

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE

You may be informed of a wildfire emergency through a sound message transmitted by Civil Protection (112) to all mobile phones in the area or through your hotel or safety corps. When faced in this situation, it's essential **to keep calm, think rationally and waste no time**. If available, follow the exact directions of the authorities and, if not, remember the following tips:

Your first and best option is to evacuate as soon as possible, as long as doing so is safe (i.e. you can reach security without coming across the fire on your way there).

Prepare to depart: **wear long pants and a shirt** (preferably cotton), **hiking boots or athletic shoes, and a mask**.

If you leave by car beware of traffic jams; visibility may be limited and driving dangerous because of smoke.

Keep your headlights on, drive slowly and don't lock the car doors.

When secure evacuation is impossible, **look for a building to shelter in until the fire passes; most Greek homes are built of non-flammable materials**. A building with a distance of **10 meters/35 feet from vegetation** is usually quite safe. Once inside, **close all air vents** (doors, windows, shutters, etc) and shut off electricity and gas.

Do not try to outrun the fire (it can spread faster than a person can run), especially uphill. Instead, **find a vegetation-free spot**, as wide as possible, stay low or lie on the ground face down, cover yourself with dirt and take short breaths to avoid intake of hot gasses.



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FIRE SERVICE:

199

CIVIL PROTECTION:

112

POLICE:

100

FOREST SERVICE:

1591

Ministry of Environment and Energy,
General Directorate for Forests
and Forest Environment

Hellenic Agricultural Organization "DIMITRA",
Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems
<http://www.fria.gr>

Prepared by: Dr. Gavriil Xanthopoulos
Lydia Fernández Cortabitarte
Lina Kapfer

in the frame of "FACING FIRE" (ERASMUS+ project)

Καλώς ήρθατε στην
Ελλάδα!
GREECE!
WELCOME TO

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS
FIRE SAFETY TIPS



WELCOME TO GREECE!

Here you will find a unique combination of culture and beautiful Mediterranean landscapes. Whether your vacations include hiking through mountains and forests, enjoying sandy beaches and swimming in crystal blue seas, or travelling back in time at our archaeological sites, an unforgettable experience is just around the corner.

Needless to say, [your safety is our utmost priority](#). Since you are in an environment that may be different from the one in your country, please take a moment to read the information below that will help keep you safe during your stay.



Summers in Greece are characterized by warm and dry weather with pleasant wind that is perfect for relaxing near the seashore, but which also encourages wildfires, which we try to prevent. Although fire is a natural phenomenon, more than 95% of fires are caused by human activity, most of them due to negligence or easily preventable behaviours.

To avoid accidentally starting a fire and having to face serious legal consequences, let's have a look at some of the easiest prevention actions:

LIGHTING A FIRE OUTDOORS IS ILLEGAL IN GREECE BETWEEN MAY 1st AND OCTOBER 31st

Fire outdoors is [only allowed](#) for cooking in [organized and enabled campgrounds and facilities](#). Even so, never leave it unattended and be sure to completely extinguish it with water.

Always camp in authorized areas, since they have prevention, protection, and evacuation plans.

Lit cigarettes, matches, or smoking materials can very easily start fires if they fall on dry vegetation. [Completely put them out](#) before disposing in designated ashtrays and trash cans only.

[Do not park your car on dry grass or other dead litter](#). The catalytic converter underneath cars reaches very high temperatures while driving and may ignite such vegetation.

Although very beautiful and seemingly harmless, artifacts such as sky lanterns can easily start fires when they land, especially during summer months.

Please, add the following [Emergency numbers](#) to your contacts:

- 199: Fire Service
- 112: Civil Protection
- 100: Police
- 1591: Forest Service

If you detect an accidental fire, call them **immediately** and give clear information about:

- the exact point where you are and the location of the fire
- the kind of vegetation that is burning (trees, shrubs, grass, ...)
- any other information you may think useful

STAYING SAFE



Wildfires are relatively common during summers, so, although the probability is low, you may face one during your vacation. They can happen anytime and anywhere and can easily become destructive events, putting people and properties at risk. Therefore, [preparing and planning ahead is a crucial step contributing to safety](#). Improvised and panicked decisions may have severe consequences!

To keep yourself, family, and friends safe, be sure to follow these recommendations:

- Prepare a family emergency plan beforehand so that everyone knows how to act in case there is a wildfire threat (phone numbers, evacuation routes, etc).
- Make yourself familiar with your surroundings:
 - Observe exits from your accommodation, the road network and [potential evacuation routes](#)
 - Existence of [safe open spaces](#) without vegetation
 - Proximity and [access to the sea or lake](#)
 - People who are knowledgeable and may be helpful in case of emergency.
 - Updates on the current fire situation of the area