

MANUAL DE BUENAS PRÁCTICAS en Prevención de Incendios Forestales

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**Manual of good practices in forest
fires prevention**

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS, KEYS TO PREVENTING FOREST FIRES

Conserving and protecting our forests means conserving and protecting one of the most valuable heritages in our territory. Its value stems from its ecological function as well as from its social function as it is a source of wealth, work and recreational activities. This is why the fight against forest fires is fundamental. It is a battle against the most important threats faced by our forests.

The fight against forest fires is a priority for the Generalitat (Valencia Region Government) and important efforts are being made to acquire the best means and resources to confront them. Nonetheless the best and most effective tool we have in the fight against forest fires is to avoid them, that is to say, prevention.

Only 23 per cent of forest fires in the Valencia Region are caused by natural factors such as lightning. The rest are caused by negligence or as set intentionally. Therefore, the most coherent message we can send is that it is in our hands. All of us, who either for work or recreation and leisure activities, use our forests must mitigate and reduce this percentage and the number of forest fires.

The aim of this informative guidebook is to give all those who use our forests some advice, recommendations and information on what can and cannot be done in forests and how to reduce the risk of fires.

Awareness and education are key components in the prevention of fires. It is important to know the guidelines, abide by them and respect them. With this simple effort, we will contribute to the protection of our rich natural heritage and help thousands of professionals and volunteers that work for the protection and defence of our environment every day.

The efforts made by the administration, professionals and volunteers should be accompanied by awareness and responsible use of our forests. The Generalitat aims to continue improving infrastructures for prevention, planning, human resources, and equipment to prevent and extinguish fires. It will also continue to emphasize awareness and education with initiatives like this guidebook that contributes to reducing the amount of fires in our forests.

Serafín Castellano Gómez
Regional Minister of Governance

Introduction

The forest and its functions

What is the forest?

The Forest Law 3/1993 of the Valencia region, defines as forest or forest land, the land which is not urban or agricultural, which is covered with forest vegetation, naturally or by seeding or planting and which now or in the future meets with the protective or recreational ecological functions.

According to the Royal Academy of Language, the term **“monte”** (in English “woodland” or “forest”) comes from the Latin mons, Montis and means "great natural elevation of land" and "uncultivated land covered with trees, shrubs or bushes."

But the forest is much more:

The ecological functions of the forest

- The trees protect the soil from water erosion, reducing the impact of the raindrops.
- It regulates the availability of water, improving its infiltration in the underground and increases its quality.
- It protects against flooding, regulating the flow of the rivers.
- It lowers temperature contrasts, avoiding temperature extremes.
- The forest houses and shelters the fauna and the flora.
- It is a source of oxygen which is necessary for life.
- It reduces air pollution, in part, by emissions of CO₂.

The social functions of the forest

- It is the livelihood of many people, directly or indirectly.
- It provides us raw materials such as wood, cork and resin as well as mushrooms, truffles, pine nuts...
- It's where a large number of sports, recreation and leisure activities are made.
- It is part of our heritage, giving us a rich and diverse landscape.

The Forest Fires

How is a forest fire generated?

Fire is a phenomenon that occurs when heat is applied to a combustible body in the presence of air. The heat generated by combustion provides the energy necessary for the process to continue.

When the fire affects natural plant-based fuels and spreads uncontrolled through the forest, it is called **forest fire**.

The causes of how they start

The reasons for starting a forest fire are classified into 5 main groups, they are:

1. Natural causes (lightning).
2. Negligence and accidental causes.
3. Intentional.
4. Cause unknown.
5. Fire reproduced.

In the pie chart:

Percentage of fires due to the main reasons in the Region of Valencia (1999-2008)

How does the fire spread?

The factors that most influence the spread of a forest fire are the state and type of vegetation, topography of the ground and climatic factors: wind, humidity and temperature.

Influence of the vegetation

The spread of a forest fire depends on the moisture content in the plant fuel and of its structure. Thus, as the plant fuels behave differently to the fire, the vegetation composition and structure of a forest, will positively or negatively influence the spread of a fire.

Influence of the topography

When a fire moves uphill, the upward slope favors the advance of the fire by increasing the speed of fire spread. If, however, the fire moves downhill, the slope slows its speed down.

Influence of the meteorology

The direction and speed of the wind affect the spreading of the fire, making it go faster if the wind is in the same direction or slow it down if the wind goes against the direction of the advance of the fire.

The probability of fire spread increases with the high temperatures, due to this, the summers are the periods of greatest danger and it is when most wildfires occur.

Graphic title:

Forest area affected by forest fires in the Region of Valencia (1984-2008)

Types of forest fires

Of soil or surface

They are the more frequent fires, they extend by burning the herbaceous carpet and shrub without affecting the adult trees.

Tree Canopy

They are fires that are moving from top to top, pushed by the wind which is stronger in the treetops than at ground level.

Of subsoil

These fires can spread across the subsoil through existing organic matter such as roots or peat. They are slow advancing fires, very dangerous if they spread undetected.

The prevention of forest fires

Fires caused by natural causes cannot be avoided, however, fires caused by human beings can be prevented in most of the cases.

The forest fire prevention covers all actions aimed at reducing the number of fires, as well as all the actions and measures carried out to hinder the spread of the fire.

Prevention of the start

Try to prevent the start of the fire, acting on the agents that cause the ignition.

- Investigation of causes.

Knowing the cause of the start of the fires, helps us to develop more appropriate prevention strategies in each case.

- Awareness and education

Leaflets, prevention campaigns on TV...

- Surveillance

In the Region of Valencia, about 3,000 people are involved throughout the year in the **Surveillance Plan**, this group monitors the forests and can detect a fire in its early stages preventing it from spreading.

- Organization of the use of fire.
- Diffusion of the legislation.

Prevention of the spread

It is impossible to prevent all fires, therefore, impede the movement of fire once produced, is one of the goals of prevention. To achieve this, it is indispensable to a correct handling of forest fuel and have the infrastructure that will control the fire in a rapid and effective:

- Firewall areas or areas of vegetation discontinuity.
- Deposits of extinction for ground and aerial means.
- The forest roads, that provides access to the forest and to the preventive infrastructures.

Basic rules

In the prevention of forest fires, especially to prevent the initiation of a fire, keep in mind certain rules and obligations. The basic rules below are **mandatory** in all circumstances and for any activity, whenever you're **in the forest or within 500 meters of it**.

- You can make fire only in the places prepared and authorized to that effect.
- When the level of pre-emergency is 3, it is forbidden to make any type of fire, the permits being in abeyance.
- Always put out your cigarette butts or matches. Never throw them on the ground and even less lit, use the existing litter bins or keep them.

In addition, follow these **tips**:

You can check the level of pre-emergency and its forecast for the next day at:

On the web page: www.112cv.com

Twitter : [gva_112cv](https://twitter.com/gva_112cv)

In your City Hall

- When you want to carry out any authorized activity that involves the use of fire, inform people close to you and take a mobile.
- Pick up the trash you generate in the forest, make sure nobody notices that you have passed.
- Call toll-free at 112 in case of detecting a fire.

Working in the forest

The forest and the countryside are a source of food and raw materials, being the place of work of many professionals in agriculture, livestock and forestry. Fortunately, the agroforestry mosaic is still part of our landscape, the irregular pattern formed by the agricultural fields with the forest ground, may favor the stoppage of a fire, but it increases the risk of generating it, because when working near the forest, any carelessness can start a fire.

One of the jobs that is done in the field on a regular basis is the burning of agricultural waste. Agricultural burning requires the direct use of fire, and since they are made in the agroforestry area, standards are set and regulated to perform them safely or even forbidden on certain days or times of the year. In other jobs the presence of fire is not so obvious, as when machinery is used. In these cases there is no direct fire, but heat produced by the mechanical friction that can cause sparks and these, cause a fire. Besides, the machinery

used, works with volatile fuels or with electricity which is an added danger in both cases. To this, we must be add the possible distractions: cigarettes that are not put out properly, neglect by leaving the machinery hot, refueling without precautions ... these oversights cause fires and are easily avoidable.

Following some basic rules in the forest environment and acting with caution, especially in summer, the risk of starting a forest fire is reduced.

Who works here?

Foresters: they are responsible for the care and maintenance that the forest requires like cutting, pruning, scrubs and plantations.

Shepherds: even though the intensive farming predominates in our land, some shepherds still take their flocks to graze on hills and meadows.

Farmers: they work in the fields, but often the forest land is located at a few meters, forming as a whole the so called agroforestry mosaic.

Apiculturists: the apiculturists raise bees in order to obtain honey, wax and other products that these insects make. They install the hives in the areas assigned to it in the forest.

Environmental agents: they keep watch to ensure the compliance with current regulations in the forest environment, apart from performing other tasks, they also work in the prevention of forest fires.

Fireman, Fire Brigades and extinction squad Guards: they are responsible of the first performance line in forest fire extinction.

Other professionals working in the forest sporadically: in all the construction and maintenance work of various facilities found on forest land and forest tracks, roads, railroads, power lines, dams, windmills and also on developments and recreational areas.

Fire as a tool

The mastery of fire resulted in the greatest achievement of mankind over Nature and improved in many respects their way of life. For centuries, fire has been used for agriculture and silviculture, as a quick and effective tool for clearing, generating grass, removing debris ... These practices have greatly modified the natural environment; in the Mediterranean this influence is more evident as it has been densely populated for thousands of years.

In the twentieth Century, forest fires became more frequent and larger, leading many European countries to regulate the fire as a cultural tool, establishing several measures of control and prevention.

Agricultural burning within 500 m of the forest land

Find alternatives to burning

- Crush the remains.

The splintered remains form a substrate that is incorporated into the soil, it prevents erosion, fertilizes the crops and increases organic matter content, improving the soil structure that provides a better water infiltration.

If your plot is located within a National Park, find out more about the **Wood Chipper** service, as well as any existing aid, at the technical office of the park.

- Use them as fuel.

You can take advantage of the pruning remains for firewood in conditioned fireplaces and / or barbecues.

If you generate a large amount of agricultural waste, you might want to take them to a **Center of Biomass Energy Use** close to your property.

Remember that you can only accumulate agricultural and forestry residues within your plot, in the farthest place from the forest and 10 meters away from the roads.

If there is no other alternative

You can find out in your City Hall or by Environmental Agents, about the administrative procedure you must follow to make an agricultural burning.

Note that any activity that requires the use of fire, involves a risk and it is likely to cause a forest fire. If you take the appropriate preventive measures, the risk is considerably reduced.

Preventive mandatory measures for any kind of burning

The moment...

- **Summer** is the most dangerous time of year for agricultural burning, that is why, in general, they are **suspended** from **July 1st through to September 30th**, although depending on the conditions of risk for each year, this period may be extended.
- The day you go to do the burning, check the level of pre-emergency, **you cannot burn in pre-emergency 3, even if you have permission**. You can check the level of pre-emergency and its forecast for the next day at:

On the web page: www.112cv.com

Twitter : [gva_112cv](https://twitter.com/gva_112cv)

In your City Hall

- Remember that in the Region of Valencia it is not allowed to burn on the days between **Holy Thursday and San Vicente Monday, inclusive**.
- **In general, the time** of burning is allowed is from sunrise until 2 hours before sunset, the general schedule varies, so **it is best to inform yourself** in your City Hall, in the regional environment offices or to ask the Environmental Agent.
- If you have already started to burn and the wind conditions change, it is mandatory end the burn. Do not take a risk and put the fire out as soon as possible.

... and the place

- Within a conditioned agricultural burner, this is the safest and most advisable kind of burning if your agricultural plot is very close to the forest land (less than 30 meters away).
- In fires directly on the ground, for this kind of burning, it is preferable that your plot is at more than 30 meters away from the forest land, as it involves a higher risk than burning in a burner. For your safety, increase prevention measures.
- There must be a vegetation-free perimeter band of 2 meters wide around the fires.

Also

- The load of the fires should be moderate and appropriate to the current environmental conditions to prevent the escape of sparks and that the surrounding vegetation gets burnt.
- Watch the burning and do not leave until the fire is completely out, **it is your responsibility**.
- Do not bury the embers smoldering can continue.
- Carefully examine all the waste from the fire and make sure nothing is left burning, **throw water to put it out completely**.
- Carry a mobile phone with coverage or have the closest place for effective a communication spotted.
- Immediately advise **112 in the event of a fire escape**.

Finally some recommendations:

- Look at the weather conditions, especially the wind. If the wind is strong or gusty, it's very dangerous to start a burn.
- It is better to perform an agricultural burning if it has rained the days before or **first thing in the morning**.
- Keep the inside of your agricultural plot clean of herbaceous vegetation, because it burns easily and the fire spreads very quickly.
- To increase your safety, it is better to burn green remains than dry ones.
- Make sure that the smoke does not bother anyone, especially the motorists.

- Try to put the fire out before noon.

Did you know ... the boundaries or limits of your land can harbor or give shelter to several animal species. Think about whether you need to remove these areas of vegetation.

The agricultural burner

Constructive criteria (Explanatory drawing)

Location Criteria

It will always be built on the part of the plot that is **agricultural land and that is farthest from the forest**. In the event that the plot is surrounded by forest land, the burner will be placed in the center of the plot.

If the agricultural plots bordering the forest land are small in size, it is appropriate to share a burner among multiple owners.

To avoid scorching other fruit trees in the terraced plots, it is important that no branches or trees of the upper patch are above the burner.

Apicultural Jobs

- If you need to burn hives, take them out of the forest land.
- Keep the area where you have hives raked or wrought and at least 2 meters free of vegetation around it.
- Keep tracks and fire lanes free of obstacles.

The Smoker (Explanatory drawing)

Tools that produce heat

Power tools work because of an internal motor which in turn produces the desired movement and generates heat. They also consume flammable fuels or work with electrical equipment that can produce sparks, downloads, etc. If these tools are used in the natural environment without any precaution, they increase the risk of starting a forest fire. This section also includes motor vehicles used in travel within the forest area or its vicinity.

When handling power tools you must:

- Check the level of pre-emergency. In pre-emergency level 3, you cannot work with power tools.
- Beware of hot machinery. When you stop, you should leave it on an area devoid of vegetation, it is best to leave on a road or on a rock.
- Be careful when filling the tank, avoid spills and hot spots.

- The refueling area and the area of starting the engine must be removed from the vegetation and far between, because the fuel has volatile and flammable substances that are slow to evaporate.
- You put a spark arrester net in the exhausts of the self-propelled machines.
- Never leave flammable materials or substances in the sun.
- Monitor the operation, cleaning and maintenance of the tools and take care that there are no fuel leaks, short circuits, or sparks originating from the friction of their mechanisms.
- It is advisable to have water points and fire extinguishers nearby in case you need to use it due to a fire escape.

Vehicles

Numerous fires on roadsides and paths are associated with motor vehicle traffic. Sometimes fires are caused by the release of a spark from the exhaust pipe, for parking in areas with dry vegetation, or in most cases, for throwing cigarette butts out the window.

As for driving on forest roads with a motor vehicle, you must know that it is limited to easements, management and agroforestry surveillance and extinguishing forest fires.

Besides when driving the vehicle, it is required:

- To drive on the roads and tracks, it is forbidden to drive across country.
- To respect the traffic speed, that on forest roads is 30 km / hour.
- Only emergency services are exempt from the above limitations.
- If you usually drive on forest roads, your vehicle will require safety devices (a spark arrester in the exhaust pipe, protection for radiators and other hot engine parts).
- When you park makes sure that the exhaust pipe is away from the herbaceous vegetation.
- It is advisable to park on the roads, **as long as it does not impede the traffic from other vehicles**, especially the emergency ones.
- Park your vehicle at all times in the outbound direction, to avoid having to maneuver in an emergency.

If you smoke you should know that:

- When handling machinery, engines, tools, flammable or explosive material, smoking is prohibited.
- Throwing cigarette butts from a vehicle is a violation specified in the existing law on traffic and road safety, it also takes away 4 points of the license. Use the ashtray of the car, do not throw cigarette butts.
- If you are walking, there are portable ashtrays that can be taken anywhere.

If you want to help

The Government subsidizes the construction and maintenance of various prevention facilities and also the activities that are useful for their use in the prevention of forest fires. You can apply if you:

- Adapt your irrigation pond to be used in a complementary way to extinguish forest fires.
- Build and maintain firebreaks within your forest property.
- Contributes on keeping the firebreaks of the public forest through controlled grazing.

If you are interested, find out on the website about the Department responsible for forest fire prevention. Also, for your safety, it is appropriate that you:

- Keep country roads and tracks in good condition.

Make sure your crop is plowed, to minimize the risk of wildfire spreading through the forest and come to affect your plot.

Legislation

LAW 3/1993, dated December 9th, of the Generalitat Valenciana, Valencia Region Forest.

LAW 43/2003, dated November 21st, Forestry Law

LAW 17/2005, dated July 19th, which regulates the permit and the driver's license by points and amending text articles of the law on trafficking, motor vehicle traffic and road safety.

LAW 13/2010, dated November 23rd, of the Generalitat Valenciana, of Civil Protection and Emergency Management.

DECREE 12/1987, dated February 2nd, of the Consell of the Generalitat Valenciana, which regulates and orders the apicultural activity in the Valencia Region.

DECREE 98/1995, dated May 16th, of the Generalitat Valenciana, which approves the regulations of the LAW 3/1993, dated December 9th, of the Generalitat Valenciana, Valencia FOREST.

DECREE 7/2004, dated January 23rd, of the Consell of the Generalitat Valenciana, which approves the general statement of safety standards in the prevention of forest fires observed in the execution of works and public works carried out on forest land or in their immediate vicinity.

DECREE 8/2008, dated January 25th, of the Consell, which regulates the movement of vehicles on the forest lands of the Valencia Region.

ORDER dated March 2nd 2005, of the Regional Ministry of Land and Housing (Conselleria de Territori i Habitatge), which regulates extraordinary measures for the prevention of forest fires during the period of Holy Week and Easter.

If you want to find out more

There are a number of Technical Standards that can assist you if you work in the agroforestry environment. They cover various topics, from the infrastructure-related prevention (deposits of extinction, firebreaks and

roads) to how to make a secure agricultural burning, to how to write a Local Plan or Local Plan of prevention of fires. This information and other environmental regulations, you can find them on the web:

www.gva.es

Or through the Department of the Interior and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and the Environment.

Living in the forest

The traditional country house is associated with the agroforestry activities. The crop area surrounded the houses, they used wood from the nearest forest and probably grazed cattle on it. These conditions around the buildings prevented that, in case of fire, the fire reached the houses as the crops and the reduced fuel load of the forest provided a security strip.

Currently, homes that are in the forest environment are usually second homes, and have become a place for a holiday associated with recreation and relaxation, with an increase of the population living there in the summer months, the most dangerous time in terms of forest fires. The discontinuity between the dwellings and the forest vegetation has disappeared, and due to the gardens, the vegetation density is even higher.

The area with housing and other urban infrastructures, mixed with the forest ground is called **wild land-urban interface**. A forest fire in this interface endangers the lives of people living there and also that of their property, so it is necessary to promote the implementation of preventive infrastructures in these urbanized areas and it is also very important to raise awareness among residents about the responsibility that comes with living in the forest environment.

If you've decided to live or spend the summer on the forest (or within 500 meters of it), you should know:

1. Urbanized areas must have Self-protection Plans, in addition, to comply with the current legislation and for your safety, access roads, ditches and shelterbelt margins must be kept free of vegetation, as well as all the perimeter lots.
2. You should be aware that you live in an interface and if adequate prevention measures are not taken, this area will be highly vulnerable to forest fires.

Types of fuels that are in the wildland-urban interface:

1. Forest vegetation: trees, bushes and pasture.
2. Ornamental trees and landscape plants, shrubs, grass, fruit trees.
3. Fuel elements associated with the gardens, pergolas, fences, ...

4. Accumulation of debris from various sources: plants, furniture, building materials.
5. Other fuels and flammable items.
6. Plots not built with vegetation.

You can prevent

- Be careful not to soil the place where you live or spend your vacations.
- When you are cleaning, deposit the appliances that you do not want at the nearest clean point or eco-park.
- Deposit the **put out butts** in ashtrays or bins.
- Be careful with the machinery and the tools which may produce sparks or electric shocks. If you are within 500 meters of forest land, you will have to ask permission to use generators, motors, electrical or explosion equipment.
- Never leave flammable materials or substances in the sun.
- If you have electrical panels, gas tanks or any other flammable material on the outside of your home, make sure that the floor is made of concrete or free of vegetation (1 meter wide around).
- To make a fire use the burners or barbecues, builded as indicated in this handbook.
- **Install spark arrester nets** of nonflammable material of 1 cm light at the most, barbecues and fireplaces.
- Remember that you are not allowed to burn yard waste, consider the following alternatives:
 - The debris that comes from pruning can be used as firewood for conditioned fireplaces, stoves or barbecues.
 - The smaller debris can be used in the same garden as compost or mulch, either crushed or in pre-digestion and composting.
 - In addition, many municipalities have waste collection services. Find out.

Avoid the spreading of fire.

The Rules of Management and Urban Planning and Management and the **Technical Building Code**, make the mandatory requirements that must be met when building in forest land or in the vicinity (500 meters). The completion of these works and their maintenance is the responsibility of the owner or owners (more on the Legislation section at the end of this chapter).

- There should be a strip of **25 meters in width** separating the built up area of the forest, permanently free of vegetation and shrubs, and where appropriate, with the tree layer strongly cleared and **trimmed to 2/3 of the total height of each foot**, and a **perimeter road 5 meters wide**.

- The urban area should preferably have **two access roads** of more than 5 meters wide to allow the crossing of two vehicles. If there is only one access road, this must end in a circular cul-de-sac with a radius of 12.5 meters, so turning maneuvers can be made.
- Access roads and their ditches shall be kept free of vegetation, and also will have a buffer strip of 10 meters wide, on each side of the road, permanently free of low vegetation and shrubs. The trees of this strip should be pruned up to 2 / 3 of their total height.
- The plots of land not built within the development, it is advisable that they be free of dry vegetation and with the trees trimmed, to prevent the spread of fire.
- Approved perimeter hydrants will be installed and the water supply will be ensured for its use. These hydrants will be clearly marked.
- Immediately notify **112 in case of fire**.

Prepare your house

- Learn about the building materials used on roofs and façades. They must be of a noncombustible material.
- Double glazed windows and doors insulate the house better from the heat generated by a fire, reducing the possibility of breakage of the crystals and thus the heat entry.
- It is advisable to minimize the surface exposed to heat and flames, so it is better if the size and number of ledges and overhangs is reduced.
- The vents, so they don't channel the fire, must be protected with a wire mesh and allow the air tight seal.
- Keep the roofs of all the buildings clean of leaves and needles and remember to clean the soot from the chimneys and the pine needles of the rainwater collecting pipes.
- It is better than the trees and shrubs are separated from the building.
- Make sure that there are no trees leaning on your roof. The minimum safety distance between the trees and the chimney is 3 meters.

For your safety ... if you have a garage or electrical door, you should have a manual opening system that allows its operation even in the case of an electricity power cut.

If you want to help

- Keep the roads of the urbanization free of obstacles.
- Signal the pools and the individual rafts for them to be accessible to the extinguishing means of land and air.

- Streets that are part of the development must have a name or number that is not repeated within the same development.
- Houses must be numbered to facilitate the work of identification in case of an emergency.
- It is advisable that the development plans with the name and the number of the streets and houses are placed in visible places.

How is your barbecue?

If you have a barbecue in your own garden or in common areas of urbanization, be sure to have the same characteristics that the barbecues meet in the recreational areas and in other areas of public use, which are:

- Kitchens and burners should have a **roof and three walls** from floor to ceiling. The side walls should measure what the **area of fires** occupies **over 1 meter wide**.
- In addition, the barbecue or kitchen area will have a ground (concrete, tile, brick ...) of 1 meter, at least compared to the area where the fire is made.
- A **spark arrester net** (opening 1 cm on the side, maximum) of nonflammable material shall be placed in all the smoke vents.
- If the vent is a chimney, it should have a **spark arrester cap**, in addition to the spark arrester net.
- The trees surrounding the barbecues will be pruned and all remaining branches within 3 meters from the vent will be removed.

Legislation

LAW 3/1993, dated December 9th, of the Generalitat Valenciana, Forest Region.

LAW 10/2000, dated December 12th, of the Generalitat Valenciana, of Waste in the Region of Valencia.

LAW 43/2003, dated November 21st, Forestry Law

LAW 10/2006, dated April 28th, which amends Law 43/2003 of November 21st, Forestry Law.

LAW 13/2010, dated November 23rd, of the Generalitat Valenciana, of Civil Protection and Emergency Management.

ROYAL DECREE 1481/2001, dated December 27th, which regulates the disposal of waste in a dumping ground.

ROYAL DECREE 2267/2004, dated December 3rd, which approves the Rules of fire safety in industrial establishments.

ROYAL DECREE 314/2006, dated March 17th, which approves the **Technical Building Code (CTE)**.

DECREE 98/1995, dated May 16th, of the Generalitat Valenciana, which approves the regulations of the LAW 3/1993, dated December 9th, of the Generalitat Valenciana, Valencia FOREST.

DECREE 163/1998, dated October 6th, of the Generalitat Valenciana, which approves the Special Plan Against the Risk of Forest Fires in the Region of Valencia. (Self-Protection Plans).

DECREE 7/2004, dated January 23rd, of the Consell of the Generalitat Valenciana, which approves the general statement of safety standards in the prevention of forest fires observed in the execution of works and public works carried out on forest land or in their immediate vicinity.

DECREE 36/2007, dated April 13th, of the Consell, which amends Decree 67/2006 dated May 19th, of the Consell, which approves the **Regulations on Organisation and Management and Urban Planning**.

DECREE 8/2008, dated January 25th, of the Consell, which regulates the movement of vehicles on the forest lands of the Region of Valencia.

ORDER dated March 2nd 2005, of the Regional Ministry of Land and Housing (Conselleria de Territori i Habitatge), which regulates extraordinary measures for the prevention of forest fires during the period of Holy Week and Easter.

If you want to find out more

The Infrastructure Technical Standard in urbanized areas can help you to condition the development in which you live. It can be found on the web:

www.gva.es

Or through the Regional Ministry of Infrastructure, Planning and the Environment.

Department of the Interior and the Department of Infrastructure, Land and Environment.

You may be interested

An alternative to the conventional garden are the xerogardens. **Xerogardening** is intended to make rational use of irrigation water, avoiding wastage. This gardening technique is environmentally friendly and sustainable primarily intended for Mediterranean areas.

With this technique you can design a garden that hinders the spread of fire. Also, if you use native plant species you can reduce the consumption of water.

Enjoy the forest

The forest is a great destination to spend the holidays or just for a few days off. The rise of active tourism and of the mountain sports has helped to increase the number of people. These new users add to the traditional hikers and those who seek in recreation areas, an affordable place to enjoy a nice picnic with friends or family.

Not all the activities carried out in the forest or nearby use a fire for its realization, but still you must be careful not to create a forest fire by accident or negligence.

Public use areas

It refers to the recreational areas, shelters and camping areas that are in the forest or near it and are freely available. They may have infrastructures enabled for the use of fire whether to cook (barbecues) or to warm up (chimneys). Its incorrect use or the careless behavior of some users, can be a direct cause of a forest fire.

A day in the forest

A day of leisure in the forest, for walking or playing sports is often accompanied, in most cases, by a meal in a recreational area and that it is usual to make it with fire or coals. If you're using this type of facilities, you should know that:

- You can only make a fire in designated areas (barbecues). The days of pre-emergency level 3, it is forbidden to make any type of fire. You can check the level of pre-emergency and its forecast for the next day:

On the web page: www.112cv.com

Twitter : [gva_112cv](https://twitter.com/gva_112cv)

In your City Hall

- To make a fire in the barbecues, you can use dry and dead plant material in the vicinity as firewood. Respect the branches of living trees, use the ones that have fallen naturally to the ground or the debris generated by forestry treatments.
- Whenever possible, take back the garbage that you have generated and put it in the containers in town. **Make sure nobody notices that you have passed.**
- Be especially careful with glass and tins, **do not throw them**, they can lead to a fire, Toss them in the proper containers.
- If you smoke, **put out the cigarette butts** and never throw them to the ground, use bins or ashtrays.
- **Keep an eye on the children**, who to imitate adults can ignite leaves, paper etc.
- Remember that **it is prohibited to throw firecrackers**, inside the forest areas and at less than 500 meters from them.

A tip ... The alternative to cooking with fire is to bring the food already cooked, but it never hurts, to enjoy the local cuisine, promoting the rural economic development.

Camping

A different way to enjoy the forest is to go camping. Always camp in designated areas (public forest lands, properly delimited and conditioned, intended for temporary occupancy with camping tents) they have the relevant government approvals. If you go camping, be aware that:

- In the Region of Valencia camping is prohibited. Camping is permitted only in cleared and authorized areas.

To prevent:

- Be cautious of items that produce light or heat through combustible fuels. Lay them on a surface free of vegetation. Turn them off if no one is watching, even if only for a moment.
- Only make a fire in places that are cleared and authorized for that purpose. A circle of torches is the best camp fire.
- If you see a forest fire or a column of smoke in the forest, it is important to report to the emergency services as quickly as possible, **call 112**.

Mountain Sports

Adventure sports like mountaineering, trekking, mountain bike (MTB), water sports (rafting, canoeing ...) and air sports (hang gliding, paragliding ...) among others, are performed on forest land. In order to support the respect for nature and the practice of these sports, you should follow some basic rules of behavior:

- To not become disoriented and lost, **follow the paths** and routes **marked** and prepared for the practice of the chosen activity.
- Pick up the remnants and garbage that you generate and if possible **pick up the waste** that you find.

And as for the forest fire risk:

- Take advantage of the facilities prepared and qualified to start a fire, remember that out of these places it is prohibited to do it.
- Put out matches and cigarette butts; do not leave them on the ground.
- If you access the area by car, park it in the right places. If there are no areas defined for parking, try not to park on dry or dead vegetation.
- Always park in the direction of the exit in case an evacuation is if necessary.
- The roads and tracks provide the easy access to the means of extinction and make the evacuation possible, try to **park without interrupting** or disturbing **the way** to other vehicles.

A tip ... Mountain activities must be done in a calm and relaxed way, to make the most of nature. Forget the rush, enjoy the scenery, the mountains and the company.

Hunting

Hunting is an activity that is deeply rooted in the Region of Valencia, being frequent the presence of hunters in the forest. If you are a hunter follow these recommendations:

- Pick up boxes of cartridges and any other remainder as rubbish, cigarette butts, etc., Keep them until you can deposit them in containers or bins.
- If you locate a fire **call 112**.

You must know that it is forbidden:

1. To hunt on burned forest lands, and their surroundings less than 250 hectares, until the end of the hunting season that starts in the calendar year following the event.
2. To hunt in the days of fortune. Days of fortune are those in which as a result of diseases, fires, floods, fogs that reduces visibility to less than 100 meters, snow, or other exceptional circumstances, animals can get to see their chances of defense or concealment diminished.
3. The abandonment of the pods of the ammunition used, and any other non-organic waste used in hunting practices.

Legislation

LAW 3/1993, dated December 9th, of the Generalitat Valenciana, Valencia Forest.

LAW 43/2003, dated November 21st, Forestry Law.

LAW 13/2004, dated December 27th, Hunting Law of the Region of Valencia.

LAW 10/2006, dated April 28th, which amends Law 43/2003 of November 21st, Forestry Law.

LAW 2/2011, dated March 22nd, of the Generalitat, the Sport and the Physical Activity of the Region of Valencia DECREE 233/1994, dated November 8th, of the Generalitat Valenciana, which regulates camping and the use of recreational facilities.

DECREE 98/1995, dated May 16th, of the Generalitat Valenciana, which approves the regulations of the LAW 3/1993, dated December 9th, of the Generalitat Valenciana, Valencia Forest.

DECREE 8/2008, dated January 25th, of the Consell, which regulates the movement of vehicles on the forest lands of the Region of Valencia.

ORDER dated March 20th 2000, of the Ministry of the Environment, which is developed by Decree 233/1994 of November 8th, of the Valencian Government, which regulates the use of camping and recreational facilities in the forests of the Region of Valencia.

ORDER dated March 2nd 2005, of the Regional Ministry of Land and Housing (Conselleria de Territori i Habitatge), which regulates extraordinary measures for the prevention of forest fires during the period of Holy Week and Easter.

It is your responsibility...

... Act with caution; find out the level of pre-emergency.

To follow the basic recommendations that appear in this manual can largely avoid the occurrence of forest fires caused by negligence.

Help us achieve this

You can look up the level of pre-emergency and its forecast for the following day in:

On the web page: www.112cv.com

Twitter : [gva_112cv](https://twitter.com/gva_112cv)

In your City Hall

If you see a fire call 112