



EUROPEAN CENTER for FOREST FIRES



Under the aegis of General
Secretariat for
Civil Protection, Greece



Council of Europe
Conseil de l' Europe
Website: www.coe.int/euoparisks

European Center for Forest Fires (ECFF) was inaugurated in Athens, Greece in 2003. It operates within the framework of the Eur-OPA Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe, ratified by the Greek Law 2031/92. It is accommodated and run at the headquarters of the General Secretariat for Civil Protection in Athens.

It is one of the 27 Specialized Centres of Eur-OPA that have the role to improve the awareness and resilience to major risks within the population.

Overall Concept

- Large scale forest fires have been associated with climate change and also correlated to health impacts, especially for vulnerable groups (e.g. the elderly, pregnant women, children, people with disabilities)
- Monitoring forest fire emissions can support decision making for the early evacuation of affected areas.

ECFF MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

- *Improve population awareness upon disaster risks, focusing on risks from forest fires and the produced smoke*
- *Contribute in coping and adaptive capacity of the exposed communities in order to reduce their vulnerability upon forest fires impacts*

ECFF focuses on:

- *Exposure assessment of smoke for the population due to forest fires, or other field fires (health impacts on fire-fighters and civilians)*
- *Safety planning upon risks from forest fires or other correlated risks, focusing on vulnerable groups of population.*
- *State-of-the art methods and cutting edge technology (field chemical analysis) as a tool for early detection of a hazardous environment and monitoring exposure to chemicals*





ECFF PUBLICATIONS & PROJECTS

FFNet is a publication that focuses on organizations and people regarding forest fire issues.

FFNet 1 (2003): "Inauguration of ECFF"

FFNet 2 (2004): "Lessons learned" from the large scale forest fires in summer 2003 in Europe

FFNet 3 (2005): "Short & Long term health impacts of forest fire smoke on fire-fighters and the exposed population"

FFNet 4 (2006): "Air quality monitoring in the field and personal protective equipment in big forest fire incidents: a state-of-the art and beyond"

FFNet 5 (2007): "Forest fires in Greece during summer 2007: The data file of a case study"

FFNet 6 (2009): "Human rights in Disasters: Search and Rescue Operations in Disasters especially for vulnerable people"

FFNet 7 (2010): "Recent Developments and Needs for Wildfire Fighting on the Ground: Tactics and Technologies"

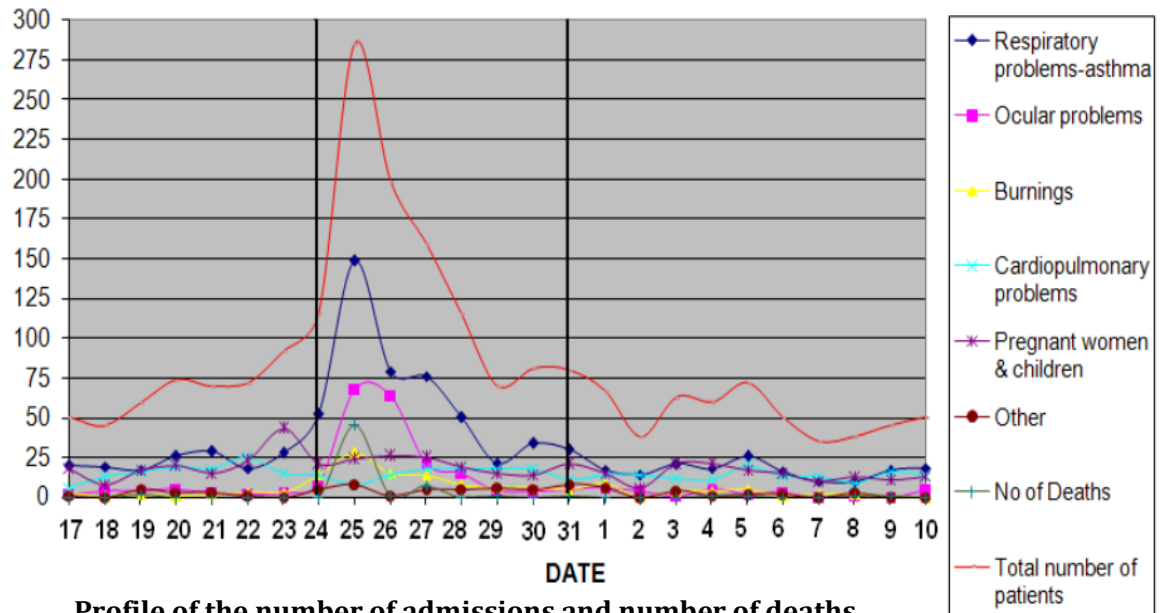
All volumes are available at:
<http://civilprotection.gr/en/home>
 Or
http://factu.ntua.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6&Itemid=10

▪ PUBLICATIONS

ECFF has published seven volumes of Forest Fire Net (FFNet):



FFNet 5: Forest fires in Greece during summer 2007: The data file of a case study



Profile of the number of admissions and number of deaths according to 19 medical centers and hospitals of Peloponnese in between the 17th of August to the 10th of September 2007



ECFF PUBLICATIONS & PROJECTS

▪ PROJECTS

Since 2012, ECFF participates in joint projects with other Specialized Centres in order to enhance synergisms and knowledge exchange based on the respective thematic priorities.

Project 2012-2013:

Title: "Development of Guidelines for the Defense of Rural Populations, Settlements and other Assets Against Wildfires and Smoke Pollution"

A booklet has been prepared in cooperation with the Global Fire Monitoring Center, Germany (GFMC) entitled:
"Defence of Villages, Farms and Other Rural Assets against Wildfires: Guidelines for Rural Populations, Local Communities and Municipality Leaders in the Balkan Region"



Project 2016-2017

Based on the priorities of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, ECFF prepared the project:

"Basic Principles of Building Aseismic Code, Evacuation planning of critical infrastructures in case of an Earthquake or a Fire" in cooperation with the European Centre on Prevention and Forecasting of Earthquakes (ECFPE), GR.

Objectives of the project:

- Raising awareness; citizens need to play an active role in case of an emergency, including also vulnerable groups of the population
- To focus on the evacuation of critical infrastructures in case of an earthquake or a fire, with a special interest in vulnerable groups of the population.

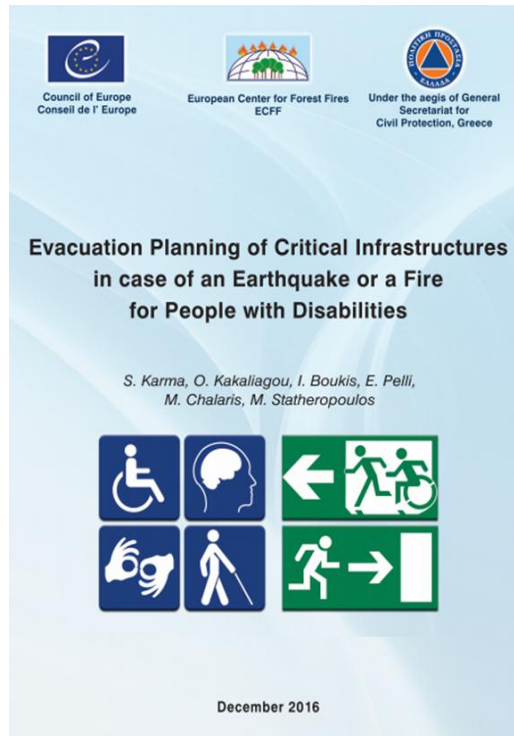
Priorities based on Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030:

Priority 1:

"Understanding disaster Risk":
Promote awareness raising among vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities

Priority 4:
“Enhancing disaster
Preparedness”:

Inclusion of people with
disabilities in Disaster
Management Cycle
(preparedness &
response phases) to
reduce their vulnerability



A book has been published by ECFF
(ISBN: 978-618-83079-0-2), entitled:
“Evacuation Planning of Critical
Infrastructures in case of an Earthquake
or a fire for People with Disabilities”

Prepared by: S. Karma, O.Kakaliagou, I.
Boukis, E. Pelli, M.Chalaris, M.Statheropoulos

Highlights of the Book:

- ✓ The newest egress signs designed specifically for people with disabilities in light of “Universal Design”
- ✓ A check-list for preparing “Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans” per type of disability, such as mobility impairment, visibility impairment (blind or low vision), hearing impairment (deaf or hard hearing), as well as, speech and cognitive impairment
- ✓ An indicative example of a “Fire Escape Plan”, according to the last updated International Standard, ISO 23601:2009 (Safety identification -- Escape and evacuation plan signs) is given, by incorporating also the newest proposed egress symbols for disabled people



ECFF upcoming activities

- ✓ A Case Study focusing on the evacuation of a hospital in case of an earthquake or a fire. Special attention will be given to vulnerable groups, including infants, pregnant women and/or people with disabilities.
- ✓ Project proposal 2018-2019: “Fine and Ultrafine particles from forest fires: Recommendations/Guidelines for protection of vulnerable groups of population