

# Wildfires In Portugal

By Steve Robinson

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Portugal has suffered immense, periodic wildfires for several decades & whilst I don't intend to play the blame game or name & shame game in this piece the issue of wildfires cannot & should not be ignored as to do so would be extremely irresponsible so you need to know the basics of what damage they can do, what you can do to reduce the risks in (at least) the immediate area around your house and when & what action you should take if you are unfortunate enough to experience one & at this point.

I have to hold my hand up to being in the epicentre of the June 17th 2017 Pedrogao Grande firestorm and we (and two friends) (purely by chance) barely escaped with our lives whilst 60 + people & countless animals died within a few kilometres of us & I can tell you from first hand experience that you should NEVER underestimate the speed or power of a wildfire in Portugal because they can be absolute demons from hell itself & the image at the bottom of this info piece was taken less than 1 km from our home (not by me!).

We had to race that fire in a 3.1 litre 4x4 for more than 7 km before we could outpace it & the best thing you can do is to educate yourself on the how, why, what & where of anything & everything related to such fires & you can do that by studying the links below but in short, always try to keep your own land as clean & fire resistant as you can, always have a scram bag ready in the fire season, obey the fire laws of the country & know all your escape routes as well as you know the back of your own hand. It should be noted that after the 2017 firestorm the Portuguese introduced new fire laws which (incidentally) also allow people to complain/report illegally growing woodland etc & I would encourage readers to not hesitate to report offending land & not even consider the issue of upsetting the owners as your live, lives of loved ones & your homes are far more important than offending someone who is too bone idle to maintain their land as they are legally obliged to do.

Leonardo Di Caprio made a documentary about the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017 Pedrogao Brande Firestorm & he called it 'From Devil's Breath' which ironically is not available in Portugal at all. However, if anyone is able to find a copy of it on DVD then please do let me know where you bought it as I would love to see it. Thanks.

<https://www.portugalwildfires.com/>

<https://www.portugalwildfires.com/wildfire-information-sources/>

<https://www.gnr.pt/ambiente.aspx?>

<https://fogos.pt/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June\\_2017\\_Portugal\\_wildfires](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/June_2017_Portugal_wildfires)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nILV-f7Jc1g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nu4Z9qIRIU>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dliqQu\\_j5xY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dliqQu_j5xY)

<https://rr.sapo.pt/2020/06/16/francisco-sarsfield-cabral/o-flagelo-dosincendios-florestais/artigo/196664/?>

<https://fromdevilsbreath.com/wildfires/>

