



NOTICE TO THE POPULATION

RISK OF FLOODING – PREVENTIVE MEASURES

I. SITUATION

The rainfall recorded in Continental Portugal in recent days, coupled with discharge from Spanish dams, has caused a significant increase in waterfalls in most of the watersheds.

Based on information from the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA), the following aspects are highlighted, in particular for the Tejo Basin, in the next 48 hours:

The tides will remain high, tending to climb significantly. These values approach the peak caudals associated with a 20-year return period, therefore significant downward impacts are expected:

- **Tejo (Zêzere):** The tides will remain high, with a tendency to climb;
- **Tejo (Nabão):** The tides will remain high;
- **Sorraia:** The tides will remain high, with a significant upward trend.

For the rest of the reservoirs, point out:

- Minho: The tides will remain high;
- Lima: The tides will remain high with an upward tendency;
- Cavado: The tides will remain high;
- Douro: The tides in the Douro River will remain high, with a tendency to rise;
- Vouga: There may be an uphill climb, with a tendency to uphill;
- Vouga (Águeda): The tides will remain high, with a tendency to climb;
- Mondego: The tides will remain high, with a tendency to go up;
- Lis: The tides will remain high, with a tendency to climb;
- Sado: The tides will remain high, with a tendency to climb;
- Guadiana: High tides, with effects in Mértola and other towns downstream;
- Shores of Arade: High tides;
- Rivers of the Algarve: There may be a significant rise in the tide.

Hydrological information at <https://apambiente.pt>





2. EXPECTABLE EFFECTS

The intense rainfall recorded in recent days has caused the river tides to rise, and they are expected to remain high in the coming days. Continuing rainfall increases the risk of floods and floods, a risk aggravated by the discharge of Spanish dams, being expected:

- The occurrence of floods, enhanced by the overflow of some courses of water, rivers and creeks;
- The occurrence of flooding in urban areas, caused by accumulation of rainwater due to obstruction of drainage systems;
- Saturated soils, which will result in a slow drop of water, which, at this time, affects the highways;
- The instability of slopes, leading to mass movements (slips, spills and others) motivated by water infiltration, a phenomenon that can be enhanced by the removal of vegetable cover;
- Slippery road floor due to possible formation of water sheets;
- Closure/Prohibition of some of the road lanes due to flooding;
- Dragging onto the roadways of loose objects, or to the removal of movable or disabledly fixed structures, due to episodes of hail and floods, which can cause accidents with moving vehicles or pedestrians on public roads.

3. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority (ANEPC) recalls that the possible impact of these effects can be minimized, especially through the adoption of appropriate behaviours, therefore, and particularly in historically more vulnerable areas, it is recommended to adopt the main preventive measures for these situations, namely:

- **Ensure the unobstruction of rainwater drainage systems** and the removal of inerts and other objects that may be dragged away or create obstacles to the free flow of water;
- **Avoid any activity near water lines, especially in areas with history of flooding;**
- **Avoid parking vehicles in historically flooded areas;**
- **Do not cross flooded areas to prevent dragging people or vehicles into holes in the pavement or open sewage boxes;**
- **Remove animals, equipment, vehicles and/or other goods from normally flooded areas to safe locations;**
- Restrict as much as possible the movement of vehicles and people stuck in areas potentially affected by floods;





- Ensure proper fixing of loose structures that can be dragged by water (scaffolding, cupboards, suspended structures);
- Take special care when moving and staying near wooded areas close to water lines, due to the risk of falling branches and/or trees being swept away by the water;
- **Pay attention to meteorological information, the Portuguese Environment Agency and the indications of Civil Protection and Security Forces.**

ANEPC | Communication and Awareness Division

