

Are you aware of the 5 myths that fan the flames?

Did you know that... 48% of forest fires in Achaia start because of human negligence?



Alliance for forest fire prevention in Achaia

1 It's all the fault of a "bad arsonist".
However, over 40% of forest fires in Greece are due to human negligence.

2 It won't happen to me.
It is when we feel we are "experts" or "experienced" that we make mistakes. A lit cigarette, a barbecue in the forest, a small spark, is more than enough to start a forest fire.

3 Government authorities take care of everything concerning forest fires.
The State plays the key role in controlling a fire, however prevention is in our hands too.

4 For burnt areas, there's always reforestation.
Wrong! Reforestation is a method of restoration, but it can't be applied to all cases for technical, scientific or financial reasons.

5 Nature will heal its wounds, sooner or later.
Repeated forest fires, grazing in burned areas and soil erosion prevent the natural regeneration of the Mediterranean vegetation and thus the danger of desertification is imminent.



The project "Forest fires don't play - Don't play with the future of your place - Local campaign for the awareness and the engagement of the public and specific groups of population for the prevention of forest fires" is funded by the Green Fund under its funding program "Natural Environment and Innovative Actions, Axe "Natural Environment Management Actions", Measure "Innovative Actions with the Citizens", Submeasure A.2.5. "Development and implementation of policies or actions for the protection, conservation and growing of forests as well as the prevention of forest fires". Budget: 50,000€. Payee: WWF Greece.

Prevent forest fires

BE CAREFUL / BE AWARE





**90%
of forest fires
are caused
by humans**

**Any loss due to forest fires
is irreplaceable:**

- 1) **Human lives**
78 people lost their lives during the summer 2007 forest fires.
- 2) **Property**
Houses, infrastructure, facilities.
- 3) **Agricultural incomes**
Losses in livestock capital, destruction of cultivations and pastures.
- 4) **Soil erosion and increase of floods**
Overflowing of streams, landslides and increased danger for nearby settlements.
- 5) **Desertification risk**
*The ability of vegetation to regenerate naturally is **not** unlimited, thus repeated forest fires lead to vegetation cover loss, soil erosion and increased desertification danger.*
- 6) **Fauna species and significant habitats**
Animal populations that are important for the balance of the ecosystem, as well as the areas where they live and feed, are directly affected.

During the Fire Danger Period (1st May - 31st October)

BE CAREFUL

BE AWARE



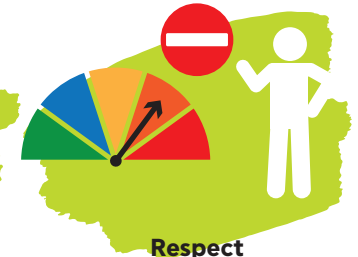
Clean and remove dry grass, leaves and twigs from your property.



Remove any flammable materials and be equipped with a fire extinguisher, water tanks, pumps and water tubes.



Check the Daily Fire Danger Maps. www.civilprotection.gr



Respect the Prohibited Access Signs during periods of increased fire danger.



Don't drop lit cigarettes, **don't leave** garbage or flammable materials in the countryside.



Don't barbecue in the countryside.



Call **199** (Fire Brigade) or **112** **immediately** if you see flames, smoke or activity that might cause a fire.



When calling **199** or **112**, **clearly state the location**, access routes and give information about the burning vegetation.



Do not burn dry grass, weeds and twigs.



Avoid activities that cause sparks (drilling/grinding, welding, smoking of beehives).



Do not obstruct the work of firefighters by any means. Fires are not a spectacle.



Become a volunteer. Get informed.