

Access to, circulating and staying in Forest areas

Introduction

When the fire risk is “**very high**” or “**extreme**” or during the **Critical Fire period** (normally 1st July to 30th September) people and vehicles are prohibited from entering, circulating or staying in the following areas:

- Zones considered as critical
- Areas subject to forest regime and areas under [State Management](#)
- In areas where there notices indicating the limitation of activities.

The above areas include forest paths, rural roads, and other routes that cross them.

If the fire risk is “**High**”, it is prohibited to work in any of the areas mentioned above with machinery without spark arresting devices or flaring prevention devices in exhaust pipes and chimneys, or without fire extinguishers. It is also prohibited to undertake any activities not related to



forestry and agricultural activities as well as use motorized vehicles in the forest paths, rural roads and other routes that cross them.

Exceptions

The exceptions to the above during these periods are as follows:

- Accessing, circulating and remaining within these areas for residents, forest owners and producers and those who work there;
- The movement of people within these areas who have no alternative access to their homes or place of work;
- The exercise of activities within these areas which lack periodic monitoring (e.g. maintenance of electricity cables and poles).

- The use of recreational and recreational parks when properly equipped for this purpose (e.g. biological parks, mountain bike centres, adventure parks etc);
- Road traffic on highways, main routes (IP), complimentary routes (IC), national roads (EN) and regional roads (ER);
- Circulation on municipal roads for which there is no alternative with an equivalent route;
- The access, movement, and remaining within the above zones of the agents and means of civil protection (fire services, GNR etc) or military means resulting from an intrinsically military mission.

All these norms of access, circulation and permanence DO NOT apply to:

- Urban and industrial areas;
- Access to any public river and sea beaches;
- Means of prevention, surveillance, detection, first intervention, and firefighting (e.g. forest fire lookouts and forest foremen);
- To rural (forest) buildings subject to the policing and inspection of activities developed there, such as hunting, and, by virtue of their submission to the special hunting regime, when not included in critical areas
- For the execution of work of public interest, whenever it is recognized as such;
- For the circulation of emergency vehicles when responding to emergencies;
- Areas under military jurisdiction.

The original laws in Portuguese concerning this can be [downloaded here](#).