



NOTICE TO THE POPULATION

PRECIPITATION, WIND, ROUGH SEAS AND SNOWFALL – PREVENTIVE MEASURES

I. SITUATION

According to information from the Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA), it is expected a worsening of the weather in mainland Portugal with the occurrence of precipitation, sometimes heavy, wind, rough seas and snowfall, highlighting:

- Periods of rain, sometimes heavy, which may be hail accompanied by thunderstorms;
- Wind from the south quadrant with gusts of up to 85 km/h on the coast and 100 km/h in the highlands;
- Rough Seas on the west coast with waves of up to 5 meters, which could reach 6 meters south of Cabo Carvoeiro on March 9;
- Snowfall in the highest points of the Estrela Mountain on March 7, gradually dropping to 1000/1200m altitude in the North and Central regions from Saturday, March 8.

Follow weather information at www.ipma.pt

2. EXPECTABLE EFFECTS

Episodes of precipitation, wind, rough seas and snowfall are normally associated with:

- The occurrence of flooding in urban areas, caused by the accumulation of water due to obstruction of drainage systems or coastal overtopping;
- The occurrence of floods, increased by the overflow of the beds of some watercourses, rivers and streams;
- The instability of slopes, leading to mass movements (landslides and others) motivated by water infiltration, a phenomenon that can be enhanced by the removal of vegetation cover following rural fires, or by artificialization of the soil;
- Slippery road surfaces due to the accumulation of water on the pavement or the formation of ice and/or accumulation of snow;
- Possible accidents on the coast, due to rough seas;
- The dragging of loose objects onto roads, or the detachment of mobile or poorly fixed structures, due to episodes of strong wind, which can cause accidents with circulating vehicles or passers-by on public roads;





- Thermal discomfort in the population due to increased wind intensity.

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 unblocking of rainwater drainage systems and the removal of dirt/leaves and other objects that could be swept away or create obstacles to the free flow of water;
- Ensure the fixing of loose structures, namely scaffolding, placards and other suspended structures;
- Take special care in movement and staying near wooded areas, being aware of the possibility of falling branches and trees due to stronger winds;
- Take special care when traveling along the coast and riverside areas that are historically more vulnerable to flooding, avoiding to go there and park there;
- Do not practice activities related to the sea, namely sport fishing, nautical sports and seaside walks, still avoiding vehicle parking very close to the seashore;
- Adopt defensive driving, reducing speed and paying special attention to the formation of ice and frost on roadways;
- Avoid traffic on roads affected by snow accumulation and when this is not possible, take the following steps:
 - Checking the condition of the tyres and the respective pressures;
 - Transportation and placement of snow chains in vehicles;
 - Ensure fuel supply at levels that allow alternative routes to be used or the vehicle to remain in service for long periods of time, in case of retention on the affected roads;
 - In electric vehicles, the battery charge should be checked and the presence of charging points on your itinerary should be examined;
 - Ensuring that vehicle heating systems are in good working order;
 - Provide adequate food in quantity and characteristics, as well as medicines, according to the number and type of vehicle occupants.
- On roads affected by snow accumulation, avoid trips with children, the elderly or people with special needs;
- Avoid driving on those roads with heavy vehicles, especially articulated vehicles, trailers and rear-wheel vehicles;





- Limit as much as possible the movements of vehicles and people on foot, in areas potentially affected by snowfall;
- Do not cross flooded areas to prevent people and/or vehicles from being dragged into holes in the pavement or open drains;
- Remove animals, agricultural and industrial equipment, vehicles and/or other goods from areas bordering watercourses, that are normally flooded, to safe places.

Pay attention to meteorological information and indications from Civil Protection and Security Forces.

ANEPC | Communication and Awareness Division

