



## **Preventive patrols as support in the fight against forest fires**

### **As ações de rondas preventivas como apoio no combate aos incêndios florestais**

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#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

For several consecutive years, the municipality of Petrópolis has suffered excessively from the large number of forest fire events spread throughout its districts, causing environmental damage, losses and aggravating the socio-environmental disasters related to landslides that occur recurrently in the region. This fact has caused great damage to the population through the increase of respiratory diseases, damage to fauna and flora, especially in the existing Conservation Units. The Preventive Rounds carried out by the Municipal Department of Protection and Civil Defense proved to be a preponderant element in supporting the confrontation of this type of event, fighting the outbreaks at their beginning so that they did not become large fires, as well as strengthening the process of raising awareness of the population, being at the forefront of actions because it is a preventive action of civil defense, seeking to anticipate adverse events and optimize resources.

#### **2 OBJECTIVE**

Report the importance of preventive rounds in the process of fighting and raising awareness about forest fires in order to make it a reference in management, as well as a reference in preventive actions of this nature, to be followed by other municipalities with similar characteristics.



### **3 METHODOLOGY**

The present methodology is a case study, and the Preventive Rounds actions were made up of a 4x4 pick-up type vehicle, equipped with a small combustion pump, a 400-liter flexible tank and a hose, containing a set of sapa materials, such as mufflers, hoes, machetes, among other equipment, to go through the areas with the highest incidence of this type of event in the municipality.

When the Preventive Patrol team traveled along the highways, areas near the Conservation Units and places with fire outbreaks, these, even if distant, were visually identified through smoke. Then, the agents went to the place where the outbreaks appeared, so that the fight was carried out as soon as possible, so that those small signs of smoke did not turn into a disaster, characterized by a fire of great proportions, and thus, without the need to activate a greater number of agents or combatants to extinguish it.

### **4 DEVELOPMENT**

In this study, it was observed that the Preventive Rounds have always acted in conjunction with the Military Fire Department of the State of Rio de Janeiro (CBMERJ), providing operational support in the actions to combat forest fires in places with the highest incidence of this type of event, captured in the Brazilian Classification and Codification of Disasters (COBRADE), being recorded in statistics provided by that agency, as well as through the Vegetation Fire Risk Bulletins carried out daily by the Municipality's own Civil Defense Secretariat during the dry season (O DIA, 2022).

According to the Municipal Secretary of Protection and Civil Defense of Petrópolis, Gil Kempers, the agents start to go through the places with the highest rate of this type of occurrence (based on official statistics). The monitoring action serves, if a focus is spotted, to alert the Fire Department and activate the military immediately. The Ronda Preventiva team will also act until the CBMERJ rescue garrison arrives on the scene, and then remains in support, so that the event does not become an even greater threat, thus minimizing the environmental damage caused by forest fires, highlighted the secretary (Diário de Petrópolis, 2021).

Now, in addition to our standard staff, we have a specific team to support the fight against forest fires. In many cases we can identify the beginning of the fire and act preventively. During the rounds we were also able to better guide the population, especially with regard to the risks of burning garbage, points out the Secretary of Civil Defense, Lieutenant Colonel Gil Kempers, who also draws attention to the risks of



releasing balloons and burning vegetation for land cleaning (Acontece em Petrópolis, 2022).

## **5 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The actions of the Preventive Rounds have already proved to be very effective and of great help in the actions to combat forest fires in the municipality of Petrópolis, demonstrating that preventive action is capable of reducing risks and optimizing resources. The proposal will be to create a protocol for such actions to be developed, improved and used as an instrument of good practices, both operational in response actions and preventive in prevention actions, within the scope of the National Civil Protection and Defense Policy (PNPDEC), Law 12.608/2012, to be shared by other municipalities that have the same natural and climatological aspects as the Municipality of Petrópolis.



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