



The strubbles are warming up

Photography: Agricultural tractor working in a cereal fire in Iborra, just a year ago, 09/06/2006.

What we had

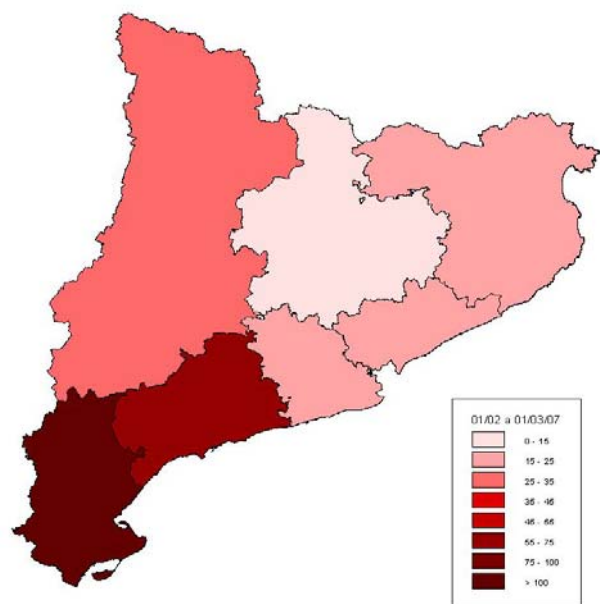
Compared trend from the beginning of the year until:

1

	01/06/2006	01/06/2007
N. Fires (VA+VU+VF)	1780	1758
Area (ha)	1423	184 (*)

¹ VA: AGRICULTURAL VEGETATION
 VU: URBAN VEGETATION
 VF: FOREST VEGETATION

(*) PROVISIONAL AREA WAITING FOR VALIDATION



Number of fires (VA+VU+VF) from 02/05 until 02/06 larger than 1 ha.



Description of the situation

Drought evolution (live fuels and coarse dead fuels availability)

Due top a wet spring, we have inferior levels of drought to those of the last year, hence the activity levels are still low, but wind situations like the one we had at the end of last week cause an increase of the activity.



Fig. 3 Accumulated drought (Drought Code Index) of 31/01/06..



Fig. 4. Accumulated drought (Drought Code Index)of 01/06/07.

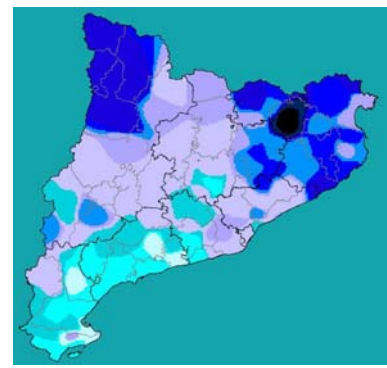
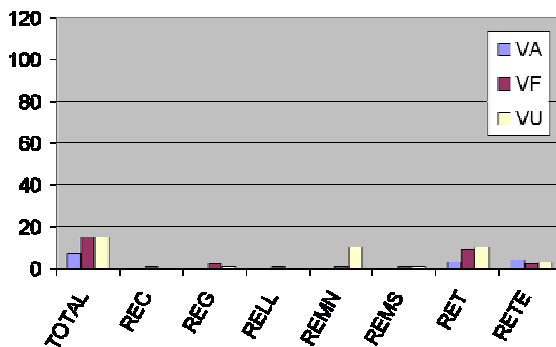


Fig. 5. Accumulated rainfall (mm) from 14/05 until 27/05.

Fire services trend (VA, VU and VF)

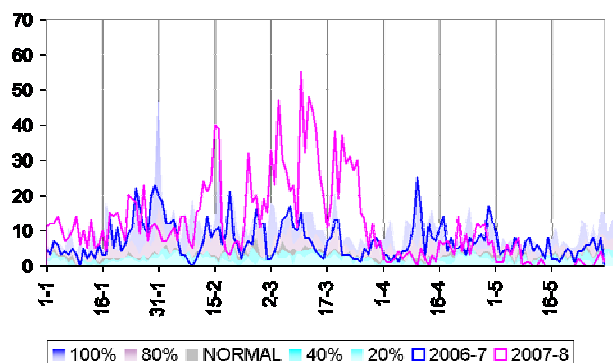
The services are minimum, only RET and RETE have activity. Once again, the urban vegetation services of REMN can be highlighted.

It can be seen a Graph 2 that March has been the hardest month (as for the services) and during April the number of services has been lower compared to the same period last year.



Plot 1. Total services and region services according to the type of vegetation involved for the last fortnight from 02/06/07 to 18/06/07.

Plot 2. Fire index Mbs13 (services in forest vegetation) from 01/01/07 until 07/05/07(magenta), compared to last year Mbs13 for the same period in 2006 (blue). Trends over time of number of normal services (grey, 50% percentile), less than normal services (cyan) and maximum services (lilac) for the last 5 years.





By region

REG

There aren't vegetation services, although we have had a short but strong northerly wind episode.

What's forecasted Little remarkable activity due to the current status of the vegetation. Short episodes of instability that can cause rainfalls again. Progressive increase of temperatures from the next mid-week.

REMN

Of the little existing activity, we only can emphasize the services of urban vegetation, whereas the rest are practically zero.

What's forecasted Low activity due to the current status of the vegetation. Gradual increase of the services of urban vegetation and progressive increase of temperature from next mid-week.

REMS

Of the little existing activity, we only can emphasize the services of urban vegetation, whereas the rest practically continues to zero.

What's forecasted Low activity due to the current status of the vegetation and the lack of risk episodes. Gradual increase of the services of urban vegetation and progressive increase of temperature from next mid-week.

REC

There are not services to highlight.

What's forecasted Low activity due to the current status of the vegetation, we are waiting for the progressive increase of the fine fuel, agricultural and urban fuel services, with a progressive increase of temperature from next mid-week.

RETE

Some increase of activity in all vegetation services caused by northerly winds.

What's forecasted Low activity, while waiting for recurrent risk situations. At the moment, we are waiting for instability episodes and progressive increases of temperature from next mid-week.

RET

There are more vegetation services than in other regions because of a northerly wind episode that now is just ending.

What's forecasted We still will have low activity levels, while waiting for recurrent risk situations, at the moment we are waiting for instability episodes and progressive increases of temperature from next mid-week.

RELL

Effects of rainfalls are still evident, hence low activity of vegetation. Although shyly some service in stubbles are appearing these last days.

What's forecasted Low activity but related to dead fine fuel. Increasing services are expected as long as stubbles are harvested, which looks set to be a fortnight delayed (mid-June). Progressive increase of temperature from next mid-week.

Activity Levels



Low



Normal



Medium



High



Critical



Large ildfire





Important Information

3. 1. – Forest week of incoming fire- fighters

During the last four weeks, the 137 candidates to fire-fighters from the last examinations carried out at the Catalan fire Department undertook their training in the Forest Week at the EBSCC (Fire Department School).

The candidates went out of the school during a whole week, split up in four groups, one per week. They received theoretical and practical knowledge according to their level. They worked with theoretical concepts like the fire paradox, the Large Wildfires, fire physics and behaviour, smoke columns, topography, meteorology, fuels and LACES security protocols, applicable to all the manoeuvres of fire suppression on Mondays.

Working days were long, and the students followed a full programme of classes and manoeuvres. They worked on forest hose lines on Tuesdays. During 11 hours they learned about nozzle technical characteristics and use, resolution of water suction problems, tactical hose lines, and so on.

On Wednesdays, an emergency heliport was created, and they were introduced to chainsaw basic handling, to cutting tools and its maintenance and to the execution of basic defence tactics, either outdoors with manual tools, or practicing self-protection of vehicles in case of burn-over.

Wednesdays and Thursdays were the longest and hardest days, when the candidates demonstrated their skills and capabilities to perform a good work in forest fighting over the country at a near future.

Every Thursday, from 8 to 10 am, they made some exercises with a helicopter, like how to embark and disembark from the helicopter, how to use the communication language and other important things concerning aircrafts (MAERs). The working day finished with theoretical and practical lectures about propagation patterns and CPS language.

Finally, they made a prescribed burning every Friday, where each student had to apply all concepts learned during the week, and they could be aware of all the elements that come together in the extinction of a forest fire.

All the students considered that the week was worthwhile and in spite of the hard work loads, the good atmosphere and the desire to learn it made very productive days in general... To all of them, good luck!



3. 2. - The 2007's Summer season

The government starts the 2007 fire season (from 15th June to 15th September) with two main measures: the former, to reinforce all the areas of prevention and suppression and the later to improve fire management with the creation of a single command for all Catalonia and the installation of advanced control centers.

The Departament d'Interior, Relacions Institucionals i Participació will invest 28 M € in the wildfire summer season this year, and will contract 1337 seasonal fire-fighters.

Altogether, the fire season will count with 6252 people, 33 aircrafts and 30 seasonal fire stations that will be added to the 150 fire stations of permanent and voluntary firefighters. Reinforcing of ADF's (the associations of Catalan forestry owners) is also considered this fire season, with a budget of about 2.3 M€.

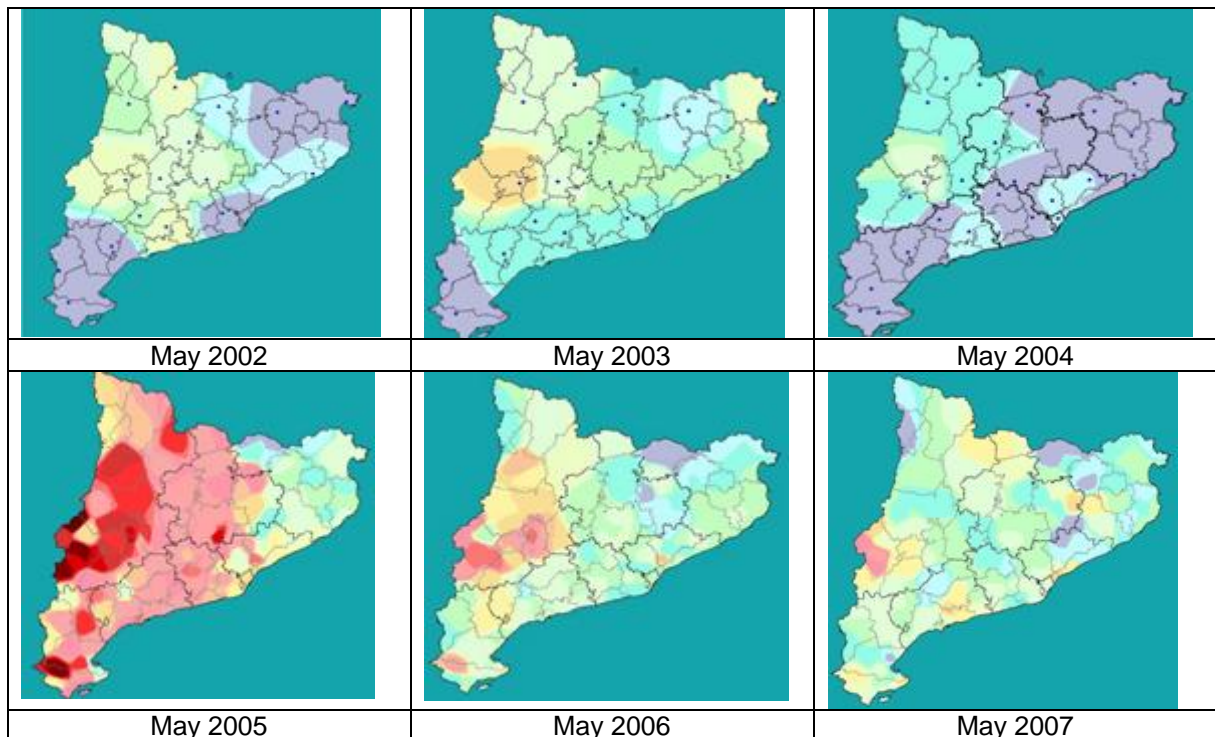


Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d'Interior
Relacions Institucionals i Participació
**Direcció General de Prevenció,
Extinció d'Incendis i Salvaments**
Divisió Operativa
GRAF

Some of the hot news for this season are the improvement of the telecommunications network (Rescat) and GPS. Moreover, digital operative cartography that might allow to locate the terrestrial resources as well as to visualize all the accesses to get to the wreck will be also improved.

3. 3. - The chess game starts, but we are playing white!

Comparisons are odious. Nevertheless, learning about the past is the best way to be prepared for the future. The comparative analysis of the drought maps for the last years invites us to easily realize how the present situation is, without letting us deceive by subjective intuitions or wrong perspectives. Considering next pictures, thus, it is logical to relate that the present situation is an average between 2003 and 2006's seasons. Does it mean that we should wait for a season similar to 2003's or 2006's?



In summary it does, but next three weeks and day to day conditions will help us to decide the following movements on the chess set. The progressive and constant analyze of the fire season give us the best information to move the pawns, the bishops and the rooks over the board.

Today the game starts, we have all our pieces in the right place, we are ready, waiting the opponent to make his first movement, to test how he is breathing, to realize how his first attacks are and to be always one step forward.

We hope he will play defensively, with caution, but that might make us relax, until the day we forget to take care of the king. Then, the less expected day we will be checkmated, and game will be over.

The game will be long as usual but this year we are playing white, and this is always encouraging!