

## Forest fire areas near Saubersdorf, Lower Austria

Firelinks Excursion | 07.06.2023 | Dr. Mortimer Müller, Institute of Silviculture, BOKU Vienna

- **Black pine stand** for about 300 years on a gravel-rich soil with a very low humus layer
- Mostly pure age class forest with little regeneration under the canopy, dense moss layer, grass and needle cover on the ground
- **15 wildfires** in the last **10 years** on 2 km<sup>2</sup>, whereas 12 affected forested area
- Largest fires: 1994 (40 ha), 2013 (20 ha), 2020 (18 ha)
- **Main cause of ignition:** Tracer ammunition from the Second World War filled with phosphorus which ignites at around 35°C
- Additional causes: Flying sparks on nearby railroad line and carelessness (cigarettes)
- **Many small forest owners** complicate communication and uniform forest fire management



Figure1: Burned area from 2013 with 20 hectares | Photo © Mortimer M. Müller



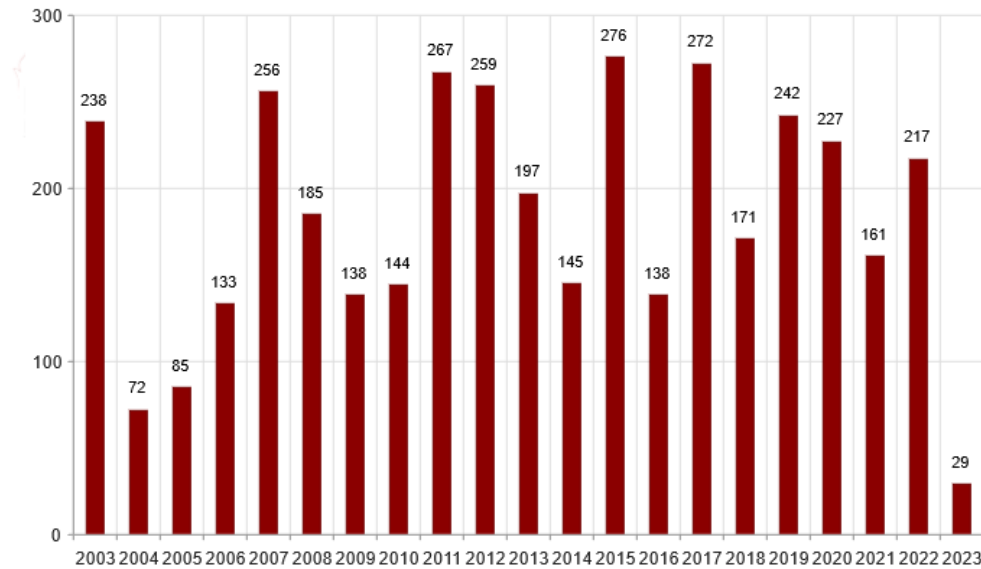
Figure2: Burned area from 2020 with 18 hectares | Photo © Mortimer M. Müller

## Forest fire statistics for Austria

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Forest fire database Austria

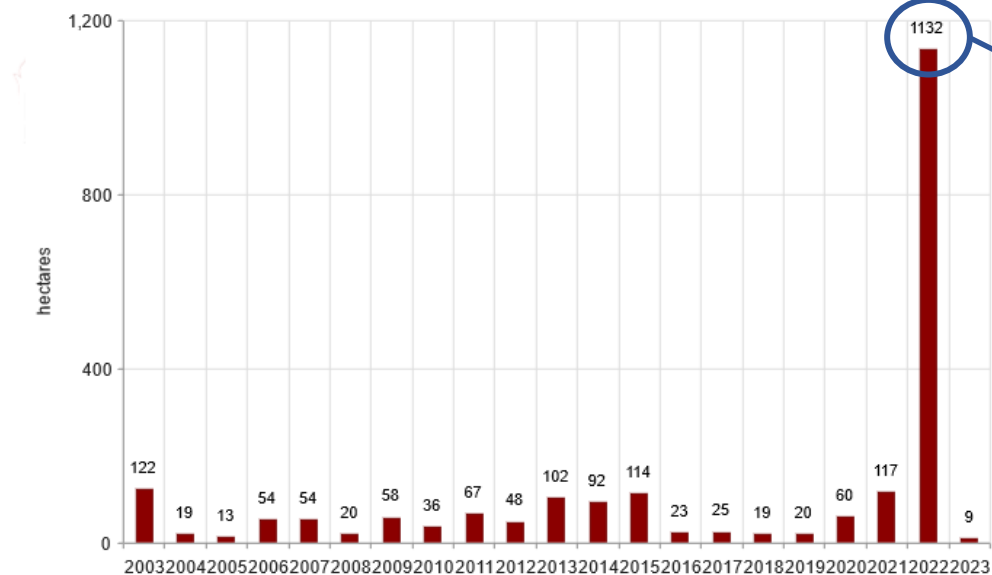
Query: Years  
Type of fire: Forest fires  
Cause: all  
Period: 1/2003 - 5/2023  
Burnt area: all  
Number of fires: 3852  
Fires with burnt area: 3204



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Forest fire database Austria

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