



Government Joint Order Calamity Statement - Preventive Measures

The country has been severely affected by large-scale forest fires, which have placed enormous demands on the Operational Combat against Forest Fires and on all civil protection agents in the affected counties.

According to the weather forecasts for the coming days, in particular for the weekend, the risk of fire will be extremely high, with special attention being paid to the interior districts of the Center and North of the Country and in some municipalities of the districts of Beja and Algarve.

In view of the high danger, it is important to adopt exceptional measures to prevent such situations, without prejudice to the declaration of calamity by Resolution of the Council of Ministers, in respect of counties that have already been severely affected by forest fires and are not now subject to High risk of forest fires. Thus, under Articles 20 and 30 of the Basic Law on Civil Protection, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Internal Administration: declares:

1. Recognize the needs of the disaster and municipalities with high risk index or extreme fire, from 14.00 hrs onwards 18 August and up to 24.00 on 21 August, in particular the municipalities of Districts of Bragança, Castelo Branco, Guarda, Vila Real and Viseu, as well as the counties shown in: <http://www.portugal.gov.pt/media/31556968/20170818-pm-mai-calamidade-preventiva.pdf>
2. Provision of additional resources for prevention, as well as civil protection, in case of need, for the areas of the territory affected by this declaration:
 - a) The increased readiness and mobilization of the Armed Forces in operations for surveillance, patrolling deterrent, aftermath and logistical support;
 - b) Increase the level of readiness and operational response of GNR and PSP, with prepositioning and reinforcement of resources for surveillance, evasive patrols, evacuation support, cuts and diversions, clearance of traffic and other actions to support civil protection, To the authorized effect, the interruption of the holiday leave and / or Suspension of breaks and rest periods;
 - c) Continuous mobilization of the Sapper Forest teams;
 - d) Prohibition of access, movement and permanence within forest areas, previously defined in the PMDFCI, as well as in the forest paths, rural areas and other roads that cross them;
 - e) A total ban on the use of fireworks or other pyrotechnic devices, regardless of their form of combustion;
 - f) Suspension of any release of fireworks permits for which may have already been issued in said municipalities, for as long as the state of calamity lasts;
 - g) A total ban on the use in all rural areas of combustion machinery, Internal or external, including all types of tractors and agricultural machinery, or forestry, as well as work in the forest using motor saws, chop saws and milling machines;
 - h) Increase the level of readiness of response teams of entities with special cooperation in the areas of communications (fixed network operators and mobile) and energy (transport and distribution); and

- i) Recourse to the resources available under the District and Municipal Plans of Emergency and Civil Protection of the districts and counties covered by this Declaration, implemented automatically by the effect of the present order.

3. Further adopt, as exceptional measures:

- a) Promoting the increased mobilization of volunteer firefighters from the fire brigades in order to reinforce the response capacity of operational; and
- b) The exemption of the public service of the workers of the Public Administration (direct, Indirect and autonomous), as well as the private sector workers who to integrate as firefighters in the firefighting strategy, in accordance with the provisions of article 25 of the Basic Law on Civil Protection, are entitlement to two days of compensatory rest for each day of work certified by the respective fire chief.

4. This declaration of calamity implies the obligation of all citizens and other private entities to provide civil protection authorities with the personal cooperation they require and to comply with the orders and instructions addressed to them, pursuant to article 11 of the Basic Law on Civil Protection.

PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Pursuant to paragraph 1 of article 12 of the Basic Law on Civil Protection, without prejudice to Publication, this order shall take effect immediately.

The original Portuguese version which is legally binding can be downloaded here

<http://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/pm/documentos/20170818-pm-mai-calamidade-preventiva.aspx>