

## Solar Energy South Africa

# Wind turbine fire accident case



## Overview

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What is the most common accident with wind turbines?

Our data clearly shows that blade failure is the most common accident with wind turbines, closely followed by fire. This is in agreement with GCube, the largest provider of insurance to renewable energy schemes.

How many wind turbine accidents are caused by fire?

Since the 1980s, when wind farms were first constructed, the team found that fire has accounted for 10 to 30 per cent of reported turbine accidents. In 90 per cent of the cases, the fire either leads to substantial downtime or a total loss of the wind turbine, resulting in economic losses.

What happened at the top of a wind turbine?

The mechanics, aged 19 and 21, became trapped on the top of the turbine after a fire broke out and died as a result. Due to the height of the turbine and location of the fire, the fire department had trouble extinguishing the fire. A specialized team of firefighters was called in with a large crane, which took hours, to battle the fire.

Is a wind turbine a fire hazard?

Photos and graphics subject to third party copyright used with permission or © Imperial College London. FIRE HAZARD - Fire is the second leading cause of accidents in wind turbines, after blade failure, according to research out today.

What happens if a wind turbine blade fails?

For the wind industry, the fires are the second leading cause of accidents after blade failure. Inside of the turbine's nacelle, hydraulic oil and plastics share the same tight space as machinery and electrical wires. When there is overheating or faulty wiring it can catch fire.

How many acres were burned by a wind turbine?

Despite precautions being taken of clearing brush and debris from the base of the turbines, the fire from the turbine still caused a wildfire, burning 367 acres. Several witnesses reported the fire to authorities, and residences in the box canyon were evacuated.

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### Review of Wind Turbine Failures, Highlighting Fire Accidents

30. évfolyam (2020) 2. szám 43-56. o DOI: 10.32562/mkk.2020.2.4 MUSZAKI - KATONAI - KÖZLÖNY Csaba Heteyi<sup>1</sup> - Rudolf Nagy<sup>2</sup> Review of Wind Turbine Failures, Highlighting Fire ...

### Fires are major cause of wind farm failure, according to ...

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### Overview of Problems and Solutions in Fire Protection Engineering ...

The most common cause of accidents in wind turbines is blade failure with 251 registered instances (19%). It is closely followed by fire with a total of 200 incidents recorded, which is ...

### Turbine Accident Statistics - Scotland Against Spin

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GCube, the largest provider of insurance to renewable energy schemes.



## Two Engineers Hug and Die on Top of a Burning Wind ...

In a heart-wrenching incident, two out of four maintenance engineers were stuck on a 67-meter wind turbine generator. Both engineers, standing on top of the burning turbine, hugged each other for the last time, ...

## Fire risk assessments and fire protection measures for ...

We have shown that fire is the second most frequent cause of catastrophic wind turbine accidents, accounting for 10%-30% of all known turbine incidents throughout the 1980s (after blade failure). 90% of the time, a fire ...



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