

Fire Report Algarve 2017

The results presented on 30th November, referring to the Special Firefighting Mechanism (DECIF) 2017, in the Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta Hazard Phases are a reflection of a high spirit of self-denial, with a sense of mission and body, of all those who contributed to the defence of our forest against fire, coming from the activity of 137 entities.

1. The commitment to the training and qualification of human resources continued to be a priority in the Region, and 35 actions, totalling 1009 hours of training / operational training, directly involving 336 operational personnel of the various Civil Protection Agents (PCA) and Cooperating Entities (EC), were undertaken.

2. The protocol promoted by the Intermunicipal Community of the Algarve (AMAL), enabled a € 343,920.00 increase in funding, for all municipalities in the Region, for the installation of the Device for Firefighters, which added €15.00 euros per day / firefighter to the €45.00 provided by the National Civil Protection Authority (ANPC), leading to each Firefighter receiving a compensation of € 60.00 for periods of 24 hours work.

3. In terms of meteorological severity, in the Algarve, the figures were similar to those recorded in 2012, when 25,607 hectares (ha) were burned. As of mid-August, the figures were the same as in 2005, and as of September, the figures for this year were higher than those recorded in 2003, boosted by hot and dry weather.

4. At the level of surveillance, forest teams (ESF), municipal forestry intervention teams (EMIF), vigilante teams from the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF) and the Portuguese Army, undertook 232,824 km in 17,981 hours of patrolling.

5. Between January 1 and October 31, 635 occurrences were registered, an increase of 27% over the same period in 2016. In relation to the phase of greatest danger, in the same period, the number of occurrences represented an increase of 19.9%. However, it was in the Bravo phase that there was a greater increase of occurrences (+ 57.6%).

6. From 1 January to 31 October 290.4 ha, were burned in comparison to 5,510.7 ha, the previous year.

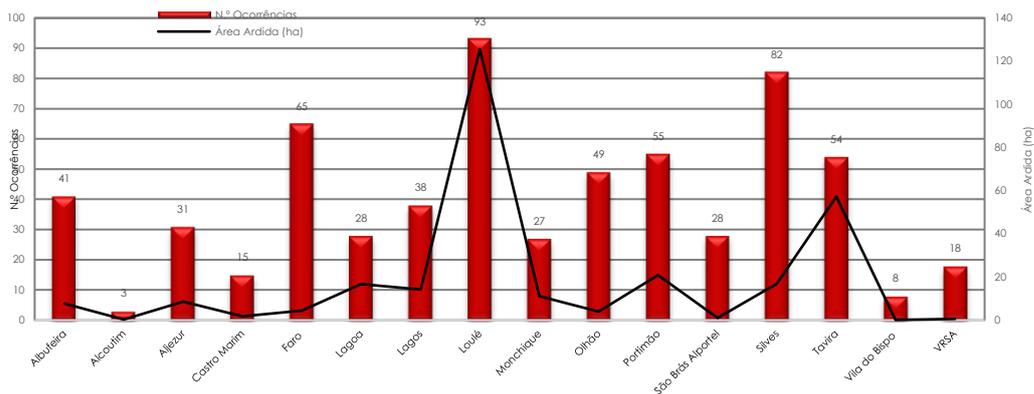
7. Compared to 2016, in the Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta Phases of the DECIF, the results were as follows:

	ALFA (1 JAN - 14 MAI)		BRAVO (15 MAI - 30 JUN)		CHARLIE (1 JUL - 30 SET)		DELTA (1 OUT - 31 OUT)		TOTAIS	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Ocorrências (n.º)	94	89	72	170	250	312	47	64	463	635
Área Ardida (ha)	6,4	2,2	5,3	54,7	5.776,3	224,8	13,1	8,7	5.801,1	290,4
Incêndios (n.º)	36	26	49	106	160	195	26	38	271	365
Falsos Alarmes (n.º)	58	63	23	64	90	117	21	26	192	270

8. Of the 635 recorded incidents, 270 were false alarms and 365 fires. Of these fires, only 9 were not dominated in the Initial Attack (ITA), that is, in the first 90 minutes of the fire.

9. Of the burned area mentioned above, 40.53 ha resulted from the Conceição / Tavira fire and 100.14 ha resulted from the Ludo / Loulé fire. These two occurrences account for 48% of the area burned throughout the Region. These two fires consumed 130.4 ha of stands.

10. The municipalities with the highest number of ignitions were Silves, Loulé and Faro, and the municipalities of Loulé, Tavira and Portimão were the ones where the most significant areas were burned, given the fires mentioned above.



11. ATI air assets were committed to 290 missions. Of these, 91 missions were intervened, resulting in 82 fires dominated outside the theatre airspace (TO), representing an efficiency rate of 90%. Track machines were also engaged in 36 missions in combat actions and consolidate extinction.

12. The two Brigadas de Combate a Incêndios (BCIN) were deployed for 65 missions, 28 of which were carried out by BCIN de Sotavento, including 3 in the Beja district and 37 BCIN in the Barlavento. In total, these BCINs were activated for 19 more missions than in the same period last year.

13. As indicators of performance of the device installed in the Region, observing the operational objectives established by the National Operational Directive (DON) no.2 - DECIF, in the phase of greater operational commitment, we recorded average dispatch times of 1 minute and 28 seconds, a value that reflects the effectiveness of this process, given that, the national objective is to ensure the dispatch of the means in ATI within a maximum time of 2 minutes.

14. The first terrestrial means to arrive at TO, took, on average, 12 minutes and 34 seconds, well below the 20 minutes provided in DON No. 2 - DECIF. Regarding the time of arrival of the air means of ATI to TO, the average was 8 minutes. The average resolution time of the fires was 32 minutes and 20 seconds, and the concept of operation provides for the fires in the initial phase, up to 90 minutes after the alert.

15. According to the causes of GNR, which investigated all fires by a total of 365, there was a decrease in negligent causes (fire use), from 34% in 2015 to 29% in 2016 and 21.6% in 2017.

16. With regard to arrests, this year, in the Algarve, the arrest of three Portuguese citizens, one of 57 years old, in the municipality of Silves, one of 52 years old, in the municipality of Monchique and another 71 years old, in the municipality of Lagoa. 52 individuals were identified

and convicted for the crime of fire. The GNR also proceeded to the survey of 194 cases for fire crime.

17. Also the Judiciary Police in the Algarve, arrested 2 Portuguese citizens and constituted 5 defendants, in the scope of investigations of forest fires.

Faro, November 30, 2017