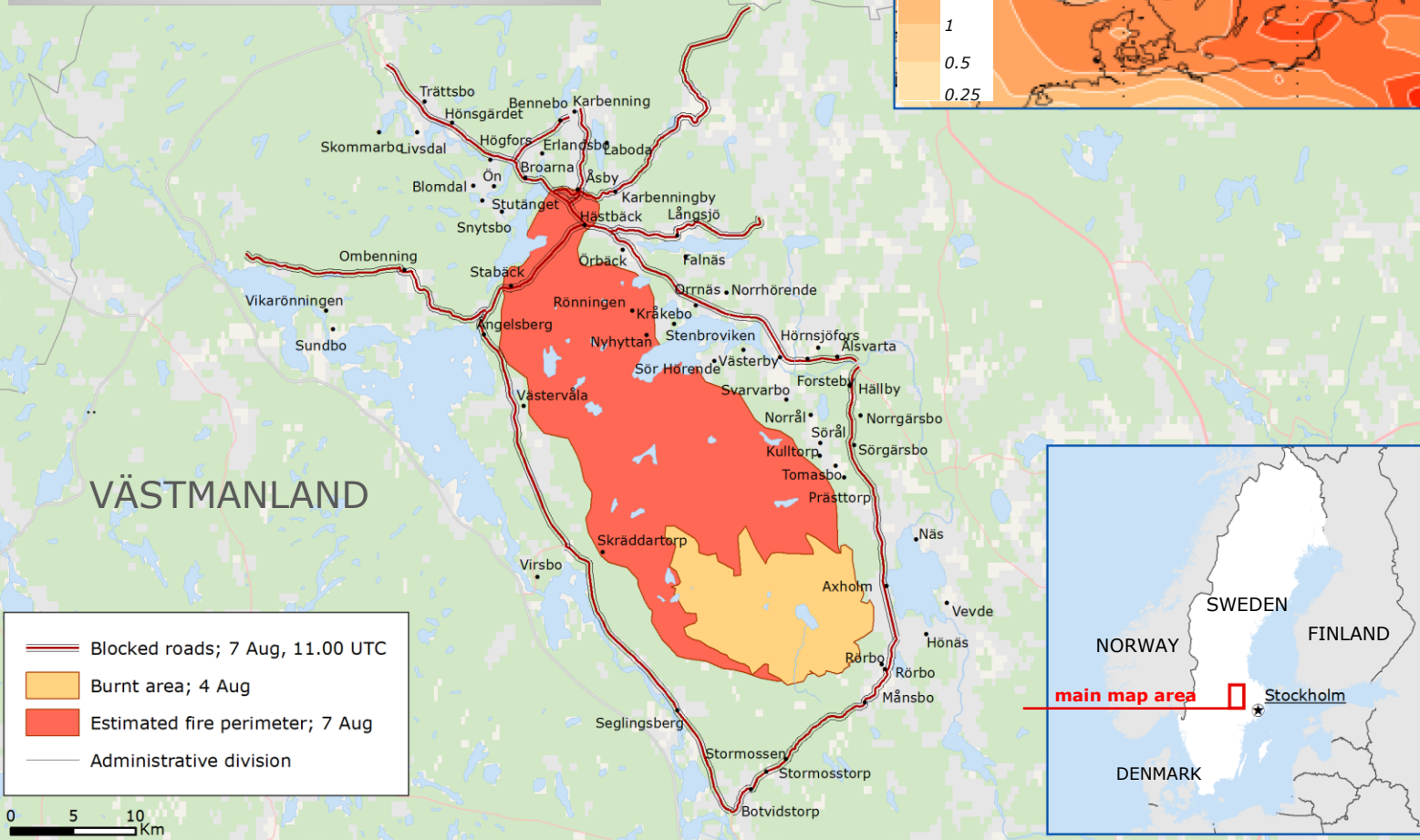
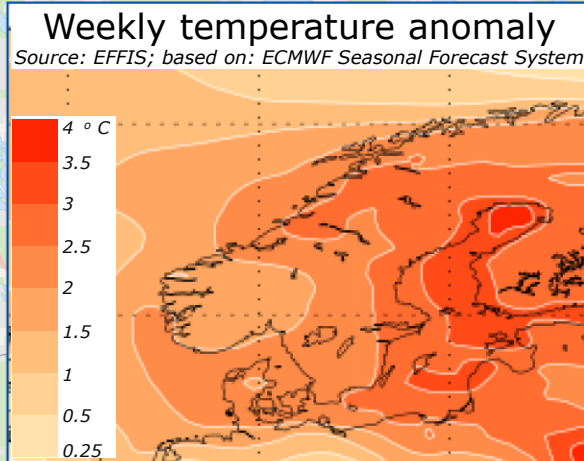
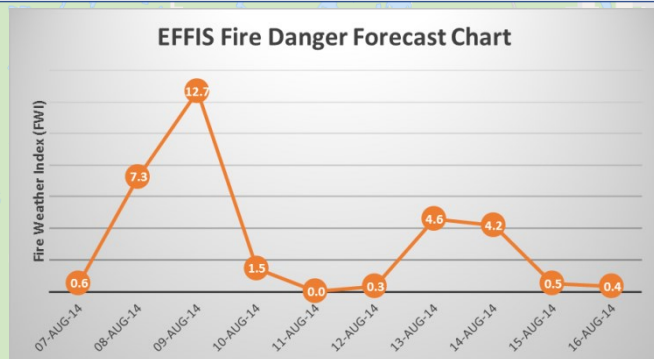


7 August 2014 : Sweden - Forest Fire



SITUATION

- A major forest fire broke out in Västmanland County, central Sweden, on 31 July and has developed as the largest forest fire in the countries recent history. As of 7 August, the fire is still active. One person has been reported dead and one seriously injured. Nearly 1 000 people have been evacuated. The fire perimeter covers an area of approximately 10x15 km.
- According to EFFIS, the fire danger level has decreased significantly on 7 August. Weather conditions are much more favorable, with increased humidity, lower temperatures and limited precipitation.
- On 3 August Sweden requested the activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, requesting two Aerial Forest Fires Fighting Planes (AFFFP) modules (four amphibious firefighting airplanes). Responding to the request Italy France and Spain offered one AFFFP Module each.
- Sweden has deployed ground fire-fighting units and 13 helicopters have been operating in the area. Armed forces are supporting the work of the responders with helicopters and logistics. Teams of psychosocial support are also working in the municipalities.
- Following the request for assistance, Sweden has accepted the offers of Italy and France. The planes arrived in Sweden on 5 and 6 August respectively. On 6 August in the afternoon they performed 120 drops for three hours in rotation. As of 7 August, the focus of the aerial operations is at the eastern part of the fire front.
- ECHO has deployed a Liaison Officer on site to liaise with the National Authorities and facilitate the coordination.
- Italy and France have requested EU co-financing for the transportation of cost of the assistance to Sweden.

Sources: ECHO, ERCC, EFFIS