

Action Plan to Address the Risk of Forest Fires in Pilar de la Horadada

The purpose of the Municipal Action Plan against the risk of Forest Fires, is to establish the aspects relating to the organisation and the procedure for the action of resources and services, owned by the local council and those public or private entities that may be called upon to deal with pre-emergency situations and emergencies caused by forest fires within the municipal area of Pilar de la Horadada.

If you are in a car and find yourself surrounded by fire:

Do not drive blindly through thick smoke.

Turn on your headlights and hazard lights. Find a place to stop where the ground is free of vegetation, as far away from the advancing fire as possible.

Close all windows and ventilation points; lie down on the floor of the car and cover yourself with the floor mats.

Stay in the car as long as you can; if the vehicle catches fire and you have to get out, make sure most of your skin is covered.

If you are walking in the mountains and there is a fire nearby:

- Avoid areas with large accumulations of combustible material or areas which are located uphill from the fire.
- Stay on bare or burnt ground.
- Move across the mountainside, away from the direction of the fire, looking for the tail end of the fire downhill.
- Do not go uphill unless you know there is a safe place there.
- Do not attempt to cross the flames, unless you can clearly see what is behind them.
- If you find yourself surrounded, protect yourself from radiant heat by lying down behind a large rock, a tree trunk or in a depression and cover yourself with earth or sand, take refuge in pools or streams; avoiding elevated water tanks (they will heat up due to the fire).

Principles and actions to take if a fire is detected
Stay calm

Call 112 immediately and provide as much information as possible. Rapid detection of a fire in its initial stages is a key factor in its immediate extinguishment. Your call to 112 should convey the information clearly and concisely:

Tell them precisely what is happening :

- What is burning ?(natural trees, grass, gardens, homes, etc.)
- Where is the fire located? (in which municipality, nearby roads, nearest landmark, etc.)
- What colour, shape and density is the column of smoke (can you see flames? How many sources are there? How big are they?)
- Tell them whether it threatens any population, urbanisation, homes, campsite, industrial activity, petrol station or any other property. If this is the case:

Warn your neighbours using appropriate or available means:

- Activate the centralised alarm signal, if there is one.
- Mobile public address system or warning sirens
- By telephone or WhatsApp group

- Door to door

In the event of a forest fire, the most important thing is to follow the instructions of the emergency services and immediately comply with evacuation orders. In the meantime, follow these tips:

If you are in a house and the fire comes close to it:

- Dress appropriately to avoid burns by covering as much of the body as possible, wear long-sleeved cotton clothing, closed shoes and a damp, wrung-out mask or handkerchief. Avoid synthetic fabrics.
- Close all doors, windows and openings, chimney, ventilation grilles, etc. gas, oil and other fuel stopcocks.
- Disconnect automatic door opening and closing mechanisms.
- Place wet towels under doors,
- Store water, collect buckets and containers and fill them with water, also fill the bathtub and sinks. Keep hoses connected to the water supply. Water is precious in case of fire, do not waste it.

When the fire is close to your house:

- soak the roof and the flammable elements closest to the flames,
- If your building has them, activate the sprinklers and the automatic watering system, just a few moments before the arrival of the fire, to avoid a drop in the pressure of the system serving your building.
- Remove combustible material: both from around the house (furniture, tarpaulins, buckets, etc.) and from inside the house, especially that which is close to doors and windows (curtains, blinds, furniture).
- Emerging outbreaks: Immediately smother sparks and flames using hoses or buckets of water, beating with branches or covering with earth.
- Vehicles: Place them in a protected position with respect to the direction of the fire.

Remember to follow evacuation orders