

# Bombeiros

## Who They Are, What They Do & How You Can Help

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Anyone who has spent more than a few hours in Portugal will know that the Bombeiros (pronounced 'bombeirosh') are the fire service of Portugal but they are MUCH more than that & also fill a plethora of other duties such as ambulance service for both urgent & non urgent cases, social service drivers & many other things & the vast majority are either volunteers working for nothing or are working for next to nothing & the entire service is largely funded by donations. (More on that later)

Bombeiros personnel are (quite rightly) greatly respected by everyone of all cultures in Portugal & beyond & one of my most memorable personal experiences of them was when we were fleeing the 17th June 2017 Pedrogao Grande firestorm they were racing into it to help others to safety & there is barely a year goes by that Bombeiros personnel are not severely injured or killed in the line of duty.

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

There are many ways you can help the Bombeiros. In fire season, you can drop off donations of water, milk, fruit juice, high energy bars, fruit & other food they can consume on the move & in low fire risk season you can simply go to your local Bombeiros station & become a Bombeiros supporter by paying a minimum of about 20€ per year but please do feel free to pay more if you can & you will need to give them a passport photo & they will then send you a membership card that will give you discounts on some services should you wish to claim them & come renewal time they just send you a payment reminder which you can pay online.

Another option is you can make a donation which may be (at least partly) tax deductible and or you can make a donation via the link at the bottom of this info piece & that same link will tell you a lot more detail about the Bombeiros.

When making your annual tax return on the Financas website you can also opt for a small percentage of your tax bill to go instead to the overall Bombeiros fund & although it is only a small amount the more people that pledge that donation the more benefit Bombeiros will get so don't be shy when making that donation.

The Bombeiros are in my opinion the most deserving charity we could ever donate to no matter how we choose to donate & they do sometimes have collection points at roundabouts & road junctions & when they are genuine Bombeiros collections, they will ALWAYS have nice shiny Bombeiros vehicles parked nearby & in full view & when you see that, you know you are donating to a very fine & deserving cause. <https://www.bombeiros.pt/>

### Now a warning:

There are also a number of other groups who tend to dress in red shirts (often T shirts) & black trousers & also hold collection points and/or sell raffle tickets etc at roundabouts & road junctions but these groups will not have any Bombeiros vehicles with them & are definitely NOT related to the Bombeiros in any way. I'm not suggesting that all of these groups are disreputable and/or dishonest (although some very well may be) but they are NOT Bombeiros so be aware of that before you part with any money!