

The Formentera offices of interior and environment have joined a wildfire prevention campaign piloted by the Balearic government. The drive is directed at islanders who live or own property in the countryside and owners of dwellings which are located near forests.

Islanders who work the land can reduce the risk of fire by directing special attention to the perimeter of their property and removing nearby vegetation. Other recommended measures include keeping grass cut near drystone walls and breaking up homogenous planted material to reduce the risk that a fire traverse large stretch of land.

In an effort to create safe buffer zones, islanders near forests are encouraged to clear a 30-metre radius around their home. Tree tops should be trimmed if they are less than three metres from a home or from other trees, as should any trees over three metres tall. Thirty per cent of underbrush should also be cleared.

Interior conseller Josep Marí said islanders' collaboration on safety protocol was pivotal to preventing fires, "particularly during high-risk periods like summertime". Antonio J Sanz, who heads the environment department, reminded residents of the ban on fires and controlled burns currently in effect in forested areas.

The Consell de Formentera will promote the campaign on social media and among islanders at large.

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**Department of Communications
Consell de Formentera**