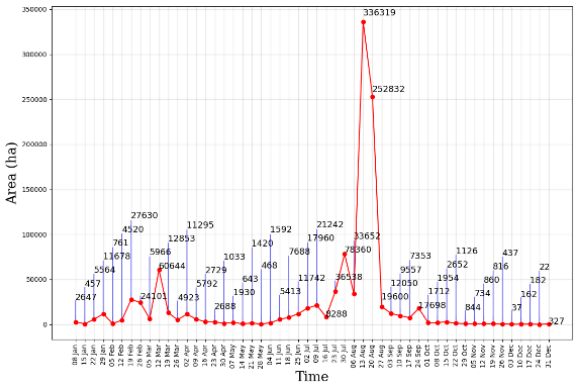
Source: EFFIS.

4.3.4. EU27 countries

In 2025, fires were mapped in 25 of the EU27 countries (all except Luxembourg and Malta where no fires were detected), burning 1 079 538 ha, the highest burnt area ever recorded by EFFIS in the EU. Almost double the amount of the average burnt area in EU, the main peak occurred in July and August, when some of the largest fires of the year were mapped in Spain and Portugal.

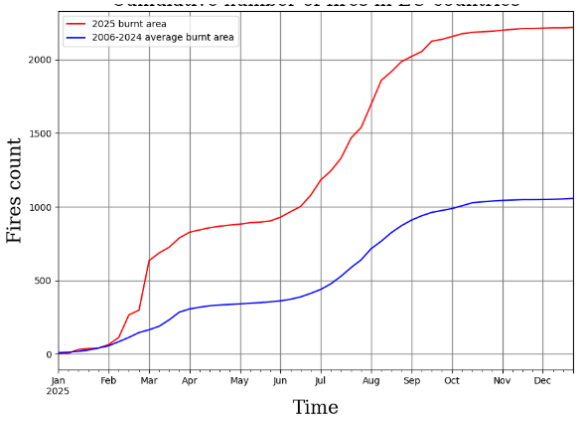
Of this total, 424 023 ha occurred on Natura2000 sites, also the highest ever recorded in EFFIS. This is equivalent to around 39% of the total burnt area in EU27 countries. Two thirds of the damage to protected areas came from three countries (Spain, Portugal and Romania).

Figure 214. Weekly burnt area in EU27 countries in 2025.



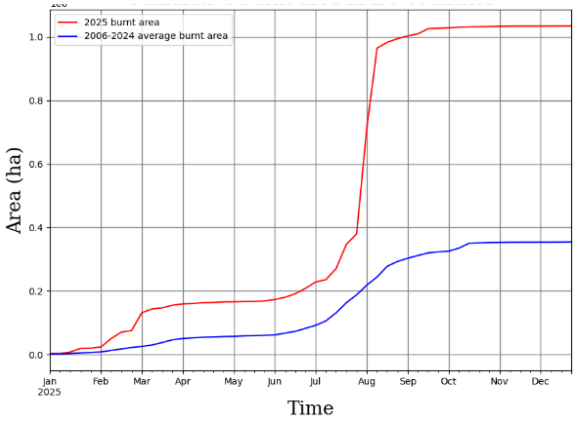
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 215. Cumulative weekly number of fires in EU27 countries in 2025.



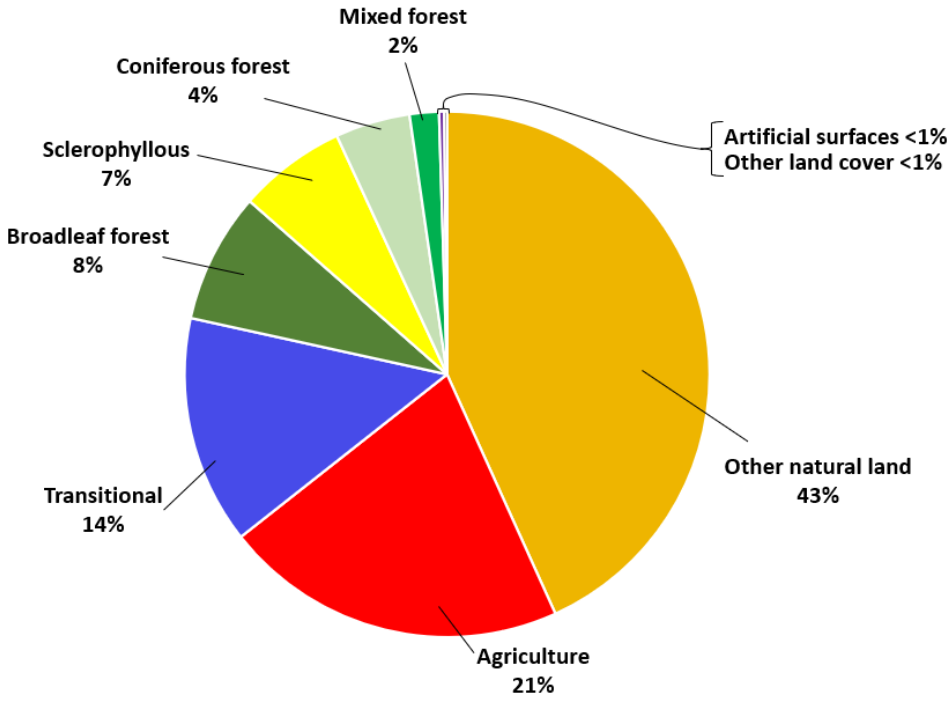
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 216. Cumulative weekly burnt area in EU27 countries in 2025.



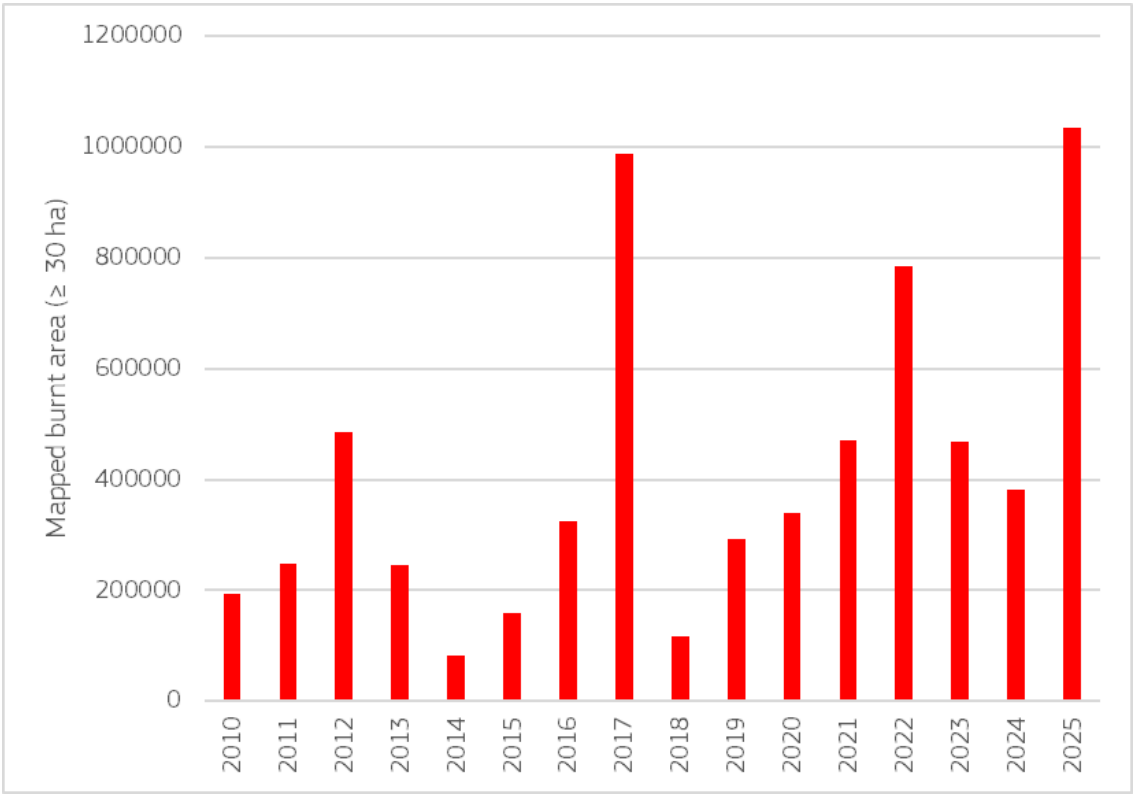
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 217. Proportions of land cover types affected in EU27 countries in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 218. Annual mapped burnt area of fires ≥ 30 ha in EU27 countries.



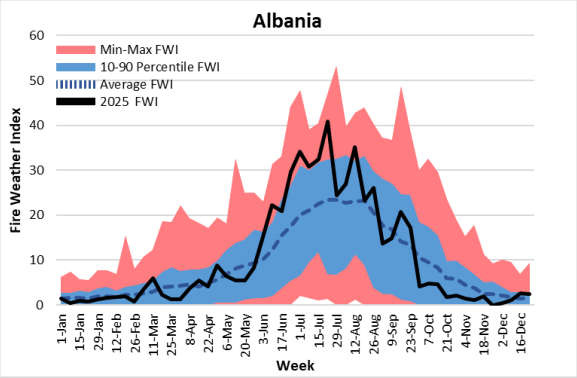
Source: EFFIS.

4.4. Europe – country reports

4.4.1. Albania

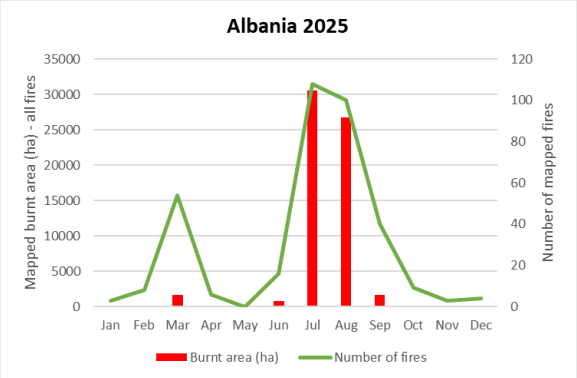
The 2025 fire season in Albania was the most extreme recorded since 2010 **(Figure 221**), and the second worst since the EFFIS monitoring. 61 675 ha from 351 fires were mapped, mostly in July and August (**Figure 220**) when the largest fires of the year occurred. 26 fires exceeded 500 ha, including one of 9 856 ha in Vergo in July and one of 10 565 ha in Dhivër region in August, the latter representing the largest event ever recorded in the country. **Figure 222** shows the location of the main events.

Figure 219. Fire Weather Index information for Albania 2025.



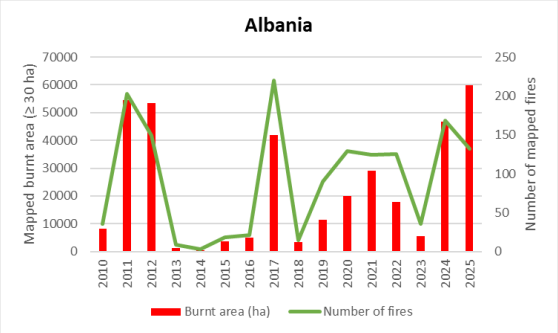
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 220. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Albania in 2025.



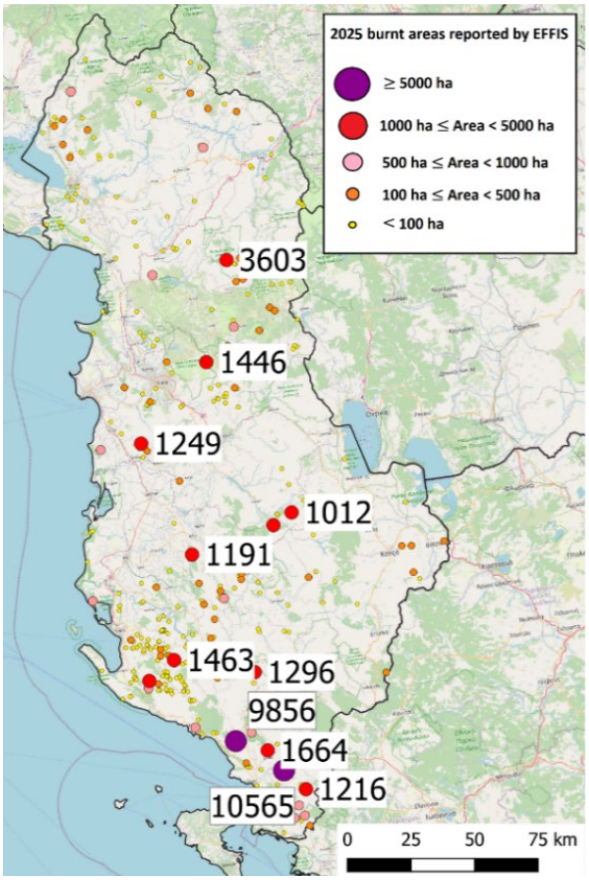
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 221. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Albania.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 222. Main burnt areas in Albania in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Table 72. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Albania by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	6 384	10.35
Coniferous forest	3 475	5.64
Mixed forest	1 617	2.62
Other Natural Land	24 622	39.93
Sclerophyllous vegetation	6 953	11.28
Transitional	11 133	18.06
Agriculture	7 321	11.87
Artificial Surfaces	142	0.23
Other Land Cover	10	0.02
TOTAL	**61 657**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

4.4.2. Austria

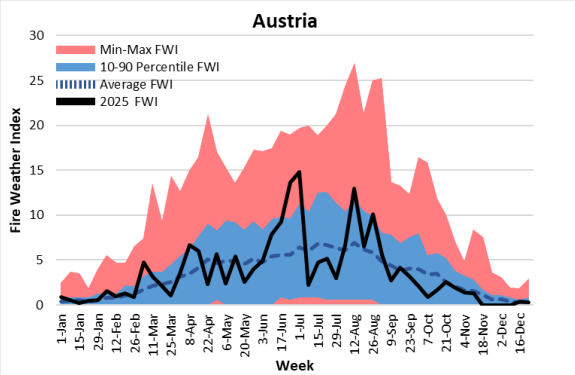
Only four fires were mapped in Austria in 2025, in line with the area recorded in 2023. Of the total of 434 ha mapped, almost all (420.6 ha) affected Natura2000 sites.

Table 73. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Austria by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Coniferous forest	7	1.61
Mixed forest	93	21.43
Agriculture	334	76.96
TOTAL	**434**	**100**

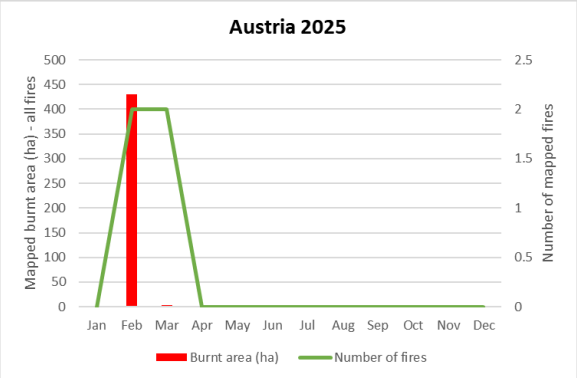
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 223. Fire Weather Index information for Austria 2025.



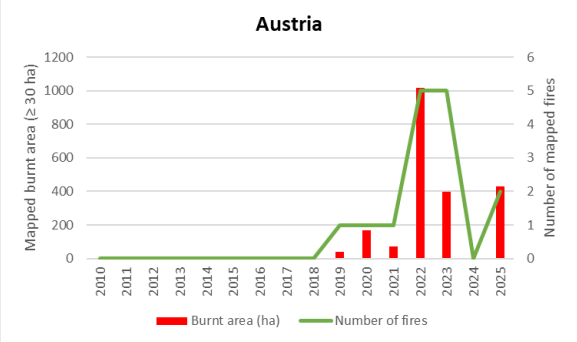
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 224. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Austria in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 225. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Austria.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.3. Belgium

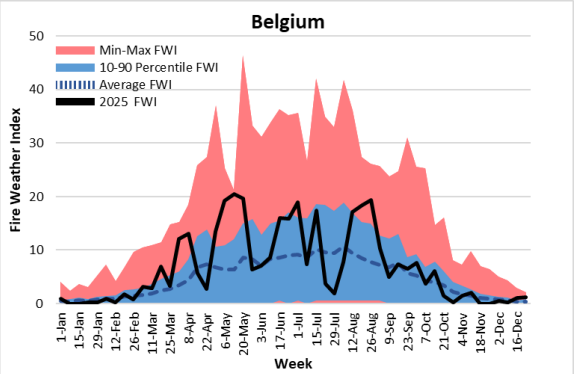
Seventeen fires were mapped in Austria in 2025, making it the second highest season ever in terms of burnt area. Of the total of 729 ha mapped, 727 ha occurred on Natura2000 sites.

Table 74. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Belgium by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Mixed forest	2	0.27
Other Natural Land	727	99.73
TOTAL	**729**	**100**

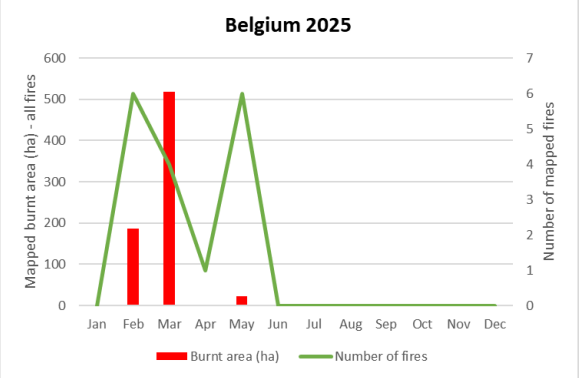
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 226. Fire Weather Index information for Belgium 2025.



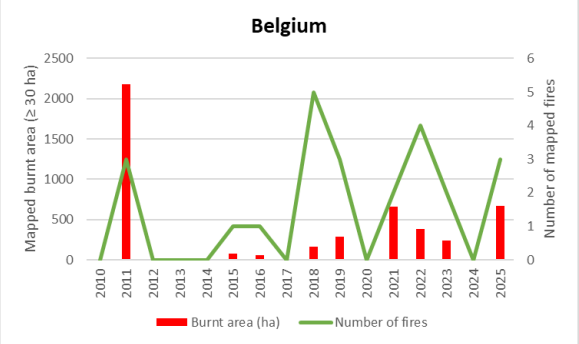
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 227. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Belgium in 2025.



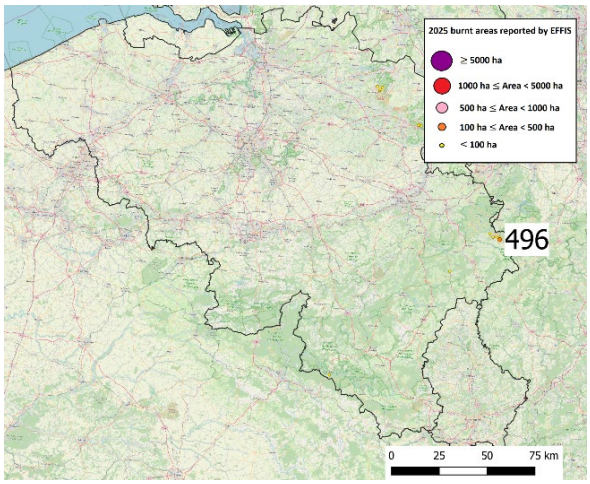
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 228. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Belgium.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 229. Main burnt areas in Belgium in 2025.

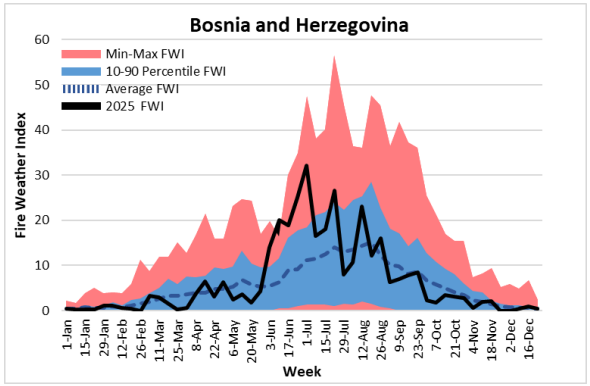


Source: EFFIS.

4.4.4. Bosnia and Herzegovina

A total of 39 709 ha was mapped from 299 fires in Bosnia, in line with 2024 and above the average. The first peak of activity was early in the year when the two fires over 1 000 ha occurred (one of almost 1 100 ha in Bileća and one of almost 1 500 ha in Glamoč in March). A second peak occurred over the summer season, characterised by several large fires including the biggest one of 5 832 ha in July in Trebinje. In total 17 fires of over 500 ha were mapped, of which 9 exceeded 1 000 ha.

Figure 230. Fire Weather Index information for Bosnia & Herzegovina in 2025.



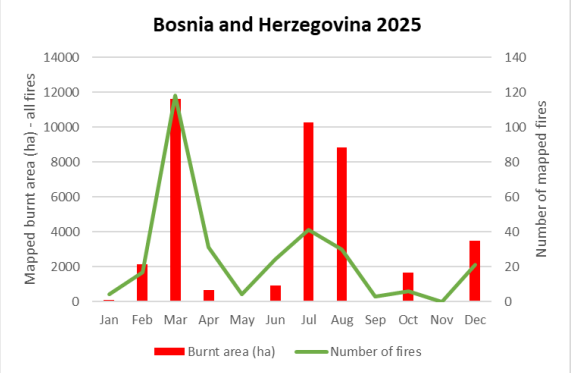
Source: EFFIS.

Table 75. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Bosnia-Herzegovina by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	4 391	11.06
Coniferous forest	161	0.41
Mixed forest	109	0.27
Other natural Land	17 229	43.39
Sclerophyllous vegetation	10 573	26.63
Transitional	2 863	7.21
Agriculture	4 371	11.01
Artificial surfaces	11	0.03
Other land cover	1	0.00
TOTAL	**39 709**	**100**

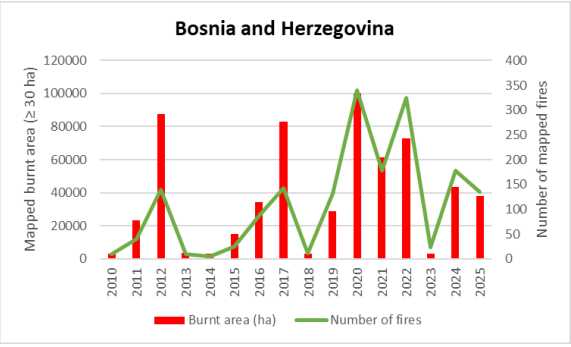
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 231. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Bosnia & Herzegovina in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 232. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Bosnia & Herzegovina.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.5. Bulgaria

The total recorded burnt area in Bulgaria was the second highest ever since 2010 (**Figure 235**), and the fourth worst since the EFFIS monitoring. 33 825 ha were burnt from 192 fires, including one of almost 8 000 ha and a further 7 over 500 ha. The vast majority of the damage occurred in July when the largest fires of the year were mapped.

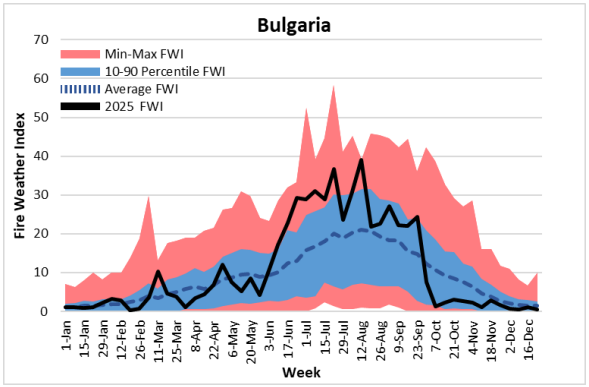
Of the annual total, around two-thirds (23 470 ha) occurred in Natura2000 sites, amounting to 0.42% of the total protected land in Bulgaria. Agricultural land was the most impacted land cover in 2025, like in 2024.

Table 76. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Bulgaria by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	2 656	7.85
Coniferous forest	1 120	3.31
Mixed forest	2 514	7.43
Other Natural Land	8 877	26.24
Transitional	6 709	19.83
Agriculture	11 586	34.25
Artificial Surfaces	152	0.45
Other Land Cover	211	0.62
TOTAL	**33 825**	**100**

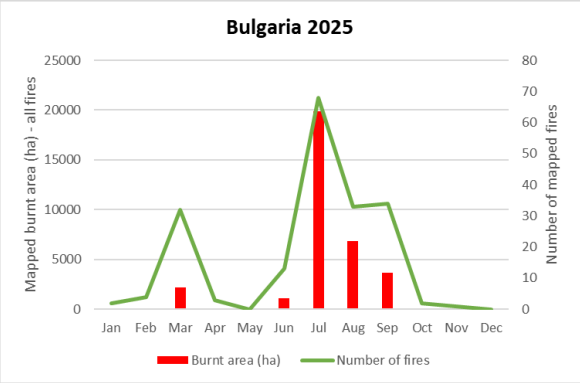
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 233. Fire Weather Index information for Bulgaria in 2025.



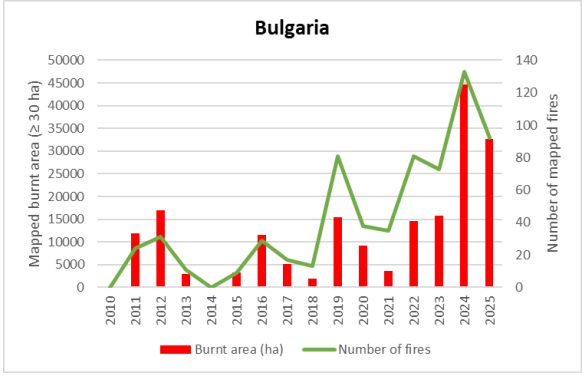
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 234. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Bulgaria in 2025.



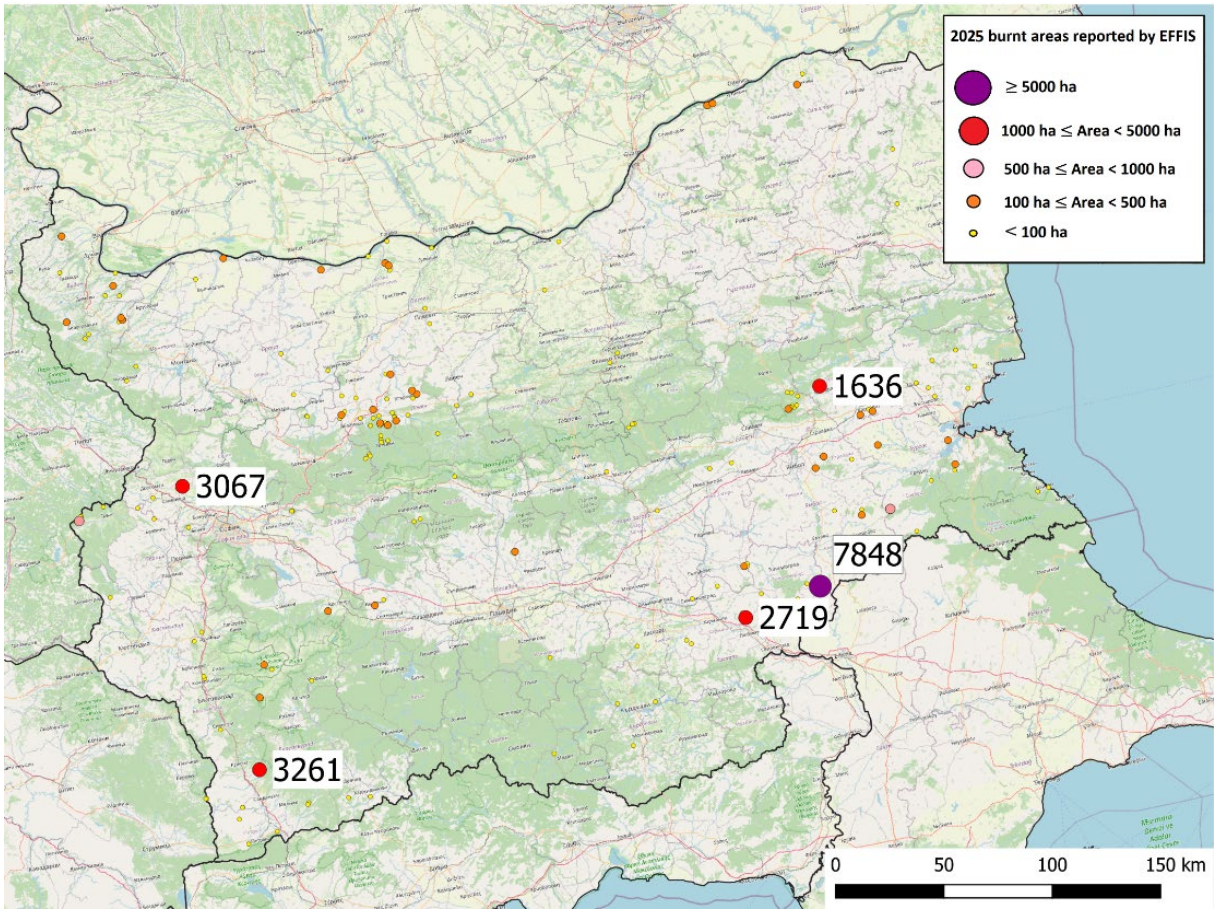
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 235. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Bulgaria.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 236. Main burnt areas in Bulgaria in 2025.

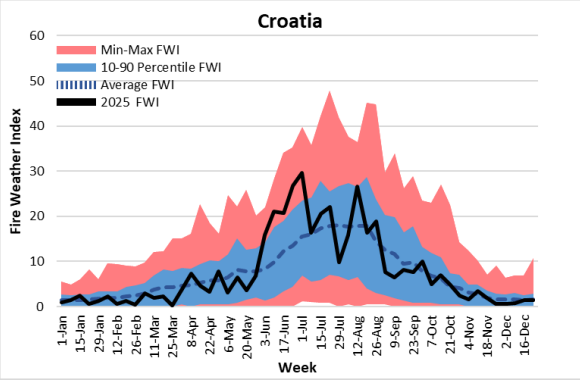


Source: EFFIS.

4.4.6. Croatia

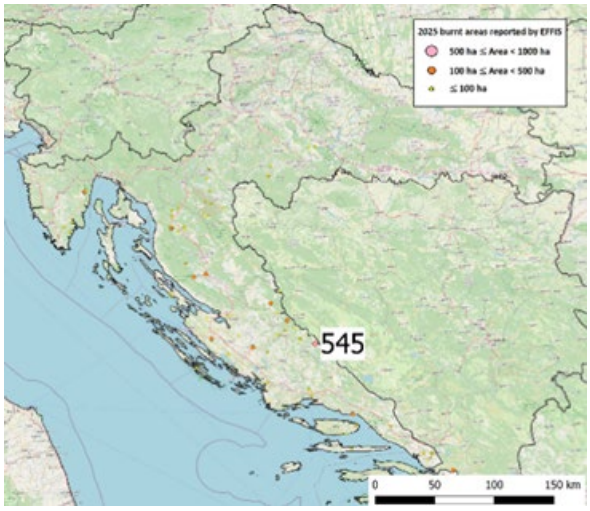
There were 69 mapped fires in Croatia in 2025, burning a total of 3 823 ha. It was a mild year in terms of burnt area, and the 2025 total was lower than the average. Almost half of the damage occurred in March, when the only fire over 500 ha took place in Vrlika municipality. Of the total, 1 952 ha (51% of the total) occurred on Natura2000 sites, amounting to 0.06% of the protected areas in the country.

Figure 237. Fire Weather Index information for Croatia in 2025.



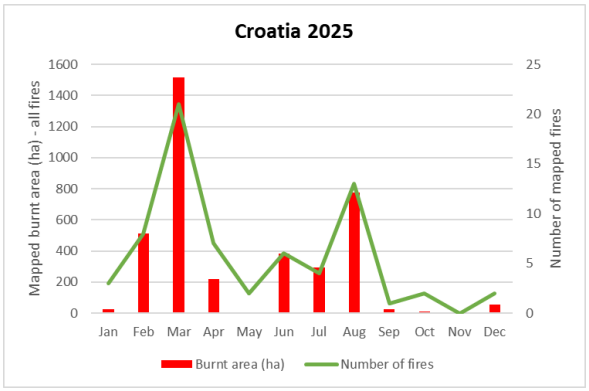
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 238. Main burnt areas in Croatia in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 239. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Croatia in 2025.



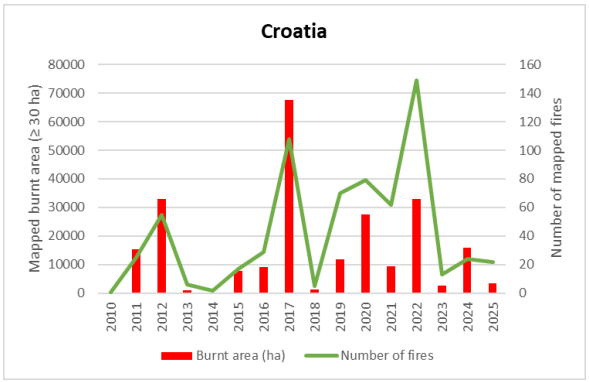
Source: EFFIS.

Table 77. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Croatia by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	295	7.72
Coniferous forest	26	0.68
Mixed forest	2	0.05
Other Natural Land	1 714	44.83
Sclerophyllous vegetation	45	1.18
Transitional	863	22.57
Agriculture	851	22.26
Artificial Surfaces	27	0.71
TOTAL	**3 823**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

Figure 240. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Croatia.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.7. Cyprus

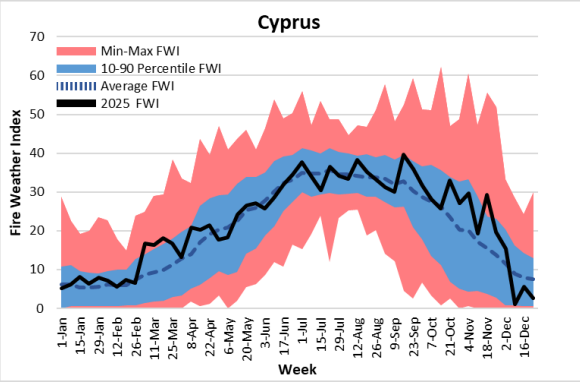
In 2025, 24 fires were mapped in Cyprus covering 13 677 ha, recording the highest amount ever. Over 90% of the damage occurred in one single event, the biggest ever recorded in the country, which covered 12 437 ha in the southern part of the island. A total of 2 922 ha was mapped on Natura2000 sites, accounting for a quarter of the total and 1.23% of the total protected land of the country.

Table 78. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Cyprus by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	73	0.53
Coniferous forest	361	2.64
Other Natural Land	644	4.71
Sclerophyllous vegetation	5 814	42.51
Transitional	153	1.12
Agriculture	6 216	45.45
Artificial Surfaces	377	2.76
Other Land Cover	39	0.29
TOTAL	**13 677**	**100**

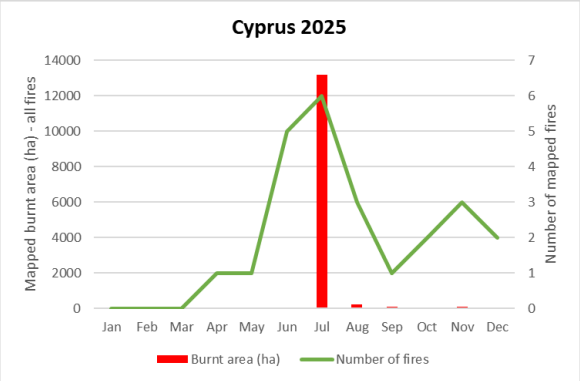
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 241. Fire Weather Index information for Cyprus in 2025.



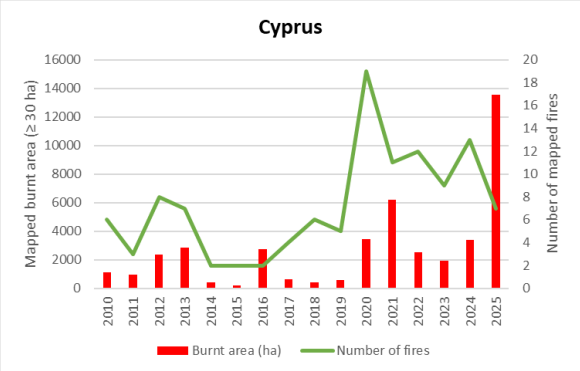
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 242. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Cyprus in 2025.



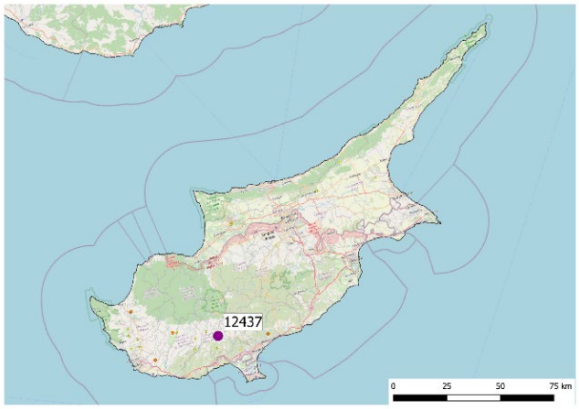
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 243. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Cyprus.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 244. Main burnt areas in Cyprus in 2025.

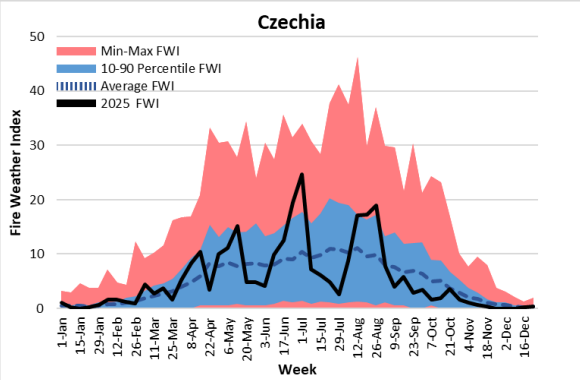


Source: EFFIS.

4.4.8. Czechia

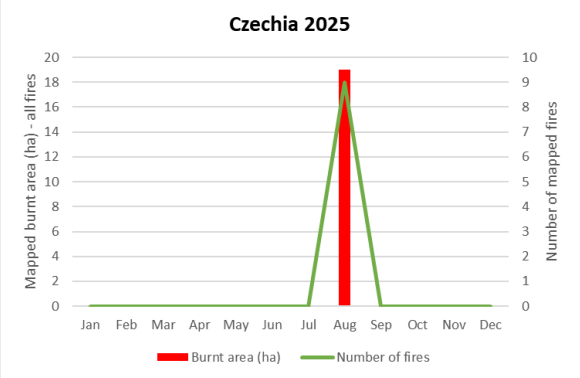
Nine fires were mapped in Czechia in 2025 for a total of 19 ha which affected other natural land class. The Fire Weather Index was mostly at or below average levels except for some periods in the spring and during the summer season.

Figure 245. Fire Weather Index information for Czechia in 2025.



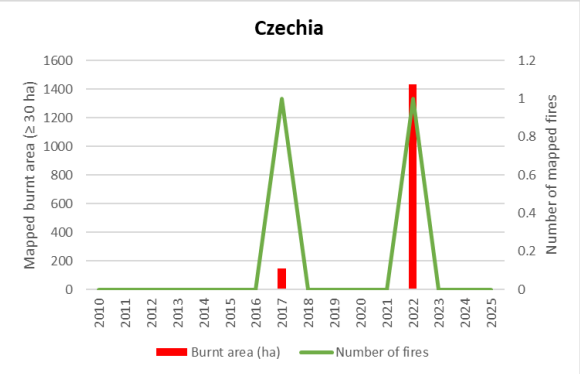
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 246. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Czechia in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 247. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Czechia.

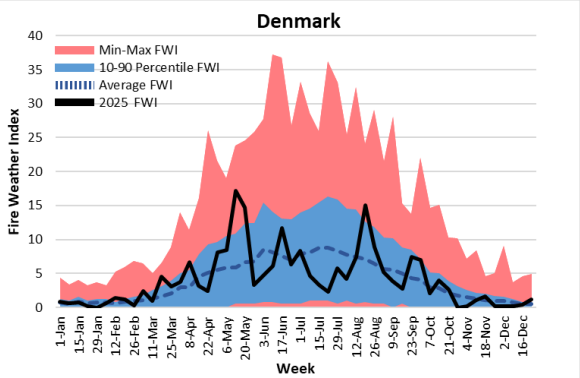


Source: EFFIS.

4.4.9. Denmark

In Denmark, 27 fires burned 415 ha, amount sensibly above the average, from February to July, of which 372 impacted Natura2000 sites.

Figure 248. Fire Weather Index information for Denmark in 2025.



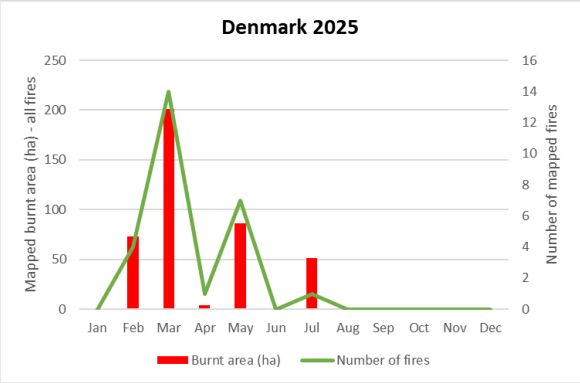
Source: EFFIS.

Table 79. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Denmark by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Coniferous forest	56	13.49
Other Natural Land	357	86.02
Transitional	2	0.48
TOTAL	**415**	**100**

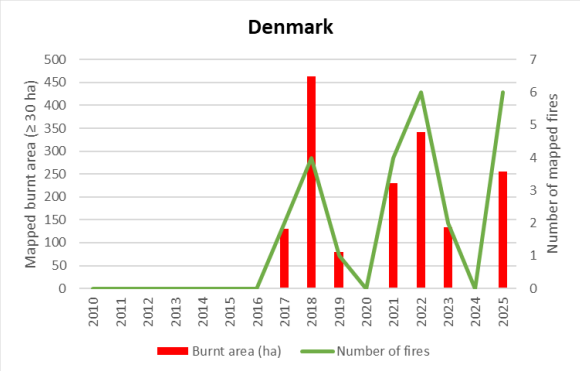
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 249. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Denmark in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 250. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Denmark.

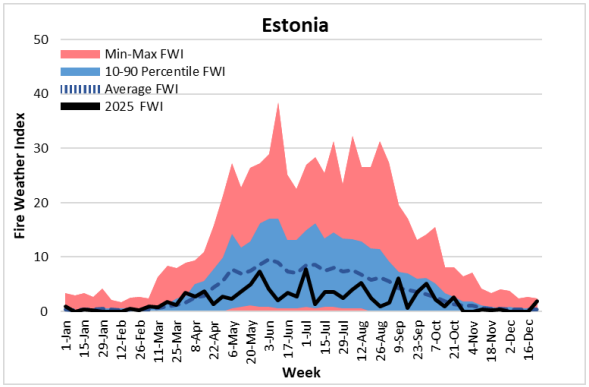


Source: EFFIS.

4.4.10. Estonia

Eight fires were mapped in Estonia in 2025, for a total burnt area of 56 ha all taking place in Transitional land cover. The Fire Weather Index was mostly at or below average levels, apart from a short peak in the Spring.

Figure 251. Fire Weather Index information for Estonia in 2025.



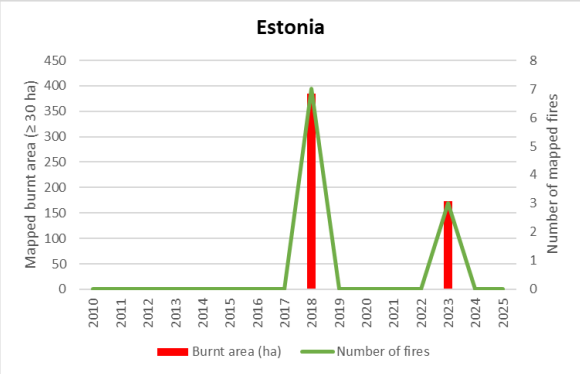
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 252. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Estonia in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 253. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Estonia.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.11. Finland

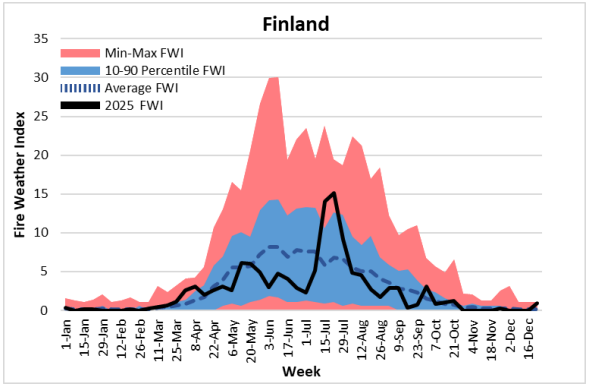
The 2025 fire season in Finland was fairly light and comparable to the previous two years. A total burnt area of 783 ha was mapped from 66 fires, mostly in Coniferous Forest (**Table 80**). Less than 1% (5 ha) of the total was on Natura2000 land. Similar to past years, the fire season ran from May to August (**Figure 255**).

Table 80. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Finland by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	5	0.64
Coniferous forest	635	81.10
Mixed forest	98	12.52
Other Natural Land	7	0.89
Transitional	38	4.85
TOTAL	**783**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

Figure 254. Fire Weather Index information for Finland in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 255. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Finland in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 256. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Finland.

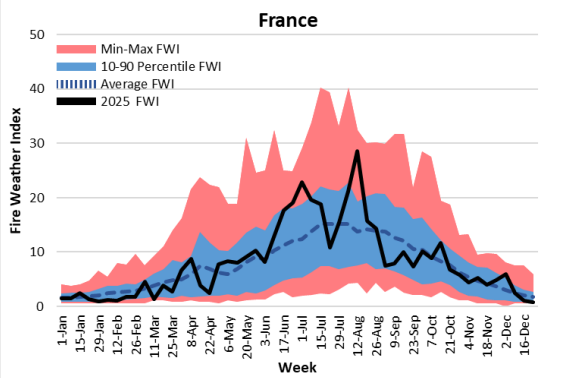


Source: EFFIS.

4.4.12. France

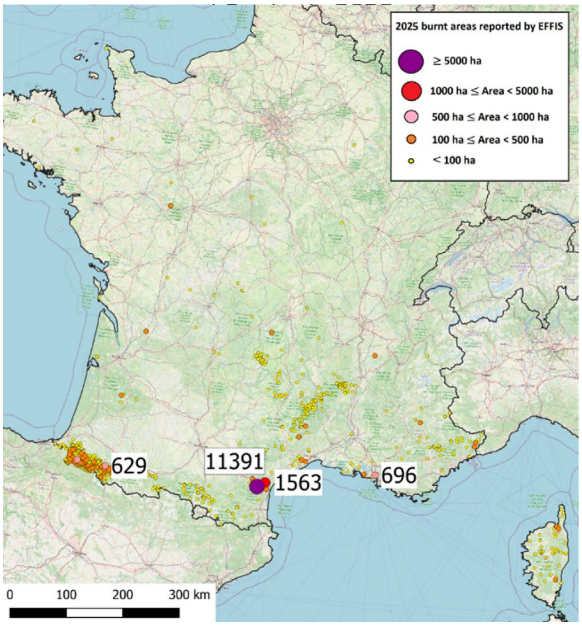
The 2025 fire season in France was the third worst ever for burnt area with 45 172 ha from 1 312 fires. The vast majority of the fires occurred either early in the season, or during the summer season in July and August.

Figure 257. Fire Weather Index information for France in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 258. Main burnt areas in mainland France and Corsica in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

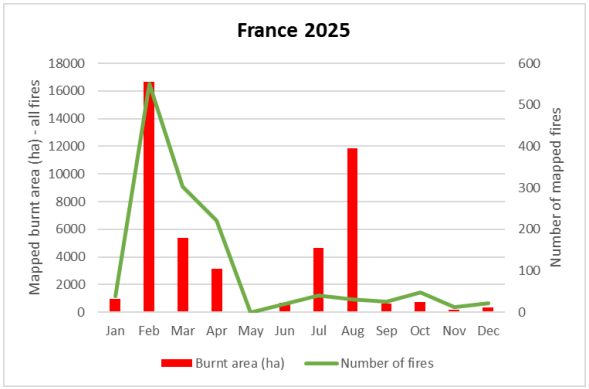
Five fires were over 500 ha; the one in the Aude region burnt 11 391 ha and was the third biggest ever recorded in the country. 27 887 ha (61%) of the annual total occurred in Natura2000 sites, which corresponds to 0.3% of the total Natura2000 areas in the country.

Table 81. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in France by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	3 751	8.30
Coniferous forest	1 747	3.86
Mixed forest	1 409	3.12
Other Natural Land	22 557	49.88
Sclerophyllous	9 408	20.81
Transitional	1 008	2.23
Agriculture	5 042	11.15
Artificial Surfaces	286	0.63
Other land cover	9	0.02
TOTAL	**45 172**	**100**

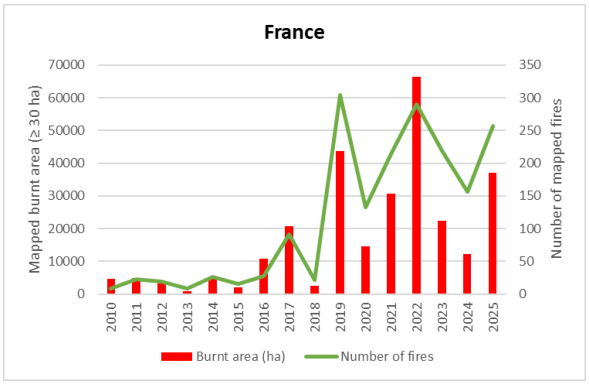
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 259. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in France in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 260. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in France.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.13. Germany

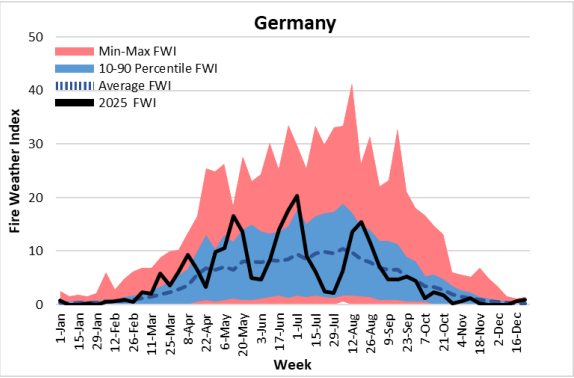
The 2025 fire season in Germany was the worst ever recorded in the EFFIS system. 302 fires were mapped, burning a total of 6 837 ha, mostly in Other Natural Land. Half of the year's total occurred in July, although there was also a smaller peak in the spring. Only one fire in the Saxony was over 500 ha, but with 2 060 ha it was the biggest ever recorded in the country. Almost all the year's total (6 591 ha, 96%) occurred on Natura2000 sites, amounting to 0.09% of the protected area in the country.

Table 82. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Germany by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	122	1.78
Coniferous forest	889	13.00
Mixed forest	531	7.77
Other Natural Land	4 856	71.02
Transitional	384	5.62
Agriculture	51	0.75
Artificial surfaces	4	0.06
TOTAL	**6 837**	**100**

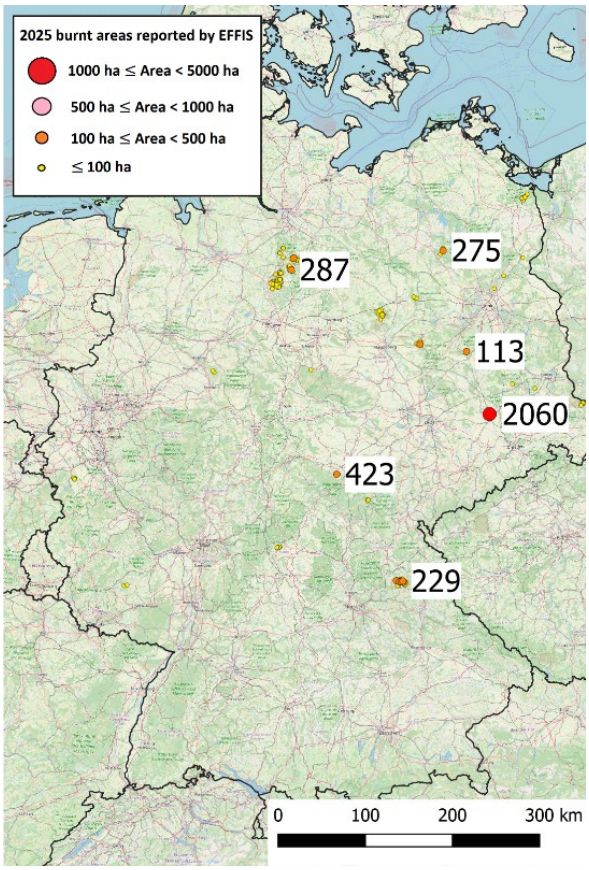
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 261. Fire Weather Index information for Germany in 2025.



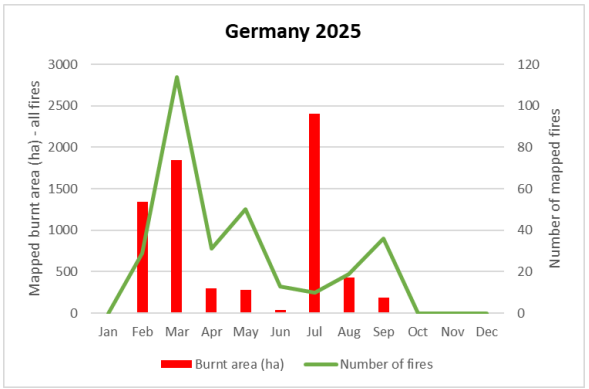
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 262. Main burnt areas in Germany in 2025.



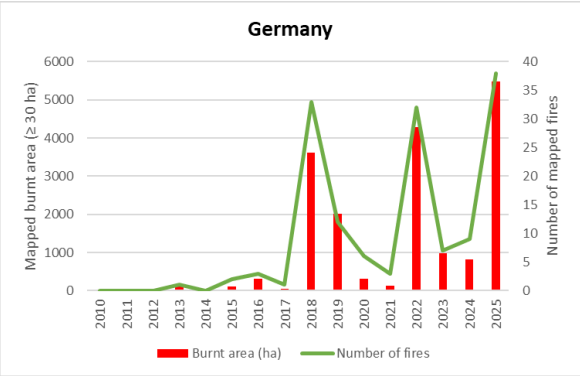
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 263. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Germany in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 264. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Germany.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.14. Greece

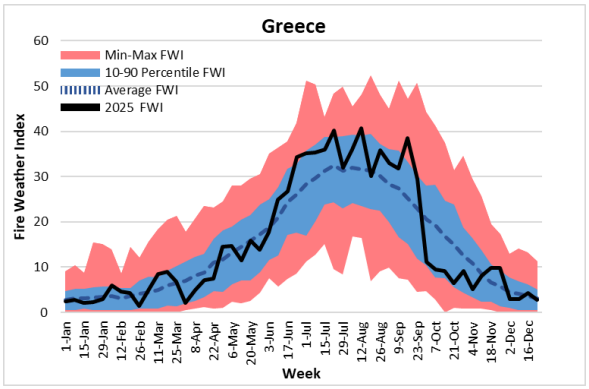
With a total burnt area of 48 998 ha, the 2025 fire season was in line with 2024, slightly above the average. The fire season ran from June to August, with a number of small fires also occurring during September and October. 18 fires over 500 ha were recorded, the largest being in Chios Island and covered nearly 8 000 ha. Of the total, around a quarter (12 099 ha) occurred on Natura2000 sites, amounting to 0.25% of the total protected area of Greece.

Table 83. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Greece by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	675	1.38
Coniferous forest	1 480	3.02
Mixed forest	152	0.31
Other Natural Land	12 714	25.94
Sclerophyllous vegetation	11 910	24.31
Transitional	6 907	14.10
Agriculture	14 341	29.27
Artificial Surfaces	795	1.62
Other land cover	24	0.05
TOTAL	**48 998**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

Figure 265. Fire Weather Index information for Greece in 2025.



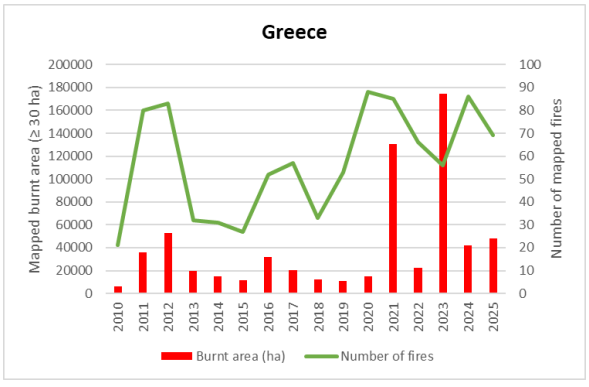
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 266. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Greece in 2025.



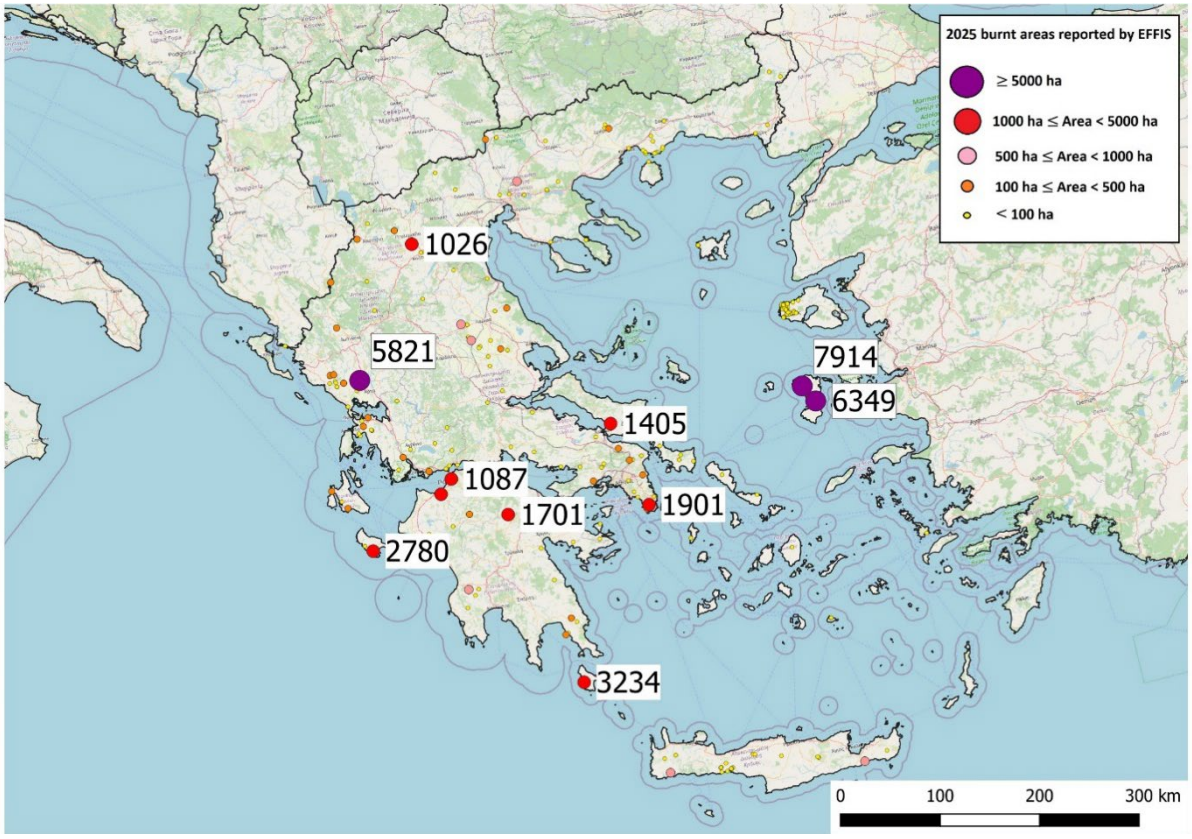
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 267. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Greece.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 268. Main burnt areas in Greece in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.15. Hungary

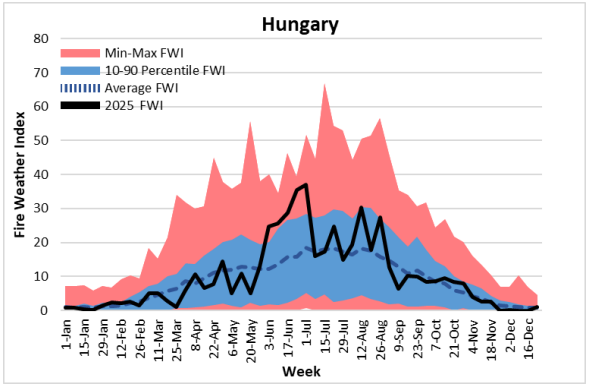
In 2025, 766 ha were mapped from 20 fires, in line with the average, and around 70% of the damage occurred in the summer season. Of the annual total, just over half (472 ha) occurred on Natura2000 sites, representing 0.02% of the protected areas of the country.

Table 84. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Hungary by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	77	10.05
Coniferous forest	6	0.78
Mixed forest	11	1.44
Other Natural	270	35.25
Transitional	104	13.58
Agriculture	298	38.90
TOTAL	**766**	**100**

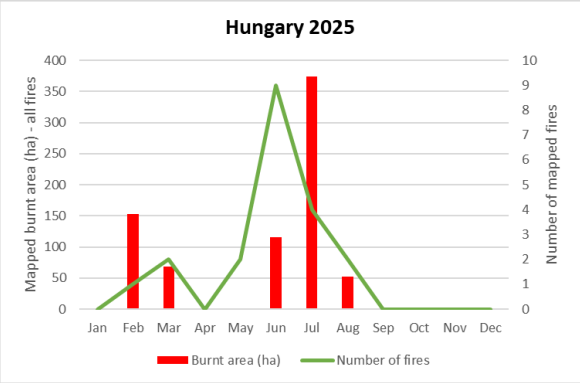
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 269. Fire Weather Index information for Hungary in 2025.



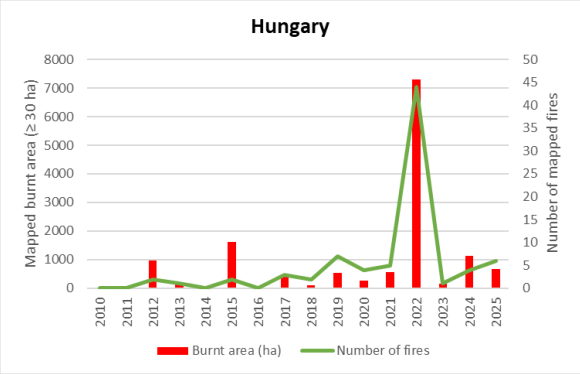
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 270. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Hungary in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 271. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Hungary.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.16. Ireland

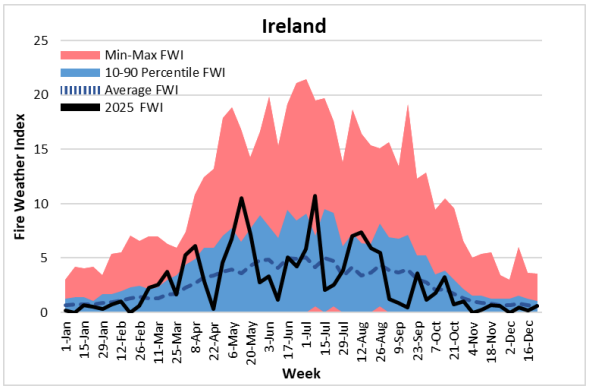
For 2025, the wildfire statistics in Ireland are in line with the averages. 99 fires were mapped in 2025, covering a total of 5 013 ha, mostly in Other Natural Land. Around one third of the total (1 657 ha) was on Natura2000 sites, amounting to 0.14% of the protected sites in the country.

Table 85. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Ireland by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	6	0.12
Coniferous forest	174	3.47
Mixed forest	28	0.56
Other Natural Land	4 377	87.31
Transitional	326	6.50
Agriculture	97	1.93
Other land cover	5	0.10
TOTAL	**5 013**	**100**

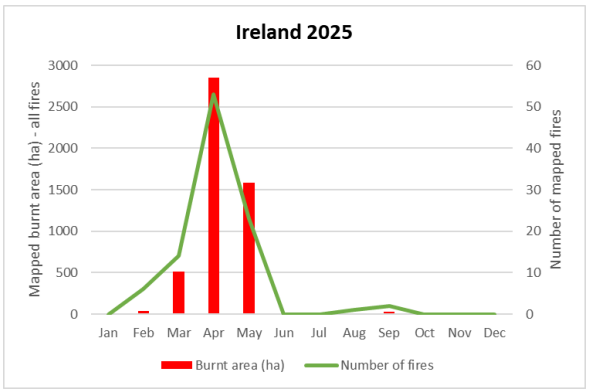
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 272. Fire Weather Index information for Ireland in 2025.



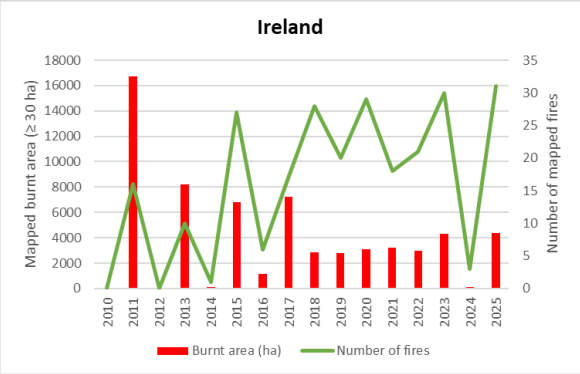
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 273. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Ireland in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 274. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Ireland.



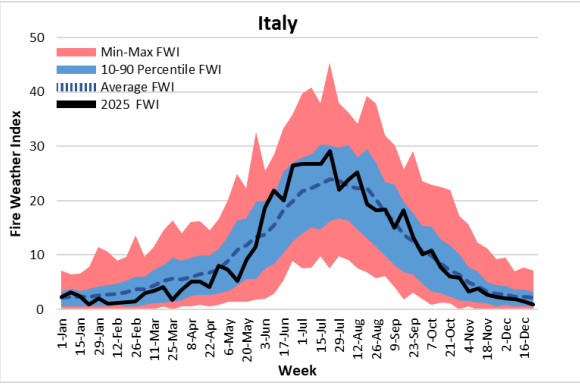
Source: EFFIS.

4.4.17. Italy

The 2025 fire season in Italy was challenging, as the total amount of burnt areas of 96 539 ha were almost double the average. Distributed in 1 910 fires, 85% of the damage was in the summer season, when most of the major fires of the year occurred, including one of over 5 500 ha in Trapani district. 23 other fires exceeded 500 ha, significantly above the 6 ones mapped in 2024.

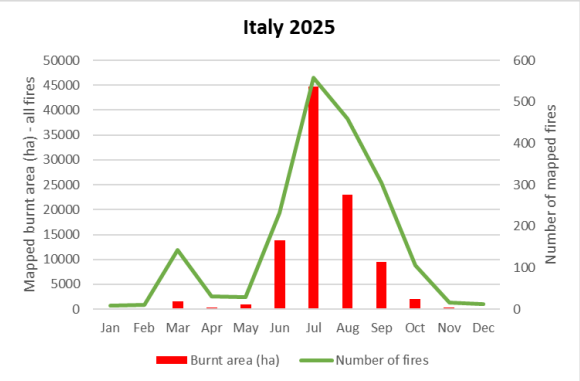
A quarter of the total burnt area (27 220 ha) occurred on Natura2000 sites, corresponding to 0.38% of the Natura2000 land in Italy.

Figure 275. Fire Weather Index information for Italy in 2025.



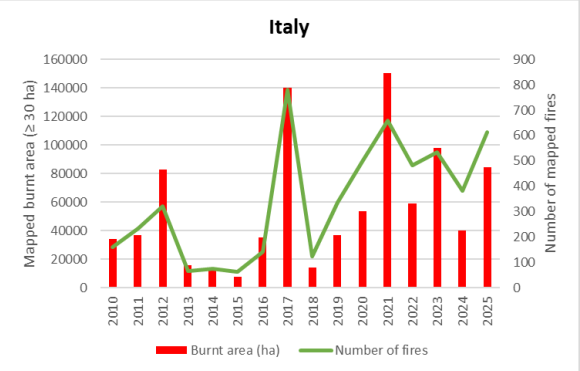
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 276. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Italy in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 277. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Italy.



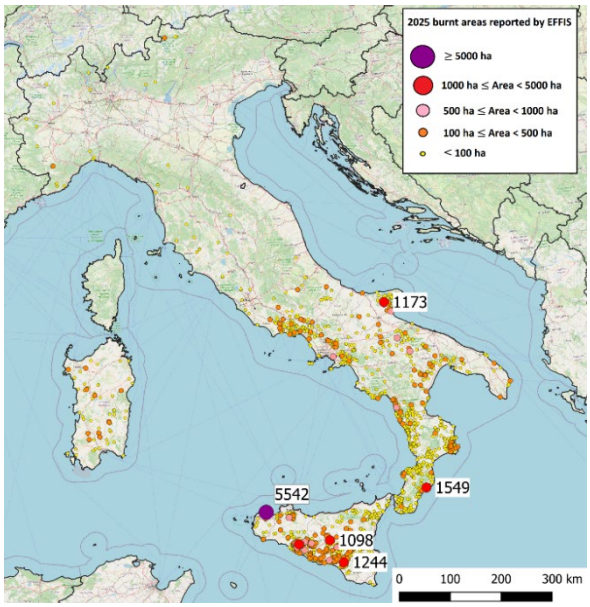
Source: EFFIS.

Table 86. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Italy by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	7 214	7.47
Coniferous forest	2 792	2.89
Mixed forest	1 882	1.95
Other Natural Land	32 203	33.36
Sclerophyllous vegetation	10 055	10.42
Transitional	4 388	4.55
Agriculture	37 237	38.56
Artificial Surfaces	346	0.36
Other Land Cover	422	0.44
TOTAL	**96 539**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

Figure 278. Main burnt areas in Italy in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.18. Kosovo[59]

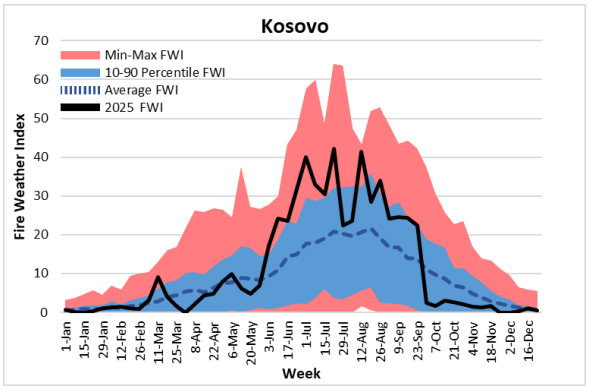
The 2025 fire season in Kosovo was the worst ever recorded by EFFIS, with 18 467 ha burnt from 283 fires in two peaks, one in the spring and the other in late summer (August, September) when the largest fire of the season, over 3 000 ha, occurred.

Table 87. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Kosovo by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	8 006	43.35
Coniferous forest	48	0.26
Mixed forest	151	0.82
Other Natural Land	3 848	20.84
Transitional	2 508	13.58
Agriculture	3 897	21.10
Artificial surfaces	8	0.04
Other land cover	1	0.01
TOTAL	**18 467**	**100**

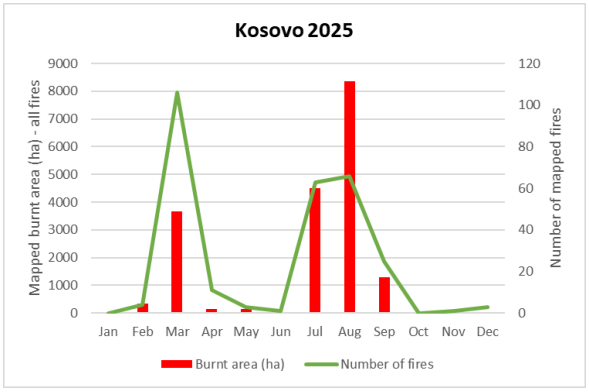
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 279. Fire Weather Index information for Kosovo in 2025.



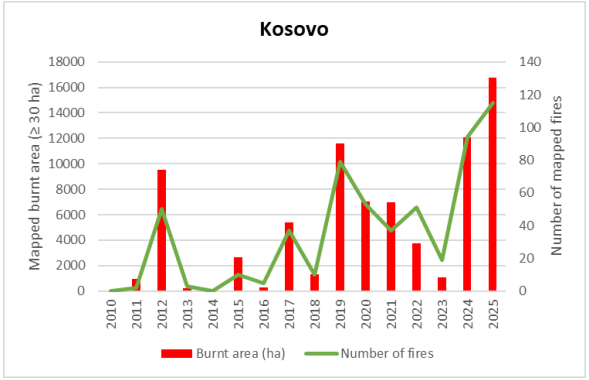
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 280. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Kosovo in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

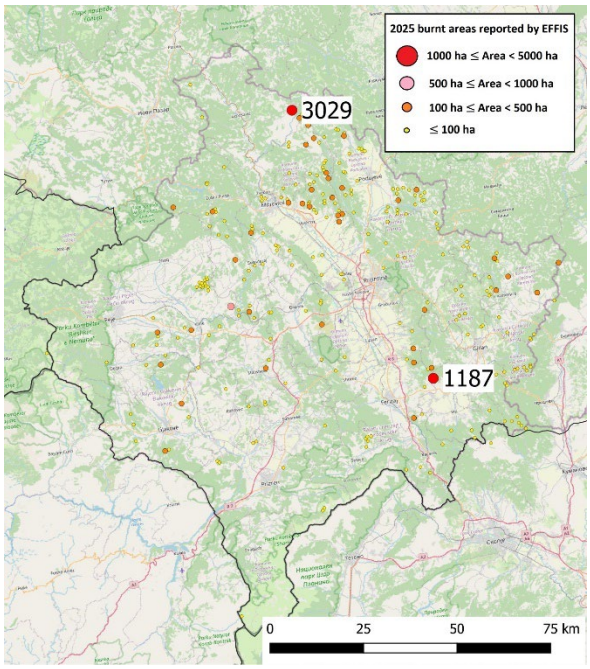
Figure 281. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Kosovo.



Source: EFFIS.

[59] This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Figure 282. Main burnt areas in Kosovo in 2025.

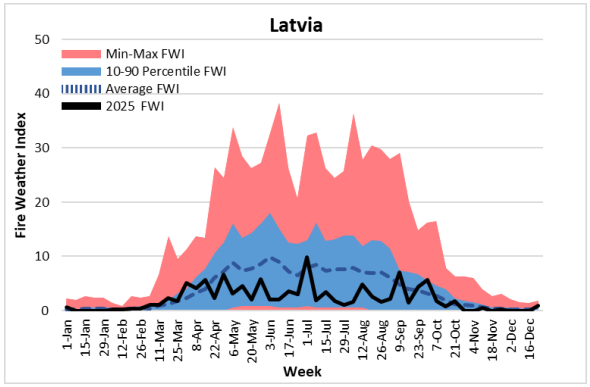


Source: EFFIS.

4.4.19. Latvia

Only seven fires were mapped in Latvia in May, covering a total of 50 ha.

Figure 283. Fire Weather Index information for Latvia in 2025.



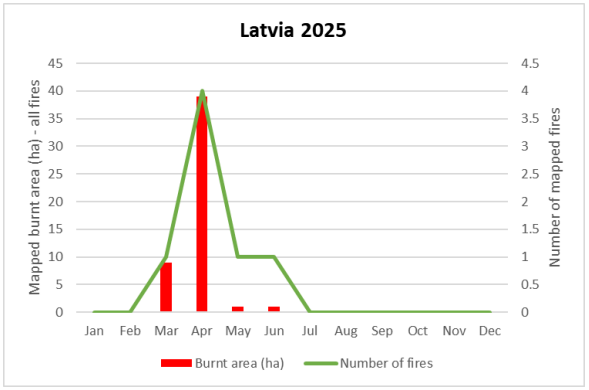
Source: EFFIS.

Table 88. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Latvia by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	5	10.00
Coniferous forest	1	2.00
Other Natural Land	33	66.00
Agriculture	11	22.00
TOTAL	**50**	**100**

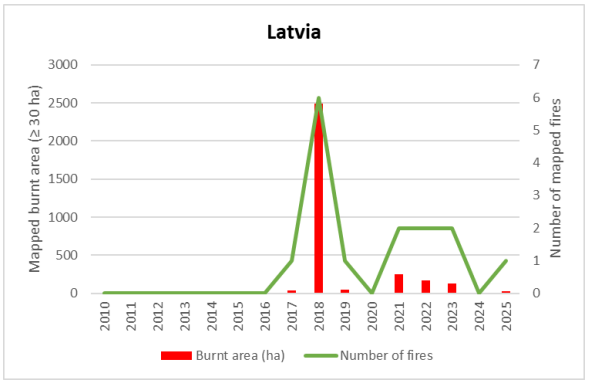
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 284. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Latvia in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 285. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Latvia.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.20. Lithuania

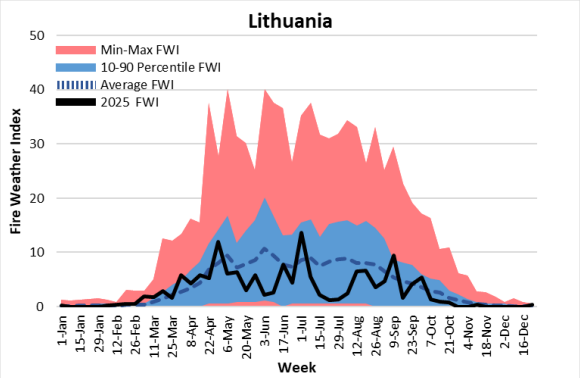
Only five fires were mapped in Lithuania in May, covering a total of 14 ha.

Table 89. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Lithuania by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Coniferous forest	4	28.57
Other Natural Land	10	71.43
TOTAL	**14**	**100**

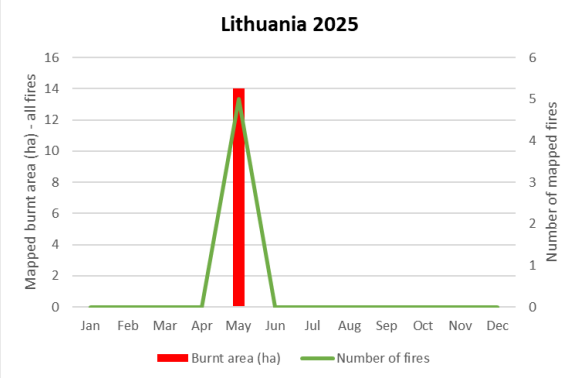
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 286. Fire Weather Index information for Lithuania in 2025.



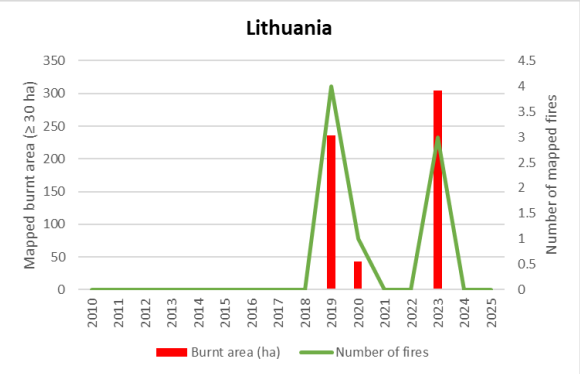
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 287. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Lithuania in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 288. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Lithuania.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.21. Moldova

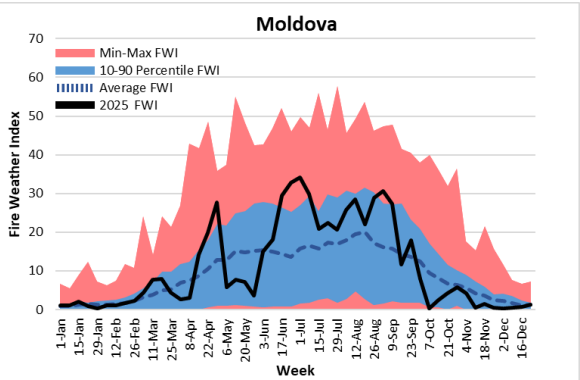
One fire was mapped in Moldova in August, covering 9 ha, affecting mostly agricultural land.

Table 90. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Moldova by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Mixed forest	1	11.11
Agriculture	8	88.89
TOTAL	**9**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

Figure 289. Fire Weather Index information for Moldova in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.22. Montenegro

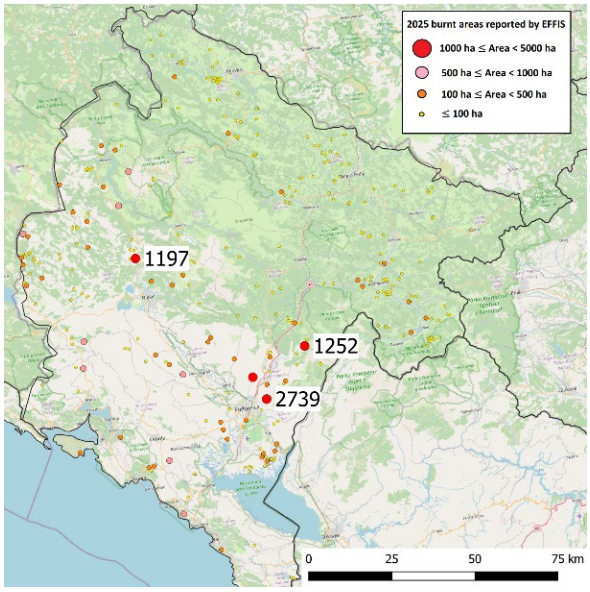
The 2025 fire season in Montenegro was close to the average, with a similar total to that recorded in 2024. A total of 29 438 ha was mapped from 300 fires. There were two peaks of activity; one in the first months of the year and a second one in July-August when most of the largest fires of the year occurred (Figure 292). The largest one of 4 057 ha took place in the central part of the country, and further 12 fires were greater than 500 ha.

Table 91. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Montenegro by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	6 399	21.74
Coniferous forest	331	1.12
Mixed forest	372	1.26
Other Natural Land	8 872	30.14
Sclerophyllous vegetation	162	0.55
Transitional	10 711	36.39
Agriculture	2 517	8.55
Artificial Surfaces	70	0.24
Other land cover	4	0.01
TOTAL	**29 438**	**100**

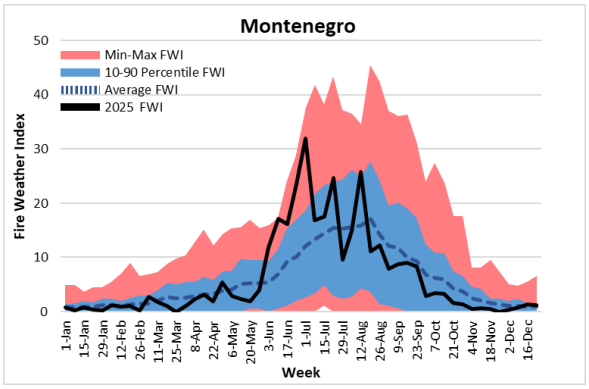
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 290. Main burnt areas in Montenegro in 2025.



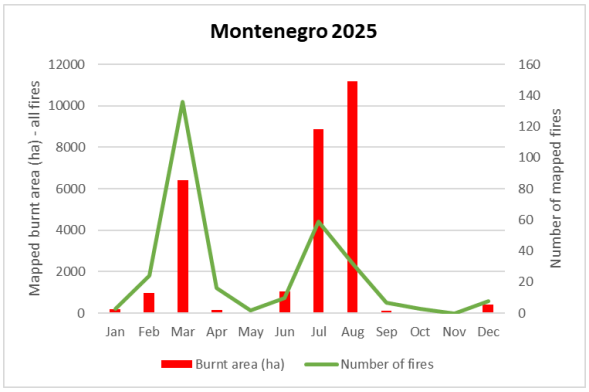
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 291. Fire Weather Index information for Montenegro in 2025.



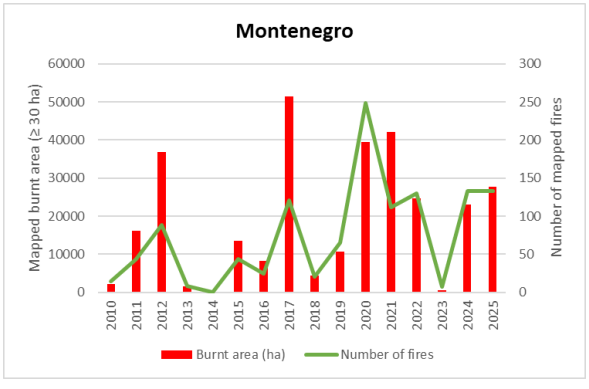
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 292. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Montenegro in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 293. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Montenegro.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.23. The Netherlands

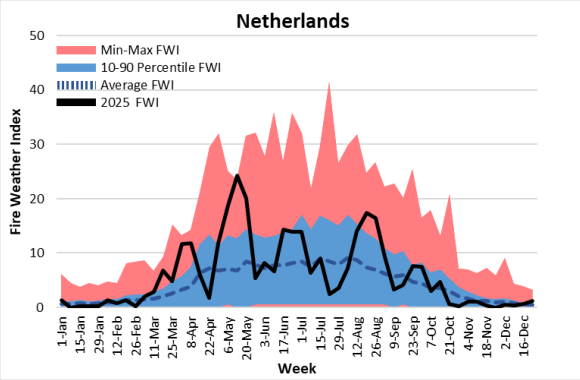
15 fires were mapped in the Netherlands in March and April, covering a total of 330 ha, all on Natura2000 sites mainly in Other Natural Land.

Table 92. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Netherlands by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Other Natural Land	329	99.70
Artificial Surfaces	1	0.30
TOTAL	**330**	**100**

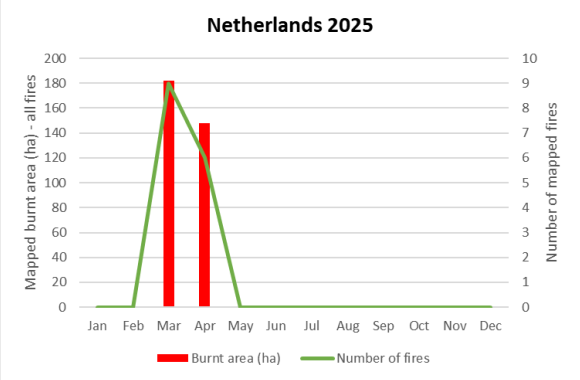
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 294. Fire Weather Index information for the Netherlands in 2025.



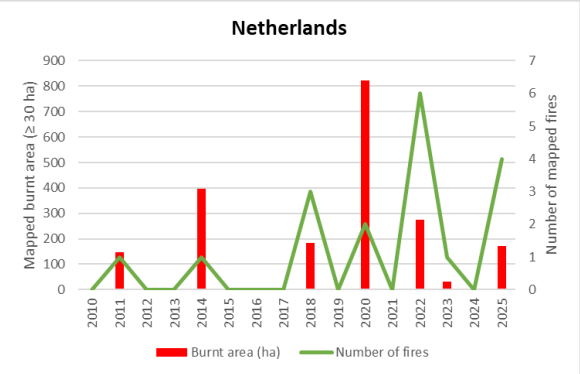
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 295. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in the Netherlands in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 296. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in the Netherlands.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.24. North Macedonia

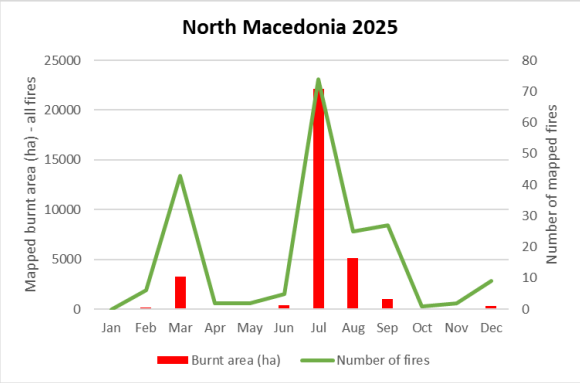
After reaching the maximum amount of burnt area in 2024, 2025 was slightly higher than the average. The mapped burnt area of 32 619 from 196 fires is due to a fire season that was short but intense, mainly in July and August. The largest fire of the year (5 227 ha) took place in the eastern side of the country, and 12 others exceeded 500 ha.

Table 93. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in North Macedonia by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	6 994	21.44
Coniferous forest	817	2.50
Mixed forest	437	1.34
Other Natural Land	5 956	18.26
Sclerophyllous vegetation	1 599	4.90
Transitional	9 556	29.30
Agriculture	6 979	21.40
Artificial Surfaces	44	0.13
Other Land Cover	237	0.73
TOTAL	**32 619**	**100**

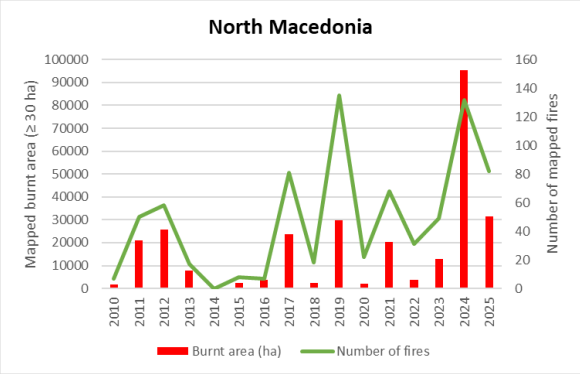
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 297. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in North Macedonia in 2025.



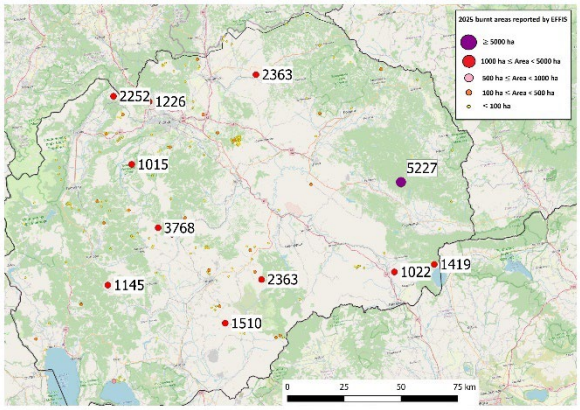
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 298. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in North Macedonia.



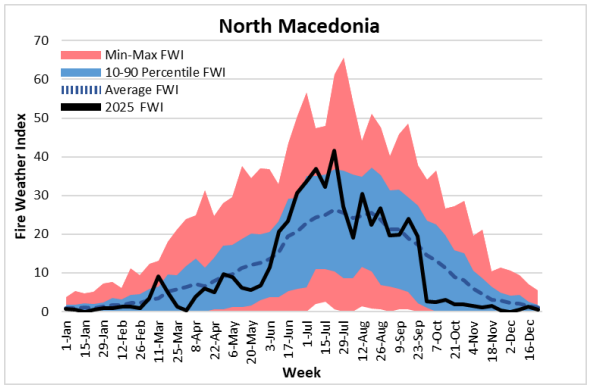
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 299. Main burnt areas in North Macedonia in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 300. Fire Weather Index information for North Macedonia in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.25. Norway

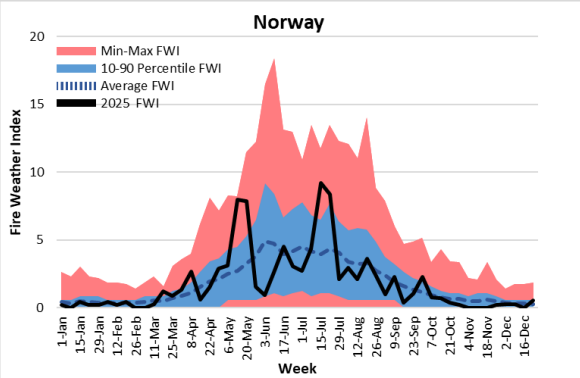
The 2025 fire season was the third highest ever recorded. 128 fires burned 3 360 ha, mostly between February and April, almost all in Other Natural Land. (**Table 94**).

Table 94. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Norway by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	84	2.50
Coniferous forest	32	0.95
Mixed forest	10	0.30
Other Natural Land	3 196	95.12
Transitional	5	0.15
Agriculture	30	0.89
Other Land Cover	3	0.09
TOTAL	**3 360**	**100**

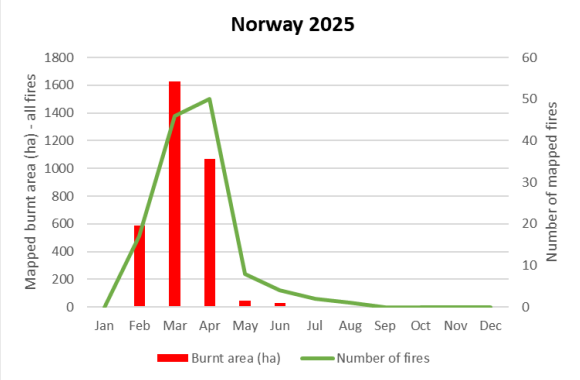
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 301. Fire Weather Index information for Norway in 2025.



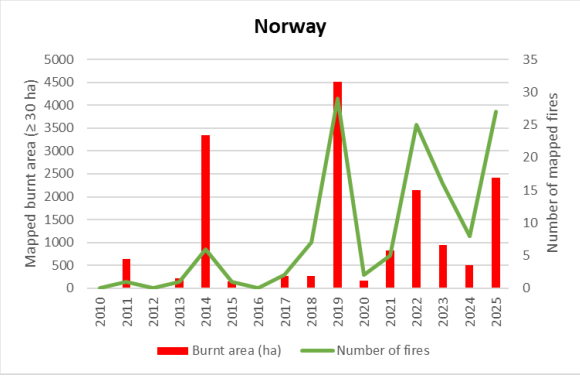
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 302. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Norway in 2025.



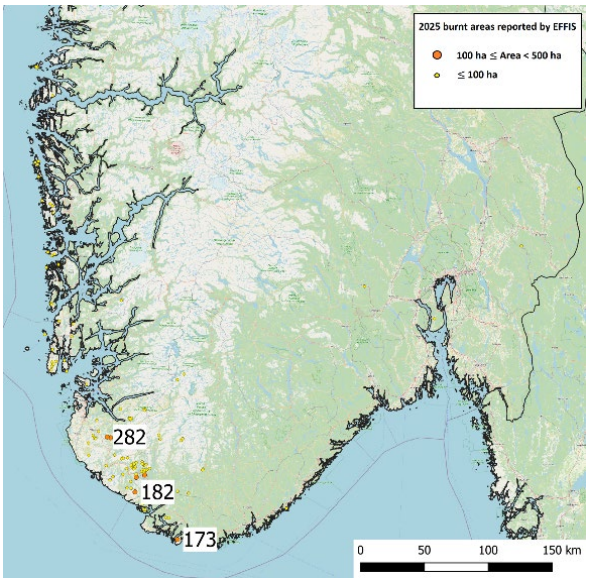
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 303. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Norway.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 304. Main burnt areas in Norway in 2025.

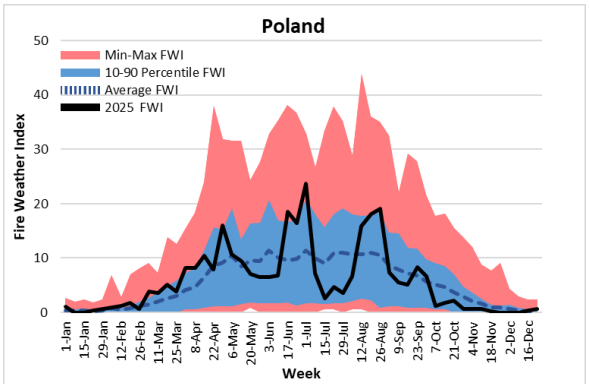


Source: EFFIS.

4.4.26. Poland

43 fires were mapped in Poland in 2025, resulting in a total burnt area of 438 ha, similar to the total mapped in 2024. Of this total, more than half (296 ha) was on Natura2000 land.

Figure 305. Fire Weather Index information for Poland in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Table 95. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Poland by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	7	1.60
Coniferous forest	7	1.60
Other Natural Land	386	88.12
Transitional	38	8.68
TOTAL	**438**	**100**

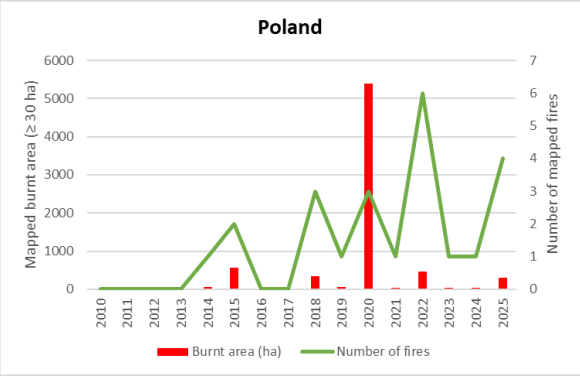
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 306. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Poland in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 307. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Poland.

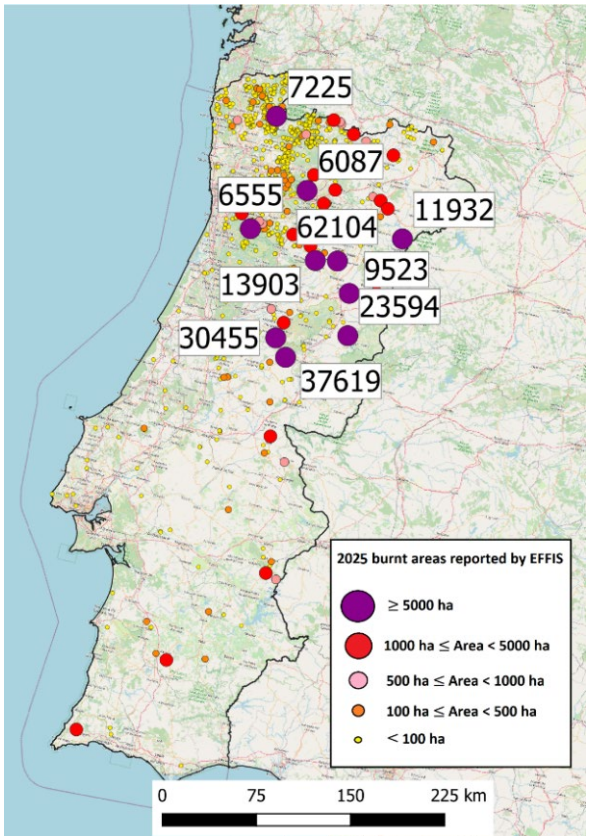


Source: EFFIS.

4.4.27. Portugal

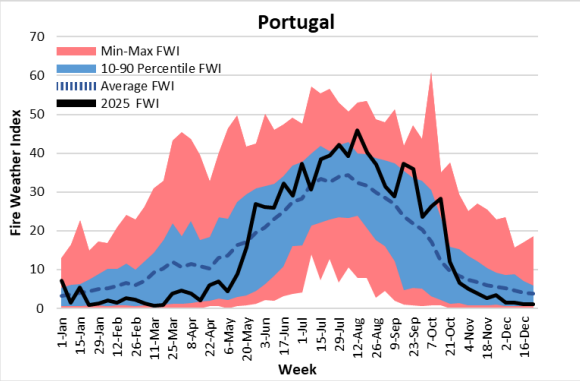
In 2025, 999 fires burned 284 012 ha, doubling the previous year. This is the second-worst year since 2010 (fourth worst in EFFIS), though still far short of 2017's extreme. (**Figure 311**). After a quiet start, 81% of the annual total occurred in August. The seven largest fires (six of which over 10 000 ha) occurred this month. The first, second, fourth and seventh largest events, respectively of 62 104, 37 619 ha, 23 594 ha and 9 523 ha occurred in the same region of Beiras e Serra da Estrela, while the third largest of 30 455 ha in Região de Coimbra; the fifth largest took place in the Viseu Dão Lafões region and the sixth in Douro region (**Figure 308**). Among the other major ones, four were over 5 000 ha, 21 between 1 000 and 5 000, 12 between 500 and 1 000. The vast majority of the fire events in Portugal, and all the major ones, occurred in the northern part of the country. The main affected land covers were Other natural land and Transitional, which summed up to almost 68% of the total. More than half of the mapped total (51 323 ha) occurred on Natura2000 sites, corresponding to 2.15% of the total Natura2000 areas in Portugal.

Figure 308. Main burnt areas in Portugal in 2025.



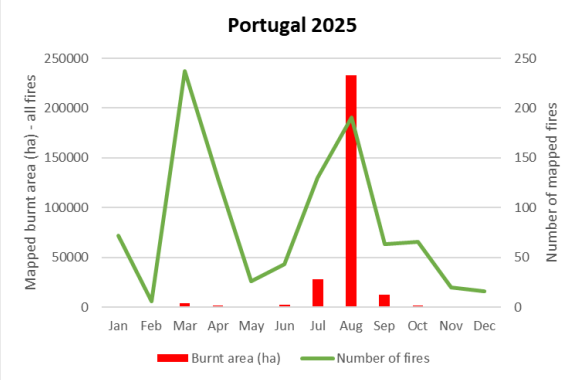
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 309. Fire Weather Index information for Portugal in 2025.



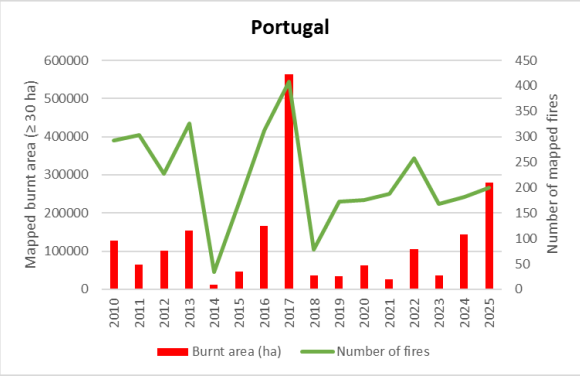
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 310. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Portugal in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 311. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Portugal.



Source: EFFIS.

Table 96. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Portugal by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	7 033	2.48
Coniferous forest	18 256	6.43
Mixed forest	7 062	2.49
Other Natural Land	93 537	32.93
Sclerophyllous vegetation	1 953	0.69
Transitional	98 969	34.85
Agriculture	56 532	19.90
Artificial Surfaces	504	0.18
Other Land Cover	166	0.06
TOTAL	**284 012**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

4.4.28. Romania

The 2025 fire season in Romania saw a dramatic increase in burnt area compared to the previous two years, reaching the status of second worst year ever recorded in EFFIS. A total of 134 370 ha was mapped from 974 fires, three times the amount of 2024. Most of the damage occurred during the spring season, when most fires occurred during the year.

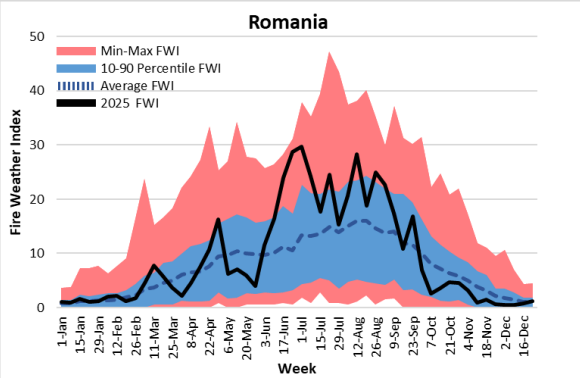
The affected Natura2000 sites accounted for around 70% of the total at 93 504 ha, more than six times the amount of the previous year.

Table 97. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Romania by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	25 077	18.66
Coniferous forest	16	0.01
Mixed forest	843	0.63
Other Natural Land	83 626	62.24
Transitional	1 283	0.95
Agriculture	22 580	16.80
Artificial Surfaces	109	0.08
Other Land Cover	836	0.62
TOTAL	**134 370**	**100**

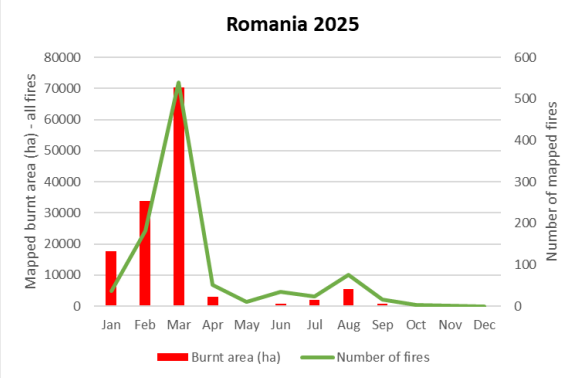
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 312. Fire Weather Index information for Romania in 2025.



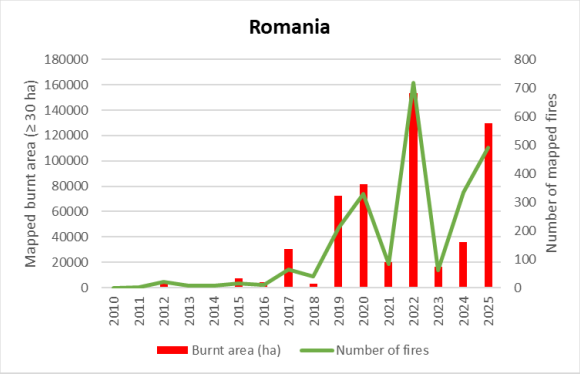
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 313. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Romania in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

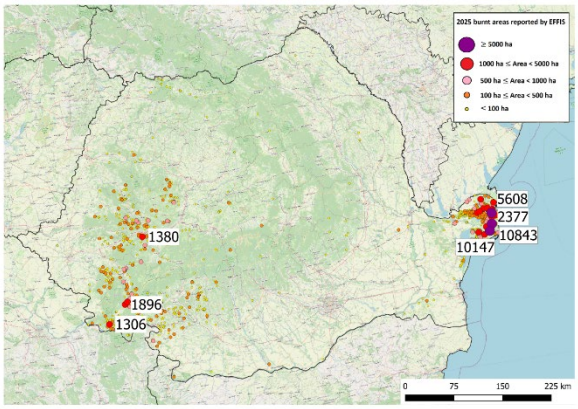
Figure 314. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Romania.



Source: EFFIS.

16 out of 20 fires over 1 000 ha took place in the Tulcea province. The two major ones exceeded 10 000 ha and occurred in January and February. Five other fires in Tulcea were over 2 000 ha, while 29 others between 500 ha and 1 000 ha took place in different parts of the country. After an unusual year in which the most affected land cover type was Agriculture, in 2025 the most affected was Other natural land (**Table 97**).

Figure 315. Main burnt areas in Romania in 2025.

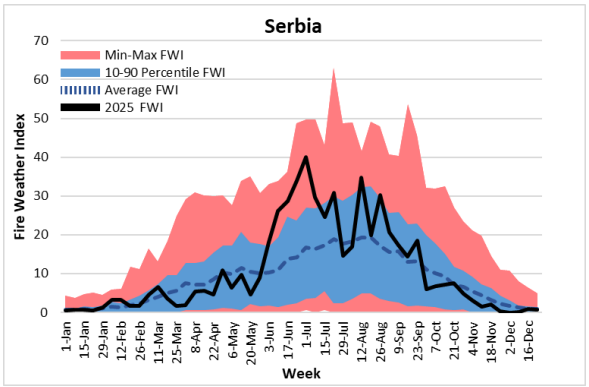


Source: EFFIS.

4.4.29. Serbia

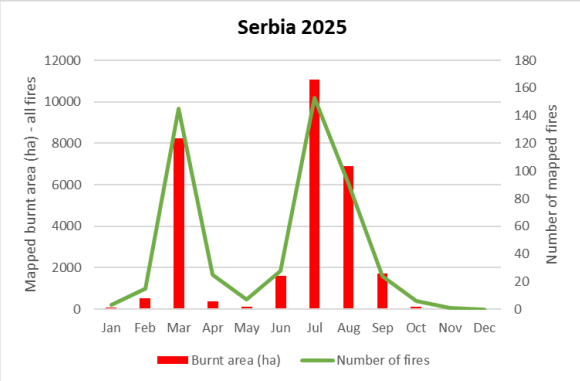
2025 was the second worst year ever recorded in EFFIS. Wildfires in Serbia impacted 30 744 ha from 498 events, significantly above previous 15 years' average of 8 910 ha. Most of the events took place in March, July and August. The largest event of the year (3 110 ha) happened in the Toplički region in July, while five others recorded over 500 ha.

Figure 316. Fire Weather Index information for Serbia in 2025.



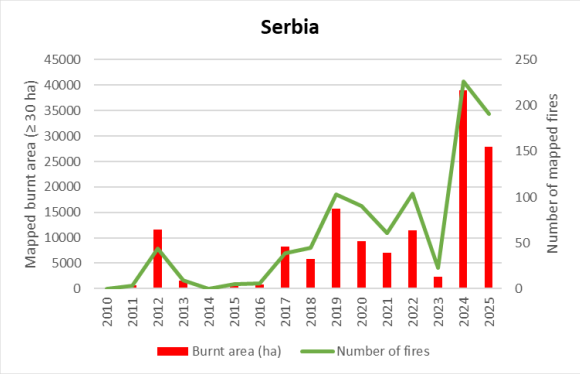
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 317. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Serbia in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 318. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Serbia.



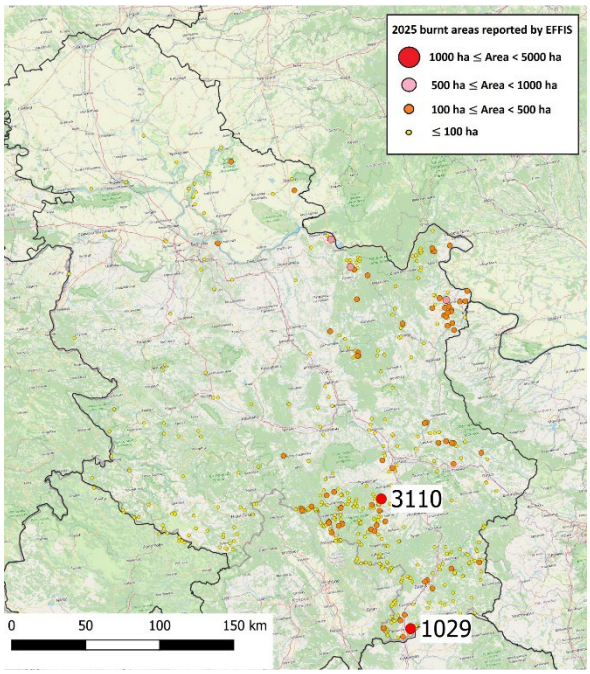
Source: EFFIS.

Table 98. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Serbia by land cover type in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	7 898	25.69
Coniferous forest	404	1.31
Mixed forest	156	0.51
Other Natural Land	3 217	10.46
Transitional	6 250	20.33
Agriculture	12 751	41.48
Artificial Surfaces	42	0.14
Other Land Cover	26	0.08
TOTAL	**30 744**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

Figure 319. Main burnt areas in Serbia in 2025.

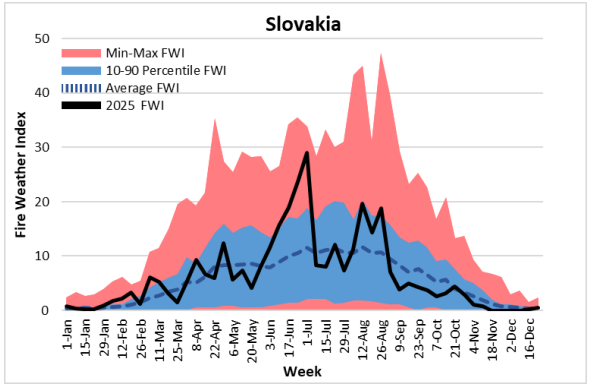


Source: EFFIS.

4.4.30. Slovakia

Only one fire was mapped in Slovakia in March 2025 for an overall burnt area of 362 ha, the biggest ever recorded in the country. The Fire Weather Index was mostly at or below average levels except for a short period in the middle of the summer.

Figure 320. Fire Weather Index information for Slovakia in 2025.



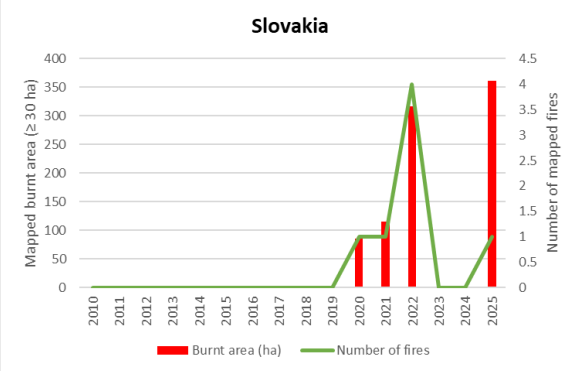
Source: EFFIS.

Table 99. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Slovakia by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	10	2.76
Other natural land	352	97.24
TOTAL	**362**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

Figure 321. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Slovakia.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.31. Slovenia

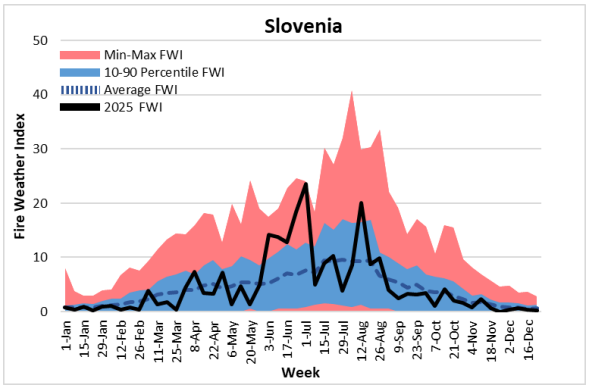
As the previous year, seven fires were mapped in Slovenia in 2025, covering a total of 161 ha, all in Natura2000 sites and mostly affecting Other natural land cover.

Table 100. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Slovenia by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	2	1.24
Coniferous forest	1	0.62
Other Natural Land	150	93.17
Transitional	7	4.35
Agriculture	1	0.62
TOTAL	**161**	**100**

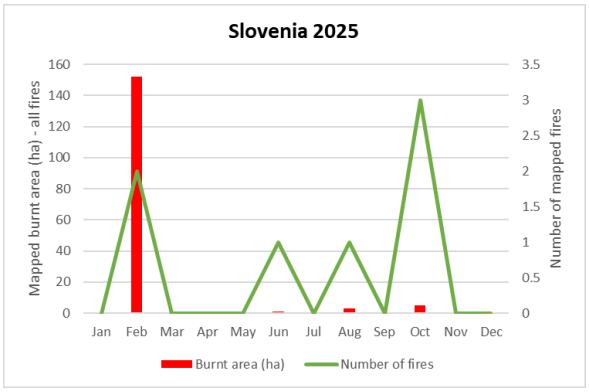
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 322. Fire Weather Index information for Slovenia in 2025.



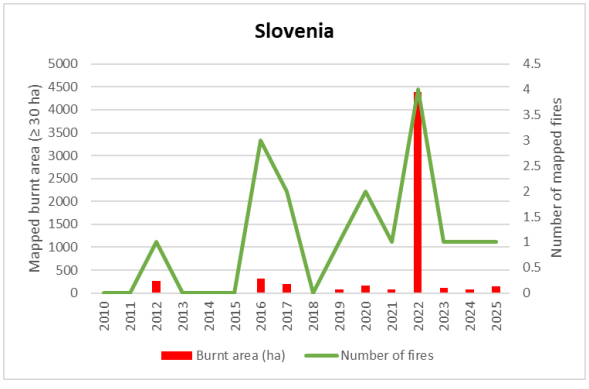
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 323. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Slovenia in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 324. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Slovenia.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.32. Spain

Following one of the quietest fire seasons, 2025 was Spain's worst season ever in EFFIS. 1 359 fires burned 401 266 ha—four times the 15-year average. Despite a mild start to the year, 85% of the total damage occurred in August. (**Figure 326**). Ten fires exceeded 10 000 ha (all in August), primarily in Castilla y León and Galicia. Details follow in **Table 101.**

Table 101. The ten biggest events in Spain in 2025, ranked according to the historical EFFIS recording.

Area (ha)	Location (region)	Ranking in EFFIS (Spain)
40 081	Castilla y León	1st
37 179	Galicia	3rd
26 241	Castilla y León	7th
25 953	Galicia	8th
24 583	Galicia	9th
24 471	Galicia	10th
19 112	Castilla y León	15th
17 317	Extremadura	16th
12 026	Galicia	29th
10 823	Castilla y León	34th

Source: EFFIS.

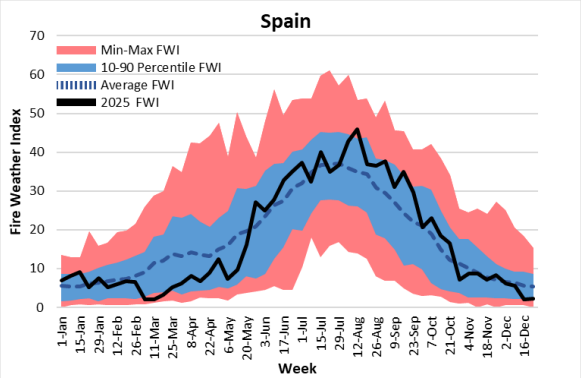
Table 102. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Spain by land cover type in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	39 491	9.84
Coniferous forest	21 207	5.29
Mixed forest	4 841	1.21
Other Natural Land	198 477	49.45
Sclerophyllous vegetation	32 635	8.13
Transitional	30 468	7.59
Agriculture	73 212	18.25
Artificial Surfaces	827	0.21
Other Land Cover	108	0.03
TOTAL	**401 266**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

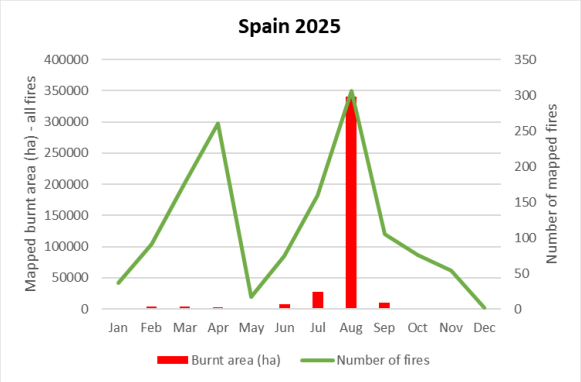
38 fire events recorded a burnt area between 1 000 and 8 000 ha, and other 17 were between 500 and 1 000 ha. Almost half of the burnt area affected Other natural land (**Table 102**), and the fire events impacted 171 742 ha of Natura2000 sites recording the highest in EU27 for 2025 and corresponding to 1.02% of the total Natura2000 areas in Spain.

Figure 325. Fire Weather Index information for Spain in 2025.



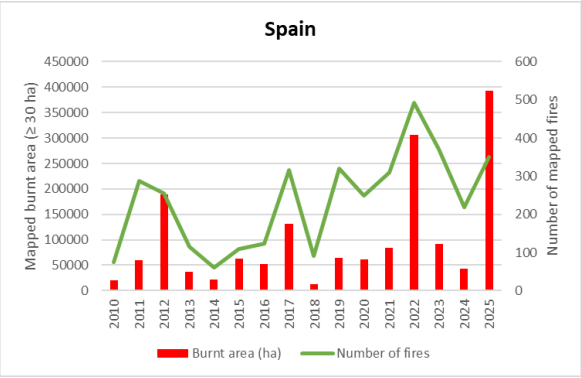
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 326. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Spain in 2025.



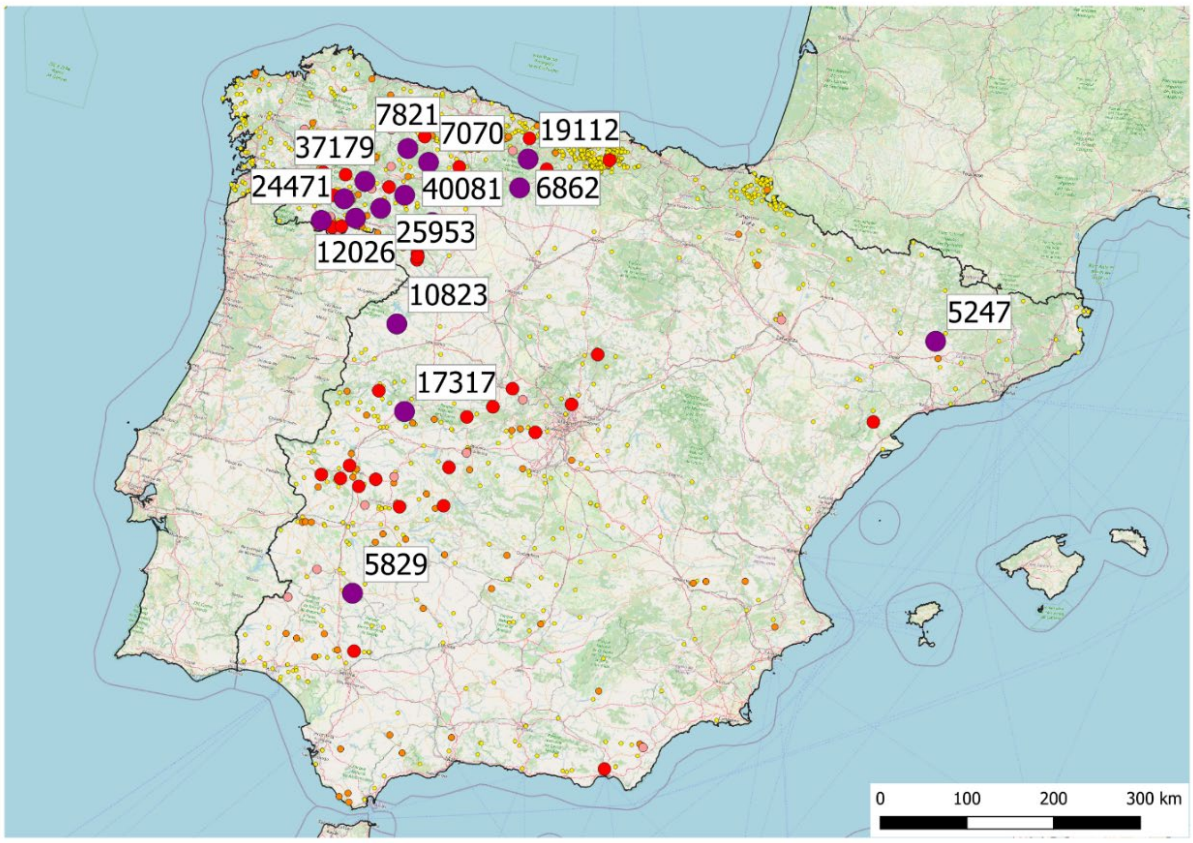
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 327. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Spain.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 328. Main burnt areas in Spain in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.33. Sweden

In a fairly light season in line with the average, 79 fires were mapped in 2025, resulting in a total mapped burnt area of 1 449 ha, more than double the amount recorded in 2024.

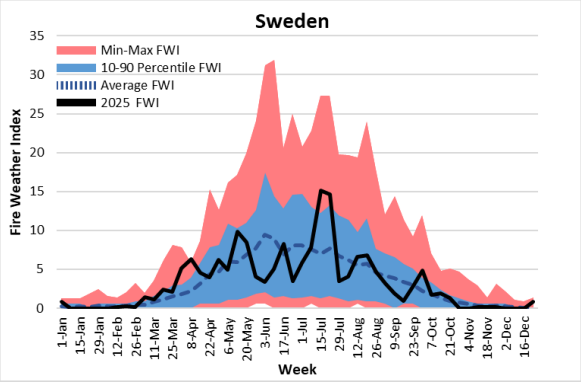
Table 103. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Sweden by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	3	0.21
Coniferous forest	915	63.23
Mixed forest	6	0.41
Other Natural Land	469	32.41
Transitional	26	1.80
Agriculture	23	1.59
Other Land Cover	5	0.35
TOTAL	**1 449**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

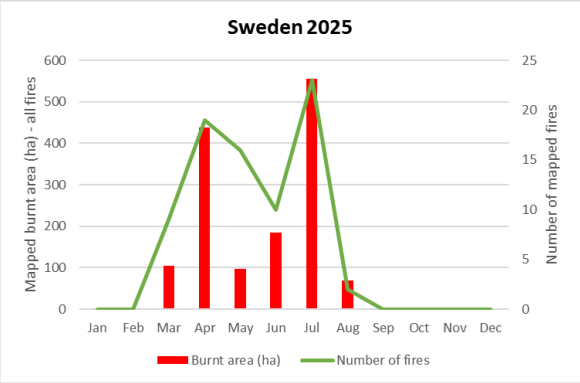
April and July were the most affected months. Of the total, 814 ha (56%) occurred in Natura2000 sites.

Figure 329. Fire Weather Index information for Sweden in 2025.



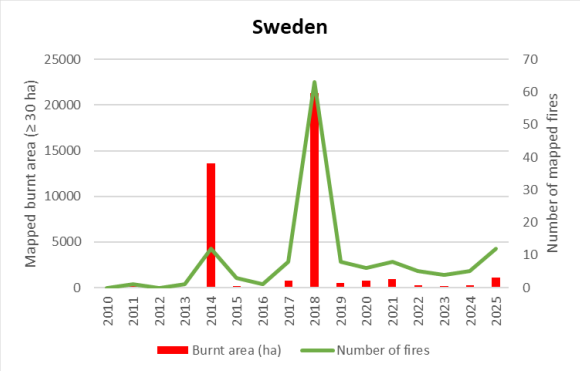
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 330. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Sweden in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 331. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Sweden.

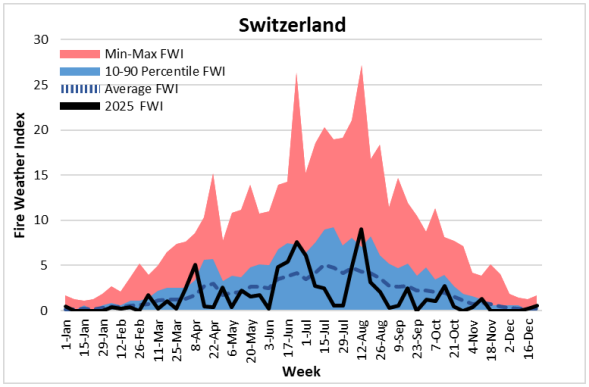


Source: EFFIS.

4.4.34. Switzerland

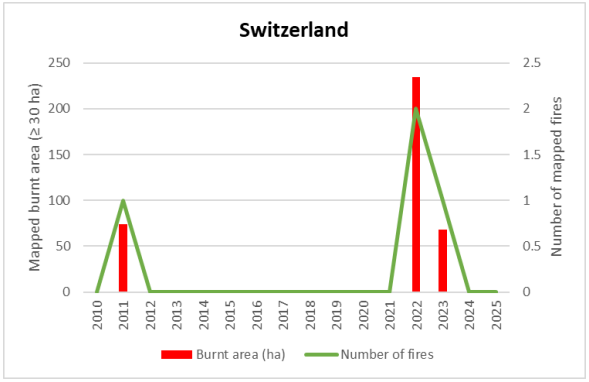
Only one fire of 1 ha was mapped in Switzerland in 2025, affecting Other natural land. The Fire Weather Index was mainly below the average.

Figure 332. Fire Weather Index information for Switzerland in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 333. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Switzerland.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.35. Türkiye

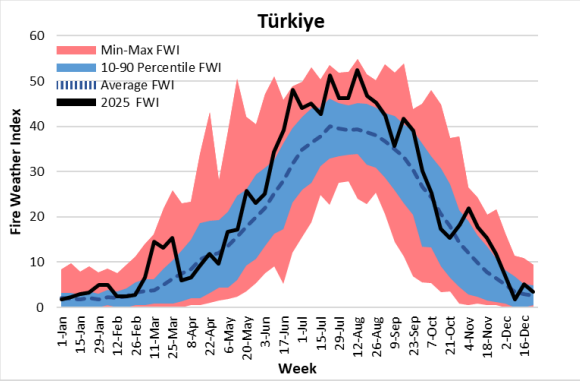
The 2025 fire season in Türkiye was the second worst since the beginning of the EFFIS monitoring. The season started in June and resulted in 162 188 ha burnt from 1 391 fires, more than twice the average amount of around 57 819 ha.

Table 104. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Türkiye by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	2 330	1.44
Coniferous forest	47 551	29.32
Mixed forest	8 792	5.42
Other Natural Land	39 560	24.39
Sclerophyllous vegetation	5 694	3.51
Transitional	29 992	18.49
Agriculture	26 245	16.18
Artificial Surfaces	758	0.47
Other Land Cover	1 266	0.78
TOTAL	**162 188**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

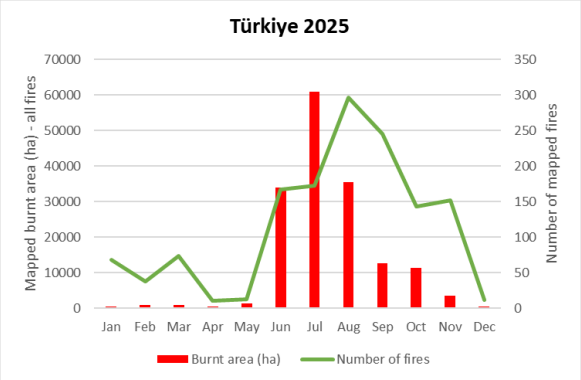
Figure 334. Fire Weather Index information for Türkiye in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

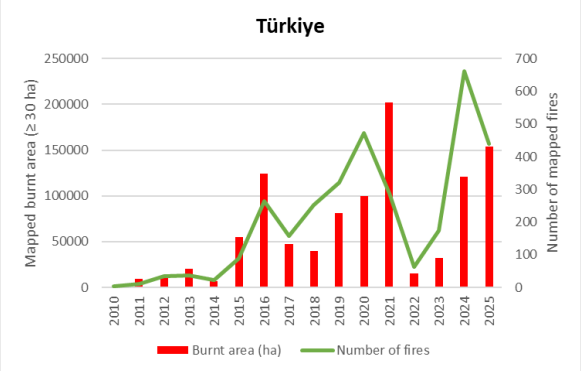
The biggest event affected 11 891 ha and took place in the Bilecik region in July. Other 25 fires recorded a burnt area between 1 000 and 10 000 ha, and 23 between 500 and 1 000 ha.

Figure 335. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Türkiye in 2025.



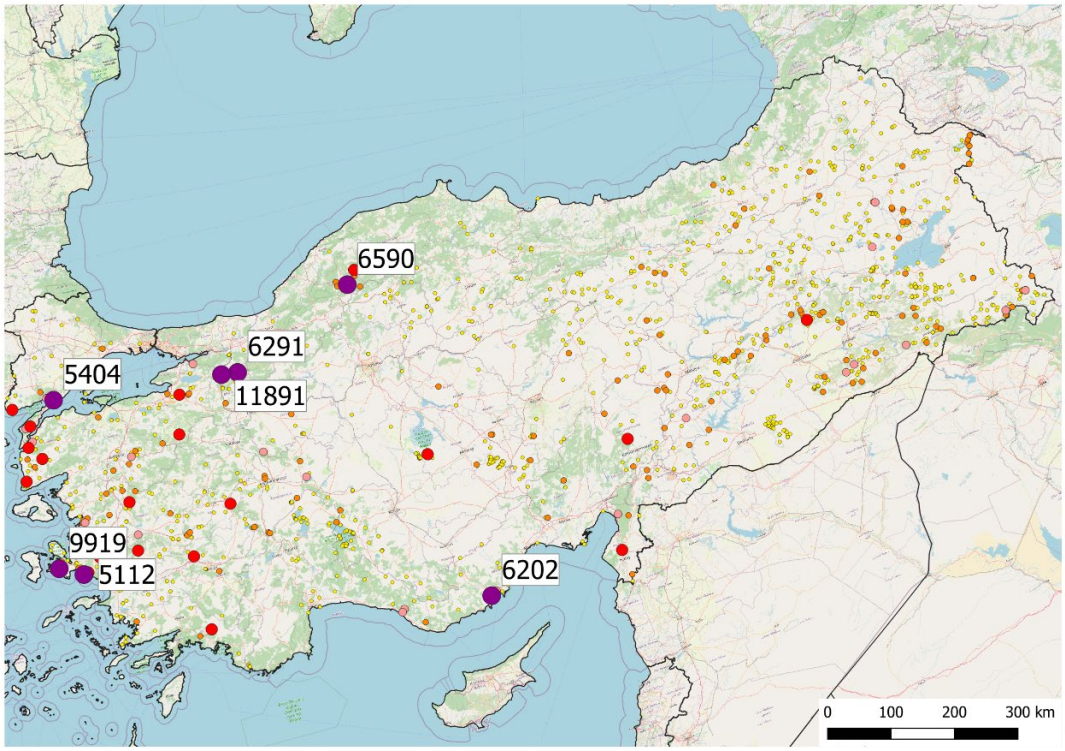
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 336. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Türkiye.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 337. Mapped burnt areas in Türkiye in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

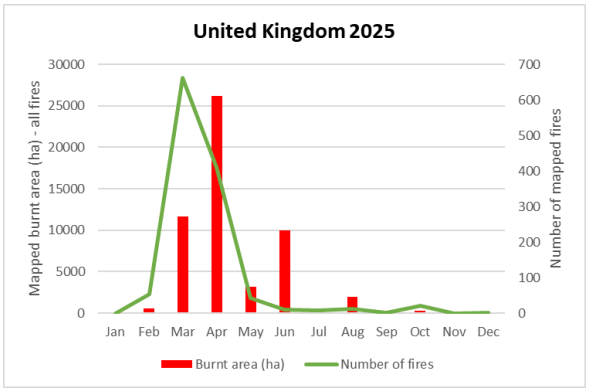
4.4.36. United Kingdom

2024 was close to the minimum recorded, but 2025 was the worst year in terms of burnt areas for UK since the beginning of EFFIS monitoring. The total burnt area mapped in the United Kingdom was 54 050 ha from 1 223 fires, vastly over the average and around one third more than the second worst year 2019 (Figure 339). Three events were over 5 000 ha. The largest one (also the largest ever recorded by EFFIS in the country) took place in the Highland (Scotland) with 9 809 ha of burnt area; the second largest (also the second largest ever recorded by EFFIS in the country) was also in the Highland (Scotland) with 6720 ha of burnt area; the third one (also the fourth largest ever recorded by EFFIS in the country) of 5 018 ha happened in the Powys region of Wales. Other ten events recorded burnt areas between 1 700 and 500 ha. The majority of the events took place between March and June, affecting Other natural land cover (Table 105).

The Fire Weather Index exceeded the average in three parts of the year, namely in May, June and August.

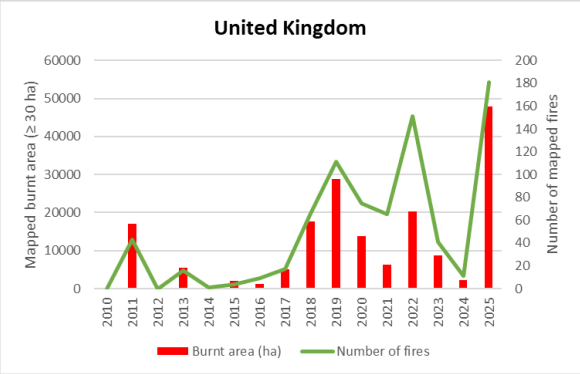
Around 40% (21 553 ha) of the total burnt area occurred in protected sites, amounting to 0.84% of the total protected area of the country.

Figure 338. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in the United Kingdom in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 339. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in the United Kingdom.



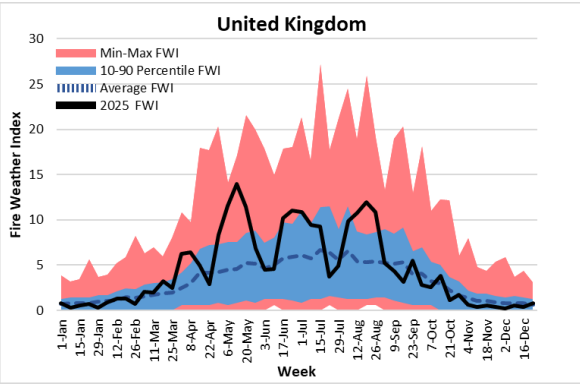
Source: EFFIS.

Table 105. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in the UK by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	180	0.33
Coniferous forest	753	1.39
Mixed forest	116	0.21
Other Natural Land	51 007	94.37
Transitional	1 535	2.84
Agriculture	179	0.33
Artificial	175	0.32
Other Land Cover	105	0.19
TOTAL	**54 050**	**100**

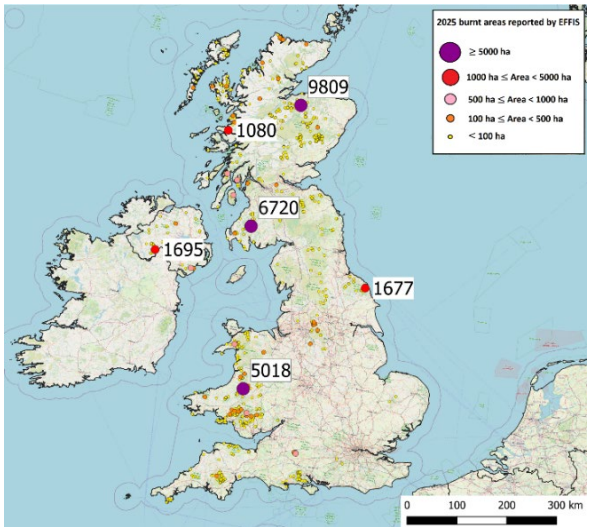
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 340. Fire Weather Index information for the United Kingdom in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 341. Mapped burnt areas in United Kingdom in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

4.4.37. Ukraine

The total number of fires and burnt area mapped in Ukraine in 2025 was the second highest since the beginning of the EFFIS monitoring. The mapped total of 659 853 ha from 9 116 fires was approximately two thirds the amount of the previous year. The majority of the damage occurred in the east of the country near the frontline of hostilities.

Table 106. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Ukraine by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	2 359	0.36
Coniferous forest	23 091	3.50
Mixed forest	95 566	14.48
Other Natural Land	282 832	42.86
Agriculture	247 042	37.44
Artificial Surfaces	7 352	1.11
Other Land Cover	1 611	0.24
TOTAL	**659 853**	**100**

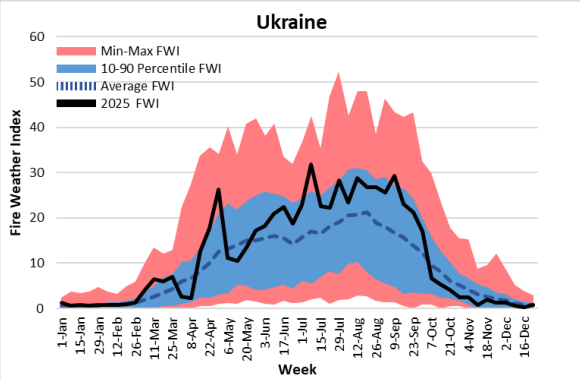
Source: EFFIS.

Most of the major fires of the year were in the summer months when the Fire Weather Index was also very high, with the largest one exceeding 10 000 ha. However, the most notable feature of the large fires was their sheer number,

with a total of 177 mapped fires exceeding 500 ha, of which 60 were over 1 000 ha.

Like in 2024, the land cover types most affected were Other Natural Land and Agricultural areas (Figure 345).

Figure 342. Fire Weather Index information for Ukraine in 2025.



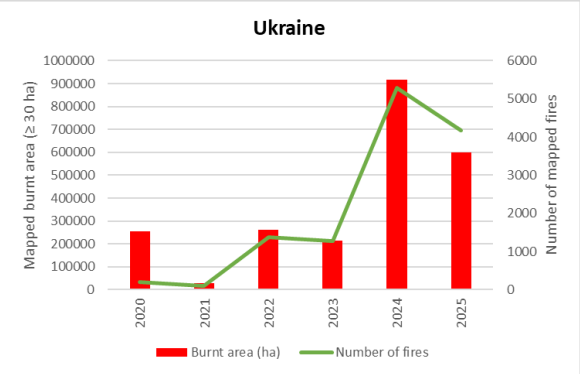
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 343. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Ukraine in 2025.



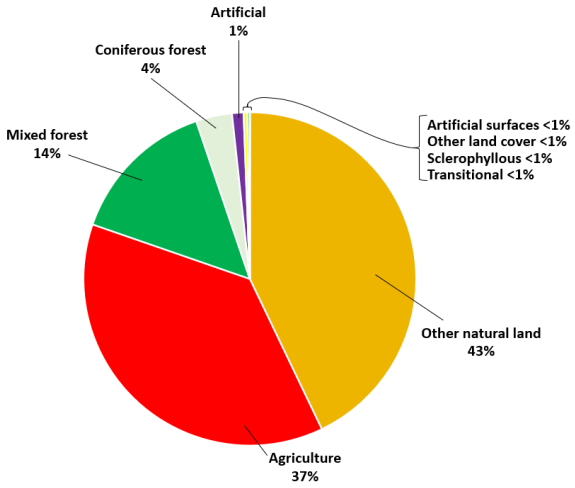
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 344. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Ukraine.



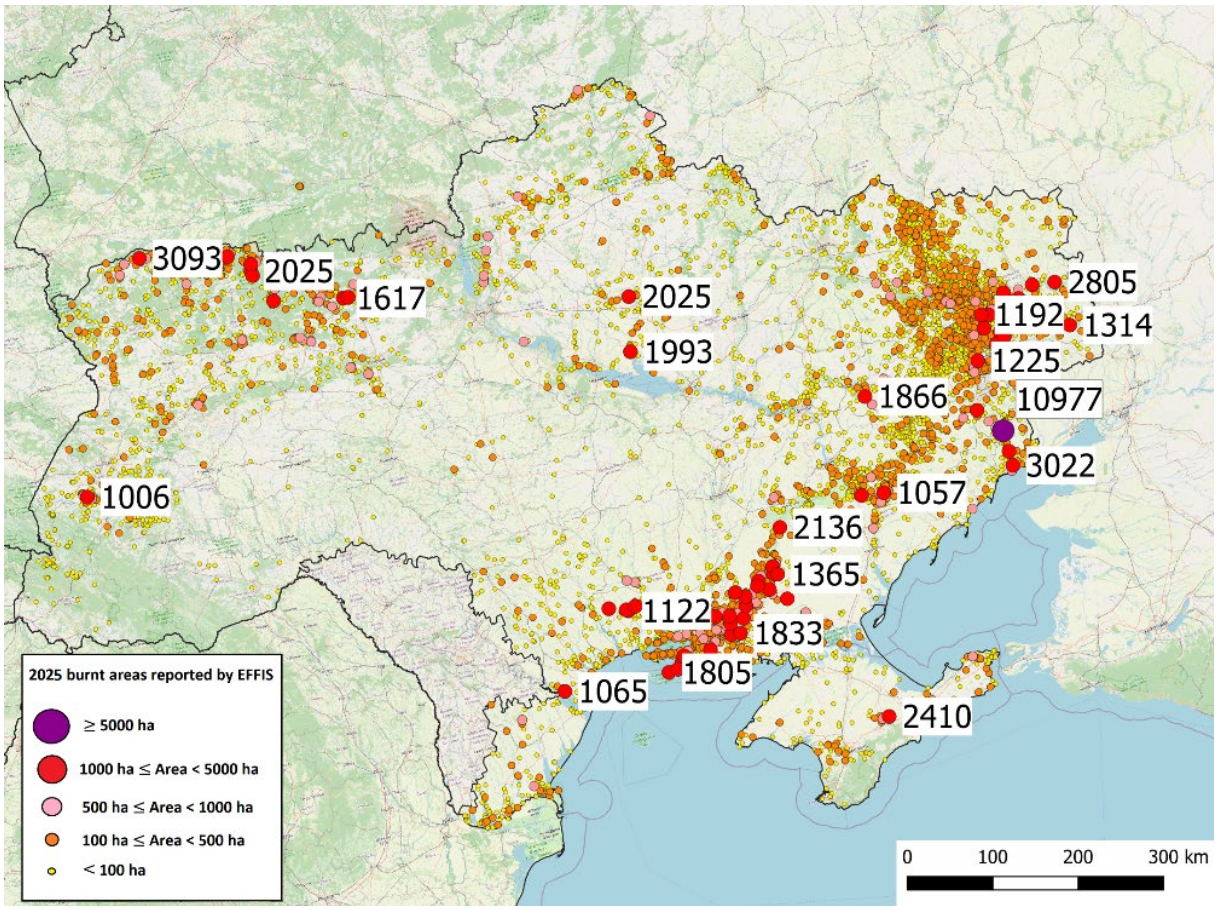
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 345. Proportions of land cover types affected in 2025 in Ukraine.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 346. Mapped burnt areas in Ukraine in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

4.5. Middle East and North Africa - country reports

The total burnt area mapped across North Africa and the Middle East was one of the lowest ever recorded, at around 70 562 ha, significantly below the average of around 110 000 ha.

For the countries in this section, the Globcover land cover map from ESA was used to split the burnt area into different land type categories, harmonised with CLC terminology.

4.5.1. Algeria

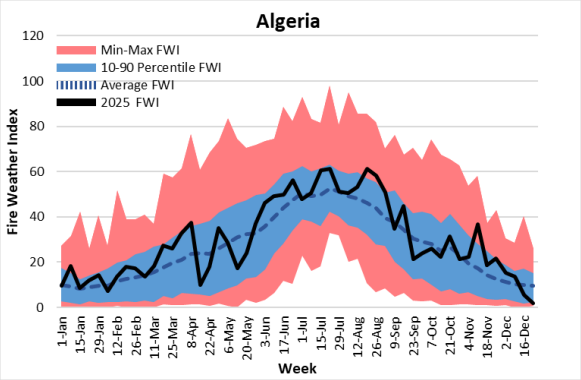
The total burnt area mapped in Algeria in 2025 was 22 030 ha mapped from 847 fires. As in past years, the summer and autumn seasons were the peak of the activity, recording around 99% of the total burnt area. There were some large fires: two over 2 000 ha (in October and November), one around 1 500 ha (in July) and one around 700 ha (in August). 817 ha affected protected areas.

Table 107. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Algeria by land cover types in 2025.

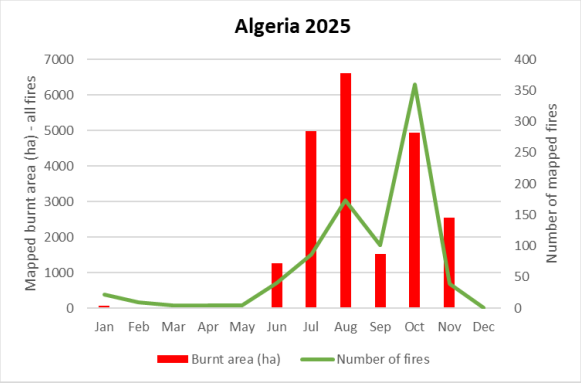
Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	137	0.62
Coniferous forest	15	0.07
Mixed forest	8 518	38.67
Other natural land	11 200	50.84
Agriculture	2 154	9.78
Artificial Surfaces	3	0.01
Other Land Cover	3	0.01
TOTAL	**22 030**	**100**

Source: EFFIS.

Figure 347. Fire Weather Index information for Algeria in 2025.

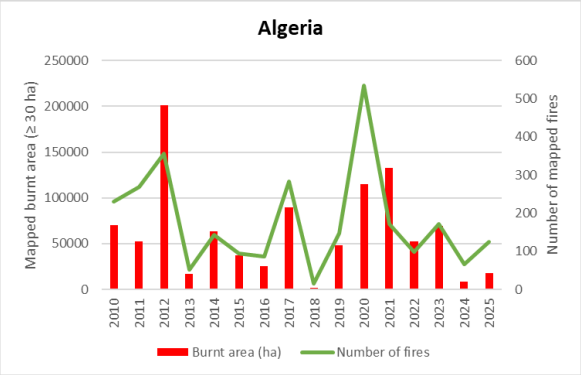


Source: EFFIS.



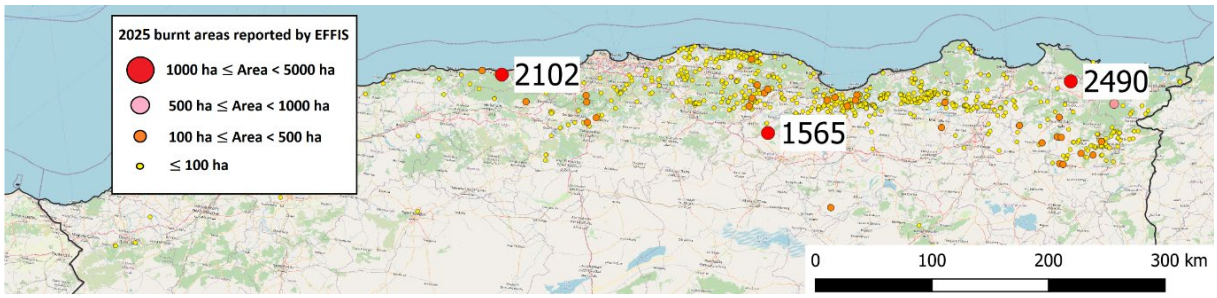
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 348. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Algeria.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 349. Mapped burnt areas in Algeria in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

4.5.2. Israel

After the most impactful season ever recorded in 2024, 2025 was significantly lighter, closer to the average with a total of 3 539 ha burnt in 45 fire events. Almost all the damage occurred in June and July, including one fire of over 1 000 ha mapped in June in Golan region.

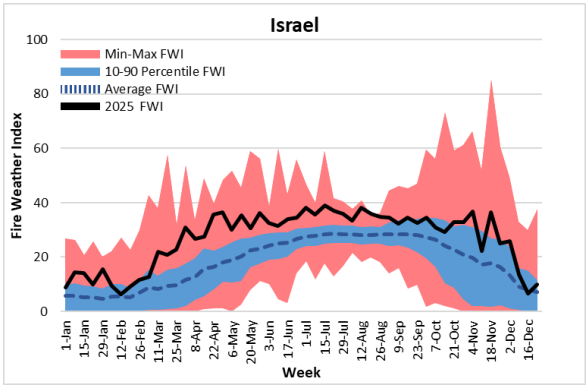
Table 108 presents the affected land cover types. Most of the total burnt area was in Other Natural Land and Agricultural Land.

Table 108. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Israel by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Coniferous forest	67	1.89
Mixed forest	210	5.93
Other Natural Land	1 428	40.35
Agriculture	1 811	51.17
Artificial Surfaces	23	0.65
TOTAL	**3 539**	**100**

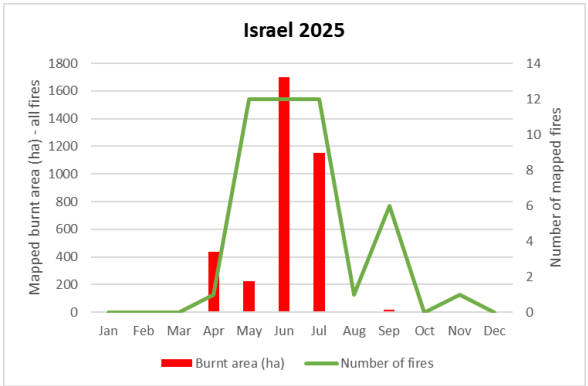
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 350. Fire Weather Index information for Israel.



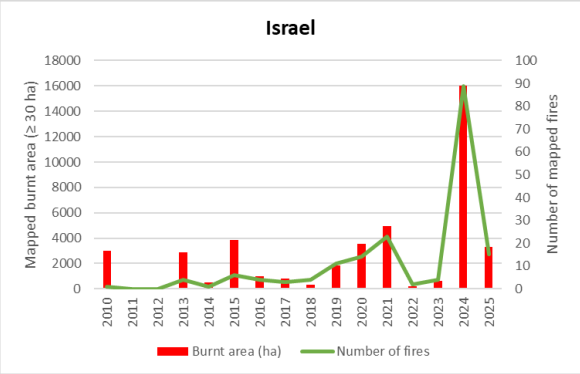
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 351. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Israel in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 352. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Israel.



Source: EFFIS.

4.5.3. Jordan

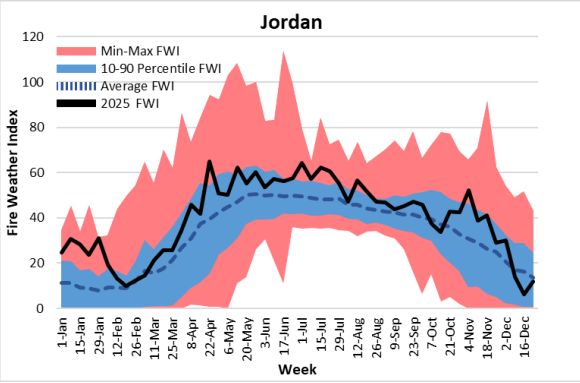
After the most impactful season ever recorded in 2024, in 2025 the burnt area was 130 ha mainly in May and July. **Table 109** presents the distribution of the mapped burnt area by land cover type.

Table 109. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Jordan by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Coniferous forest	7	5.38
Mixed forest	14	10.77
Other Natural Land	64	49.23
Agriculture	45	34.62
TOTAL	**130**	**100**

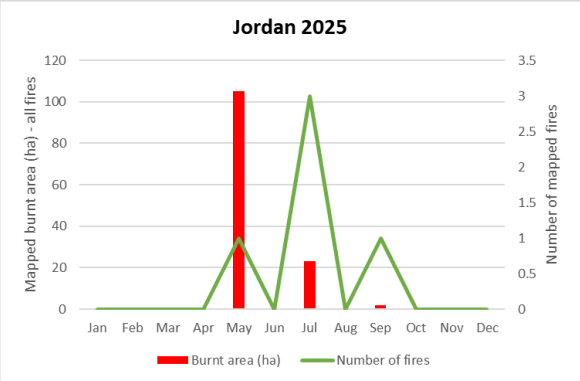
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 353. Fire Weather Index information for Jordan in 2025.



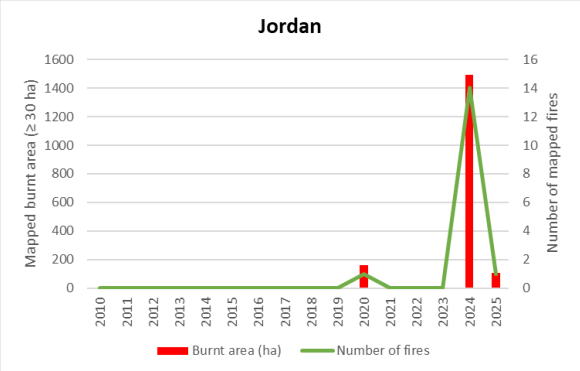
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 354. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Jordan in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 355. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Jordan.



Source: EFFIS.

4.5.4. Lebanon

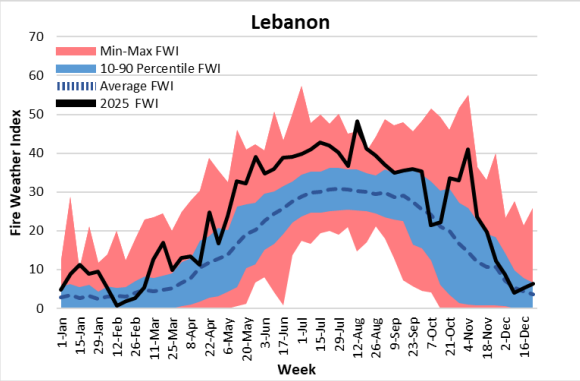
Following the record highs of 2024, the 2025 season returned close to the 2019-2023 average with 3151 ha burned in 261 fires. The largest event was a 200 ha fire in Sour region.

Table 110. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Lebanon by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Coniferous forest	244	7.74
Mixed forest	454	14.41
Other Natural Land	2 148	68.17
Agriculture	265	8.41
Artificial Surfaces	40	1.27
TOTAL	**3 151**	**100**

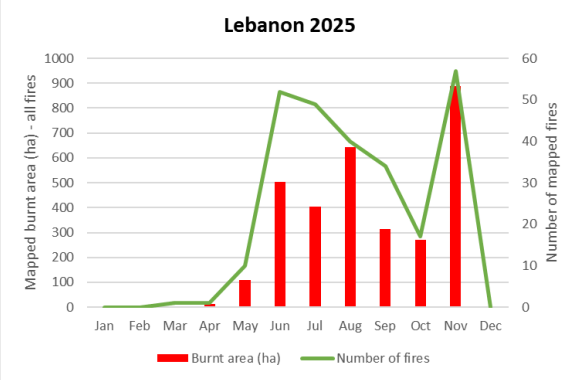
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 356. Fire Weather Index information for Lebanon in 2025.



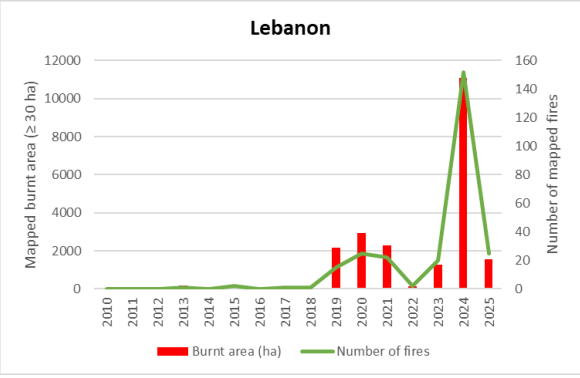
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 357. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Lebanon in 2025.



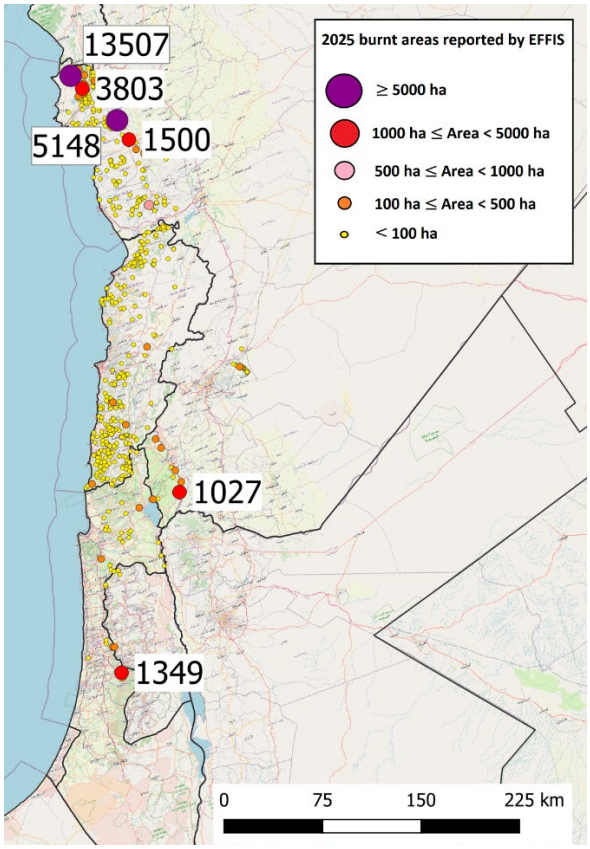
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 358. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Lebanon.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 359. Mapped burnt areas in the Middle East in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

4.5.5. Libya

The 2025 fire season in Libya was quiet and similar to that of 2024. 11 fires were mapped, covering a total of 226 ha. Almost all the total came from a single fire of 169 ha in May.

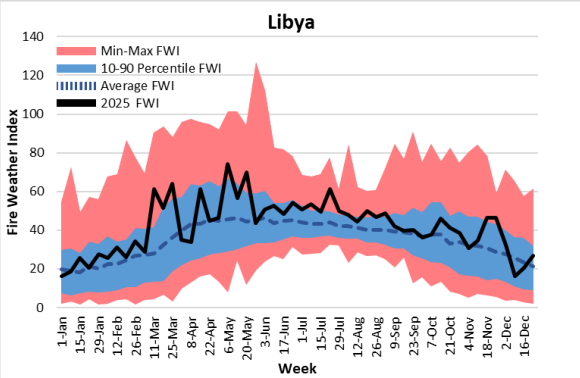
Table 111 presents the distribution of the mapped burnt area by land cover type; agricultural land was principally affected.

Table 111. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Libya by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	8	3.54
Mixed forest	93	41.15
Other Natural Land	52	23.01
Agriculture	73	32.30
TOTAL	**226**	**100**

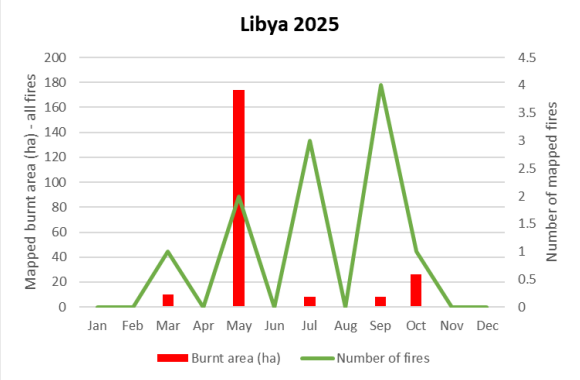
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 360. Fire Weather Index information for Libya in 2025.



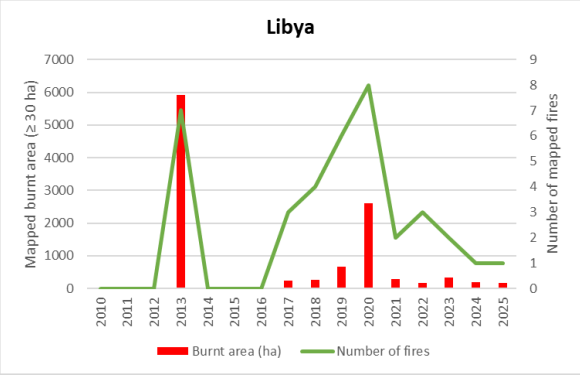
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 361. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Libya in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 362. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Libya.



Source: EFFIS.

4.5.6. Morocco

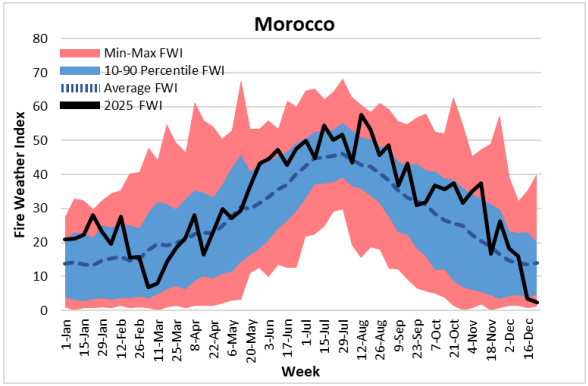
The 2025 season in Morocco was in line with the average. 85 fires were mapped, resulting in a total of 2 949 ha burnt. Most of the fires occurred in August, with the biggest one of 1 538 ha in the Tanger – Tétouan region. Only 2 ha affected protected areas.

Table 112. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Morocco by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	1 265	42.90
Coniferous forest	51	1.73
Mixed forest	182	6.17
Other Natural Land	138	4.68
Transitional	745	25.26
Agriculture	568	19.26
TOTAL	**2 949**	**100**

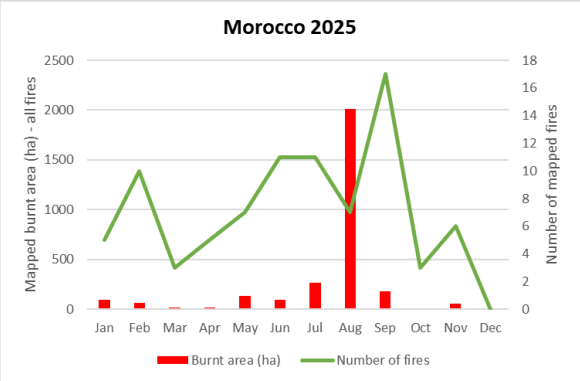
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 363. Fire Weather Index information for Morocco in 2025.



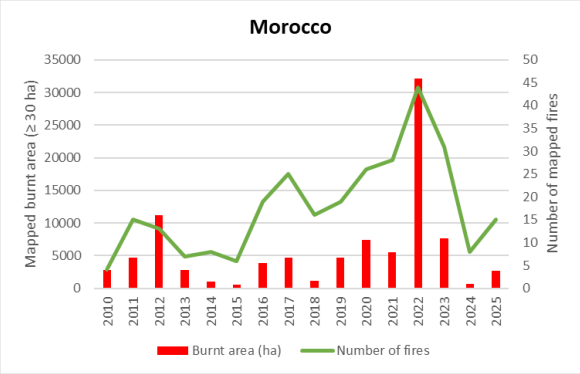
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 364. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Morocco in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 365. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Morocco.



Source: EFFIS.

4.5.7. Palestinian Territory

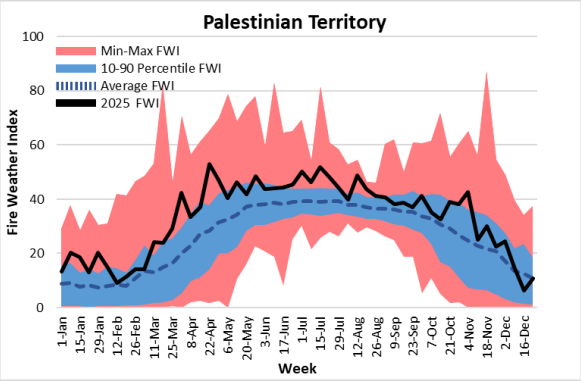
2025 recorded the highest burnt area in Palestinian Territory, burning 1 767 ha in 6 events. **Table 113** presents the distribution of the mapped burnt area by land cover type.

Table 113. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Palestinian Territory by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Coniferous forest	183	10.36
Mixed forest	255	14.43
Other Natural Land	957	54.16
Agriculture	349	19.75
Artificial Surfaces	23	1.30
TOTAL	**1 767**	**100**

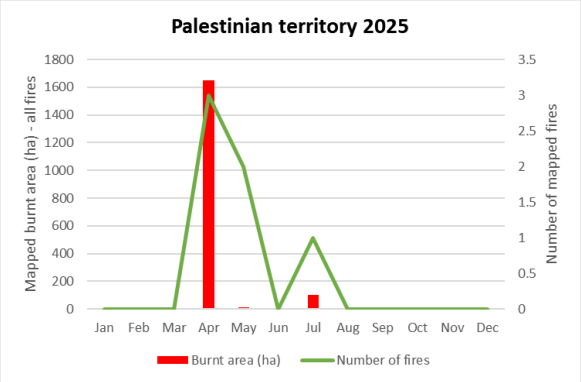
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 366. Fire Weather Index information for Palestinian Territory in 2025.



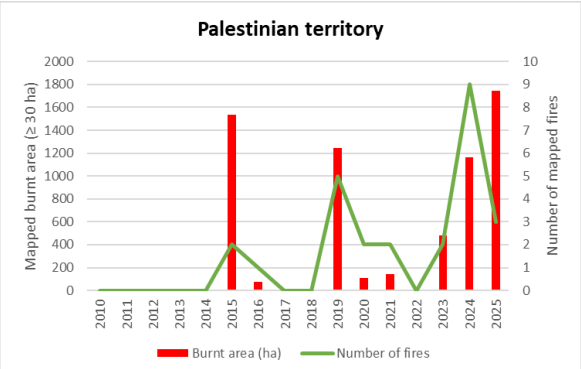
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 367. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Palestinian Territory in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 368. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Palestinian Territory.



Source: EFFIS.

4.5.8. Syria

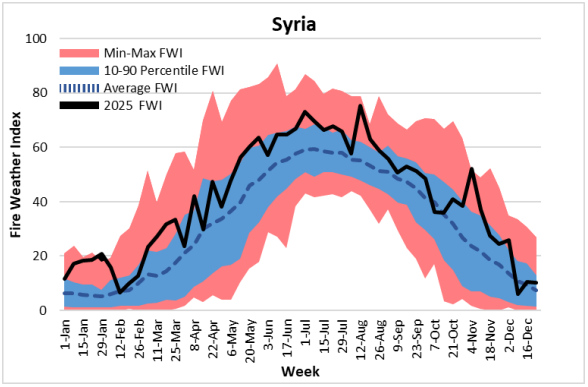
It was a relatively quiet year for fires in Syria. There were 228 fires mapped, mainly from July to September, giving a total burnt area of 29 940 ha. The events mainly affected Lattakia (with the biggest one, of 13 507 ha and the third of 3 803 ha) and Hamah (with the second biggest of 5 148 ha and fourth of 1 500 ha) regions.

Table 114. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Syria by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	555	1.85
Coniferous forest	15 277	51.03
Mixed forest	7 951	26.56
Other Natural Land	4 223	14.10
Transitional	7	0.02
Agriculture	1 786	5.97
Artificial Surfaces	137	0.46
Other Land Cover	4	0.01
TOTAL	**29 940**	**100**

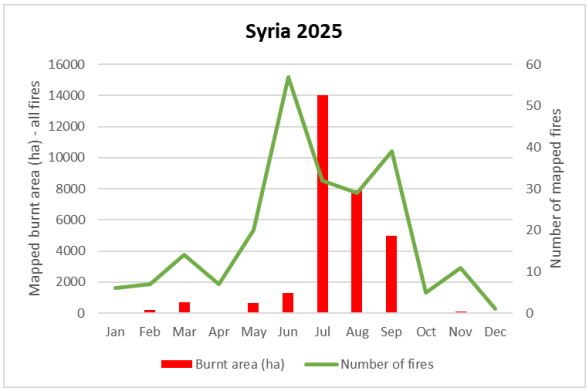
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 369. Fire Weather Index information for Syria in 2025.



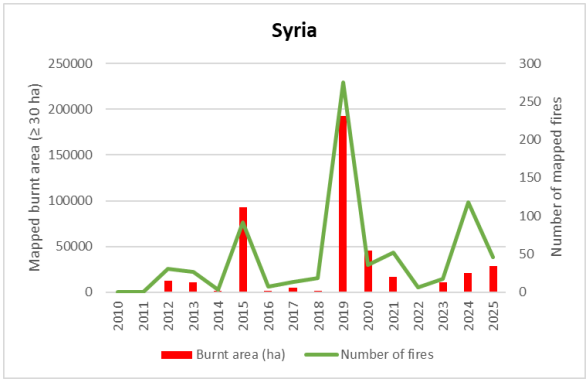
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 370. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Syria in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 371. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Syria.



Source: EFFIS.

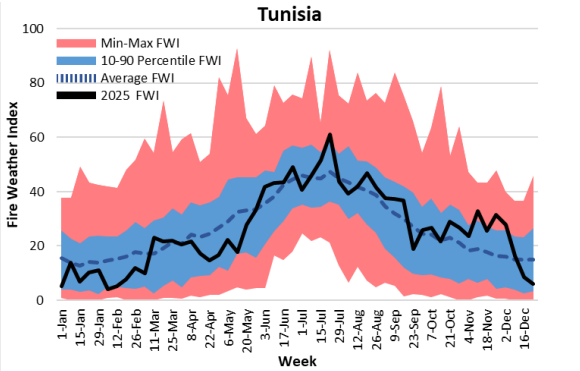
4.5.9. Tunisia

The 2025 fire season was in line with the average.

A total of 6 830 ha of burnt area was mapped from 122 fires between June and October.

The biggest fire took place in July in the Siliana region, while the second one in Beja 928 ha; ten others were between 100 and 300 ha.

Figure 372. Fire Weather Index information for Tunisia in 2025.



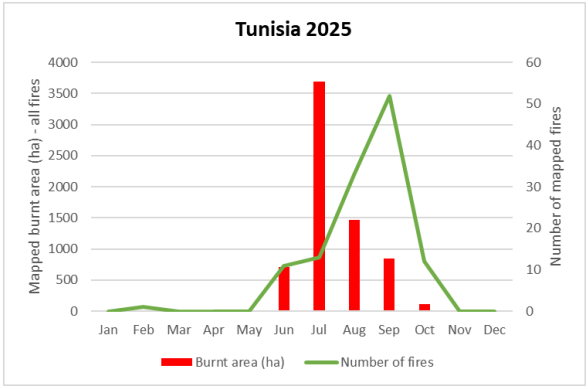
Source: EFFIS.

Table 115. Distribution of burnt area (ha) in Tunisia by land cover types in 2025.

Land cover	Burnt area	% of total
Broadleaf forest	810	11.86
Coniferous forest	2 090	30.60
Mixed forest	203	2.97
Other Natural Land	77	1.13
Sclerophyllous vegetation	1 400	20.50
Transitional	677	9.91
Agriculture	1 529	22.39
Artificial surfaces	22	0.32
Other Land Cover	22	0.32
TOTAL	**6 830**	**100**

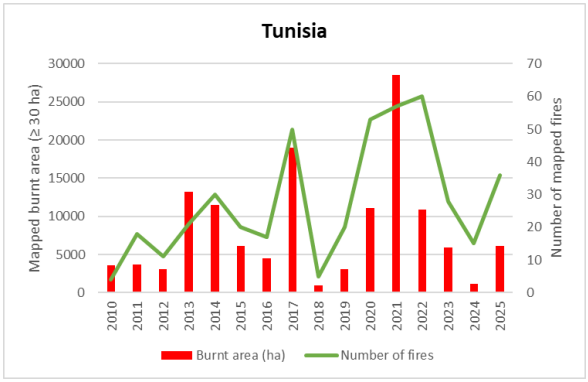
Source: EFFIS.

Figure 373. Monthly mapped burnt area and number of fires in Tunisia in 2025.



Source: EFFIS.

Figure 374. Annual mapped burnt area and number of fires ≥ 30 ha in Tunisia.



Source: EFFIS.

4.6. Conclusions

After a relatively quiet year in 2024, the burnt area in the European Union in 2025 reached 1 079 538 ha, the highest value since the inception of the EFFIS system. Around 39% of this amount (424 023 ha) impacted Natura2000 areas.

The Mediterranean region experienced several heat waves during the 2025 summer. The most extreme, during the first three weeks of August in the western Mediterranean region, triggered a series of fire events that burnt 561 322 ha and accounted for 52% of the total burnt area in the European Union in 2025. However, it is worth mentioning that also countries in central and northern Europe recorded record figures. Seven countries/territories registered historical record burnt areas in 2025 (Cyprus, Germany, Kosovo, Slovakia, Spain, United Kingdom and Palestinian territory), and six other countries registered their second-worst ever recorded fire season.

The wildfire activity started early in the year, with seasonal peaks in the number of fires and burnt areas as early as March, with over 100 000 ha burnt in the EU by the end of the month. The season transitioned regularly to the summer months, when several countries across the Mediterranean countries witnessed very large fire events.

A series of fire events characterised by noticeable size hit the northwestern part of the Iberian Peninsula during the first three weeks of August. In this relatively short period of time, 22 almost simultaneous fires over 5 000 ha produced a burnt area of 460 585 ha which accounted for 43% in the EU countries; these events also impacted 140 291 ha in Natura2000 sites, almost one third of the total in the year.

Overall, the 2025 fire season aligned with the patterns identified in the last years: early start of the fire season, more frequent and intense heat waves that propelled larger fire events, and some of these large fires at higher latitudes than in the previous years.

5. EFFIS Applications

5.1. The Current Situation Viewer Application

The current situation viewer application[60] allows the user to view and query map layers, with the most up to date information on the current fire season in Europe and in the Mediterranean area. This includes current date meteorological fire danger maps and forecast, daily updated maps of hot spots and fire perimeters. The application can also be used to view past years situation.

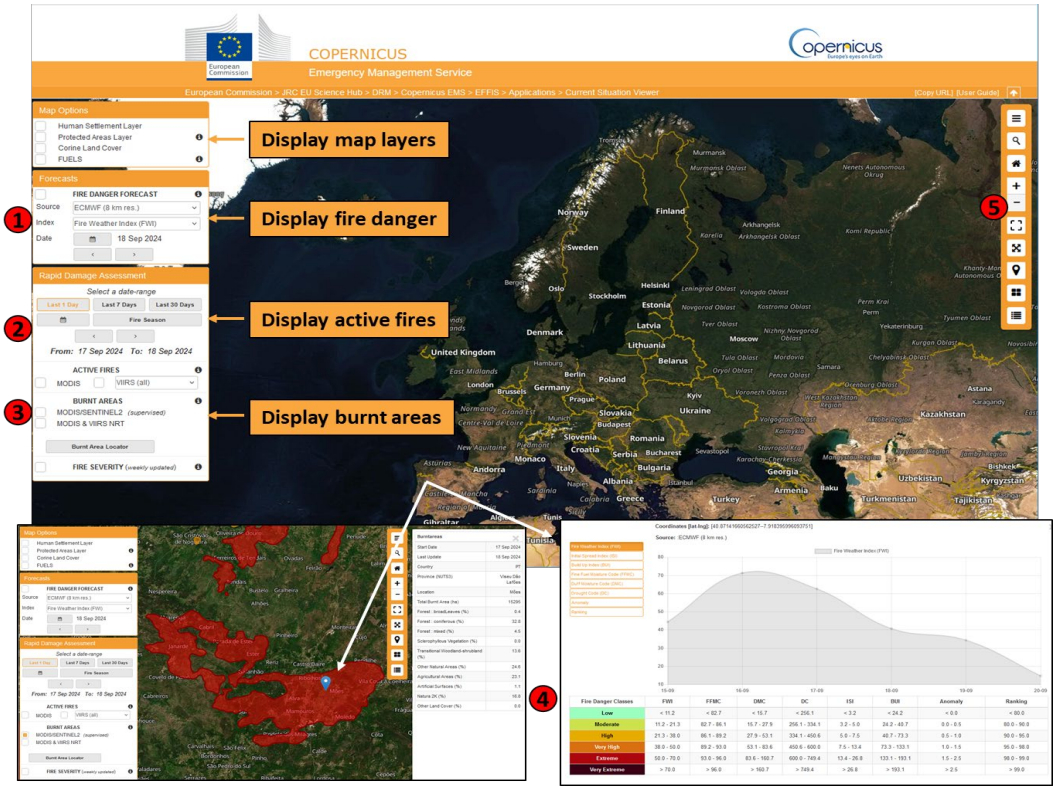
The Fire Danger Forecast ①, offers different sources and indices, for various time periods.

The Rapid Damage Assessment ② allows displaying active fire information and burnt area information for various time periods and different sources.

The Burnt area locator ③ shows the burnt area for the whole area or for a given country/region. A close-up view of the individual fire perimeter is shown if the user clicks on a specific fire ④.

A tool bar ⑤ has a number of controls for changing the view and displaying the legend.

Figure 375. The Current Situation Viewer application.



Source: EFFIS.

60 https://effis.jrc.ec.europa.eu/apps/effis_current_situation/

5.2. The EFFIS Statistics Portal

Statistics are provided at national level and for 3 groups: (i) EU, (ii) European non-EU countries, and (iii) Middle East and North Africa countries. The portal provides information on the current fire season through the provision of the following information:

- Current statistics of burnt areas and number of fires, as compared to the average of the last years since 2006. Statistics of one year can be compared to a single year or a period in the past;
- Seasonal cumulative trend in burnt areas and number of fires as compared to the average of the last years since 2006;
- Number of thermal anomalies detected by the VIIRS sensor as compared to the average of thermal anomalies for the last years since 2012;
- Number of thermal anomalies detected by the MODIS sensor as compared to the average of the thermal anomalies for the last years since 2012.

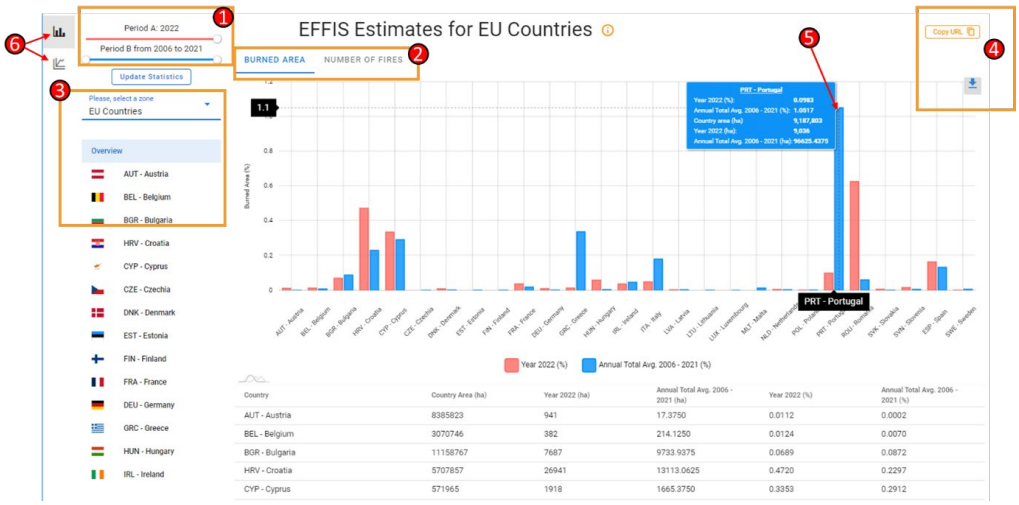
There are two parts to the Portal: EFFIS estimates and the Seasonal trend.

EFFIS Estimates

In this section the user can display the burnt area or numbers of mapped fires for two periods. The first is a single year (default is the current fire season), and the second can be defined by the user to be any range between 2006 and the year before the current season. The countries are grouped by region and displayed in alphabetical order in the graph.

1. Use the sliders to select year of interest and period for comparison;
2. Choose Burned Area or Number of Fires;
3. Choose region of interest (EU countries, European Non-EU countries, Mena countries) and either the overview or an individual country;
4. Download the results or copy the url;
5. Hover the mouse over individual points to get their statistics;
6. Switch between the EFFIS Estimates and Seasonal Trends.

Figure 376. EFFIS estimates.



Source: EFFIS.

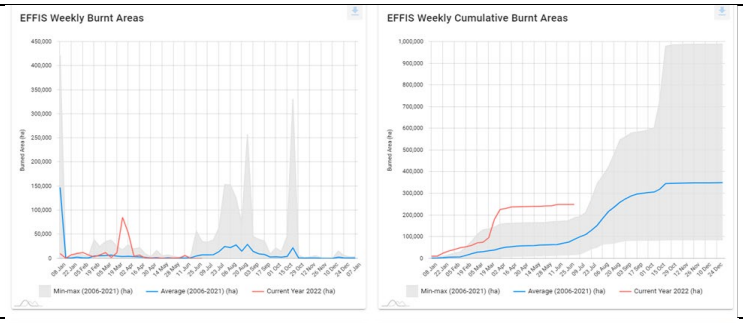
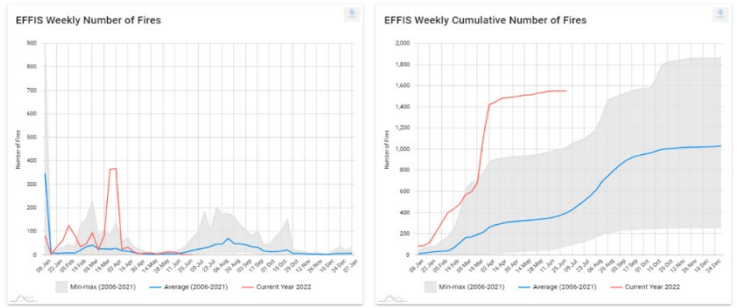
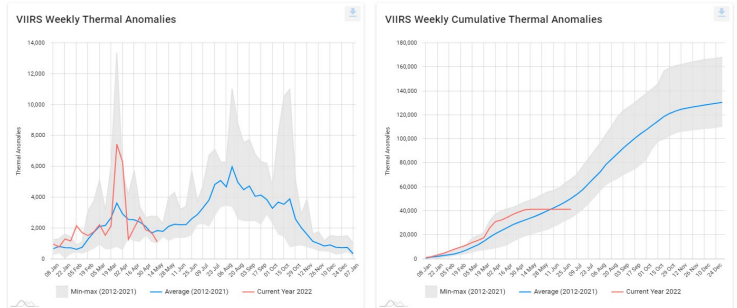
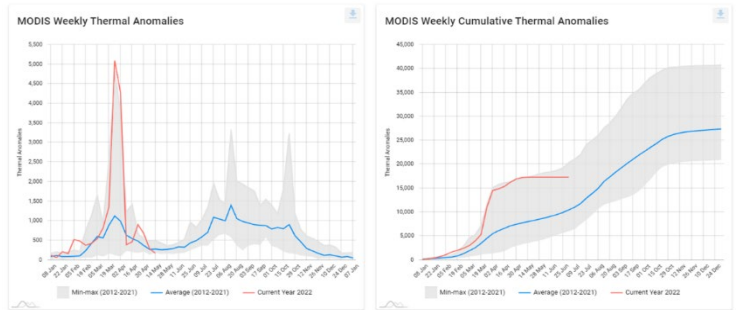
The values displayed on the graph are provided in table format below the graph. Extra information is also provided when the "overview" option is selected, including the country size and the percentage of the total country area that has been burned.

In each case the statistics can be displayed for the entire region of interest, or for any of the individual countries in the group.

Seasonal Trends

This section contains eight charts (four pairs) for the country groups: EU, Non-EU, MENA. Data is shown for groups or individual countries, mirroring the Estimates format. The first chart of the pair compares current year's progress to the long-term average (since 2006) and min/max values. The second shows the same data cumulatively.

Figure 377. Seasonal trends.

Burnt areas EFFIS weekly burnt areas comparing the current year's progress against the long term (2006-2024) average and minimum/maximum values.	
Numbers of fires EFFIS weekly number of fires comparing the current year's progress against the long term (2006-2024) average and minimum/maximum values.	
VIIRS Weekly Thermal Anomalies VIIRS weekly thermal anomalies comparing the current year's progress against the long term (2006-2024) average and minimum/maximum values.	
MODIS Weekly Thermal Anomalies MODIS weekly thermal anomalies comparing the current year's progress against the long term (2006-2024) average and minimum/maximum values.	

Source: EFFIS.

5.3. The EFFIS Fire Database

The Fire Database contains the forest fire information compiled by countries in Europe, Middle East and North Africa.

Regulation EEC No 804/94 [11] (now expired) established a community system for forest fire information; participating Member States had to collect a minimum "Common Core" of data on each fire. The subsequent Forest Focus regulation EC No 2152/2003 [7] continued the collection of this "common core" data to ensure comparable information on forest fires across the Community. Since 2000 the forest fire data provided each year by individual EU Member States and other countries in Europe, Middle East and North Africa has been checked, stored and managed by JRC within EFFIS.

The number of countries now contributing at least once to the database is 27: Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Lebanon, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia and Türkiye. The database currently contains over 3.2 million individual fire event records.

Access to the information

Individual records are not made available as they're owned by the supplying country authorities. However, users can request annual or monthly summaries of burnt area or number of fires by country, NUTS2, or NUTS3 region, from the point of contact.

More information can be found in the report “The European Fire Database: Technical specifications and data submission” EUR26546 EN [12].

Table 116. Information requested for each fire event.

ID	Unique Fire identifier	FIREID
TIME OF FIRE	Date of first alert [YYYYMMDD]	DATEAL
	Time of first alert [HHMM]	TIMEAL
	Date of first intervention [YYYYMMDD]	DATEIN
	Time of first intervention [HHMM]	TIMEIN
	Date of fire extinction [YYYYMMDD]	DATEEX
	Time of fire extinction [HHMM]	TIMEEX
LOCATION OF FIRE	Province Code (national nomenclature)	PROVCODE
	NUTS3 code	NUTS3
	Commune Code (national nomenclature)	CODECOM
	Commune Name (national nomenclature)	NAMECOM
	Latitude [decimal degrees]	NORTH
	Longitude [decimal degrees]	EAST
SIZE OF FIRE (Ha)	Burnt Area FOREST	BAFOR
	Burnt Area OTHER WOODED LAND	BAOW
	Burnt Area OTHER NON WOODED NATURAL LAND	BAONW
	Burnt Area AGRICULTURE AND OTHER ARTIFICIAL LAND	BAAGR
CAUSE OF FIRE	Certainty of knowledge of Presumed Cause (New EU code)	CAUSE_KNOWN
	Presumed Cause (New EU categories code)	CAUSE_EU
	Presumed Cause (Country detailed categories code)	CAUSE_CO

Source: EFFIS.

General notes on **Table 117**: Most of the 2025 data are still undergoing checks and are not presented. The table's totals may not match the published fire numbers as: (i) purely agricultural fires submitted by the country are in the database but are not counted as forest fires; (ii) some countries submit only summary data and not detailed data for their entire territory.

Table 117. Summary of data records stored in the Fire Database.

	BG	CH	CY	CZ	DE	EE	ES	FI	FR	GR	HR	HU	IT	LT	LV	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	TR	DZ	LB	MA	TN
1980		87																2349									
1981		153																6730									
1982		86																3626									
1983		120								945								4542									
1984		183								1184								7356									
1985		114					12235		3732	1417			12931					8441									75
1986		87					7514		2657	1088			6115					5036									89
1987		121					8816		2116	1234			8506					7705									207
1988		79					9440		2240	1798			9785					6131									158
1989		189					20250		3321	1203			8328					21896									70
1990		257					12914		3297	1283			11560					10745									118
1991		152					13529		2372	1036			7580					14327									97
1992		86					15956		2708	2008			10044					14954									182
1993		83					14253		4766	2707			14317					16101									183
1994		86			706		19249		4728	1955			7153				24361	19983									131
1995		96			525		25557		6539	1494			5505				23816	34116			44						13
1996		130			822		16586		6401	1527	2363		6064				23582	28626		4854	47						13
1997		179			276		22320		8001	2271	2648		11608				25068	23497		7057	55						98
1998		121			592		22003		6289	605	4096		9565				21342	34676		2503	143						-
1999		50			794		17943		4881	513	2592		6956				32646	25477		4707	55						-
2000		70	285		930		23574		4343	1469	5477		8609				31809	34109		4708	100						-
2001		67	299		373		19099		4259	1313	2505		7227				24511	28915		4831	60						-
2002		117	243		278		19929		4097	572	3428	429	4607				38154	28993		6490	64						-
2003		304	427		1238		18616		7023	622	4904	373	9716				79013	28087		8282	227						-
2004		94	221	957	300		21396		3767	739	1704	104	6341	430	647		36315	27829	34	4955	50	153					-
2005	251	110	185	653	299	65	25492	2631	4698	718	2180	150	7918	267	365		46542	41689	64	4573	74	287	1530				-
2006	393	110	172	697	717	248	16334	6314	4608	764	2210	97	5651	1444	1929		35630	24243	105	4618	106	238	2227			347	216
2007	1479	120	111	809	435	64	10932	2813	3382	1226	3759	603	10736	245	426		31303	25133	478	3787	129	463	2706			304	292
2008	582	63	114	470	560	71	11656	3161	2781	1071	228	502	6648	272	716		35786	18958	91	5420	68	182	2135			267	259
2009	314	103	91	520	575	47	15642	2746	4808	354	181	608	5423	471	890		30912	29783	190	4180	122	347	-			487	199
2010	222	88	133	731	525	30	11722	3100	3828	540	131	109	4884	106	319		24443	26113	70	3120	33	123	1861			597	264
2011	635	114	85	1341	515	24	16417	2871	4283	953	279	2021	8181	137	373		39011	29782	340	3534	114	303	-			568	262
2012	876	75	78	1555	451	5	15978	1050	3713	-	570	2657	10345	81	162		53907	25352	911	2213	168	517	2449	5036	99	484	493
2013	408	58	135	671	355	15	10797	2864	2061	-	137	761	2077	119	420		25652	23129	118	4907	75	233	3755	-	-	411	-
2014	151	60	68	870	251	91	9806	3637	1729	-	43	1042	1821	155	695		38115	9388	83	4374	35	153	-	-	-	460	-
2015	439	166	87	1738	594	67	11810	1644	2891	-	176	1069	5424	247	704		60176	19643	250	2700	93	242	-	-	-	425	-
2016	584	82	119	899	407	84	8749	2101	2761	-	176	452	-	98	641		25791	16104	174	5454	90	136	-	-	-	422	-
2017	513	110	92	988	176	61	13691	2263	3201	-	328	1454	-	80	423	321	25193	21006	447	5276	108	162	-	-	-	437	-
2018	222	153	131	2033	1216	230	7064	4401	1616	-	57	530	-	211	972	949	33227	12273	158	8181	32	262	-	-	-	343	-
2019	668	-	99	1964	845	143	10826	3046	2886	-	123	2088	-	280	1107	547	41488	10832	425	5483	84	-	-	-	-	529	-
2020	499	-	108	2079	684	24	8064	2780	2658	-	-	1239	-	157	581	724	31061	9619	627	5305	120	-	-	-	-	514	-
2021	349	-	111	1515	293	32	8206	2457	2295	-	-	1154	-	46	448	212	15605	8186	278	4086	73	-	-	-	-	434	-
2022	516	-	89	2469	1228	26	9665	2370	4349	-	-	2733	-	81	369	-	33549	10380	1021	5189	217	-	-	-	-	499	-
2023	448	-	131	1512	584	33	-	2698	2663	-	-	674	-	167	571	-	16496	7525	170	4744	40	-	-	-	-	466	-
2024	595	-	121	1282	402	25	-	-	1347	-	-	582	-	110	222	-	17642	6255	728	2867	49	-	-	-	-	382	-
2025			123															8252	535								

Source: EFFIS Fire Database.

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List of abbreviations and definitions

Abbreviations	Definitions
ACRES	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme
AEMET	(Spain) Agencia Estatal de Meteorología (State Meteorological Agency)
AFF	(Austria) Austria Fire Futures
AFF/AFFF	Aerial Forest Fire Fighting
AGIF	(Portugal) Agência para a Gestão Integrada de Fogos Rurais (Agency for Integrated Rural Fire Management)
ANEF	(Morocco) Agence Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (National Water and Forests Agency)
ANEPC	(Portugal) Autoridade Nacional de Emergência e Proteção Civil (National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection)
AS-PCR	(Czech Republic) Aerial Service of the Police of the Czech Republic
AVRAC	(Portugal) Avião de Reconhecimento, Avaliação e Coordenação (Reconnaissance, Evaluation, and Coordination Aircraft)
BA	Burnt Area
BDIFF	(France) Base de Données sur les Incendies de Forêts en France (National Wildfire Database of France)
BUI	Buildup Index
BWN	Belgian Wildfire Network
CFVA	(Italy) Corpo Forestale e di Vigilanza Ambientale della Sardegna (Forestry and Environmental Surveillance Corps of Sardinia)
CLC, LC	CORINE Land Cover, Land Cover
CNVVF	(Italy) Corpo Nazionale dei Vigili del Fuoco (National Fire Corps)
DAFM	(Ireland) Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Abbreviations	Definitions
DECIR	(Portugal) Dispositivo Especial de Combate a Incêndios Rurais (National rural fire suppression system)
DEFRA	(United Kingdom) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DFCI	(France) Défense des Forêts Contre les Incendies (Defense of Forests Against Fires)
DG CLIMA	Directorate-General for Climate Action
DG ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
DE ENV	Directorate-General for Environment
DNBR	Differenced Normalized Burn Ratio
DSB	(Norway) Directorate for civil protection
DSR	Daily Severity Rating
DWD	Deutscher Wetterdienst (German Meteorological Service)
EAUF	(Portugal) Equipa de Análise e Uso do Fogo (Fire Analysis and Use Team)
ECMWF	European Centre for Medium Range Forecast
EFA	(Bulgaria) Executive Forest Agency
EFFIS	European Forest Fire Information System
EGFF	Expert Group on Forest Fires
EPADAP	(Greece) ΕπαΔαΠ - Εθνικό Παρατηρητήριο Δασικών Πυρκαγιών (National Forest Fire Observatory)
ERCC	Emergency Response Coordination Centre
EU	European Union
EU27	The 27 member states of the European Union

Abbreviations	Definitions
EU MODEX	European Union Module Exercises
EWWF	England and Wales Wildfire Forum
FA	(Hungary) Forest Authority
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEPC	(Portugal) Força Especial de Proteção Civil (Special Force for Civil Protection)
FFMC	Fine Fuel Moisture Code
FOEN	(Switzerland) Federal Office for the Environment
FWI	Fire Weather Index
GAAR	(France) Guet Aérien Armé Retardant (Armed Aerial Watch with Retardant)
GDF	(Türkiye) General Directorate of Forest
GFFF	Ground Forest Fire Fighting
GIS	Geographic Information System
GDFSCP	(Bulgaria) General Directorate for Fire Safety and Civil Protection
GSM	Global System for Mobile Communications
GWIS	Global Wildfire Information System
HaZZ	Hasičský a záchranný zbor (Fire and Rescue Service)
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICNF	(Portugal) Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas (Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests)
IFCN	(Portugal) Instituto das Florestas e da Conservação da Natureza – Madeira (Institute for Forests and Nature Conservation)

Abbreviations	Definitions
INGV	(Italy) Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia (National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology)
LFMWB	Landscape Fire Management in Western Balkans
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry
MCF	Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MITECO	(Spain) Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico (Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge)
MODIS	Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
NDFFDR	National Degree of Forest Fire Danger Rate
NENFIRE	Near East and North Africa Forest Fire Network
NFCC	(United Kingdom) National Fire Chiefs Council
NIPV	(The Netherlands) Netherlands Institute for Public Safety
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRT	Near Real Time
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
PDSI	Palmer Drought Severity Index
RDA	Rapid Damage Assessment
RDF	(Bulgaria) Regional Directorates of Forestry
RescEU	Strategic reserve of European disaster response capabilities and stockpiles, fully funded by the EU
RFDMS	Remote Fire Detection and Monitoring System

Abbreviations	Definitions
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
SFS	(Latvia) State Forest Service
SPI	Standardized Precipitation Index
UAS	Unmanned Aerial System
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UCPM	Union Civil Protection Mechanism
UK	United Kingdom
UKSHA	United Kingdom Health Security Agency
UXO	Unexploded ordnance
VIIRS	Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite
WBKZ	Waldbrannkennziffer (Forest Fire Index)
WSL	(Switzerland) Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface

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NOTE

Every effort is made to ensure that the published figures are correct. However, at the time of printing some data are provisional and may be changed in the future. Where there is a discrepancy between figures published in different reports, the later report should be taken as the definitive version.

Table 118. Number of forest fires in five Southern Member States (1980-2025).

Year	*PORTUGAL*	*SPAIN*	*FRANCE*	*ITALY*	*GREECE*	*TOTAL*
1980	2 349	7 190	5 040	11 963	1 207	27 749
1981	6 730	10 878	5 173	14 503	1 159	38 443
1982	3 626	6 545	5 308	9 557	1 045	26 081
1983	4 539	4 791	4 659	7 956	968	22 913
1984	7 356	7 203	5 672	8 482	1 284	29 997
1985	8 441	12 238	6 249	18 664	1 442	47 034
1986	5 036	7 570	4 353	9 398	1 082	27 439
1987	7 705	8 679	3 043	11 972	1 266	32 665
1988	6 131	9 247	2 837	13 588	1 898	33 701
1989	21 896	20 811	6 763	9 669	1 284	60 423
1990	10 745	12 913	5 881	14 477	1 322	45 338
1991	14 327	13 531	3 888	11 965	858	44 569
1992	14 954	15 955	4 002	14 641	2 582	52 134
1993	16 101	14 254	4 769	14 412	2 406	51 942
1994	19 983	19 263	4 618	11 588	1 763	57 215
1995	34 116	25 827	6 563	7 378	1 438	75 322
1996	28 626	16 771	6 401	9 093	1 508	62 399
1997	23 497	22 320	8 005	11 612	2 273	67 707
1998	34 676	22 446	6 289	9 540	1 842	74 793
1999	25 477	18 237	4 960	6 932	1 486	57 092
2000	34 109	24 118	4 603	8 595	2 581	74 006
2001	28 915	19 547	4 309	7 134	2 535	62 440
2002	28 993	19 929	4 097	4 601	1 141	58 761
2003	28 087	18 616	7 023	9 697	1 452	64 875
2004	27 829	21 396	3 775	6 428	1 748	61 176
2005	41 689	25 492	4 698	7 951	1 544	81 374
2006	24 243	16 354	3 231	5 634	1 417	50 879
2007	25 133	10 936	2 690	10 639	1 983	51 381
2008	18 958	11 655	1 801	6 486	1 481	40 381
2009	29 783	15 643	3 012	5 422	1 063	54 923
2010	26 113	11 721	2 443	4 884	1 052	46 213
2011	29 782	16 414	2 774	8 181	1 613	58 764
2012	25 352	17 503	2 763	8 252	1 559	55 429
2013	23 129	10 626	1 510	2 936	862	39 063
2014	9 388	9 771	1 730	3 257	552	24 698
2015	19 643	11 928	2 898	5 442	510	40 421
2016	16 104	8 817	2 775	5 818	777	34 291
2017	21 006	13 793	3 220	7 855	1 083	46 957
2018	12 274	7 143	1 634	3 220	793	25 064
2019	10 832	10 883	2 949	4 351	657	29 672
2020	9 619	7 745	2 760	4 865	1 060	26 049
2021	8 186	8 780	2 332	5 989	1 250	26 537
2022	10 390	10 507	4 215	6 529	962	32 603
2023	7523	7 748	2 666	4 265	941	23 143
2024	6 255	6 134	1 452	3 784	981	18 606
2025	8 252	8 199	2 511	4 370	561	23 893
% of total in 2025	35%	34%	11%	18%	2%	100%
Average 1980-1989	7 381	9 515	4 910	11 575	1 264	34 645
Average 1990-1999	22 250	18 152	5 538	11 164	1 748	58 851
Average 2000-2009	28 774	18 369	3 924	7 259	1 695	60 020
Average 2010-2019	19 362	11 860	2 470	5 420	946	40 057
Average 2020-2025	8 371	8 186	2 656	4 967	959	25 139
Average 1980-2025	17 998	13 654	4 007	8 347	1 354	45 360
TOTAL (1980-2025)	827 898	628 067	184 344	383 975	62 271	2 086 555

Source: Country reports form National fire services.

Table 119. Burnt area (hectares) in five Southern Member States (1980–2025).

Year	*PORTUGAL*	*SPAIN*	*FRANCE*	*ITALY*	*GREECE*	*TOTAL*
1980	44 251	263 017	22 176	143 919	32 965	506 328
1981	89 798	298 288	27 711	229 850	81 417	727 064
1982	39 556	152 903	55 145	130 456	27 372	405 432
1983	47 811	108 100	53 729	212 678	19 613	441 931
1984	52 710	165 119	27 202	75 272	33 655	353 958
1985	146 254	484 476	57 368	190 640	105 450	984 188
1986	89 522	264 887	51 860	86 420	24 514	517 203
1987	76 269	146 662	14 108	120 697	46 315	404 051
1988	22 434	137 734	6 701	186 405	110 501	463 775
1989	126 237	426 693	75 566	95 161	42 363	766 020
1990	137 252	203 032	72 625	195 319	38 594	646 822
1991	182 486	260 318	10 130	99 860	13 046	565 840
1992	57 011	105 277	16 593	105 692	71 410	355 983
1993	49 963	89 267	16 698	203 749	54 049	413 726
1994	77 323	437 635	24 995	136 334	57 908	734 195
1995	169 612	143 484	18 137	48 884	27 202	407 319
1996	88 867	59 814	11 400	57 988	25 310	243 379
1997	30 535	98 503	21 581	111 230	52 373	314 222
1998	158 369	133 643	19 282	155 553	92 901	559 748
1999	70 613	82 217	15 906	71 117	8 289	248 142
2000	159 605	188 586	24 078	114 648	145 033	631 950
2001	117 420	93 297	20 642	76 427	18 221	326 007
2002	130 849	107 464	30 160	40 791	6 013	315 277
2003	471 750	148 172	73 278	91 805	3 517	788 522
2004	151 370	134 193	13 711	60 176	10 267	369 717
2005	346 718	188 697	22 135	47 575	6 437	611 562
2006	83 706	155 345	7 026	39 946	12 661	298 684
2007	36 413	86 122	7 057	227 729	225 734	583 055
2008	19 897	50 322	4 710	66 329	29 152	170 410
2009	92 126	120 094	14 612	73 355	35 342	335 529
2010	140 953	54 770	8 524	46 537	8 967	259 751
2011	77 104	102 161	6 800	72 004	29 144	287 213
2012	117 985	226 125	7 584	130 814	59 924	542 432
2013	160 388	58 985	2 735	29 076	46 676	297 860
2014	22 820	46 721	4 735	36 125	25 846	136 247
2015	67 200	103 200	8 169	41 511	7 096	227 176
2016	167 808	65 817	14 101	65 503	26 540	339 769
2017	539 921	178 234	23 093	161 987	13 393	916 628
2018	44 578	25 162	3 940	19 481	15 464	108 624
2019	42 085	83 963	13 394	36 034	9 153	184 628
2020	67 170	65 923	10 722	55 656	9 300	208 771
2021	28 360	87 880	12 779	151 964	108 418	389 401
2022	110 097	267 947	58 123	71 694	18 807	526 668
2023	34 510	89 068	5 361	88 806	136 499	354 244
2024	137 651	47 711	2 949	5 2623	28 288	269 223
2025	270 695	354 747	21 747	81 481	41 540	770 211
% of total in 2025	35%	46%	3%	11%	5%	100%
Average 1980-1989	73 484	244 788	39 157	147 150	52 417	556 995
Average 1990-1999	102 203	161 319	22 735	118 573	44 108	448 938
Average 2000-2009	160 985	127 229	21 741	83 878	49 238	443 071
Average 2010-2019	138 084	94 514	9 308	63 907	24 220	330 033
Average 2020-2025	108 081	152 213	18 614	83 704	57 142	419 753
Average 1980-2025	117 305	156 343	22 632	100 811	44 406	441 497
TOTAL (1980-2025)	5 396 051	7 191 774	1 041 078	4 637 301	2 042 678	20 308 883

Source: Country reports form National fire services.

Table 120. Number of forest fires in other countries/territories (1990–2025).

Country / Year	Algeria	Austria	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Estonia	Finland	Germany	Hungary	Israel	Kosovo	Latvia	Lebanon	Lithuania	Morocco	Netherlands	North Macedonia	Norway	Poland	Romania	Serbia	Slovakia	Slovenia	Sweden	Switzerland	Türkiye	Ukraine
1990	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	604	-	-	179	-	-	-	5756	131	-	-	-	-	257	1750	-
1991	-	-	73	-	-	-	-	-	1846	-	-	-	225	-	-	247	-	-	-	3528	42	-	-	-	-	152	1481	-
1992	-	-	602	325	-	-	-	-	3012	-	-	-	1510	-	1180	182	-	-	-	11858	187	-	-	-	-	86	2117	-
1993	-	112	1196	372	-	-	-	-	1694	-	-	-	965	-	634	187	-	-	-	8821	159	-	-	-	-	83	2545	-
1994	-	105	667	181	-	-	-	-	1696	-	-	-	763	-	715	417	-	-	-	10705	121	-	366	-	-	86	3239	-
1995	-	54	114	109	-	1331	-	-	1237	-	-	-	582	-	472	528	-	-	-	7678	62	-	254	-	-	96	1770	-
1996	-	26	246	305	-	1421	-	1475	1748	-	-	-	1095	-	894	220	-	-	-	7923	72	-	662	-	-	130	1645	-
1997	-	42	200	305	-	1398	-	1585	1467	-	-	-	768	-	565	391	-	-	-	6817	37	-	535	-	-	179	1569	-
1998	-	71	578	441	-	2563	-	370	1032	-	-	-	357	-	258	416	-	-	-	6165	59	-	1056	-	2503	121	1932	-
1999	-	16	320	223	-	1402	-	1528	1178	229	-	-	1196	-	1022	385	-	-	-	9820	138	-	426	-	4707	50	2075	-
2000	-	43	1710	706	285	1499	158	826	1210	811	-	-	915	-	654	321	-	-	-	12426	688	-	824	-	4708	70	2555	-
2001	-	53	825	299	299	483	91	822	587	419	-	-	272	-	287	327	-	-	117	4480	268	-	311	-	4831	67	2631	-
2002	-	108	402	176	243	604	356	2546	513	382	-	-	1720	-	1596	202	-	-	213	10101	516	-	570	60	6490	117	1471	-
2003	-	238	452	532	427	1754	111	1734	2524	375	-	-	900	-	885	392	-	-	198	17087	203	-	872	224	8282	304	2177	-
2004	-	74	294	204	221	873	89	816	626	104	-	-	647	-	468	714	-	-	119	7006	34	-	153	51	4955	94	1762	-
2005	-	85	241	147	185	626	65	1069	496	150	-	-	365	-	301	662	-	-	122	12049	64	-	287	73	4573	110	1530	-
2006	-	133	393	181	172	693	248	3046	930	97	-	-	1929	-	1545	381	-	-	205	11541	105	-	237	112	4618	110	2227	-
2007	-	256	1479	345	111	805	64	1204	779	603	-	-	425	-	251	340	-	652	65	8302	478	-	463	140	3737	120	2829	5024
2008	-	185	582	275	114	470	71	1456	818	502	-	-	700	-	301	273	-	573	171	9090	91	-	182	74	5420	63	2135	3231
2009	-	138	314	181	91	514	47	1242	763	608	-	-	823	-	471	501	-	80	109	9162	190	67	347	120	4180	103	1793	4922
2010	-	143	222	131	133	732	30	1412	780	109	-	-	316	-	104	629	-	99	62	4680	70	3	127	32	3120	88	1861	2368
2011	2487	269	635	280	85	1337	24	1215	888	2021	-	129	360	-	142	606	-	523	49	8172	340	211	303	114	3534	114	1954	1761
2012	5110	259	876	569	78	1549	5	417	701	2657	-	-	162	-	81	484	-	483	24	9265	911	318	513	168	2213	75	2450	1743
2013	2443	198	408	137	135	666	15	1452	515	761	-	-	422	-	123	411	-	186	42	4883	116	46	233	75	4878	58	3755	806
2014	4629	150	151	43	68	865	91	1660	429	1042	-	-	698	-	155	460	-	62	133	5245	83	23	153	35	4374	60	2149	1486
2015	2383	282	429	177	87	1748	67	745	1071	1069	607	-	704	107	247	425	-	106	29	12257	250	68	242	93	2700	166	2150	2225
2016	3150	141	584	151	119	892	84	933	608	452	910	-	641	260	98	422	-	60	345	5286	174	45	136	90	5454	82	3188	945
2017	2992	273	513	329	92	966	61	881	424	1454	602	-	423	92	80	433	321	301	264	3592	447	222	162	108	5276	110	2411	2371
2018	797	175	222	54	131	2033	230	2427	1708	530	554	-	972	41	211	343	949	19	887	8867	158	62	262	32	8181	153	2167	1297
2019	2278	245	668	123	99	1963	143	1458	1523	2088	539	-	1107	194	279	529	548	251	261	9635	425	189	210	84	5483	79	2688	1261
2020	3493	227	499	142	108	2081	24	1260	1360	1239	785	-	581	251	157	514	724	48	609	6627	627	81	221	120	5305	78	3399	2598
2021	1631	164	349	116	111	1517	32	1231	548	1154	808	-	448	131	46	435	212	113	653	3295	278	75	101	73	4087	85	2793	659
2022	1607	218	516	245	89	2473	26	1129	2397	2731	441	-	369	22	81	499	916	50	1275	6999	1021	66	297	217	5189	115	2160	1098
2023	-	123	448	48	131	1512	33	1346	1059	675	443	-	571	23	167	466	-	104	1251	4908	170	33	55	40	4744	144	2579	593
2024	-	130	595	106	121	1284	25	1260	563	582	604	-	222	979	110	382	222	250	776	5857	728	186	102	49	2867	46	3797	1993
2025	-	196	546	71	123	1520	5	992	1175	982	424	119	189	119	110	418	919	176	1111	5720	535	191	136	31	4724	103	3224	1238

Source: Country reports form National fire services.

Table 121. Burnt area (hectares) in other countries/territories (1990–2025).

Country / Year	Algeria	Austria	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Estonia	Finland	Germany	Hungary	Israel	Kosovo	Latvia	Lebanon	Lithuania	Morocco	Netherlands	North Macedonia	Norway	Poland	Romania	Serbia	Slovakia	Slovenia	Sweden	Switzerland	Türkiye	Ukraine
1990	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	258	-	-	2118	-	-	-	7341	444	-	-	-	-	1723	13742	-
1991	-	-	511	-	-	-	-	-	920	-		-	69	-	-	3965	-	-	-	2567	277	-	-	-	-	96	8081	-
1992	-	-	5243	11131	-	-	-	-	4908	-		-	8412	-	769	2579	-	-	-	43755	729	-	-	-	-	65	12232	-
1993	-	85	18164	20157	-	-	-	-	1493	-		-	570	-	274	3078	-	-	-	8290	518	-	-	-	-	37	15393	-
1994	-	80	18100	7936	-	-	-	-	1114	-		-	326	-	279	6072	-	-	-	9325	312	-	-	-	-	408	30828	-
1995	-	43	550	4651	-	403	-	-	592	-		-	535	-	321	7018	-	-	-	5403	208	-	-	-	-	446	7676	-
1996	-	8	906	11214	-	2043	-	433	1381	-		-	927	-	478	1185	-	-	-	14537	227	-	-	-	-	293	14922	-
1997	-	28	595	11122	-	359	-	1146	599	-		-	448	-	226	3845	-	-	-	6766	68	-	-	-	-	1785	6517	-
1998	-	101	6967	32056	-	1132	-	131	397	-		-	211	-	93	1855	-	-	-	4222	137	-	-	-	422	274	6764	-
1999	-	6	8291	6053	-	336	-	609	415	756		-	1544	-	494	1688	-	-	-	8629	379	-	557	-	1771	30	5804	-
2000	-	38	57406	68171	8034	375	684	266	581	1595		-	1341	-	352	4064	-	-	-	7089	3607	-	904	-	1552	70	26653	-
2001	-	20	20152	16169	4830	87	62	187	122	-		-	311	-	113	1806	-	-	895	3466	1001	-	305	-	1254	21	7394	-
2002	-	114	6513	4853	2196	178	2082	590	122	1227		-	2222	-	746	593	-	-	221	5210	3536	-	595	161	2626	681	8514	-
2003	-	121	5000	27091	2349	1236	207	666	1315	845		-	559	-	436	2858	-	-	942	21551	762	-	1567	2100	4002	673	6644	-
2004	-	19	1137	3378	1218	335	379	358	274	247		-	486	-	253	8660	-	-	117	3782	124	-	157	138	1883	31	4876	-
2005	-	13	1456	3135	1838	227	85	495	183	3531		-	120	-	51	6198	-	-	346	5713	162	-	524	280	1562	67	2821	-
2006	-	53	3540	4575	1160	405	2638	1617	482	625		-	3387	-	1199	5360	-	-	3829	5657	946	-	280	1420	5710	127	7762	-
2007	-	55	42999	20209	4483	316	292	576	256	4636		-	272	-	38	1367	-	32665	128	2841	2529	-	679	128	1090	337	11664	12731
2008	-	21	5289	7343	2392	86	1279	830	539	2404		-	364	-	112	1127	-	5915	3174	3027	373	-	118	75	6113	68	29749	4521
2009	-	58	2271	2900	885	178	59	576	262	6463		-	646	-	287	3108	-	1307	1329	4400	974	712	510	177	1537	60	4679	4575
2010	-	36	6526	1121	2000	205	25	520	522	878		-	92	-	22	5511	-	737	769	2126	206	4	192	121	540	27	3517	1239
2011	13593	67	6883	15555	1599	337	19	580	214	8055		2040	115	-	293	3460	-	17308	121	2678	2195	5003	403	288	945	225	3612	612
2012	99061	48	12730	24804	2531	634	3	86.5	269	14115		-	90	-	20	6695	-	10021	60	7235	6624	13226	1683	1006	483	30	10455	3311
2013	13396	102	3314	1999	2835	92	79	461.4	199	1955		-	217	-	25	2207	-	3027	47	1289	421	1132	270	66	1508	29	11456	220
2014	43125	253	916	188	669	536	77	881	120	4454		-	591	-	162	1540	-	846	770	2690	217	599	192	18	14666	46	3117	16677
2015	13010	178	4313	9416	652	344	83	143	526	4730		-	615	753	71	992	-	1798	143	5510	1671	1474	353	65	594	47	3219	2625
2016	18370	24	6340	7100	3205	141	123	310	283	974	2060	-	467	1871	26	2585	-	450	1884	1451	675	843	175	526	1288	454	9156	1101
2017	53975	31	4569	48543	428	170	33	460	395	4933	1380	-	265	264	53	2414	232	5619	525	1023	2459	4757	295	441	1433	118	11992	5474
2018	2312	25	1453	1506	1136	492	430	1228	2349	906	1740	-	2864	643	110	841	639	95	3279	2696	1341	1502	248	20	24310	69	5644	1367
2019	21048	22	5620	2180	733	520	69	565	2711	6541	2800	-	805	3155	200	3232	250	4834	3077	3572	2496	9872	462	154	1233	31	11332	1065
2020	43918	60	5258	23994	1305	484	191	719	368	2895	2560	-	309	1851	64	5569	1072	68	363	8417	5152	1417	477	118	821	26	20971	74623
2021	100101	161	3143	6660	6612	411	33	785	148	2413	2620	-	504	1508	11	3064	18	6796	653	894	2101	1630	159	124	731	35	139503	289
2022	27685	550	8126	24226	685	1715	20	267	3058	20947	1148	-	217	79	53	22762	220	199	2455	2853	13153	1053	1210	4059	912	322	12799	18100
2023	-	59	6388	1837	2216	217	75	383	1240	911	1754	-	622	132	60	6246	116	529	3059	1129	554	358	30	118	894	120	15520	907
2024	-	120	17116	14607	3425	140	17	390	334	2799	3338	-	63	7352	49	874	17	61061	887	1358	10360	6870	82	134	310	42	27485	23963
2025	-	58	15459	2683	12870	332	3	394	2626	5389	973	2280	70	1515	42	1728	563	18622	3845	1459	8383	5459	246	16	1223	8	81473	5565

Source: Country reports form National fire services.

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