



Meteorology and the forest fire prevention in Portugal

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The Portuguese climate is characterized by a warm and dry summer season, which has the conditions for the occurrence and propagation of severe forest fires. Thus is in the period between May and October that annually is registered forest fires that are responsible for the lost of a great forestall area.

Forest fires are a very vast issue that are dependent of various factors; one of the factors that influence the deflagration and the propagation of the forest fires are the meteorological conditions. Therefore to evaluate the daily fire risk it is necessary to take in consideration the observed meteorological conditions.

To support the prevention of forest fires, the Portuguese Institute of Meteorology (IM) produces specific information for the prevention and the combat of forest fires. Different products are produced daily including the fire weather index (FWI) of the Canadian system, and also a Combined Forest Fire Risk Index (ICRIF) based on meteorological observations and remote sensing data. It will be presented the evaluation of the meteorological products to fire prevention during the forest fire seasons of the last 5 years and the national cooperation between different areas, namely with Civil Protection Service and Forestry Services. Special reference also to the cooperation with INM,

for the production of Forest Fire Risk based on the Fire Weather Index to all Iberian Peninsula.