

Effective Against Forest and Wildfires

Innovation Project: Trailers for Specialized
Vegetation Firefighting Units



The increasing number of wildfires is presenting fire departments with new tactical and logistical challenges. Long dry spells, hard-to-reach terrain, and the need for rapid initial responses call for specialized solutions.

Against this backdrop, the three project partners—@fire, Trautwein-Trailer, and Dönges—worked closely together to develop a high-performance wildfire trailer for Class A firefighting crews—designed with real-world applications in mind and consistently optimized for efficiency.



Subject Recommendation: “Firefighting Teams”

Experts from Waldbrandteam, @fire, and SKV Specialized Wildland Fire Forces met in 2024 to discuss how a tactical “firefighting team” should be organized and equipped. Capabilities and operational parameters are described in detail in the technical recommendation. Firefighting Teams A are intended to support and supplement ground-based forces, for example at the county level, while Firefighting Teams B are specialized units and, as such, are deployed on a national scale. Further information:



Tactical Derivation: @fire

The conceptual framework for the project was provided by @fire, a wildfire organization specializing in wildland fire suppression and tactical training. The starting point was an analysis of real-world operational scenarios:

- Effective establishment of control lines and firebreaks
- Fire suppression using hand tools
- Hose operations for wildland fire suppression using at least 300 m of D-hose
- Qualified mop-up operations
- Optional night-time operational capability

The focus was on the principle of a “modular, self-sufficient initial attack.” A firefighting crew should be able to advance into the wildfire immediately upon arrival using hand tools, backpack pumps, and hose equipment—without lengthy setup times.

The result: a compact trailer with a structured load configuration that optimally supports wildland fire tactics in accordance with current European standards.

A Sturdy Foundation: Trautwein Trailers

The technical design was carried out by Trautwein Fahrzeugbau. The trailer features a robust frame construction, high ground clearance, off-road tires, a well-thought-out storage concept, and safe weight distribution. Its design allows it to be towed by off-road emergency vehicles as well as personnel carriers. At the same time, the trailer remains compact enough to maneuver easily even on narrow forest roads. An integrated 400-liter water tank ensures self-protection or can be used for an initial response.

Professional Equipment: Dönges

The trailer was fully loaded by the equipment specialist Dönges. The well-thought-out equipment is consistently tailored to the requirements of modern wildland firefighting. This includes tried-and-true hand tools such as the “Gorgui,” “Pulaski,” and fire beaters. Of course, water-carrying equipment was also included: firefighting backpacks, D-hose assemblies in pre-assembled backpacks, and nozzles. Important personal protective equipment such as helmets, safety goggles, and respiratory protection can also be stored safely. The clearly organized layout of the load allows for quick retrieval of equipment depending on the phase of the operation—whether it’s ground treatment, embers control, or flank protection.

Synergy among three partners—a practical, comprehensive approach

The project impressively demonstrates how the close integration of tactical expertise, high-quality vehicle construction, and professional equipment results in an operation-oriented solution. The wildland fire trailer bridges the gap between a traditional fire engine and highly specialized wildland fire tanker trucks. This concept represents a forward-looking investment, particularly for municipalities with growing forest and open-space areas.



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DÖNGES GmbH & Co. KG

Dönges-Straße 1
D-42929 Wermelskirchen

Fon: +49 21 96 97 56-112
FireSafety@doenges-online.de
www.doenges-online.de