

***Informal translation into English for information purposes only. For legal purposes the original Portuguese document prevails.***

## **Dispatch**

Summary:

Declaration of the alert situation between 00:00 on 6 September 2020 and 23:59 on 8 September 2020, for the districts of Aveiro, Braga, Bragança, Castelo Branco, Coimbra, Guarda, Leiria, Lisbon, Portalegre, Porto, Santarém, Viana do Castelo, Vila Real and Viseu.

Considering that the National Operational Coordination Center of the National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority (ANEPC) determined, under the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 25 of Decree-Law no. 134/2006, of 25 July, in its current wording, the elevation of the special alert state of the Integrated Protection and Relief Operations System (SIOPS), for the Special Device for Fighting Rural Fires (DECIR), at the orange level, for the districts of Aveiro, Braga, Bragança, Castelo Branco, Coimbra, Guarda, Leiria, Lisbon, Portalegre, Porto, Santarém, Viana do Castelo, Vila Real and Viseu;

Considering the effort that goes into the operational device;

Considering the need to adopt preventive and special measures of reaction to the risk of rural fire;

Under the terms of paragraph 6 of article 8 and paragraph 1 of article 9 of the Basic Law for Civil Protection, approved by Law no. 27/2006, of 3 July, in its current wording:

1 - The alert situation is declared between 00:00 on September 6, 2020 and 23:59 on September 8, 2020, for the districts of Aveiro, Braga, Bragança, Castelo Branco, Coimbra, Guarda, Leiria, Lisbon, Portalegre, Porto, Santarém, Viana do Castelo, Vila Real and Viseu.

2 - In the districts covered by the declaration of the alert situation, the following exceptional measures are determined:

a) Prohibition of access, circulation and staying inside the forest spaces, previously defined in the municipal plans for the defense of the forest against fires, as well as in the forest paths, rural paths and other paths that cross them, with the exceptions provided for in article 23. Of Decree-Law no. 124/2006, of 28 June, in its current wording, namely the access, circulation and permanence of permanent or temporary residents and of people who exercise professional activity there;

b) Prohibition of extensive burning and burning of cut and piled debris;

c) Prohibition of carrying out work in forest areas using any type of machinery, with the exception of those associated with situations of fighting rural fires;

d) Prohibition of carrying out work in other rural areas using blade blades or metal discs, cutters, shredders and machines with blades or front shovel;

e) Prohibition of the use of fireworks or other pyrotechnic devices, regardless of their form of combustion, as well as the suspension of authorizations that have been issued.

3 - The prohibition provided for in paragraphs c) and d) of the previous number does not cover:

a) Work associated with the feeding and watering of animals, phytosanitary or fertilization treatment, irrigation, pruning, harvesting and transportation of agricultural crops, provided that they are of an essential and urgent nature and are carried out in irrigated or devoid areas. forests, woods or flammable materials, from which there is no danger of ignition;

b) The extraction of cork by manual methods and the extraction (cresta) of honey, as long as it is carried out without using fumigation methods obtained by incandescent material or temperature generator;

c) Civil construction works, as long as they cannot be postponed and appropriate measures to mitigate the risk of rural fire are adopted.

4 - The declaration of the alert situation implies:

a) The increase in the level of readiness and operational response by the GNR and the PSP, with reinforcement of means for surveillance, inspection operations, patrolling behaviours and general support for the protection and rescue operations that may be triggered , considering for that purpose the interruption of the vacation leave and the suspension of breaks and rest periods;

b) The increase in the level of readiness and mobilization of medical emergency, public health and psychosocial support teams, by the competent entities in the areas of health and social security, through the respective tutors;

c) The permanent mobilization of the Forest Sapper teams;

d) The permanent mobilization of the National Corps of Forest Agents and Nature Watchers that integrate the fire prevention and fighting device, by the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests, I. P., through the respective tutelage;

e) The increase in the level of readiness of the response teams of the entities with a special duty of cooperation in the areas of communications (fixed and mobile network operators) and energy (transport and distribution);

f) Recourse to the available means provided for in the National Plan and in the respective District Civil Protection Emergency Plans;

g) The conduct by the GNR of patrolling (surveillance) and aerial inspection actions by means of the Armed Forces, in the districts in a special alert state of the SIOPS, for the DECIR, focusing on the places signalled with a very high and maximum fire risk ;

h) Exemption from service or justification for absences from workers, from the public or private sector, who cumulatively perform the functions of voluntary firefighter, under the terms of articles 26 and 26-A of Decree-Law no. 241 / 2007, of June 21, except for those who perform functions in a public health care service in emergency situations, namely pre-hospital emergency technicians and nurses from the National Institute of Medical Emergency, IP, in the security forces and at ANEPC.

5 - It is determined to issue a warning to the population by the National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority about the danger of rural fire.

6 - The Armed Forces, through the Ministry of National Defence, must make available the military air assets belonging to the national force system so that, if necessary and as a result of the existing availabilities, they are operational in the air assets centres to be determined by the ANEPC.

7 - The declaration of the alert situation determines the immediate activation of the territorial coordination structures that are competent, namely the National Operational Coordination Centre and the district operational coordination centres of the covered districts.

September 4, 2020.

The Minister of National Defence, João Titterington Gomes Cravinho.

The Minister of Internal Administration, Eduardo Arménio do Nascimento Cabrita.

The Minister for the Environment and Climate Action, João Pedro Soeiro de Matos Fernandes.

The Minister of Agriculture, Maria do Céu de Oliveira Antunes Albuquerque.