**MANDATORY**

By **15th March** it is mandatory to manage the vegetation measured from the exterior wall of the house:

- within a minimum range of **50m** around the buildings, whenever these lands are occupied by forest, shrubs or natural pastures;
- With a minimum range of no less than **10m** on land in rural areas with other types of use.

1. The space between treetops should be, at least, **4m**. In maritime pine and eucalyptus stands, the minimum distance between tree-crowns must be, at least, of **10m**.

2. **Prune** trees **4m** above the ground. For trees with a height of less than **8m**, prune the **lower half** (50%) of the tree.

3. Trees and bushes must be **5m** away from the buildings and treetops must not extend over the roof.

4. Shrubs must not be higher than **50 centimeters**.

5. **Do not keep firewood, debris** or any type of inflammable material within this area.

**ADVISABLE**

1. Have a strip of **non-inflammable paving**, between one and two metres in width, around the building.

2. Avoid having very inflammable vegetation or plants that dry easily within **10 metres** of your house. Avoid having **hedges** made of species that accumulate lots of dry woody material inside, or which contain oils or resins, and avoid enclosures made of cane or dry heather.

3. Check that the **watering system** and hoses are in working order.

4. The **roof** is one of the most vulnerable parts of the house. Remove grass, leaves, branches and moss from rooftops, gutters and drain pipes. Fit a spark screen in the chimneys.

5. Protect **doors and windows** with blinds or shutters. Use **double-glazing** and tempered glass and choose sliding windows.

6. Keep the **access** to your house unobstructed and create a space that will permit U-turns.

7. Keep an up-to-date list of **emergency contacts** to hand.

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**IN CASE OF A FIRE NEAR YOUR HOUSE**

1. **Wear loose cotton clothing** (avoid synthetic fabrics) in order to cover your arms and legs, and wear closed footwear. Avoid exposure to smoke and fumes and cover your mouth and nose with a damp cloth.

2. Close all doors leading to the exterior and all interior doors too, as well as all windows and any other openings (ventilation grids, for example). Switch off automatic door- and gate-opening mechanisms. Put wet, rolled-up towels along the bottom of doors and windows. **Any open crack could prove fatal** by allowing the fire into your home.

3. Close gas valves. **Move combustible materials away** from windows (e.g. curtains, sofas, etc.) and remove garden furniture and any wood that may be on the porches or next to the house.

4. **Water the area around the house**. If you have a watering system, turn it on. Gather **buckets of water** indoors and outdoors. If a fire breaks out, put it out immediately with water, earth or branches.

5. Keep a vehicle in a state of constant readiness for emergency evacuation. Stay indoors and follow the instructions given to you by the authorities.

6. After the fire has passed, check to see if there are any small areas still alight; look for smoke and/or flames next to doors, windows, roofs, chimneys and gutters. **Remain alert over the following days.**

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