



Forest Fires in Croatia 2008

Following the 2007 of forest fires in Croatia the 2008 reports provides the consolidated (final) statistical data for 2007 and 2008.

1. Extent: Number, Area and Types of Forests and Other Vegetation affected by Fire

Table 1. Fire in forests and other wooded lands

Year	Ownership	Number of fire	Area (ha)		Causes										
			High forest	Other forest land	Human disregard	Electric lines	Traffic	Forest activities	Agricultural activities	Mines	Lightning	Arson	Self combustion	Other	Unknown
2007	State	293	1,858	11,979	13	5	5	2	42	-	7	23	2	8	186
	Private	38	1,990	3,385	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
	Total	331	3,848	15,364	17	6	5	2	42	-	7	23	2	8	219
2008	State	228	1,352	5,336	15	6	8	3	23	2	6	6	-	4	155
	Private	56	276	300	10	1	-	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	37
	Total	284	1,628	5,636	25	7	8	4	30	2	6	6	-	4	192

Source: Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management

Table 2. Fire in agricultural lands

Year	Area (ha)	Number of Fires	Damage (€)
2007	37,603	2,213	8,265,321
2008	29,189	1,691	7,209,352

Source: Ministry of Interior

Table 3. Fires in other open areas

Year	Area (ha)	Number of fire	Damage (€)
2007	5552	1483	2,369,769
2008	3002	1214	3,881,509

Source: Ministry of Interior

Description of Selected Extreme Fires in 2008

Between June and October 2008 there were 2,673 fires with highest number of 815 fires in August. During August 7,325 firemen and 2,143 vehicles were involved in fire suppression. The total duration of interventions was 3,159 hours.

Forest fires by size in the period June to October 2008:

< 5 ha	81.30%
5-10 ha	4.34%
10-100 ha	5.25%
>100 ha	0.47%

The occurrence of the largest forest fires (10-100 ha) was in September.

Forest fires 2008 by active suppression time:

< 4 hours	88.72%
4-12 hours	5.98%
> 12 hours	4.39%

The fire danger index in the country between June and October 2008 is provided in Figures 1 and 2.

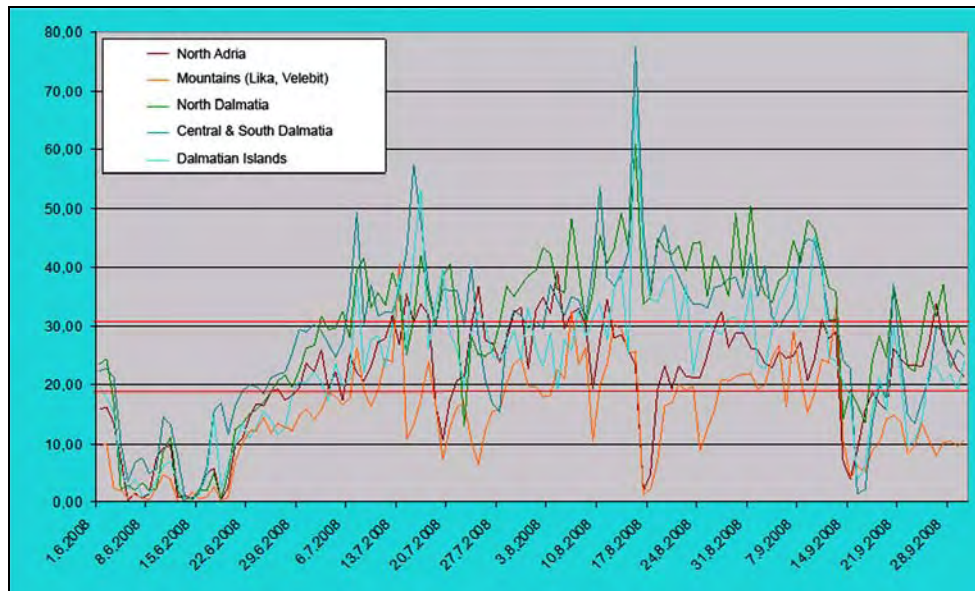


Figure 1. Fire danger index in coastal regions of Croatia during the period June to October 2008

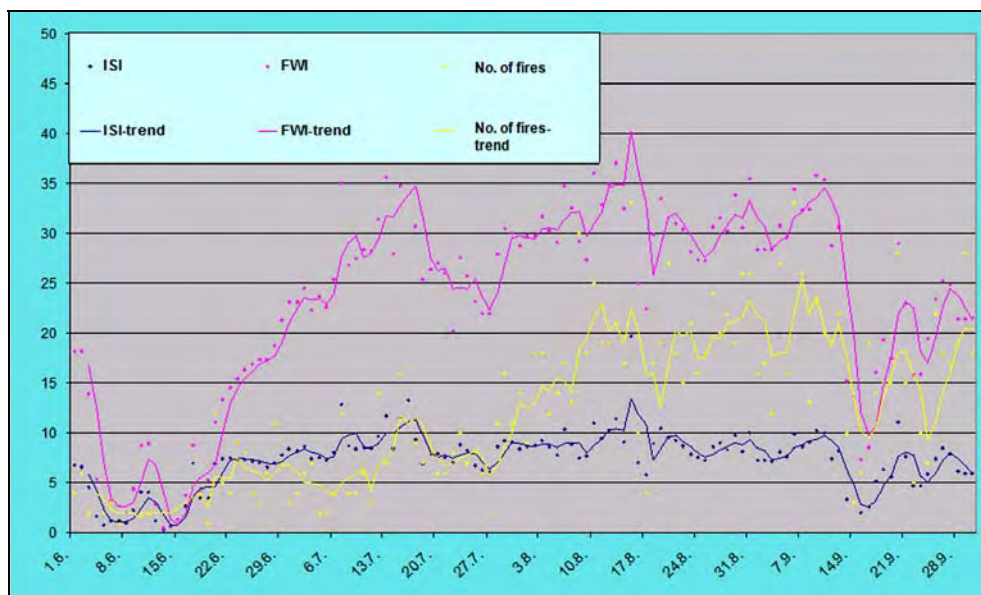


Figure 2. Forest fires number and fire danger index during the period June to October 2008

2. Fire Damages in 2008

Forest and forest lands	-	37.0 m €
Agricultural lands	-	7.2 m €
Other open space	-	3.9 m €

3. Fire Preparedness and Response in 2008

- The Government of the Republic of Croatia released / reserved 2.5 m € for suppression
- 6,000 firemen in total (3,600 operative firemen, 2,400 voluntary firemen, army, police forces distributed on 45 locations)
- 250-350 firemen in pre-alert in continental part of the country
- 4 CL-415
- 1 AT 805F
- 5 AT 705FF
- 4-6 helicopters (Mi-8)

4. National Cooperation in Responding to the 2008 Fires

Role / action of agencies at national and provincial level

- Cooperation of local fire service units, interventional fire units, local Government (local / regional / county level)
- Cooperation of National Protection and Rescue Directorate, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Croatian Forest

Role / action of local communities

- Logistical support for dislocated fire units
- Surveillance and patrolling of wildlands

5. International Cooperation

Receiving assistance

There was no request for receiving assistance 2008.

Providing assistance

Assistance was provided to Bosnia and Herzegovina on 9 September 2008 by 2 CL-415, 15 firemen and 7 vehicles.

6. Analysis and Recommendations

In 2008 the number of forest fires was 17.8% higher as compared to 2007 but the size of areas burned were 64.17% less. Preventive measures and public awareness rising should be more focused in future.

Sources

Data were provided by the Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management, the National Protection and Rescue Directorate and the Ministry of Interior

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