Exposure to smoke from Forest Fires – Protective measures

The General Directorate of Health (DGS) has warned of the risks associated with exposure to smoke from forest fires, which have devastated the country, and urged people to stay at home.

It states: "Smoke from fires has high levels of particulate matter and toxins that can have respiratory, cardiovascular and ophthalmological effects, among others. Main symptoms include eye, nose and throat irritation, persistent cough, shortness of breath, Pain or tightness in the chest and fatigue, "writes the DGS in an information note.

The Directorate-General for Health recommends that you avoid exposure to smoke, and keep people at home, with windows and doors closed, in a cool environment, and if possible turn on the air conditioner to circulate the air. "Avoid outdoor activities, avoid the use of indoor combustion sources (gas appliances or firewood, tobacco, candles, incense, etc.) and use mask / respirator (N95) whenever exposure is unavoidable" are other measures.

The DGS also asks that people keep their usual medication "if they have associated diseases such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)", that they stay informed, hydrated and in fresh places.

For more information, the DGS requests that you call SNS 24 (808 24 24 24) or consult the website of the service www.dgs.pt, reminding that in case of emergency to call 112.

Posted 18th August 2017
As at 09.00 hrs on 18th August there were a total of 32 fires in Portugal although 24 of these are at the conclusion stage. Of the six active fires the two major ones are at Macao. Penhascoso and Aboboreira, in Santarem District being attended to be 822 fire personnel and 249 support vehicles and in GAVIÃO Portalegre District, being dealt with by 197 firefighters and 64 support vehicles. Both these fires are in forests.

Roads cut: EN 244 between Mação and Chão de Codes / EN 244 Torre e Mação.

In Macao. Penhascos and Aboboreira, some 22 GNR GIPS personnel have been mobilized working in difficult terrain to reach areas difficult to reach by Bombeiros

TERRORIST ATTACKS IN BARCELONA AND CAMBRILS, SPAIN

Our condolences go to the families of at least 13 people who were killed in a terrorist attack in Las Ramblas, Barcelona yesterday. In addition around 100 were injured in the attack involving a van driving into pedestrians along a crowded street.

The Catalan regional government has now said that citizens from 24 countries were among the people killed and injured

A second terror attack has taken place in Cambrils, a coastal town around 120 km from Barcelona. Six bystanders and one police officer were injured – two seriously – when they were reportedly deliberately hit by a car – an Audi A3.

Police officers then shot dead five suspects, some of whom were wearing what appeared to be explosive belts.

Authorities say the attack is linked to the Barcelona attack earlier on Thursday.

Two suspects whom police believe to be linked to the Barcelona attack are in custody, although neither is the driver, who escaped. A manhunt for him continues. At 07.30 this morning it was that a third suspect was detained in Ripoll, about 96km (60 miles) north of Barcelona,
Officials are also linking the two attacks to an earlier explosion that destroyed a house in Alcanar, killing one person and wounding at least one more. Police now say they believe explosives were being prepared at the property.

Isis has claimed responsibility for the attack in Las Ramblas, but this could not be verified.

Dear Major Poiares,

A Mr. David Blackwell has contacted me concerning the following and I would be grateful for your help, regarding.

In concerns a matter of land cleaning that made to the GNR in Pernes, Santarem district in Sao Vicente do Paul.

David Blackwell visited the GNR Pernes late in the morning on 19th June 2017, to complain about a neighbour’s house which had not been cleaned and was overgrown – hence a fire risk to Mr. Blackwell’s property. Since then no action appears to have been taken, the GNR have not contacted him and he is now very concerned because of the fire situation in that area.

The neighbour’s house is empty and had not been visited by the owner for 2 years so front and back garden totally enclose that house and the area surrounding our house.

The contact number provided by Mr. Blackwell was either 925540294 or 243445036. There are no house numbers in their street and a friend accompanying him to the GNR explained in Portuguese exactly where our house was to make it easier.

Could this be passed to the GNR Pernes asking them to contact Mr. Blackwell on what action is being taken.

EARTHQUAKE TO THE NORTH OF LISBON MEASURING 4.3 BUT CAUSES NO DAMAGE
The Portuguese Institute of the Sea and Atmosphere confirmed the quake at 7.44am on 17th August, which was felt in the capital Lisbon. It has been measured as registering 4.3 on the Richter scale.

A spokesman for IMPA said: "This earthquake, according to the information available to date, caused no personal or material damages.

"It was felt with maximum intensity IV (modified Mercalli scale) in the region of Sobral de Monte Agraço. It has been felt even less intensely in Lisbon."

On Twitter, many comment on the fact that they felt the shock, namely in Torres Vedras, Cascais and Sintra, as well as Lisbon.

Sobral de Monte Agraço volunteer firefighters told Lusa that "the tremor did not give rise to requests for help.

It is the largest earthquake to hit mainland Portugal since October 2013 when an earthquake measuring 4.3 was registered some distance of the coast of Sagres.