



NOTICE TO THE POPULATION

PRECIPITATION, WIND, ROUGH SEAS AND SNOWFALL – PREVENTIVE MEASURES

I. SITUATION

The Portuguese Institute of Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA) predicts, for the next 72 hours, precipitation, wind, maritime turmoil and snowfall, highlighting:

- Precipitation, sometimes heavy and persistent, which may be hail and accompanied by thunderstorms, from Wednesday, March 27;
- Wind, sometimes strong, in the highlands and on the west coast with gusts of up to 80km/h in the late afternoon of March 25. Wind with gusts of 100 km/h in the highlands, especially in the Serra da Estrela, on March 26. Predominant wind from the southwest, with gusts of up to 85 km/h from the afternoon of March 27th, in the North and Centre regions, and may exceed 90 km/h in the highlands;
- Strong sea disturbances with waves from the northwest on the west coast, worsening during the afternoon of March 26th, reaching 6 to 7 meters north of Cape Carvoeiro (maximum height of 12 meters);
- Snowfall in the highlands, especially in the North and Center, gradually dropping to 600/800 meters, and snowfall may also occur in the São Mamede and Monchique mountains, in the early hours and morning of March 26.

Follow weather information at www.ipma.pt

2. EXPECTABLE EFFECTS

Periods of rain, wind, sea disturbances and snowfall are normally associated with:

- Slippery road surface due to the possibility of ice accumulation, snow and the formation of water sheets;
- Possibility of snowfall in areas and at altitudes where it usually does not occur;
- Drainage difficulties in urban systems, namely those exposed in periods of seaside, which can cause floods in historically most vulnerable places;
- Possible accidents on the coast due to heavy maritime disturbance;
- Flooding incidence in urban areas, caused by accumulation of rainwater by obstruction of drainage systems or coastal drainage;
- Possibility of falling branches or trees, as well as damage to infrastructure associated with communication and energy networks;





- Heat discomfort in the population due to the sharp drop in the minimum temperature.

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 rainwater drainage systems are not obstructed by removal of inerts and other objects that can be dragged or create obstacles to the free flow of water;
- Pay attention to the most vulnerable groups (children in the early years of life, chronically ill, elderly or isolated people, workers working outdoors and homeless people);
- 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 in traffic along the coastlines and river banks historically more vulnerable to coastal floods, avoiding traffic and staying in these places;
- 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 possible snow accumulation and/or the formation of water 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, so as to prevent people or cars being dragged into holes on the pavement or open sewage boxes;

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

ANEPC | Communication and Awareness Division

