

WIND TURBINE ACCIDENT COMPILATION

Last updated at 01/01/2006								Compiled by David Craig	
	Accident type	Date	Site/area	State/Country	Turbine type	Details	Info source	Web reference/link	Alternate web reference/link
1	Fatal	1975	Choteau	MT, USA	2kw	Tim McCartney, atop tower removing small turbine.	Wind Energy -- The Breath of Life or the Kiss of Death: Contemporary Wind Mortality Rates, by Paul Gipe	http://www.wind-works.org/articles/BreathLife.html	
2	Fatal	1981	Boulevard	California, USA	40kw	Terry Mehrkom, atop nacelle, run-away rotor, no lanyard.	Wind Energy -- The Breath of Life or the Kiss of Death: Contemporary Wind Mortality Rates, by Paul Gipe	http://www.wind-works.org/articles/BreathLife.html	
3	Fatal	1982	Bushland	Texas, USA	40kw	Pat Acker, 28, rebar cage for foundation come in contact with overhead power lines	Wind Energy -- The Breath of Life or the Kiss of Death: Contemporary Wind Mortality Rates, by Paul Gipe	http://www.wind-works.org/articles/BreathLife.html	
4	Fatal	1982		Denmark	50kw	Jens Erik Madsen, during servicing of controller	Wind Energy -- The Breath of Life or the Kiss of Death:	http://www.wind-works.org/articles/BreathLife.html	

						switchgear housing within the tower. Year of construction 2003			
185	Component failure	21/04/2003	Iven im Kreis Ostvorpommern / Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	Germany		Rotor exchange required due to mechanical problems	Nordkurier, 30.7.2003	http://members.aol.com/fswemedien/ZZUnfalldat ei.htm	
186	Environmental damage	04/05/2003	Dortmund-Eichlinghofen	Westphalia, Germany	General Electric 1.5MW, 100m hub, 77m rotor diameter	Oil leak into surrounding ground reported over several days	Homepage from 8.5.03 http://www.eichlinghofen-online.de/Aktuelles/aktuelles.html#Wind	http://members.aol.com/fswemedien/ZZUnfalldat ei.htm	
187	Fire	11/05/2003	Greußen im Kyffhäuserkreis / Thüringen	Germany	RePower 1.5 MW	Lightning strike assumed - loud "bong" reported at 0500. Fire brigade called out but could do nothing because of the height. 4m piece of blozing blade reported to fall off. Year of construction 2003. Earlier fire at same turbine on 15/4/2003	Thüringer Allgemeine, 12.5.2003. Photos.	http://members.aol.com/fswemedien/ZZUnfalldat ei.htm	http://members.aol.com/hieronymusbosch2/Greussen.htm
188	Blade failure	08/06/2003	Damme im Landkreis Vechta	Lower Saxony, Germany	Vestas V80	Lightning damage to turbine	Eyewitness reports and local	http://members.aol.com/fswemedien/ZZUnfalldat ei.htm	

						ice thrown from the turbines. They were shut down.		
243	Ice throw	01/02/2005	Schlüchtern-Hohenzell im Main-Kinzig-Kreis / Hessen	Germany	WindWorld 600kW	Ice throw on January 31st and February 1st. Pieces approx 1.5m x 0.45m thrown 140m. Landed on local road. Traffic now banned which means large detours and loss of amenity.	Report from city administration and report plus photos from neighbours	http://members.aol.com/fswemedien/ZZUnfalldat ei.htm
244	Mechanical failure	01/02/2005	Dorsten-Lembeck by Marl, Westfalia	Germany	GE 1.5 MW	Rotor damage and replacement after only 14 months of operation.	Detailed private report and photos.	http://members.aol.com/fswemedien/ZZUnfalldat ei.htm
245	Human injury	02/02/2005	Voigtstedt / Thüringen	Germany		30-year old mechanic from Helbra injured doing repair work. Injury crushed his foot, he then fell off the turbine tap. His life was saved by a safety harness. Arterner fire	Thüringer Allgemeine from 3.2.2005	http://members.aol.com/fswemedien/ZZUnfalldat ei.htm

						brigade eventually retrieved him.			
246	Mechanical failure	02/02/2005	Dorsten-Lembeck bei Marl	Westphalia, Germany	GE 1.5 MW	Complete rotor replacement following problems with Actuators. Turbine only 14 months old	Detailed operator reports plus reports and photos from neighbours	http://members.aol.com/bswemedia/ZZUnfalldatei.htm	
247	Blade failure	24/02/2005	Kamaishi, Iwate	Japan	Nagasaki Shipyard made, 68m tower, 29.5m blade	Turbine blades on three separate turbines snapped off in gale. Winds reached 31.7m/s, turbines and blades rated to 60m/s.	Mainichi Interactive – Top News, Feb 25 2005. Photo.	http://mdn.mainichi.co.jp/news/archive/200502/25/20050225p2a00m0dm002000c.html	
248	Fire	26/02/2005	Friedrich-Wilhelm-Lübkekoog - Kreis Nordfriesland/Schleswig-Holstein	Germany	Enercon E66	Major fire with total loss. Pieces of burning blades scattered over wide area. Fire brigade told local residents to stay indoors and close windows due to poisonous fumes. Fire brigade unable to fight fire due to height, so was allowed to burn	Husumer Nachrichten + Nordwest-Zeitung from 28.2.2005 + Nordclick	http://members.aol.com/bswemedia/ZZUnfalldatei.htm	http://www.nordclick.de/news/archiv/?id=1597717&dbri=2&seqrch=Lübkekoog

						out. Mechanics had been working on the turbine before the fire started.			
249	Blade failure	10/03/2005	Gebbies Pass, Banks Peninsula, near Christchurch	New Zealand	Windflow Technologies prototype	Gearbox and main rotor assembly ripped from mountings during a storm. Total loss. Developers "thankful; none of our staff were injured". This is a test turbine for a proposed 104 turbine development. Two blades were first torn off - the rest followed.	Manawatu Standard, 11/3/2005 and New Zealand Herald, 12/3/2005	http://www.nzherald.co.nz/index.cfm?ObjectID=10114869	http://www.nzherald.co.nz/index.cfm?ObjectID=10118931
250	Blade failure	07/04/2005	Crystal Rig, Berwickshire	Scotland	Nordex tower, 40m blade, 2.5MW	40m blade shattered – parts thrown hundreds of meters. Turbines only operational since August 2004.	BBC news online 14/4/05. Plus "The Berwickshire News" 14 April 2005. Photos on both.	http://www.berwickshiretoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?sectionid=972&articleid=97456	http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4446223.stm
251	Structural failure	06/05/2005	Weatherford, Oklahoma	United States	GE Wind 1.5 MW	A 300-foot turbine snapped in half and collapsed at a wind farm in Weatherford on	Channel Oklahoma News, 6 May 2005. With video.	http://www.channeloklahomana.com/news/4459503/detail.html	http://www.kotv.com/main/home/stories.asp?whicpage=1&id=82744

						Friday. Video coverage reports very light winds at the time. There are 71 x 1.5MW turbines and was only declared operational on April 30 2005 - 6 days before the tower collapse.		
252	Fatal	07/05/2005	Marsberg-Erlingshausen - Hochsauerlandkreis	Westphalia, Germany		35 year-old male mechanic killed while fixing rotor transmission. He and a fellow worker secured the rotor and began working on it when the rotor turned. He was fatally injured and his colleague also injured. The Dortmund fire brigade rescue helicopter was used as they were at 65m height. The man killed was from Paderborn.	Westfalenpost from 9.5.2005	http://www.rp-online.de/public/article/nachrichten/journal/katastrnphe/deutschland/nrw/88675 http://members.pol.com/fswemedia/ZZUnfalldat ei.htm

Route: Accidents - Eskowmes

						Energy Maintenance Service and Suzlon said they were cooperating with federal, state and local authorities in the investigation		
266	Transport	29/11/2005	A941 Elgin-Rothes road at Drumbain, less than a mile from Rothes, Moray	Scotland, UK	Olsen Renewables	A huge lorry carrying a section of turbine for a Moray windfarm shed its load in spectacular style. The metal section - around 100ft long and 15ft in diameter - fell from the lorry and rolled down an embankment and 200 yards into a field after the vehicle mounted the verge on the A941 Elgin-Rothes road at Drumbain, less than a mile from Rothes. The lorry toppled on to its	'Lorry Sheds 50-Tonne Load After Accident', Press and Journal, 30 November 2005. Photo.	

						side on the roadway, with part of the articulated bogie coming to rest upside down, 20ft down the embankment. The Danish lorry, which was accompanied by escort vehicles at the front and rear, was on its way to the site of a windfarm which is under development on Paul's Hill at Ballindalloch. The driver of the lorry, a Dane, escaped unhurt.			
267	Fire	16/12/2005	Simonsberg bei Husum im Kreis Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein	Germany	Enercon, 40m hub	Turbine housing fire, 40m above ground. Completely burned out. 20m fell off. Reported to "rain blade pieces". Nine fire crews in attendance, but could do nothing at the height. Damage	Sylter Rundschau from 17 December 2005. Also local news on line -see www.kn-online.de link (right).	http://members.aol.com/fswema/dien/ZZUnfalldaei.htm	http://www.kn-online.de/news/archiv/?id=1768278

						estimated at 0.5M euro			
268	Structural failure	16/12/2005	Delmenhorst nahe Bremen, Niedersachen	Germany	Small private turbine, 15m high	Private turbine 15m high completely destroyed in storm. The turbine fell into the owner's garden. Rotor blades were torn off and "flew through the air". Parts pierced a garage droof and destroyed a car within. Another rotor blade ended in a neighbours garden. The turbine had been in place for 20 years.	Nonstop news von Borgmeier media from 16 December 2005 (see online link right), with photo	http://members.aol.com/tswemedien/ZZUnfalldat/ei.htm	http://www.nsstopnews.borgmeier-media.de/meldung.php?ID=3079&IG=0
269	Blade failure	16/12/2005	Sefferweich im Kreis Bitburg- Oprum, Rheinland-Pfalz	Germany	NORDEX N90 or N80	One of three blades broke off turbine following a minor storm. Blade travelled several meters only and landed close to the tower. Other turbines on site were shut down.	Trierischer Volksfreund from 19 December 2005	http://members.aol.com/tswemedien/ZZUnfalldat/ei.htm	

270	Component failure	16/12/2005	Gagzow bei Neuburg im Kreis Nordwestmecklenburg	Germany		Transformer exploded.	Ostsee-Zeitung online from 16 December 2005 (see online link right).	http://members.aol.com/fswemedia/ZZUnfalldatei.htm	http://www.ostsee-zeitung.de/archiv.phpml?Param=DB-Artikel&ID=2106928&Stichwort=Windkraft&Pre=DB-Artikel&Typ=Artikel&Card=0
271	Ice throw	17/12/2005	Lankern bei Dingen, nahe Hamminkeln Kreis Wesel, Westfalia	Germany		Ice throw reported from each of the five turbines in the community windfarm Loikum at Lankern. This has happened each year of operation.	Rheinische Post Wesel plus local administration and statements from adjoining owners. Photos online (see link right). Photographed piece 38cm in length. Pieces reported to be thrown over 80m.	http://members.aol.com/fswemedia/ZZUnfalldatei.htm	http://mitglied.lycos.de/nature2000/Eiswurf.htm
272	Human injury (not fatal)	22/12/2005	Woolnorth Windfarm, Tasmania	Australia		Two workers reported to be in hospital - injured but stable - following an accident at the Woolnorth Wind Farm, Tasmania, on Thursday Dec 22nd. Reported on Dec 24th.	ABC News online 24 December 2005	http://www.abc.net.au/news/newstems/200512/1537653.htm	

						No circumstances of accident or details provided, other than that the two men were working on a wind monitoring tower when the accident happened.			
273	Fire	23/12/2005	Nissan Car Factory, Sunderland	Tyne and Wear, England, UK	Six x Vestas	Turbine fire adjacent to A19 and A1231 roads. 55m high turbine caught fire after work to investigate an oil leak. Both A19 and A1231 roads closed. Fears that the turbine would fall onto the road however luckily it fell into a nearby field. Locals reported to be "terrified" (27/12/05 report). All three blades burned and fell off. Fire reported in the	National ITV and BBC television and radio news. Also Sunderland Echo 24/12/05 and 27/12/2005	http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/wear/4556640.stm	http://www.sunderlandtoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=1107&ArticleID=1295769

notional press with photos and video. Seven fire engines were in attendance.
 Operators Nissan quoted as saying "as far as we're aware nothing like this has happened before".
 Construction started in September 2005 using second-hand Vestos turbines.

Ice throw 1990 to 2003

Germany

880 cases of reported icing events from 1990 to 2003, 33% on the coastline and lowlands, 67% in the mountains

"A Statistical Evolution of Icing Failures in Germany's '250 MW Wind' Programme – Update 2003, M Durstwitz, BOREAS VI 9-11 April 2003 Pyhötunturi, Finland.

Lightning 1992 to 1995

Germany

393 reports of lightning strikes from 1992 to 1995, 124 of those direct to

Data from WMEP database: taken from report "External Conditions for

the turbine, the rest are to electrical distribution network

Wind Turbine Operation – Results from the German '250 MW Wind' Programme", M Durstewitz, et al, European Union Wind Energy Conference, Goeteborg, May 20-24, 1996