

BEST PRACTICES FOR INTERFACE FIRES

Some important directions to follow to reduce risks related to forest or vegetation fires that can develop near homes.



If your home is near wooded areas or within areas characterized by the presence of very dense vegetation, it's important you follow these simple rule of behavior to reduce the risk of vegetation fires spreading to houses.

TAKE PREVENTIVE ACTION

Maintenance of the "green" area near the house

In the **first zone around the house**, with a distance radius of at least 10 m, it is recommended to take the greatest precautions by reducing the amount of vegetal fuel.

In this area, priority should be given to the type of the species present and their distribution in space. In this area it is preferable to use plants with low flammability (for example, do not use Mediterranean maquis, oil or resinous plants) by limiting their distribution and vertical and horizontal continuity.

In the second zone, (between 10-30 m), it is however recommended to reduce the fuel load, albeit to a lesser extent than in the first area. Tree cover should be no more than 40%. In the case of sloping ground, it is advisable to increase the distance between tree canopies, and between these and the house.

Below are some **best practices** for creating and maintaining the areas indicated above:

- *cut grass regularly;*
- *keep the base of tree canopies at least 2.5 m above the ground to avoid vertical continuity between the ground and the canopy;*
- *keep the tree canopies at least 2.5 m apart and 5 m away from roofs and structures;*
- *to avert the "fuse effect", avoid the presence of hedges without discontinuity elements or hedges that end adjacent to the house;*

- *keep garden plants well watered;*
- *prepare a multifunctional water reserve (1.5 m³ of water)*

Facility management and best practices

- *keep roofs and gutters clean of needles and leaves;*
- *keep vents and other openings clean of leaves and needles, and if necessary, install a tightly woven wire mesh;*
- *in the first zone (10m) it is recommended to install an irrigation system;*
- *it is useful to equip oneself with an irrigation hose of adequate length to operate on all sides of the house;*
- *install gazebos and awnings with closable canvas;*
- *protect lpg tanks with special attention;*
- *don't accumulate piles of wood (for the fireplace) adjacent to the house;*
- *always remember where the gas shut-off valves and the main electrical panel are located;*
- *know the local civil protection plan and emergency telephone numbers;*
- *know the emergency areas to go to in case of evacuation;*
- *consult the forest fire risk bulletin.*

BE READY

When a fire occurs, even if it is far from your home, it is important to take a series of measures to increase safety.

House and garden management:

- *close windows and shutters/roller shutters;*
- *close gazebos and awnings;*
- *protect air outlets of the house;*
- *remove objects that can easily fly with the wind (umbrellas, inflatables in swimming pool, drying clothes, etc.);*
- *remove any flammable material temporarily present in the garden (pruning waste, etc.);*
- *move cars to safe areas (garage or area free of vegetation or hedges) and close car windows;*
- *close gas shut-off valves;*
- *disconnect automatic door and gate opening systems, leaving access and escape routes open*

Rules of behaviour:

- *check and prepare the irrigation hose, and if necessary, wet the side of the property from which the fire comes;*
- *turn on the irrigation system;*
- *check that there are no obstacles in the access road to the house and in the maneuvering spaces that may be useful to emergency vehicles;*
- *dress in clothing that is not easily flammable and that protects the entire body;*
- *prepare buckets with water and equipped with towels to moisten;*
- *follow the instructions of the local civil protection;*
- *alert neighbours of what's going on;*
- *move animals to a safe area, don't leave them in confined areas as much as possible;*
- *do not call emergency numbers to ask for information.*

GET TO SAFETY

Maintenance of the "green" area bordering the house

Forest fires are very complex events that can vary over time and space even very quickly. For this reason, it is essential that every citizen promptly alerting the

rescue system in case of fire sighting and is aware of the actions that must be taken to be safe from the main danger factors (smoke and flames)

Normally, it is possible to save yourself either by moving away from the property or taking refuge inside your home. If the traffic circulation, timing, and safety allow it, the local civil protection or rescue structures will arrange for the preventive evacuation of citizens to safety areas. However, if this possibility is not feasible, it is important to know how to behave in order to take refuge with greater safety inside your home by adopting these simple precautions:

- *close and seal all doors with wet cloths;*
- *report the situation to the local civil protection or rescue facilities and stay in contact with them;*
- *stay away from windows (glass can burst with heat);*
- *find shelter in the part of the house opposite the arrival of the flame front;*
- *keep a torch and some buckets with water nearby;*
- *protect yourself from smoke with a wet handkerchief on your face;*
- *protect yourself from heat with wet clothing.*

Best practices to avoid fire ignition

In order to avoid the activation of the "be ready" and "get to safety" phase, it is necessary to remember the good rules to avoid fire ignition, among these rules we find:

- *respect the prohibitions and the rules for burning of plant residues established by the Regions and local authorities;*
- *respect the prohibitions and rules for lighting barbecues established by the Regions and local authorities;*
- *do not light fires on windy days;*
- *be careful when using tools that can produce sparks (for example, grinders and welders) or open flame (for example torches);*
- *pay attention to the use of agricultural machinery and tools with rotating parts which, in contact with the ground, can produce open flames or sparks;*
- *do not park the car on dry grass or leaves;*
- *do not throw away lit cigarettes or matches;*
- *respect the prohibitions and regulations for using fireworks and Chinese lantern throwing.*

For any further information, consult your municipality's institutional website

www.comune_____it

To receive emergency alerts in real time, you can register for the alert service of your Municipality or your Region on the website _____

Logo
of the
municipality