

Wind Developers Claim

Wind turbine structures are not flammable or at significant risk of ignition.:

Unlike the Nuclear Industry, there is no requirement for Wind Stations to report mechanical failures or accidents unless they endanger or injure workers. Therefore it is extremely difficult to verify the claims made by Wind Station Operators, however Caithness Windfarm Information Forum 2010 <http://www.caithnesswindfarms.co.uk/page4.htm> reports on IWT accidents. There were 344 accidents at Wind Stations around the world between 2008 and 2010. Nineteen of these accidents resulted in human fatalities, of which 40.4% involved the general public, not employees. There were 31 accidents which injured humans, 20.3% of which involved members of the public. There were 63 incidents of blade failure. Pieces of blade are documented as traveling over 1300 meters. In Germany, blade pieces have gone through the roofs and walls of nearby buildings. This is why CWIF believe that there should be a minimum distance of at least 2km between turbines and occupied housing - in line with other European countries - in order to adequately address public safety and other issues including noise and shadow flicker. There were 40 turbine fires in those three years. The biggest problem with turbine fires is that, because of the turbine height, the fire brigade can do little but watch it burn itself out. While this may be acceptable in reasonably still conditions, in a storm it means burning debris being scattered over a wide area, with obvious consequences. In dry weather there is obviously a wider-area fire risk, especially for those constructed in or close to forest areas and/or close to housing. Two fire accidents have badly burned wind industry workers. Here in the North, during the fire season, this could be disastrous.

