



## NOTICE TO THE POPULATION

### RAIN – PREVENTIVE MEASURES

#### 1. SITUATION

According to information provided by the Portuguese Institute of the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), it is expected from late tomorrow afternoon, September 6th, a gradual change in weather conditions, with the incidence of rainfall, sometimes heavy, especially on the north and central coast. This precipitation may be more intense in the highlands of the North and Central regions.

Follow weather information at [www.ipma.pt](http://www.ipma.pt)

#### 2. EXPECTABLE EFFECTS

The areas affected by rural fires, which have been left without vegetation cover and with ash accumulated on the surface, which acts as an impermeable material, are more exposed and vulnerable to precipitation. With the arrival of the first rains, it is favorable:

- In the event of flooding in urban areas caused by accumulation of rainwater due to obstruction of drainage systems;
- The occurrence of floods, facilitated by the overflow of some courses of water, rivers and streams;
- Causing instability of slopes, leading to mass movements (slides, spills, and others) caused by water infiltration, a phenomenon that can be enhanced by the removal of vegetable cover following rural fires, or by soil artificialization;
- The contamination of potable water sources by inert resulting from rural fires;
- The dragging of loose objects onto the roadways, or the dismantling of movable or disabling of fixed structures, due to periods of strong winds, which can cause accidents with moving vehicles or passers-by on a public road.

#### 3. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority (ANEPC) recalls that the eventual impact of these effects can be minimized, especially through the adoption of appropriate behaviors.

In particular in historically most vulnerable areas, and in areas affected by rural fires, which have been left without vegetation cover and with ash accumulated on the surface, which works as a





waterproof material, more exposed and vulnerable to rainfall, is recommended to adopt the main preventive measures for these situations, namely:

- Ensure the clearing of rainwater drainage systems and the removal of debris and other objects that may be dragged away or create obstacles to the free flow of water;
- Ensure proper fixing of loose structures, namely, scaffolding, cupboards and other suspended structures;
- Adopt a defensive driving, reducing speed and taking special care of the possible formation of water sheets on the roads;
- Do not cross flooded areas, in order to prevent dragging people or vehicles into holes in the pavement or open sewage boxes;
- Pay attention to meteorological information and directions from Civil Protection and Security Forces.

More info: [www.prociv.gov.pt](http://www.prociv.gov.pt)

## **ANEPC | Communication and Awareness Division**

