

Precautions during heavy rainfall and high winds

The ANPC (Civil Protection Authority) advises in periods of high winds and heavy rain people may experience:

- Slippery roads and eventual accumulation of ground water;
- Possibility of flash floods in urban areas, by accumulation of rainwater or inadequacy of drainage systems;
- Possibility of overflowing of water lines/rivers in areas historically most vulnerable;
- Flooding of underground urban structures with drainage deficiencies;
- Damage to structures mounted or suspended;
- Possibility of falling branches or trees because of strong wind;

The ANPC advises in periods of high winds and heavy rain the risks to individuals and properties can be reduced by taking the following measures, particularly in areas which historically are more vulnerable by:

- Ensuring the clearing of drainage systems of rainwater and removing objects that can be dragged or create obstacles to water drainage;
- Driving carefully by, reducing speed and taking special care with possible accumulation of snow and formation of ground water on the roads. Do not cross flooded areas by vehicle or on foot to avoid becoming trapped in holes or open sewage covers which have become dislodged by flood waters;
- Ensuring proper fastening of loose structures, namely, scaffolding, and placards and other structures;
- Taking special care in the movement and those living to wooded areas, and be alert to the possibility of falling branches and trees, due to stronger winds;
- Taking special care if walking or driving along coastlines and coastal areas historically more vulnerable to coastal waves. It is best to avoid these routes in high winds and rainfall;
- Refrain from activities related to the sea, including fishing, water rides and sea sports, and avoid parking close to sea fronts;
- Listen to weather information and alerts by the ANPC Civil Protection Authority and IPMA

In addition Safe Communities Portugal recommends the following:

- Using headlights and avoid driving too closely to the vehicle in front;
- At times when the weather alert is “Extreme” (Red alert) consider if your journey is really necessary.
- Check with elderly neighbours especially those living alone if they are alright.
- Be aware of flooding and take precautionary measures where possible, be aware that underground basements and underpasses on roads can be more liable to flooding.