



ERA ENVHEALTH Open Conference

Forest Fires – Climate change and Health impacts

October, 18th 14:00 – 18:15

Hybrid event – University of Aveiro and Online

Wildfires are often caused by human activity or a natural phenomenon such as lightning, and they can happen at any time or anywhere. Every year, forest fires burn millions of hectares worldwide, colouring the skies red and orange and leading to a deterioration of the air quality, and loss of property, crops, resources, animals and people.

Due to climate change, the size and frequency of fires are growing. Hotter and drier conditions are drying out ecosystems and increasing the risk of wildfires. Wildfires also simultaneously impact weather and the climate by releasing large quantities of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and fine particulate matter into the atmosphere. The resulting air pollution can cause a range of health issues, including respiratory and cardiovascular problems. Another significant health effect of wildfires is on mental health and psychosocial well-being.

Wildfires cause episodes of the worst air quality that many people will ever experience. Fine particulate matter can be inhaled deep into the lungs, where it may lead to systemic inflammation that affects other parts of the body. On smoky days, more people visit emergency rooms, more people are admitted to hospital and some people will die because of the smoke exposure.

High-intensity forest fires destroy flora and fauna. The destruction this leads to is undeniable. Swathes of forest and peatland are destroyed. Countless animals caught up in the flames and smoke perish. When the flames reach areas inhabited by people, many human lives and homes are lost. Forest fires can also impact the economy as many families and communities depend on the forest for food and fuel.

The 2023 Open Conference of the ERA ENVHEALTH network will address the effects of forest fires on the environment and health, including occupational health, and the mitigation and adaption strategies for policy decision support, to control those impacts in a future under climate change. Recognised researchers in the field will present their recent projects and outcomes to better tackle forest fires and climate change for the protection of our health.

Please click [here](#) to **register** in this event for free



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Carlos Borrego Auditorium, Dept Environment and Planning, University of Aveiro

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13:45	Registration	
14:00	Welcome	Joana Ferreira, University of Aveiro, Portugal
Session 1	Environmental Impacts of Forest Fires	
14:15	The effects of wildland fires on air quality	Ana Miranda, University of Aveiro, Portugal
14:40	Sensor network for a better picture of exposure in the impact area during incidents	Niels van Veen (RIVM)
15:05	TBC	Director of Czech Environmental Information Agency, Czechia
Session 2	Forest Fires under Climate Change	
15:30	Climate change and wildfires – what does the future hold?	Michael Flannigan, Thompson Rivers University, Canada
15:55	Taming wildfires in the context of climate change	Marta Arbinolo, OECD, France
16:20	Networking coffee	
Session 3	Health impacts of Forest Fires	
16:35	Occupational and environmental risks of respiratory exposures to wildland fires	António Jorge Ferreira, Faculty of Medicine, University of Coimbra, Portugal
17:00	Wildfires - ANSES expertise and scientific issues on the health effects for the general population and workers	TBC, ANSES, France
17:25	Tackling the increasing threat of smoke health impacts from forest fires and climate change	Filipa Esteves, ISPUP, Portugal
17:50	General Discussion	Chair: Carlos Borrego, University of Aveiro, Portugal
18:15	Closure	