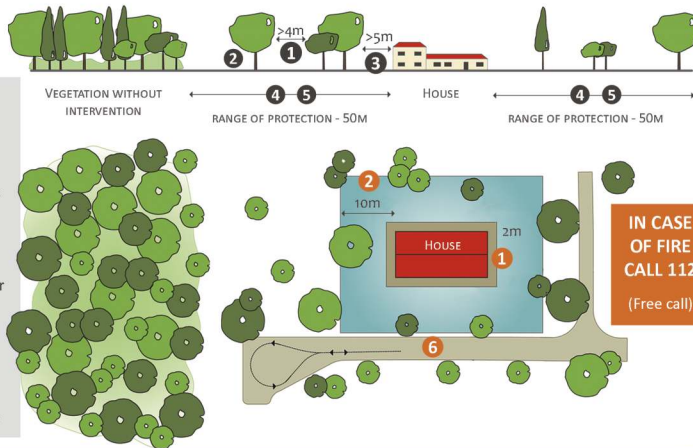


## REDUCE THE RISK TO YOUR HOUSE

By 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018 it is mandatory to manage the vegetation measured from the exterior wall of the house.

### MANDATORY

- 1 The space between treetops should be, at least, 4m. In maritime pine and eucalyptus stands, the minimum distance between tree-crowns must be, at least, of 10m.
- 2 Prune trees 4m above the ground. For trees with a height of less than 8m, prune the lower half (50%) of the tree.
- 3 Trees and bushes must be 5m away from the buildings and treetops must not extend over the roof.
- 4 Shrubs must not be higher than 50 centimeters.
- 5 Do not keep firewood, debris or any type of inflammable material within this area.



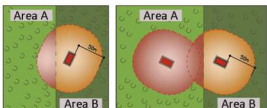
### ADVISABLE

- 1 Have a strip of non-inflammable paving, between one and two metres in width, around the building.
- 2 Avoid having very inflammable vegetation or plants that dry easily within 10 metres of your house. Avoid having hedges made of species that accumulate lots of dry woody material inside, or which contain oils or resins, and avoid enclosures made of cane or dry heather.
- 3 Check that the watering system and hoses are in working order.
- 4 The roof is one of the most vulnerable parts of the house. Remove grass, leaves, branches and moss from rooftops, gutters and drain pipes. Fit a spark screen in the chimneys.
- 5 Protect doors and windows with blinds or shutters. Use double-glazing and tempered glass and choose sliding windows.
- 6 Keep the access to your house unobstructed and create a space that will permit U-turns.
- 7 Keep an up-to-date list of emergency contacts at hand.

### IN CASE OF FIRE NEAR YOUR HOUSE

- 1 Wear loose cotton clothing (avoid synthetic fabrics) in order to cover your arms and legs, and wear closed footwear. Avoid exposure to smoke and fumes and cover your mouth and nose with a damp cloth.
- 2 Close all doors leading to the exterior and all interior doors too, as well as all windows and any other openings (ventilation grids, for example). Switch off automatic door- and gate-opening mechanisms. Put wet, rolled-up towels along the bottom of doors and windows. Any open crack could prove fatal by allowing the fire into your home.
- 3 Close gas valves. Move combustible materials away from windows (e.g. curtains, sofas, etc.) and remove garden furniture and any wood that may be on the porches or next to the house.
- 4 Water the area around the house. If you have a watering system, turn it on. Gather buckets of water indoors and outdoors. If a fire breaks out, put it out immediately with water, earth or branches.
- 5 Keep a vehicle in a state of constant readiness for emergency evacuation. Stay indoors and follow the instructions given to you by the authorities.
- 6 After the fire has passed, check to see if there are any small areas still alight; look for smoke and/or flames next to doors, windows, roofs, chimneys and gutters. Remain alert over the following days.

## the best protection against rural fires



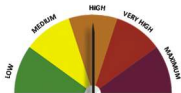
- Vegetation management conducted by the owner of Area A within a radius of 50m around the houses(s)
- Vegetation management conducted by the owner of Area B within a radius of 50m around the houses(s)

### When managing the vegetation:

- On days of maximum fire hazard, it is forbidden to work in the forest space with bush cutters, forestry mulchers and forest shredders.
- Avoid the hottest days and times with higher temperatures;
- Avoid the contact of trimmers and brushcutter blades with stones or metal on the ground.

### Stay informed!

Check daily Fire Risk for your region and contact the IPMA and the ICNF. Know the constraints associated with the 5 levels.



### For more information contact:

- The Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas, IP (Institute for the Protection of Nature and Forests – ICNF/IP);
- The local forestry organisation (OPF);
- Your municipality's technical office for forestry (GTF);

Read the current wording of Law 76/2017, of 17 August. It sets out the measures and actions to be taken within the scope of the National System for Protecting Forests against Wildfire.

Contact numbers for the Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas, IP:

Main switchboard: Tel. 213 507 900  
 Decentralised offices:  
 North: Tel. 259 330 400  
 Centre: Tel. 232 427 510  
 Lisbon and Tagus Valley: Tel. 243 306 530  
 Alentejo: Tel. 266 737 370  
 Algarve: Tel. 289 700 210

[www.safecommunitiesportugal.com](http://www.safecommunitiesportugal.com)

[www.icnf.pt](http://www.icnf.pt)



Creative design and graphic design  
 Inês Castro Vasco



Financed by the Permanent Forestry Fund



## protect your house against rural fires

### National awareness-raising campaign



## Fuel management around buildings

Managing the vegetation on the grounds that surround buildings is your best protection (fuel management):

- slows fire spreading;
- decreases the inflammability of the grounds surrounding the buildings;
- prevents the flames from reaching inflammable areas of your house (wooden doorways and windows, gutters, etc.).

### Where to place and who is in charge of fuel management?

Owners, tenants, uses or entities that have properties located in rural areas, are required to manage the vegetation:

- within a minimum range of 50m around the buildings, whenever these lands are occupied by forest, shrubs or natural pastures;
- With a minimum range of no less than 10m on land in rural areas with other types of use.