

Risk advisory

To be informed and anticipate adverse situations, you can consult the following sources:

- Meteorological prevision
- The news on television or radio, council official information, etc.

Restrictions in high risk of forest fire and applied measures such as regulated activities, prohibited activities or restricted accesses to forest areas must be known by the inhabitants of a housing development area.

Risk awareness

If we live in an area exposed to forest fires, we must learn to live with the risk.

Acting correctly in case of a fire risk allows us to prevent, anticipate and prepare ourselves.

Risk awareness is necessary because people are first of all responsible for their own safety, knowing the risk and subsequently minimizing negative effects.

Any Housing Development Self-protection Plan must take into account infrastructures in case of emergency: widths of streets, safe havens for trucks, marking the size of crossways over bridges and vegetation hazard ratings within the environment.

Remember!

The most vulnerable properties to forest fires are:

- **Housing developments near forests.**
- **Isolated homes and farms without a managed environment.**
- **Industries and storage areas near forests.**
- **Homes surrounded by unmanaged vegetation.**

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ bombers ■ ■ ■ ■

Self-protection fire
management guide

**RISK
AWARENESS**

<http://fireparadox.org/>

emergències
112

FIRE PARADOX



Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d'Interior,
Relacions Institucionals i Participació

bombers
■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Avinguda de la Universitat Autònoma, s/n
08290 Cerdanyola del Vallès



The level of risk

The status of where we live or work gives us information about the risk type which we could have to deal with in our life. Forest fires take place over a wide range of places, not only inside forests, but also in scrub areas and crops in dry areas. To know which areas must be avoided, it is important to distinguish between the types of forest fires that can affect your home:

- Wind driven fires

In areas affected by wind driven fires, we must keep away from a crests/ridges with the same wind direction, it is in the speed of the fire front is fastest.

- Topographical fires

In areas affected by topographic fires, top of slopes must be avoided. Half or third lower part of slopes and flat areas are the best places to situate houses.



Such exposed areas must be avoided in the same way as flooded areas are avoided during floods. If this is not possible, we have to strengthen these areas, where fire and smoke are more concentrated.

We must avoid the location of houses in the middle of a forest, as well as on the edge of a plot. A fuel free area around the house should then also be previewed for defensive purposes, in case of a forest fire.

Which properties are at risk?

Housing developments near a forest

The Fire Prevention Plan (and the Housing Development Self-protection Plan) should consider the worst-cases scenarios in order to assess the suitability of evacuation when this is decided by the fire fighters and the Catalan Regional Police Force.



This image shows the differences between two housing development areas, with and without a managed and fuel-free firebreak.

Isolated homes and farms without a managed environment

Isolated homes and farms surrounded by vegetation (trees, shrubs, abandoned fields) are more vulnerable to forest fires than those which maintain a clear environment (farmland, low density of vegetation, etc.)



This image shows the difference between vegetation management around an old farm (black circle) and a new farm (red circle). The consequences after a forest fire will be more dramatically for the new house, which has been situated in the middle of some trees.

Industries and storage areas nearby forests

The industries and storages areas placed near a unmanaged forests are vulnerable to wildfires.



Forest fire next to an industrial estate.

Homes surrounded by non-managed vegetation

Abandoned fields and plots not urbanized can provide exposure to uncontrolled forest fire spread, causing significant losses to neighbouring houses.

Ornamental elements such as fences vegetation, palm trees and ivy are extremely combustible and can lead to uncontrollable fire spread between dwelling stands.



Fire propagation between plots in the same development area.