

Study of the evolution, hazard factors and management of forest fires in Malaga province

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Abstract

The investigation has the aim of evaluating the problem of forest fires in Malaga province, analysing the different factors that intervene in their danger and the prevention and extinction measures that are carried out, in order to find the weak points of the territory (or, mostly, of the human that inhabits it) and propose lines of action to improve this serious situation. For this, the evolution of the number, affected area and casuistry of forest fires has been analysed. A descriptive study of the characteristics of the province that are related to them has been carried out, and the incidence of climate change has been studied. The incidence in the territory of different hazard factors related to relief and meteorology, the characteristics of the vegetation and land uses, and the one induced by the human, have been shown and analysed, with special emphasis on the role of the flammability of the vegetation. The availability of INFOCA means and the "protection" against forest fires, by the public administration, of spaces with protection figures and public forests have also been verified. Finally, the effectiveness of the prevention and extinction measures in Malaga province has been contrasted, and measures of the first type have been proposed, which have been considered insufficient. The usefulness of this work lies in the demonstration of the multiplicity of factors to be taken into account in the management of forest fires, which influence in their occurrence and propagation, as well as the lack and importance of prevention measures.

Keywords: forest fires, hazard factors, climate change, flammability, prevention measures