



## WUIWATCH Project

### WEBINAR

## *WUI wildfires occurred in Portugal in recent years*



Speaker

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Time

12:00 CET

Conference Room

<https://zoom.us/j/960710169>



## Abstract

The problem of forest fires in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is a growing issue not only in Portugal but worldwide where fires tend to coexist with increasing frequency and danger with human presence in dwellings or settlements. Some of the worst wildfire disasters involving human losses are precisely associated with the approach of fire to settlements, as was the case of Greece in 2007 or Australia in 2009. A simple definition of WUI is the physical space where vegetation, structures and people coexist in a fire prone environment. In Portugal this is applicable to a large extension of the territory. Portugal suffers from a common problem amongst the Mediterranean countries which is the rural areas abandonment. Several factors contribute to this but the main issue is that this fact is among the main reasons for the increasing of wildland fire risk near villages or settlements. Nowadays the inverse also happens near the big urban centres, where people increasingly tend to move away from their working places in the city centres, choosing to live in the peripheral areas. With this aspect arises a new issue that is the expansion of housing into the forested areas, most of the times without clear rules or guidelines. Although there is some work done in European countries, there is still a gap in the research and understanding of the WUI problem concerning its characterization and real extent. In order to better understand this problem a survey and analysis or study cases becomes a fundamental step. This webinar will be dedicated to present study cases of wild fires in the WUI, that happened in Portugal in recent years.

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