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New specialty vehicles for forest firefighting



- Compact and all-terrain tank firefighting vehicle with modular lightweight superstructure
- · Water, foam and wetting agent operation via electronically controlled bumper turret
- Self-protection system and high-strength rollover cell for increased passenger safety

Rosenbauer presents a new forest firefighting vehicle. It meets both category 3 of EN 1846-2 for all-terrain firefighting vehicles and specific requirements for the protection of the vehicle crew, as defined for example in the French standard NFS 61-517 or NFS 61-518. This includes a thermal self-protection system and driver's cab equipped with a rollover cell. With its compact dimensions, low center of gravity and single tires, the all-wheel drive vehicle is ideally suited for use in rough terrain. The special firefighting equipment on board makes the extinguishing agents extremely cost-effective and efficient. Plus, the crew can fight the fire using a turret mounted on the bumper and controlled from the cab without having to exit the vehicle.

Robust lightweight superstructure

The new forest firefighting vehicle is built on a 2-axle chassis from Renault with a total permissible weight of 14 tons. The all-wheel drive can be switched and the 6-cylinder diesel engine (Euro-6) has an output of 206 kW (280 hp). With a length of 6,900 mm and a wheelbase of 3,350 mm, the vehicle is extremely compact and maneuverable. The large underaxle clearance and a tipping angle of 25° increase off-road capability.

The firefighting body consists of two parts, a tank module made of polypropylene and a pump room module behind it made of a self-supporting aluminum sheet/profile construction. The flexible and also high-strength body provides optimum load distribution and lateral stability for operation under off-road conditions – the consistent use of lightweight materials ensures a high loading capacity.

The vehicle water tank has a capacity of 3,500 I (500 I of which is for the self-protection systems); the separate foam tank holds 100 I. The additional equipment required for forest firefighting operations (fire swatters, firefighting backpacks, backpacks sprayers, etc.) is housed in three spacious equipment compartments with dust-tight roller shutter closures. Two are located on the sides of

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the vehicle; another is installed across the entire width in the rear. The built-in pump, foam proportioning system and rapid intervention hose reel are also accessible through this compartment.

Firefighting equipment for forest firefighting

The firefighting equipment of the new forest firefighting vehicle consists of the combined NH25 normal/high pressure pump and the direct injection foam proportioning system RFC Admix Variomatic. The pump has a capacity of up to 2,500 l/min at 10 bar (FPN 10-2000) and up to 400 l/min at 40 bar (FPH 40-250). In high-pressure operation, the supply of extinguishing water on board can be used very sparingly because the fine atomization causes more water to evaporate than under normal pressure, thus achieving a high extinguishing effect. In addition, the kinetic energy of the firefighting water allows it to be driven deep into the forest floor, which means that even hot spots can be extinguished efficiently.

The RFC Admix Variomatic also produces wetting agents, light, medium and heavy foam, and the proportioning ratio is infinitely variable between 0.1% and 6%. With the smallest proportioning quantity, the surface tension of the firefighting water is reduced to such an extent that it can penetrate deep into the flammable material and an excellent extinguishing effect can be achieved with minimal water consumption. The suffocating effect of firefighting foam is used at higher proportioning ratios. The foam compound is injected directly into the pressure outlets and thus the water pump remains free of foam compound and does not have to be flushed after each use. In addition, water and another mains water or foam can be discharged simultaneously at one outlet or several injection points can be operated with different proportioning ratios.

Crew safety

A system of spray nozzles protects both the crew cab and the substructure of the vehicle. The water for this comes from a secured tank segment and is pumped by a separate, electrically driven pump. If the vehicle is trapped by fire during a forest fire, this system allows the crew to drive over a burning fire border and reach safety.

The Rosenbauer DWD Driver Warning System enhances off-road driving safety. This measures the vehicle inclination as well as the axial lateral and longitudinal forces and alerts the driver with visual and auditory signals if the vehicle is at risk of tipping over. A rollover cell made of high-strength steel is also integrated into the cab structure to protect the crew in all situations.

The vehicle is also equipped with a light package consisting of high-performance LEDs and a front cable winch with a tractive force of 5,400 kg. An optional fresh air system which creates an overpressure in the cabin to prevent the penetration of fire gases can also be installed. We also have our own protective devices for the battery and electrical equipment.

The vehicle is being built at Rosenbauer's Linares Forest Fire Competence Center in Spain. It is built to meet, in particular, the technical and tactical requirements of French, Spanish and Portuguese fire departments. It combines everything that is necessary for efficient and safe forest firefighting.

To the FFFT

The Rosenbauer Group

Rosenbauer is an international group and a reliable partner to fire departments all over the world. The company develops and produces vehicles, fire extinguishing systems, equipment and telematics solutions for professional, industrial, plant and volunteer fire services and systems for preventive firefighting. Rosenbauer is represented by its sales and service network in more than 100 countries. With revenues of around € 870 million and more than 3,000 employees, the Group is the largest provider of firefighting equipment in the world.

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