



## NOTICE TO THE POPULATION

### RAIN, SNOWFALL, WIND, AND ROUGH SEAS – PREVENTIVE MEASURES

#### I. SITUATION

The Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere (IPMA) predicts, for the next few days, a worsening of the weather in continental Portugal with rainfall, strong wind, strong maritime turmoil and snowfall, highlighting:

- **Periods of rain**, sometimes heavy and occasionally accompanied by thunderstorms, especially in the North and Central regions;
- **Strong wind**, with gusts up to 80 km/h in the western coastal band and in the highlands, worsening is expected during the morning and early afternoon tomorrow, on March 6, in the districts of Leiria and Lisbon, where gusts may reach 90 km/h on the band Shoreline and mountains;
- **Very Rough Seas** on the west coast, with waves from northwest up to 6 meters, being able to reach the maximum height of 11 meters;
- **Snowfall** Snowfall at the highest points of Serra da Estrela, with accumulations up to 30 cm above 1000 meters. Possibility of snow above 1000/1200 meters in the North, Central and Upper Alentejo, temporarily lowering the quota to 800/1000 meters overnight on the morning of March 6.

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

#### 2. EXPECTABLE EFFECTS

**This weather frame**, with strong winds and strong offshore turbulence, **is expected to be more severe between this afternoon, March 5, and tomorrow, March 6**, especially in the most vulnerable areas affected by the KRISTIN Depression (Regions of the Western, Leiria and Coimbra), to be expected:

- Dragging structures, loose objects and dismantling of disabledly fixed mobile structures, due to episodes of strong wind, which can cause damage to infrastructure, accidents with vehicles and people driving on public roads;
- Possible accidents on the coastal shore, due to strong maritime turmoil;
- Possibility of snowfall in areas and at altitudes where it is not usually seen;
- Slippery road surface, and eventually obstructed, due to the possible formation of water sheets or the accumulation of ice and/or snow;





- Flooding in urban areas resulting from the accumulation of rainwater due to insufficiency or obstruction of drainage systems;
- Flooding in watercourses, enhanced by the overflow of riverbeds, creeks and waterlines;
- Instability of slopes, leading to mass movements (slips, overturns, among others), motivated by water infiltration into the soil, which can be aggravated by the removal of vegetable cover after rural fires or by soil artificialization;
- Thermal discomfort in the population due to the combination of low minimum temperature and wind.

### 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;**
- **Avoid parking vehicles in wooded areas;**
- **Close and reinforce blinds and windows, especially those facing the wind;**
- **Collect outdoor structures to prevent them from being dragged away;**
- **Attach objects outdoors and on balconies and window sills, such as vases, garden furniture or others;**
- **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 possible snow accumulation and/or 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;
  - **Avoid any activity near water lines, especially in areas with history of flooding;**
  - **Do not cross flooded areas to prevent people and/or vehicles from being dragged into holes in the pavement or open drains;**
  - **Remove from confined areas of water lines, typically flooded, animals, agricultural and industrial equipment, vehicles and/or other goods to safe locations.**

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

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

