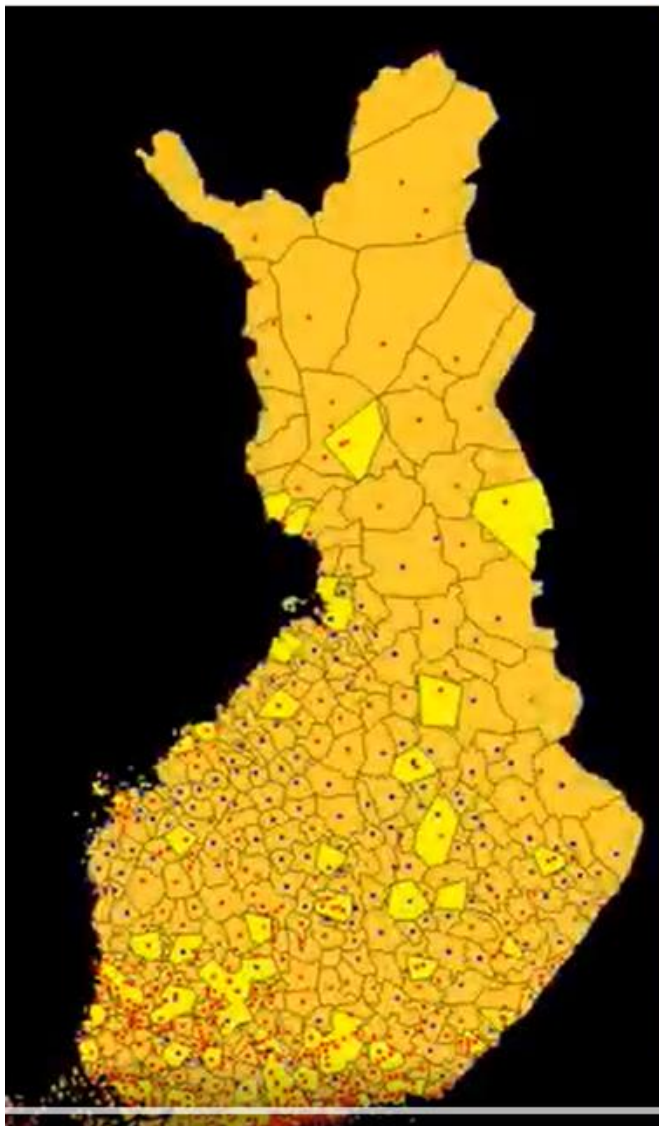


Unit 6. Wildfire prevention and restoration

Contract Fire Brigades

Description

Although Finland is the most forested country in Europe, the amount of forest fires is surprisingly low, even when compared with other boreal countries. This can be partly explained by forest management and partly by dense forest road network but also fire prevention work is highly significant.



The contract fire brigade network in Finland and their respective responsibility areas

The voluntary contract fire brigades form the backbone of Finnish firefighting organisation. Altogether there are over 700 contract fire brigade stations in Finland with over 14 000 voluntary firemen. Voluntary fire brigades are particularly important in rural areas, and they are

responsible of fire fighting in an area that covers over 90% of Finland. In contract fire brigades, trained voluntary firemen are committed to help the permanent rescue services in various emergency duties.

Usually, the contract firemen should be ready to participate in rescue and firefighting emergency tasks, within 5-15 minutes from the first alarm (when in alert). The employer of voluntary fireman must allow the voluntary fire brigade work for the employee. The voluntary fireman gets economic compensation for each performed emergency task

Contract fire brigades have proven suitable and effective in wildfire fighting. This is due to the fact that the destination from rural fire stations to wildfires is much shorter when compared to nearest city. The local firemen also often know the area well, which helps the access to area and firefighting. The fast response to alarm and rapid access enable that wildfires can be caught, limited and extinguished quickly which mostly prevents the escalation into a larger fire.



The fire station of Anttola contract fire brigade, a typical village fire station.

Goals

The main aim of contract fire brigades is to ensure sufficient rescue services in all parts of Finland, even in rural and remote areas

Impact

The Contract Fire Brigades are responsible for the most forest fire fighting and are a key factor in helping to control wildfires effectively.

Source

Rescue service

<https://pelastustoimi.fi/en/rescue-services/contract-fire-brigades>

Federation of Finnish Contract Fire Brigades (in Finnish)
<https://sspl.fi/>