

It is advised to carry out the evacuation as a last resort, however, only in the directions which are not threatened by fire and smoke and following the instructions of the competent services.

When the fire is extinguished:

- Exit the house and immediately shut down the remaining nearby places caught by fire, and
- Appoint persons on duty until all sources of fire are completely extinguished, due to the possibility of smaller fires in the vicinity of the facility or re-ignition.

Remember: Carelessly discarded cigarette butts are the most common cause of forest fires. Therefore, never throw out a lit cigarette from a moving vehicle. When you are in nature, make sure that the cigarette butts are always stubbed out.



Fires at households

What to do to prevent fires?

- Remove all stored flammable items from the basement, garage, attic, etc., such as old magazines, a box of paints, solvents, as well as old furniture, clothes, etc.
- Regularly maintain and keep clean the fire stairs and passages because it is often the only safe way to save your life and the lives of your family members.
- Inspect your fire fighting equipment: fire extinguishers, hoses, hydrants and keep them in good working order.
- Learn to use (activate) a fire extinguisher and teach other members of your household because in case of fire you will not have time to read the instructions on the label of the appliance.
- Teach your children to call the Protection and Rescue Service at the number 123 or the Directorate for Emergency Situation and Civil Security - Operational - Communication Center - at 112.
- If you see fire or smell smoke in your home or building, call the Protection and Rescue Service or the Operation and Communication Center and never assume that someone has already done so.
- Never carelessly discard a cigarette butt by throwing it out the window or from the terrace as it will in most cases end up in a room or on a terrace in one of the apartments below and cause fire.

It is essential to respect the following rules:

- Do not leave the stove unattended;
- Do not smoke cigarettes in bed;
- Regularly check electrical installations, heating bodies and systems;
- Keep lighters and matches away from children;
- Do not use the heaters on gas or open fire heaters (fireplaces) in rooms with poor ventilation.

How to behave in case of fire?

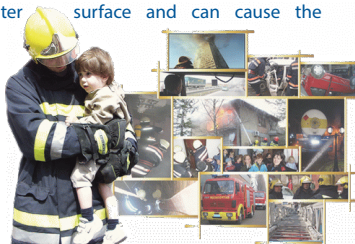
- If you notice fire during the night, but you do not have an alarm emergency, go to the window or in the hallway and shout, "Fire", to awaken the family members and neighbors.
- Call the number 123 or 112 and provide specific pieces of information about the location of fire, address, floor and apartment number.
- If the fire has caught only one room of your home, close the door of the room and turn off the power supply. Call the Protection and Rescue Service and evacuate the household, and in case of small scale fire, try to extinguish it.
- If it is a large scale fire, leave the house and close all doors behind you. Otherwise, due to the influx of fresh air, the fire will quickly spread to the entire apartment.
- In case of evacuation, it is important that all family members gather in the same room because there is a possibility that children might be scared and hide. Only when all members are in one place, head for the exit.
- Be ready to face dense smoke and heat and, if you have time, always wear shoes with thick soles and a coat. Tie cloths and towels soaked with water over the nose and mouth.
- Never use the elevator because a thick smoke containing many toxic fumes is released during the fire, which quickly fills the elevator cabin and causes certain death by suffocation.
- If you are not directly threatened by fire, it is best to stay behind the closed door of your apartment. If the smoke starts to penetrate at the side of the door, soak towels and rags with water, place them around door frames and front doors, in order to prevent the penetration of smoke in the apartment. If the outside air is clean, go to the terrace closing the balcony door behind you and wait for firefighters to finish extinguishing the fire because you are the safest in your apartment.

Remember! Do not use water:

- To put out the fire on electrical installations and appliances – you can be exposed to electrical shock;
- To put out the fire caused by petrol or oil because these substances float on the water surface and can cause the spread of fire.

Important numbers:

- Ministry of Interior - Directorate for Emergency Situations - Operational - Communication Center - 112 - European number for emergency calls 112
- Police Directorate – 122
- Municipal services for protection and rescue (fire department) – 123
- The Emergency Room – 124



OPŠTINA ULCINJ
KOMUNA E ULQINIT



CRNA GORA
MINISTARSTVO UNUTRAŠNJIH POSLOVA
DIREKTORAT ZA VANREDNE SITUACIJE



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION FIRE



OSCE Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

EUROPA
INTEGRATION
ÄUSSERES
BUNDESMINISTERIUM
REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



What is fire?

Fire represents uncontrolled combustion process, whose occurrence (flame, heat and combustion products) often endangers the lives of people and can cause major damage. In the area of Montenegro fires of all sizes and levels are possible, from an incident to the disaster.

The most common fires occur at:

- Green and forest areas,
- Residential, public, commercial and other facilities,
- Facilities, installations and storage of hazardous substances,
- Infrastructure facilities, installations and equipment.

A forest fire may occur in several forms, namely:

- Low or ground-fire, which covers combustible material in the soil and low vegetation,
- High fire, that develops from a low fire of higher intensity, and it most often affects coniferous forests,
- Fire on individual trees produced by lightning and
- Underground fire, which is very rare and spreads very slowly.

As a result of possible larger or smaller scale fires, certain consequences can occur, for:

- The population living and working in the natural environment,
- Rescue workers, employees,
- Facilities and infrastructure and
- The environment.

What factors can influence the onset of fire?

In the recent 20 years, the man (anthropogenic factor) has been the cause in 95 percent of forest fires in Montenegro. People start fires intentionally or due to negligence and ignorance. Analyses show that 65.4% of fires are caused by negligence. Not many fires are caused by a lightning strike. Tree species, temperature, humidity and amount of rain deposits, as well as the speed and direction of the wind during the summer months, are the factors that can influence the rate and percentage of drying of combustible material and, therefore, the flammability of the forest.

Forest fires

Forests in Montenegro cover 59.5% (826.792 ha), forest land 9.9% (137.480 ha), making a total of 69.4% of the territory of Montenegro. Forest fires are a constant threat to the loss of forests and forest land. Increased occurrence of forest fires often develop into a large scale fire and, besides forests, threaten crops, settlements and peoples' lives.

The classification according to the degree of vulnerability of forests

Depending on the amount and composition of combustible materials, tree species, climate, soil and exposure, according to the level of vulnerability the forests in Montenegro can be divided into four groups:

• The area of very high vulnerability

Southeast and southwest (coastal area) of Montenegro: Bar, Budva, Ulcinj, Kotor, Cetinje and part of the Niksic area, Danilovgrad and Podgorica with specific Mediterranean and sub-Mediterranean climate and vegetation (ground fire and fires which catch treetops);

• The area of high vulnerability

Coniferous forests in the northern part of Montenegro: Pljevlja, Zabljak, Mojkovac, Andrijevica, Pluzine, Rozaje, Bijelo Polje, Plav, Berane and Kolasin (ground and fires which catch treetops);

• The area of moderate vulnerability

The forests of oak, hornbeam and other types of deciduous trees in the whole highland area of the country and soft deciduous trees in the flat areas (ground fires);

• The area of low vulnerability

Beech forests to the north and north-east exposures in the highland and mountainous regions of Montenegro and other species in the flat area (ground fires).

Where do forest fires most frequently occur?

The most vulnerable forests are located in the coastal and central region, where high air temperatures in the summer and characteristics of vegetation are subject to the occurrence and development of fire. Fires are common in the north of Montenegro, where they destroy the most valuable complexes of coniferous forests. Coniferous forests represent a higher risk for the occurrence of fire due to the resin, essential oils and various dried combustible materials on the ground. Younger forests present higher risks because of the higher possibility of fire-spread.

In addition to forest fires, a particular problem and threat to the devastation of the environment are fires in the open air, which catch small bushes and thicket, and which are especially characteristic for the central and southern region. This makes the

region a high fire-risk area. Given the fact that these fires usually occur in the rugged terrain, which poses a significant problem for their extinguishment, there is a real danger that they may develop into forest fires and endanger economic forests (northern region), and olive groves and other cultures and park areas (south and central region).

Statistical figures in recent years show that the most critical period is during the summer months (July - September) and the most common fires are in the open air (low and high vegetation fires), residential and commercial buildings, means of transport, forest complexes, dumps and landfills etc. Fires mainly break in the day time, between 10:00 and 18:00. It can be concluded that the daily rhythm of forest fires corresponds to daily human activities.

The consequences of fire

The consequences caused by fires to the forest depend on the type of fire, forest type, time of occurrence and duration of the fire, the size of burnt area, and eventually, on the state of the forest ecosystem. In addition to the damage related to the loss of timber, there is a damage or total destruction of ecological, social and economic functions of forests. This damage is related to soil erosion which leaves barren landscapes where vegetation can not be restored. In addition, after the fire, less valuable tree species appear. Fires cause property damage, which highly reflects on the performance of the economy in general (net income of forestry, wood industry, agriculture, tourism, etc.). However, fires cause indirect damages, too, which reflect in the degradation of the environment, which reduces the resistance of forests and their biodiversity and leads to the destruction of authentic landscape and soil structure. In case of expected extreme droughts, fire risk may increase to a level which will cause serious damage to individuals and the overall economy.

How to react in case of a forest fire

If you notice a fire:

- Call the numbers 112 or 123 and provide clear information about your location, as well as the exact location of the fire;
- Describe what kind of vegetation is caught by fire;
- Indicate if there are nearby storages of hazardous materials;
- If you are able, specify the direction of the spread of fire and do not hang up until you provide all the necessary information.

To reduce the risk of fire, the following is recommended:

- Do not throw lit cigarettes in the open space;
- Do not burn grass, low vegetation or garbage in the open space, in urban areas, as well as on arable land or in the vicinity of forests;
- Do not grill food in an open area in the vicinity of the forest or near dry grass or branches;
- Avoid outdoor activities which could cause a fire;
- Do not leave garbage in the forest because of the possibility of spontaneous combustion;
- Respect the use of open flames and smoking bans, respectively, when performing harvest work;
- Respect the orders issued by the competent authorities which prohibit the lighting of fires in the open air for a period of increased fire risk;
- Respect the signs of denying access to areas of high fire-risk.

If your house is inside or in the vicinity of a forest, try to:

- Cut low vegetation within a radius of 20 meters around the house and clean and remove dry grass, leaves, twigs;
- Take care of the yard - remove dead leaves and branches, do not let the branches touch the walls of the house, the roofs and balconies;
- Do not keep flammable materials and fuel in the vicinity of the house;
- Provide proper, regularly serviced fire extinguishers;
- Provide a drinking fountain with a water inflow and a water hose long enough to cover the area you want to protect, as well as water tanks and a non-electrical water pump.

If the fire spreads to your house:

- Remain calm;
- Remove all flammable materials near your home into closed and protected places, in order to prevent further spread of fire;
- Turn off gas or fuel near your facilities;
- Enable the passage of fire trucks;
- Turn on the lights inside or out in order to increase visibility through smoke if visibility is reduced.

If the fire is spreading in the close proximity to your home:

- Do not leave the house unless you are completely sure that you are able to safely get away. The chances of survival in residential buildings which are constructed of non-combustible materials is high;
- Take into the house all family members and pets;
- Close all windows and doors and block all openings with a wet cloth;
- Remove curtains from the window;
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from the windows;
- Close all doors inside the house;
- Provide a water reserve;
- Assemble everyone in one place;
- Make sure that you have a flashlight in case of power cut.

	KLASE POŽARA		SREDSTVA ZA GAŠENJE
A	Požari čvrstih materija: drvo, tekstil, ugalj, biljne materije, plastika, slama, papir i sl.)		Voda - najbolje Pena i prah - uspešno Ugljen-dioksid - za manje površine
B	Požari tečnih i lako topljivih materijala (benzol, benzol, ulja, masti, lakovi, smola, alkoholi i sl.)		Prah - najbolje Pena - za požare u posudama Ugljen-dioksid - u zatvorenom prostoru
C	Požari zapaljivih gasova (metan, butan, propan, vodonik, aceten)		Prah - najbolje Ugljen-dioksid - za manje požare Voda - za bliđenje Pena - NE
D	Požari lakih metala (magnezium, aluminijum, njihove legure, titan, elektron, osim natrijuma i kalijuma)		Gasovi samo specijalni prah - strugovina suvog lima, kalcinirani oksidi suvi pesak Ugljen-dioksid, voda, pena - NE
E	Požari vrste A do D, u blizini električnih postrojenja odnosno njihovih požara: kao kablovi, sklopke, motori, generatori, transformatori i sl.		Požari u blizini električnih instalacija se najbolje gase prahom i ugljen-dioksidom. Voda i pena - NE, OPASNO PO ŽIVOT

