



Major fire in Steineck/Schnaitsee Operation report of Obing fire department

Psychologically ill farmer sets own farm on fire 1,5 million Euro material damage

Schnaitsee/Steineck: At about 10 o'clock the police got an emergency call saying that a farm on the hill near Kirchstatt was on fire. Eleven fire departments with more than 200 firemen arrived from the surrounding area. The huge smoke pillar could be seen for kilometres and was visible for the firemen already on their way to the scene of the fire. The smoke cloud was pitch black and even blocked out the sun, the smoke wrapped up everything, so that from the main road from Kienberg to Schnaitsee the area of Steineck was practically not visible any more. When the first firemen arrived the huge farm was already engulfed completely in flames.

The arriving fire departments concentrated their extinguishing efforts at first mainly on the stalls in which at that point cows and pigs were still locked in, and on preventing the flames from spreading to the main house which was situated right beside the fire. At the beginning of the extinguishing efforts the water supply posed a huge problem. Only when the Florian-disciples installed a 500 metres long hose pipe from two ponds in Kirchstätt and Engelbarnet to the scene of the fire the water supply was ensured and there was enough extinguishing water.

Through a strong west wind the fire had spread to the roof top of the main house and so the fire department Obing decided to use the extinguishing device FIRESORB[®], which had just shortly before been acquired. For this a foam mixer with a back-flow valve had to be installed from the existing B- pipe of the Obing TLF to the Obing rotating ladder. A mixing rate of 2% was chosen for mixing in FIRESORB[®]. After just 2,5 canisters of FIRESORB[®], which had been applied through a turning pipe of the rotating ladder, the extinguishing efforts were already successful. The fire in the roof top area of the main house could be reduced. With a further 2,5 canisters of FIRESORB[®] the area was covered to prevent the fire from re-igniting. Because the building was, as already said, completely engulfed in flames when the fire departments arrived, "only" the building next to the fire could be saved completely, and apart from 11 pigs life stock could be saved. What was remarkable was that the firemen had a huge extinguishing success with such a relatively small amount of the extinguishing device FIRESORB[®] and that they were able to do it without having to modify the existing equipment. The only thing they had to do was to install a back-flow valve into the foam mixer to prevent water flowing back into the Firesorb canisters.

After the whole fire was extinguished the animals were brought out of the stalls and checked by a veterinarian. Neighbouring farmers took the cows and the pigs to look after them. Already on the same afternoon the clearing work began and the damaged building was pulled down. The fire departments from Kirchstätt, Schnaitsee and Obing stayed at the scene and went on with their extinguishing work to make absolutely sure the fire would not re-ignite. The fire departments present at this scene were Kirchstätt, Schnaitsee, Obing, Kienberg, Trostberg, Altenmarkt, Peterskirchen, Emertsham, Engelsberg, Waldhausen as well as the Degussa internal fire department.

Supplementary commentary: Hayloft was set on fire

Schnaitsee/Steineck: The investigations of the Traustein Criminal Investigation Department (CID) resulted in the fact that the 63-year old farmer set his own farm in Steineck/Schnaitsee on fire on Monday. The man, who suffered bad burns on both arms and is presently been treated in a special clinic in München-Bogenhausen, admitted that he set the hayloft on fire after suffering a depression, a speaker of the Traustein police said. It is possible that the man



wanted to commit suicide in the fire. The public prosecution office of Traunstein has asked for an investigation procedure against the 63-year old on the grounds of heavy arson. The department of justice asked the medicinal service of the County Court to put together an expert profile of the heavily injured man to find out if he can be made responsible for his deed. The farm nearly burned to the ground. Eleven of forty pigs died, the 25 cows survived the fire with nearly no injuries. The material damage goes into the millions.

Klaus Thurner
2nd commander

