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SERIES II

Issue No. 3683

DECISIONS

Ministerial decision No. 1921

Approval of the Fire Protection Regulation for Archaeological Sites

THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE, AND THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CRISIS AND CIVIL PROTECTION

Having regard to:

1. The provisions of:

- a) paragraph 10 of Article 167 of Law 4662/2020 'National Crisis Management and Risk Response Mechanism, restructuring of the General Secretariat for Civil Protection, upgrading of the civil-protection volunteering system, reorganisation of the Fire Service and other provisions' (Government Gazette, Series I, No 27);
- b) the Code of Legislation on the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in General (Law 4858/2021, Government Gazette, Series I, No 220);
- c) Presidential Decree 81/2018 'Transposition into Greek law of Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 (OJ L 241, 17.9.2015, p. 1) laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services (codification), and other provisions' (Government Gazette, Series I, No 151);
- d) Article 90 of the Code of Legislation on the Government and Government Bodies (Presidential Decree 63/2005, A' 98), which was maintained in force by Article 119(22) of Law 4622/2019 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 133);
- e) Presidential Decree 70/2021 'Establishment of the Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection and transfer of services and responsibilities between ministries' (Government Gazette, Series I, No 161);
- f) Presidential Decree 77/2023 'Establishment of a ministry and renaming of ministries - establishment, abolition and renaming of general and special secretariats - transfer of responsibilities, administrative units, staff posts and supervised bodies' (Government Gazette, Series I, No 130);
- g) Presidential Decree 4/2018 'Organisation of the Ministry of Culture and Sport' (Government Gazette, Series I, No 7), as amended by Presidential Decree 32/2022 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 91);
- h) Presidential Decree 79/2023 'Appointment of Ministers, Alternate Ministers and Deputy Ministers' (Government Gazette, Series I, No 131);
- i) Presidential Decree 17/2026 'Appointment of Ministers and a Deputy Minister' (Government Gazette, Series I, No 55); and
- j) joint Decision Ref. ΥΠΕΝ/ΔΑΟΚΑ/55904/2019 of 19 May 2023 of the Ministers for Environment and Energy, the Interior, and Climate Crisis and Civil Protection,



entitled 'Fire Protection Regulation for Properties within or near Forest Areas' (Government Gazette, Series II, No 3475);

2. document Ref. GROW/E3/MV/SA/sxh (2026) 5775027 of 27 May 2026 from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs;

3. Recommendation No 45282 of 29 May 2026 from the Directorate for Budget and Financial Reporting of the Directorate-General for Financial Services of the Ministry for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, according to which this Decision entails no expenditure charged to the State budget;

4. the fact that this Decision does not concern an administrative procedure that is required to be registered in the NRAP-MITOS, hereby decide:

Article 1

Fire protection measures for archaeological sites

The Fire Protection Regulation for Archaeological Sites, which forms an integral part of this Decision and includes fire protection measures and means for preventing and suppressing fires at archaeological sites falling within the scope of the Code of Legislation on the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in General, is hereby approved.

Article 2

Entry into force

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.





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1. General

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this Regulation is to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for the implementation and monitoring of fire-protection measures and means for open-air archaeological sites, with a view to enhancing the level of fire safety, reducing vulnerability and limiting the spread of potential fires.

To achieve this objective, this Regulation lays down the minimum requirements for the implementation of measures and means to ensure the timely alerting of the public in the event of a fire, the availability of escape routes and emergency exits, the installation of the necessary signage, the preparation of Organised Evacuation Plans, staff training, vegetation management and the creation of protection zones, structural fire protection of building envelopes, the implementation of active fire protection measures, and the inspection and maintenance of fire protection equipment and systems.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Regulation facilitates coordination and strengthens cooperation between the jointly competent government departments and agencies, thereby ensuring a uniform, coordinated and effective response to any threat, as well as their required preparedness and immediate operational response in the event of an incident.

This Regulation, as a specific fire protection regulation for open-air archaeological sites, sets out detailed provisions that supplement the general regulations and provisions on fire protection for open-air areas, such as the Fire Safety Regulation for Properties within or near Forests (Government Gazette, Series II, No 3475), the Fire Safety Regulations for Buildings (Presidential Decree 41/2018, Government Gazette Series I, No 80 and Presidential Decree 71/1988, Government Gazette, Series I, No. 32), Fire Service Decree No 3/2015 (Government Gazette, Series II, No. 529) and Joint Ministerial Decision No YП 1157/2026 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 2323), and takes precedence over the requirements set out therein.

However, as a specific regulation addressing fire safety requirements, it applies in conjunction with the requirements of other specific regulations governing the safety and functionality of structures or their installations.

This Regulation does not cover cases of arson, sabotage, vandalism, fires resulting from terrorist acts, or other similar acts.



1.2. Scope

1. This Regulation applies to open-air archaeological sites accessible to the public which include ancient monuments, as defined in Article 2(ba) of Law 4858/2021, and which:
 - are delineated by natural or artificial fencing, or the surviving remains themselves or individual sections thereof (such as fortresses, enclosures, fortifications, etc.) and serve to demarcate the area protected by the Ministry of Culture and the area under its jurisdiction
 - have controlled access, with or without the payment of an admission fee, and possibly basic or developed visitor infrastructure, such as walking trails, viewpoints, information signs, lighting, surveillance systems, or other facilities that support visitor access and public safety.
2. The provisions of this Regulation do not apply to the following categories of archaeological sites/ monuments:
 - Caves and palaeontological remains, as defined in Article 2(ba) of Law 4858/2021.
 - Submerged archaeological sites and shipwrecks, in accordance with Articles 15, 15A and 15B of Law 4858/2021.
 - Historic sites, traditional settlements or other areas of cultural interest, regulated by more specific provisions.
3. Moreover, this Regulation does not cover fire-safety matters relating to:
 - a) buildings and facilities located within archaeological sites (such as conference centres, museums, lecture halls, meeting rooms, amphitheatres, multi-purpose halls, libraries, temples and places of worship, exhibition halls, catering areas, leisure areas and retail areas, shops, offices, canteens, toilet facilities, other ancillary spaces), to which the applicable special fire protection legislation applies based on building use, in accordance with Article 2 of Chapter A of Presidential Decree 41/2018 (A' 180) and any other relevant regulatory provision;
 - b) modern monuments, as defined in Article 2(bb) and buildings designated as listed buildings.
4. The provisions of this Regulation apply exclusively to fire-protection matters without prejudice to the powers of the Ministry of Culture to protect, enhance and manage archaeological sites in accordance with Law 4858/2021.

1.3. Definitions

- **Fire season** means the period from 1 May to 31 October (Article 1 of Joint Ministerial Decision 12030Φ.109.1/1999, Government Gazette, Series II, No 713).
- **Forest fire** means a phenomenon classified as a natural disaster under the General Civil Protection Plan, with the code name "XENOKRATIS".



- **Implementation and Adaptation Report for Fire-Protection Measures** means the declaration submitted annually by the department of the Ministry of Culture responsible for the archaeological site (Ephorate of Antiquities), setting out all necessary actions taken or initiated by that department to comply with the requirements of this Regulation in conjunction with those set out in the Technical Report.
- **Active fire protection** means the set of fire protection measures designed to detect and warn of a fire at an early stage and to respond to and extinguish it immediately. Suppression measures include portable and wheeled fire extinguishers, a simple water supply network with fire cabinets, a permanent water supply network with fire hose cabinets and/or water cannons.
- **The Overall Risk Assessment Form** is the document drawn up by the person in charge of the archaeological site, which, based on the assessment criteria set out in this Regulation, determines the overall risk category of the archaeological site.
- **Protection Zone** (defence area) is the natural or designated area around the building or construction designed to reduce the risk of fire being spread and allow its suppression.
- **Combustible material** means any material or substance that can ignite and burn during a fire. This category includes, inter alia natural vegetation, construction works (such as buildings and sheds), facilities (such as fuel or water tanks) as well as stored products or materials (such as piles of wood, furniture and other combustible objects). The continuity and density of combustible material constitute critical factors for the intensity, speed of spread and behaviour of the fire.
- **Climate risk:** means the risk of adverse consequences associated with climate change, arising from the combination of the severity of climate events, exposure and the vulnerability of the affected systems.
- **Climate exposure:** means all the people, infrastructure, activities, natural and cultural features, and resources located in areas where climate-related hazards occur and which could be adversely affected by them.
- **Climate hazard:** means the likelihood and intensity of current and future climate events, which can cause loss of human life, loss of and damage to property, infrastructure, services, ecosystems, environmental resources and elements of cultural heritage.
- **Climate vulnerability:** It refers to the extent to which exposed systems are adversely affected in the event of occurrence of a climate hazard.
- **Escape route** means the continuous, unobstructed route for evacuation in the event of a fire, leading from the accessible areas of the archaeological site to the site's final exits.
- **Prevention** means the set of actions, measures and steps taken prior to the occurrence of a fire, with the aim of preventing it from breaking out and/or limiting its adverse and destructive consequences.



- **Total risk:** means the category into which the archaeological site is classified following an assessment and evaluation of all the predefined criteria set out in this Regulation, and includes climate risk.
- **Final exit** means the end of an escape route leading from the accessible areas of the archaeological site to an area outside the site's perimeter.
- **Technical Report on the Adaptation and Improvement of Fire-Protection Measures** means the report/study, specifying the fire protection measures and means required for the implementation of this Regulation.



2. Defining key objectives and strategies

2.1. Key objectives

This Regulation aims to establish strategic fire protection planning that is applied uniformly and comprehensively to archaeological sites, except those expressly excluded under Chapter 1.2, and to enhance their level of fire safety. The level of fire safety is determined in relation to the achievement of specific key and fundamental objectives, which primarily concern the protection and safeguarding of human life, monuments and their building structures, as well as the natural environment in which they are situated.

2.2. Key Strategies

The criterion for selecting the strategies to achieve the key objectives is the extent to which each strategy can make a substantial contribution to the desired outcome and to the achievement of the specific objectives. These strategies focus, on the one hand, on ensuring the safe escape and evacuation of visitors and staff from the archaeological site and, on the other hand, on the adoption and implementation of appropriate fire-protection measures.

In order to achieve the objective of protecting human life at archaeological sites, an important factor and strategic priority is to ensure all appropriate measures and conditions for the safe escape of visitors and the timely evacuation of the archaeological site. These include the provision of adequate and suitable escape routes and emergency exits, the provision of adequate emergency lighting, clearly visible and appropriate safety signage and evacuation plans, the installation and operation of reliable fire-detection and alarm systems, the existence of effective Organised Evacuation Plans in accordance with the General Secretariat for Civil Protection's standard plan for the precautionary evacuation of visitors and staff due to imminent danger from an impending forest fire, and the conduct of regular drills and training for the staff of the Ministry of Culture.

Accordingly, the strategies that make a decisive contribution to achieving the objectives relating to the protection of archaeological sites, building infrastructure and their surroundings are the implementation of preventive fire-protection measures and actions and the adoption of appropriate active fire-protection measures and means.

3. Assessment of the Overall Risk of an Archaeological Site

A prerequisite for developing appropriate strategies aimed at strengthening fire protection and safeguarding archaeological sites is carrying out an Overall Risk Assessment. This process takes into account the characteristics of the archaeological site, the infrastructure and networks and utilities, visitor traffic,



and the climate-related risk of fire in the near future (2026–2045). The assessment is carried out through qualitative analysis and the scoring of predefined criteria, which are considered key parameters for the final determination and calculation of the overall risk level of each archaeological site.

3.1. Assessment criteria

3.1.1. Topography

The location of the archaeological site in relation to specific topographical features is taken into account in assessing this criterion.

The topography of the archaeological site is a key factor for its vulnerability in the event of a fire. The specific topographical features of each area, such as valleys, ridges, gorges and elevations, may create or exacerbate conditions of increased risk. In particular, valleys, due to their hollow form, favour the concentration and acceleration of winds, which may increase the intensity and speed of spread of the fire. In the gorges, this phenomenon is more pronounced, whilst on the ridges, due to the higher elevation, the winds are stronger and more turbulent, thereby intensifying the fire's momentum as it advances towards them. In general, orographic features, such as narrow valleys or natural mountain openings contribute to the increase in wind intensity and, consequently, to an increased fire risk.

3.1.2. Estimated climate risk for forest fires

The climate risk class for forest fires, as determined by the relevant estimated climate risk map—which was produced using the accompanying methodology—is taken into account in evaluating this criterion (Annex A).

3.1.3. Infrastructure / Networks

The assessment of this criterion takes into account the existence, location and operational condition of energy infrastructure, water-abstraction facilities and early fire-warning systems within, around or in the wider vicinity of the archaeological site.

The presence of overhead high- or medium-voltage lines and/or transformers is considered an aggravating risk factor, due to the potential for a fire caused by an electrical fault, overheating or damage to the network, or due to the intensification of an already developing fire in the event of contact with the high or medium-voltage electrical network, thereby hindering firefighting operations and the safe approach of firefighting crews.



Another equally important factor is the presence of fire hydrants in the vicinity of the archaeological site, with sufficient flow and pressure to quickly fill fire-service vehicles. The absence or inadequate functioning of the above infrastructure constitutes an aggravating factor, as it hinders the immediate and effective suppression of fires.

Early fire detection and warning systems, using advanced technologies such as smoke and temperature sensors and optical or thermal imaging cameras, are assessed as a factor in reducing the risk to the archaeological site. They are intended to ensure the early detection of a fire at its initial stage; immediate automated notification via operations centres, enabling the rapid mobilisation of firefighting forces; coordination between all competent bodies and services; and activation of all prescribed plans and operational protocols for the immediate suppression of the fire.

3.1.4. Visitor numbers at the archaeological site

The maximum daily number of visitors to the archaeological site is used as a factor in assessing this criterion. At archaeological sites hosting cultural events, the maximum attendance of the event is also taken into account when calculating the maximum daily number of visitors.

Visitor traffic at the archaeological site is a factor that should be taken into account when assessing the level of risk, particularly with regard to ensuring the safe evacuation and timely organized evacuation of visitors. A large number of visitors, combined with their ability to respond, affects the evacuation time and may make evacuation more difficult. Consequently, a high level of organisation and coordination is required to ensure the timely evacuation and safe movement of visitors in the event of a fire.

3.1.5. Escape Routes – Emergency Exits

This criterion is assessed on the basis of the maximum length of the escape routes and the number of final exits from the archaeological site. The main objective of designing and establishing escape routes at an archaeological site open to the public is to ensure that it can be safely evacuated in the event of an emergency, particularly when the site is assessed as being threatened by a developing or imminent fire. At every point along the visitor route, it must be ensured that visitors can proceed immediately to the final exits via appropriately designed escape routes, which must be of sufficient number and dimensions to accommodate the expected number of visitors. Escape routes must remain safe and effective for as long as necessary and must be readily identifiable to all visitors. Any obstacles in these areas must be removed immediately so that the routes remain fully accessible up to the final exit. Where possible, it is recommended that the final exits be spaced apart and arranged in such a way as to minimise the likelihood of them becoming blocked simultaneously during an



evacuation. Doors on escape routes and at final exits must open in the direction of escape and provide a full opening width.

3.1.6. Access by fire-fighting vehicles

The criterion is assessed on the basis of the ability to ensure safe, timely and unimpeded access and approach for firefighting vehicles and other emergency vehicles, both to the archaeological site and within and around it, with the aim of ensuring immediate and effective intervention in the event of a fire.

In particular, the possibility for firefighting vehicles to reach the boundaries of the archaeological site from the existing road network is assessed, taking into account the number, width and trafficability of the roads and any access restrictions.

In addition, the feasibility of firefighting vehicles moving around and operating on the perimeter of the archaeological site and, where possible, within it, is assessed, taking into account the restrictions imposed by the legal framework for its protection. In particular, the following are taken into account: the existence and adequacy of perimeter or internal access routes, their clear width and load-bearing capacity, the ability to manoeuvre, stop and deploy firefighting equipment, and the connection of these routes to critical points within the archaeological site.

Archaeological sites located in hard-to-reach or remote areas with an inadequate or limited road network and limited or no access for firefighting vehicles, are characterised by an increased level of risk, as the above situation hinders firefighting operations.

3.2. Scoring system

To assess and classify archaeological sites by their overall fire risk, the **Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP)** is applied. This method is a multicriteria analysis tool used to evaluate complex and multi-factorial issues. Its purpose is to identify, weigh and compare multiple criteria that affect the making of the final decision or the achievement of a specific objective, taking into account the different weight or importance attributed to each criterion.

When assessing the overall fire risk at archaeological sites, the process begins by identifying the key criteria that influence the sites' exposure and vulnerability, as outlined in paragraph 3.1.

The criteria are then compared on a pairwise basis. This process produces the weighting factors for each criterion. A weighting factor is a numerical value that expresses the relative importance of each criterion in the assessment. This value is not limited to the mere presence or absence of risk, but reflects the extent to



which each criterion contributes to determining the overall risk of an archaeological site in the event of a fire.

In this way, the analysis enables a systematic and reasoned approach, as the various criteria do not contribute equally to determining the overall risk level of the archaeological site. The numerical values of the weighting factors are presented in Table (1):

OVERALL RISK OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE			
Criterion	Assessment element/Description	Criterion score	Weighting Factor
3.1.1. Topography	An archaeological site located outside a valley or gorge, or not in the vicinity of ridges or other elevations	1	0.10
	An archaeological site located within a valley, gorge, or near a ridge and other elevations	5	
3.1.2. Estimated climate risk for forest fires	Very low	1	0.32
	Low	2	
	Medium	3	
	High	4	
	Very High	5	
3.1.3. Infrastructure / Networks	Without overhead high- or medium-voltage lines	1	0.03
	With overhead high- or medium-voltage lines	3	
	With overhead high- or medium-voltage lines and transformers	5	
	Fire hydrants within 500 metres	1	0.06
	Fire hydrants within 2,500 metres	3	
	Without fire hydrants	5	
	With Early Fire-Detection System	1	0.05
	Without Early Fire-Detection System	5	
	< 100 visitors per day	1	



3.1.4. Visitor numbers at the archaeological site	100–1,000 visitors per day	3	0.19
	> 1,000 visitors per day	5	
3.1.5. Escape Routes – Emergency Exits	Maximum escape-route length less than 50 m	1	0.04
	Maximum escape-route length from 51 m to 100 m	3	
	Maximum escape-route length greater than 100 m	5	
	Number of final exits: > two (2)	1	0.04
	Number of final exits: two (2)	3	
	Number of final exits: one (1)	5	
3.1.6. Access by fire-fighting vehicles	Full/Increased access for fire-fighting vehicles within and around the archaeological site	1	0.09
	Partial access for firefighting vehicles within and around the archaeological site	3	
	No/Limited access for firefighting vehicles within and around the archaeological site	5	
	Firefighting vehicles can access the site from the existing road network to the boundaries of the archaeological site via two (2) access roads of sufficient width and trafficability	1	0.08
	Firefighting vehicles can access the site from the existing road network to the boundaries of the archaeological site via a single (1) access road of sufficient width and trafficability	3	
	Inadequate or narrow road network and limited or no access for firefighting vehicles	5	

Table (1): Table of scores and weighting factors for overall risk

3.3. Determination of the Overall Risk

In order to determine the overall risk of an archaeological site, the following procedure is applied:

- For each of the criteria listed in paragraph 3.1, a scoring system from 1 to 5 is applied, where the minimum score (1) represents the most favourable



condition for the criterion and the maximum score (5) represents the most unfavourable condition (Table 1).

- The score awarded for each criterion is multiplied by the corresponding weighting factor, and the resulting products are added together to derive the overall assessment score. The resulting final score determines the overall risk level of the archaeological site by assigning it to one of the three ranges of Table (2):

RANGE OF FINAL ASSESSMENT SCORES	OVERALL RISK LEVEL
1.00-2.30	Low
2.31-3.40	Medium
3.41-5.00	High

Table (2): Determination of the Overall Risk Level for Archaeological Sites

4. Fire-protection measures

In order to guarantee the objectives of this Regulation, a framework of minimum mandatory and proposed measures is established to increase the level of fire-protection of the archaeological site. Fire-protection measures are classified into three main categories, which form all three key strategies of this Regulation, as detailed in paragraph 2.2:

- Measures to ensure the safe evacuation of the public;
- Preventive fire-protection measures;
- Active fire-protection measures.

4.1. Measures to Ensure the Safe Evacuation of the Public

The measures ensuring safe and timely escape from an archaeological site open to the public in the event of a fire concern the appropriate configuration, layout and organisation of the site, including sufficient escape routes and final exits to ensure that visitors can leave unhindered, appropriate safety signage and emergency lighting, and evacuation plans that help orient visitors as they leave. In addition, measures must be taken to ensure the availability of appropriate fire-detection and alarm systems to alert visitors promptly and the existence of an up-to-date Organised Evacuation Plan, with which the archaeological site's staff must be familiar through regular drills and training.

4.1.1. Emergency Lighting

The installation of emergency lighting is intended to ensure adequate visibility and safe orientation for visitors, enabling them to evacuate safely and promptly



in the event of an emergency, particularly at archaeological sites that operate during evening hours for cultural events.

Emergency lighting is designed and installed in accordance with the requirements of the ELOT EN 1838 standard "Lighting applications – Emergency lighting for buildings" and the ELOT EN 60598-2-22 standard "Luminaires – Part 2-22: Specific requirements – Luminaires for emergency lighting", in its current version, along the escape routes up to the final exit.

4.1.2. Safety signs

The installation of appropriate and clearly visible safety signage along escape routes, at final exits and on firefighting equipment, as well as prohibition and warning signs, helps to ensure the correct orientation and safe guidance and evacuation of visitors during an emergency, as well as the immediate location and effective use of firefighting equipment by staff, facilitating early intervention and limiting potential damage or injury. The signage must be easily understandable, clear, adequate and visible.

Safety signs for escape routes, final exits and firefighting equipment, as well as prohibition and warning signs, are designed and installed in accordance with the requirements of ELOT EN ISO 7010: "Graphical symbols – Safety colours and safety signs – Registered safety signs", in its current version.

4.1.3. Evacuation plans

Evacuation plans help to ensure that visitors and staff are safely informed and guided in the event of an emergency. They must be clearly visible and easy to read, and must be positioned at appropriate locations along circulation and visitor routes, as well as near any buildings, where present, so as to provide clear guidance and directions to both staff and visitors.

Evacuation plans, together with the corresponding signs and symbols, are designed and installed in accordance with the requirements of the ELOT ISO 23601 standard: "Safety identification – Escape and evacuation plan signs", in its current version.

4.1.4. Fire Warning and Alarm Systems

Fire warning and alarm systems are designed to provide timely information and guidance to visitors and staff in the event of a fire or other emergency. These include the public-address system for broadcasting emergency messages, the manual fire-alarm call-point system and portable public-address devices (megaphones).



4.1.4.1. Public-Address System

Public-address systems broadcasting emergency audio messages in the event of a fire or other emergency inform visitors of the danger and the actions they must take to leave the site immediately. The system's loudspeakers are positioned in such a way that their coverage fully includes the accessible areas of the archaeological site. The system is activated and operated via a central control panel, which is housed in a specially designed room and serves as the control and monitoring centre for all emergency systems, with staff on duty at all times during the archaeological site's opening hours. The alert messages broadcast may consist of live voice messages or pre-recorded messages, repeated in Greek and at least one foreign language.

The design and installation of public-address systems are governed by standard ELOT EN 54-24, "Components of voice alarm systems – Loudspeakers".

4.1.4.2. Manual fire alarm system

The manual fire alarm system ensures that a fire is reported immediately by audiovisual means. It shall be installed at a height of between 0.80 metres and 1.40 metres, in appropriate locations along the escape routes and near the exits / final exits.

The study, design and installation of manual fire-alarm call-point systems are governed by the ELOT EN 54-11 standard "Fire detection and fire alarm systems – Part 11: Manual call points" and ELOT EN 54-14 "Fire detection and fire alarm systems – Part 14: Guidelines for planning, design, installation, commissioning, use and maintenance", in their current version.

4.1.4.3. Portable public-address devices (megaphones)

Portable public-address devices (megaphones) are used to guide and inform the public and provide warnings at archaeological sites without a public-address system, or as a supplementary means where such a system is installed.

4.1.5. Plans – Drills – Training

4.1.5.1. Organised Evacuation Plan

An Organised Evacuation Plan for evacuating people from archaeological sites in the event of an imminent fire risk is **mandatory** for archaeological sites open to the public that are located within forests or forest areas, or in their vicinity (within a radius of 50 metres), and whose maximum daily number of visitors exceeds 50.

The preparation or update of the Organised Evacuation Plan will follow the



template drawn up in cooperation between the General Secretariat for Civil Protection and the Ministry of Culture. This template, with the appropriate adjustments, also applies to archaeological sites that are not located within or adjacent to forests and forest land, in order to ensure a standardised and safe evacuation process in all circumstances.

The Organised Evacuation Plan is notified to the Fire Service and the relevant Civil Protection Departments of the local authorities to ensure its coordinated and effective implementation in the event of an emergency.

4.1.5.2. Preparedness drills

The planning and conduct of emergency drills are **mandatory** in venues with a maximum daily number of visitors exceeding 1,000 people, to ensure the proper implementation of the Organised Preventive Evacuation Plan, as well as for the timely and effective management of emergencies arising from fires. The drills are held every two years in collaboration with the relevant authorities, such as Municipalities, Regions, the Hellenic Police, the National Ambulance Service (EKAV) and the Fire Service, and focus primarily on the assigning of roles and responsibilities. The aim of the drills is to strengthen the interoperability and cooperation of all competent bodies involved, to ensure a coordinated and effective response to fire-related hazards and to minimise their impact on archaeological sites. At the same time, these drills help to train staff and familiarise them with evacuation procedures and the use of fire-protection equipment, thereby enhancing preparedness and ensuring the safety of visitors and staff.

4.1.5.3. Staff training

Annual staff training contributes to the safe and effective implementation of the Organised Preventive Evacuation Plan for visitors and staff in the event of an emergency arising from an imminent fire risk, as well as to the correct use of firefighting equipment, in accordance with the provisions of the 14th Fire Regulation, as currently in force.

The training shall include practical exercises and fire scenario simulations to enable staff to react effectively, guide visitors safely and ensure timely evacuation of the site. At the same time, it enables the operational readiness and effectiveness of the Organised Preventive Evacuation Plan to be assessed and allows its continuous adaptation and improvement, as well as the identification and resolution of potential shortcomings before an actual emergency arises, thereby ensuring a high level of protection of human life.

4.2. Preventive Fire Protection Measures

Preventive fire-protection measures include all actions and steps that must be



taken in advance to eliminate any hazardous factors or conditions that could cause or fuel a fire and to effectively limit and slow its spread. Such measures involve the establishment of building-protection zones and the fire-protection of structural elements of the building envelope, the clearing and management of vegetation and combustible material within the archaeological site, as well as other general preventive measures for all open areas within the boundaries of the fenced archaeological site.

4.2.1. Building Protection Zones

The establishment of perimeter protection zones around buildings located within the archaeological site and serving its operations (museums, ticket offices, storage areas, workshops, construction site huts, functional covered spaces, etc.) is **mandatory** when the site is located within or near (within a 50-metre radius of) forests and forest areas.

A perimeter protection zone is established with the aim of isolating the structures from vegetation, thereby helping to prevent the spread of fire and ensuring the fire-protection of the archaeological site. In addition, it creates a safe area that facilitates the intervention and operations of the firefighting forces.

This zone must have a minimum width of ten (10) metres. It should be subdivided into three graduated protection levels, progressively reducing the amount of combustible material as one approaches the building, with corresponding variation and management of vegetation. In particular:

- The first protection zone (Zone 1), which is directly adjacent to the building, must be at least two (2.00) metres wide and free from any planting or accumulation of combustible materials, in order to protect the building's external envelope and structure. In this zone, risks must be minimised as far as possible and the surface must be surfaced with non-combustible hard materials; however, if this is not feasible, the zone may remain unpaved.
- The second zone (Zone 2) must be three (3.00) metres wide and adjacent to Zone 1. Its surface must consist of non-combustible materials. Only low-growing vegetation, such as ground cover plants and low shrubs, is permitted in this zone; these should preferably be fire-resistant. Trees or tall shrubs are prohibited.
- The third protection zone (Zone 3) is the last zone in the sequence; it follows Zone 2 and is the furthest from the building. It is five (5.00) metres wide. Trees and tall shrubs must be at least 3.00 metres apart. Trees must be pruned from ground level up to a height of three (3.00) metres, depending on their age and condition, and must not be located near power lines. Shrubs, whether standing alone or in small groups, must not be located beneath trees.

For the remaining area of the archaeological site which is not covered by the



above-mentioned protection zones around buildings, the actions and measures for the management of vegetation and combustible material detailed in paragraph 4.2.3 should be implemented.

4.2.2. Fire protection of structural elements of the building envelope

The implementation of fire-protection measures for the structural elements of the building envelope of facilities located within the archaeological site and serving its operation is **mandatory** in cases where these specific areas are located within or near (within 50 metres of) forests and woodland.

1. The measures applied are the following:
 - Sealing of external building gaps with appropriate non-combustible materials. Installation of metal mesh in ventilation openings and chimney apertures of appropriate cross-section and density. Alternatively, specialised fire-barrier systems may be used.
 - Replacement of roof gutters where they are not made of non-combustible materials, category A1 or A2L-s1,d0.
 - Replacement of awnings with permanent shading structures made of non-combustible materials, provided that no fabrics treated with suitable materials that slow down the surface spread of flame are used.
2. Where buildings are located in high-risk archaeological sites and within or near forest land:
 - Installation of metal-fibre mesh on the building's window and door frames.
 - Sealing gaps between the roof covering and the eaves, and covering any exposed wooden elements with fire-resistant materials (fire barriers, intumescent varnishes, fire-resistant plasterboard, etc.).

4.2.3. Vegetation management

Measures to manage vegetation and combustible vegetation are **mandatory** across all open areas within the boundaries of the archaeological site, with priority given to areas accessible to visitors, and include:

- Thorough cleaning around monuments within the archaeological site in order to create a non-combustible buffer zone around them.
- Removal of combustible plant matter lying on the ground, such as leaf litter, dry grass and fallen branches and dry twigs, etc.
- Pruning the base of the tree canopy and raising the canopy base above ground level in accordance with the trees' age and species, in order to reduce the likelihood of a fire developing on the ground spreading to the tree canopy and subsequently spreading through the canopy with hazardous behaviour.
- Thinning of any tree species that are not fire-resistant.



- Pruning of branches that come into contact with the external structural elements of the building, including the roof, provided the archaeological site is not near or within forest areas.
- Felling and removal of dead and broken branches, as well as trees where necessary, with priority given to those that are dead, diseased, or stunted, over-mature, and dangerously inclined to prevent them from falling, particularly those adjacent to ancient monuments and ruins, evacuation routes, and buildings.
- Reducing the density of shrubby vegetation as ground cover.
- Regular removal of debris from roof and gutters, such as pine needles, dry leaves and grass, etc., from the building infrastructure within the archaeological site.
- Clearing vegetation around the perimeter of electrical substations, outdoor lighting fixtures, etc.
- Collection and removal of vegetation-management residues.

It is important that plant material management works are carried out on a systematic basis throughout the year and that they are adequately maintained when required so that during the fire season (from 1 May to 31 October) optimal vegetation-management conditions have been achieved.

The works in question must be carried out without contravening the provisions of forestry and archaeological legislation and, where necessary, shall be carried out under the guidance of and in cooperation with the competent local forestry authorities.

4.2.4. General preventive measures

The following general preventive measures are **mandatory** in all outdoor areas within the archaeological site:

- Prohibition of open-air storage of combustible or flammable materials and objects in the vicinity of buildings and within a distance of up to five (5) metres, particularly for archaeological sites within or near forests and forested areas. In particular, prohibition of storing items under balconies, raised terraces or near external openings and window frames of buildings.
- If combustible, flammable or explosive materials are stored within the archaeological site, they must be properly arranged within an enclosed space.
- Removal of any abandoned combustible or explosive materials or objects within the archaeological site.
- Where liquid fuel tanks are installed at the archaeological site, they may be



installed only within a fire-resistant enclosure with a minimum fire-resistance rating of (R)EI-30 in accordance with ELOT EN 13501-2, around which a protection zone one and a half (1.50) metres wide with non-combustible ground surfacing must be established.

- Prohibition of installing above-ground LPG tanks and cylinders outdoors.
- Diligent maintenance, regular inspection and testing of the facilities and the equipment according to the relevant regulations and the manufacturer's specifications.
- Installation of a containment basin of adequate capacity in liquid fuel tanks to collect any fuel leaks.
- Inspection following cessation of activity at the archaeological site, including during working hours, to identify and eliminate any fire risk factors.
- Permanent posting of clearly visible non-smoking signage.
- Prohibition of placing objects or structural elements on escape routes and at emergency exits that could reduce their clear width or obstruct free movement of people in the event of an emergency.

4.3. Active Fire Protection

Active fire-protection measures and equipment include all portable devices and permanently installed systems at an archaeological site that are used or activated in the event of a fire to immediately contain and extinguish it, until the arrival of the fire service at the scene.

4.3.1. Portable Equipment and Other Means

4.3.1.1. Portable Fire Extinguishers

The installation of portable fire extinguishers is **mandatory** at all archaeological sites.

They are installed at selected locations that allow immediate access in the event of a fire. They must be dry-powder or water-based extinguishers with a fire rating of at least 21A-113B-C, while carbon dioxide extinguishers with a fire rating of at least 55B-C must be provided in areas housing electromechanical installations. They must be protected from weather conditions (rain, sunlight and moisture) to ensure that they remain operational.

In all cases, they must be located near circulation routes, escape routes and final exits, in such a way that no point along the circulation or escape routes shall be more than 50 metres from the nearest fire extinguisher. In addition, they must comply with the requirements of ELOT EN 3-7 and of the Joint Ministerial Decision 618/43/05/20.01.2005 (B' 52), as subsequently amended and currently in force.



4.3.1.2. Simple Water-Supply Firefighting Network/Wheeled Fire Extinguishers

For archaeological sites that do not have a fixed water-supply firefighting network, a simple water-supply firefighting network is **mandatory**. It must be supplied from the mains water supply and housed in fire hose cabinets, which must be positioned in suitably selected, clearly visible and easily accessible locations.

The cabinet of the simple water-supply firefighting network must be made of metal, be red, bear appropriate markings and contain a flexible hose 15–19 mm in diameter and 20 metres long, fitted with a nozzle.

If no mains water supply network is available, wheeled fire extinguishers shall be installed every 100 metres along the visitor and escape routes.

The wheeled fire extinguishers must comply with the requirements of ELOT EN 1866: “Mobile fire extinguishers”, as in force and Joint Ministerial Decision 618/43/05/20-01-2005 (Government Gazette, Series II, No 52), as amended and supplemented and currently in force.

4.3.2. Fixed Fire-fighting Systems

4.3.2.1. Fixed Water-Supply Firefighting Network with Fire Hose Cabinets

The fixed water-supply firefighting network with fire hose cabinets (FHCs) is an active fire protection installation designed to ensure an immediate and effective response to a fire. The network consists of an underground or above-ground pipework system supplied by a reliable water source (a tank or the mains water supply) and terminating at fire hose cabinets suitably distributed throughout the site.

Each fire hose cabinet contains a fire hose, a nozzle and a shut-off valve, ensuring an adequate water supply and pressure in accordance with current legislation. The layout and design of the network components are planned in such a way as to minimise construction impact. The system enables staff or the Fire Service to intervene immediately in the event of a fire.

The design, planning and installation of the fixed water-supply firefighting network are governed by Technical Guideline T.O.T.E.E. 2451/1986: “Installations in buildings: Fixed water-based fire-fighting systems” and/or supplementary requirements for the components of such systems, in accordance with the ELOT EN 671 standard: “Fixed firefighting systems – Hose systems”, in its current version.

At archaeological sites, the fixed water-supply firefighting network with fire hose cabinets should cover, by way of example, visitor routes, paths, squares, rest and



viewing points, areas of natural vegetation—particularly those adjacent to monuments and ancient remains—and buildings and facilities serving the public and supporting the operation of the site, taking into account the terrain morphology, the characteristics of the archaeological site and any restrictions arising from its statutory protection framework.

4.3.2.2. Fixed Water-Supply Firefighting Network with Water Cannons

The water-cannon firefighting system operates in support of the fire hose cabinets to protect the archaeological site from high-intensity, rapidly spreading fires. It covers critical areas of the site, such as extensive areas of vegetation; perimeter zones intended to prevent fire from entering or spreading from neighbouring areas; areas that are difficult to access for immediate intervention using portable firefighting equipment; and high-risk locations owing to terrain morphology, such as slopes, ravines and steep gradients.

4.3.3. Maintenance and inspection of fire protection systems and means

Preventive maintenance and inspection of fire-protection measures at the archaeological site are **mandatory** at all archaeological sites and include the inspection of all installed systems and equipment. Specifically, the applicable inspection, maintenance and repair procedures must be followed for each item of portable firefighting equipment or permanently installed fire protection system, such as portable or wheeled fire extinguishers, a manual fire alarm system, a public-address system, or a fixed water-supply firefighting network with fire hose cabinets or water cannons, in accordance with the legislation in force and European and international standards.

5. Assessment of the Current Level of Fire-Protection

The assessment process includes documenting the current condition of fire-protection measures, identifying any deficiencies or weaknesses and evaluating their effectiveness against the requirements of this Regulation.

The assessment results are used to determine the effectiveness indicator and to take corrective measures to enhance the fire-safety level of the archaeological site.

5.1. Grading System of Existing Fire-Protection Measures

To determine the existing fire-protection level of each archaeological site, the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) is applied. In accordance with this method, the evaluation parameters for the fire-protection measures in Chapter 4, which are used to assess safe public evacuation, preventive fire-protection measures and active fire-protection measures, are analysed and compared in

terms of the extent of their relative impact and importance on the existing protection level of the archaeological site against the risk of fire. The result of this process is the determination of weighted factors for each individual fire-protection measure; depending on their numerical value, these factors will prioritise the fire-protection measures, with priority given to those that are most effective and contribute most to enhancing the fire-safety level at the archaeological site. A weighting factor is a numerical value that expresses the relative importance or weight of each existing measure in the final assessment of the fire-protection level; it does not merely indicate whether that measure is in place, but how important or effective it is in determining the protection level and the fire-resilience degree of an archaeological site in the event of a fire.



EXISTING FIRE-PROTECTION LEVEL					
	MEASURE	CONTROL ELEMENT	DESIGNATION	Grading	Weighting factor
4.1. Measures to Ensure the Safe Evacuation of the Public	4.1.1. Emergency lighting	Emergency lighting of escape routes and exits/final exits	Fully provided	5	0.02
			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	
	4.1.2. Safety signs	Marking of escape routes, exits/final exits and fire-fighting equipment	Fully provided	5	0.01
			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	
	4.1.3. Evacuation plans	Evacuation plans with corresponding signs and symbols	Fully provided	5	0.01
			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	
	4.1.4. Fire alarm and notification systems	Public-address system	Fully provided	5	0.02
			Partially provided by the use of megaphones	3	
			Not provided	0	
		Manual fire-alarm call-point system	Fully provided	5	0.02
			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	



4.2. Preventive Fire-Protection Measures	4.1.5. Plans - Drills - Training	Organised Evacuation Plan for the public from archaeological sites due to imminent fire risk	Fully provided	5	0.04
			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	
		Preparedness drills	Fully provided	5	0.06
			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	
		Staff training	Fully provided	5	0.08
			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	
	4.2.1. Building- Protection Zones	Configuration of perimeter building- protection zones	Fully provided	5	0.16
			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	
	4.2.2. Fire protection of structural elements of the building envelope	Implementation of fire protection measures for the structural elements of the building envelope	Fully provided	5	0.07
			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	
	4.2.3. Vegetation management	Implementation of vegetation management measures within the archaeological site	Fully provided	5	0.27
			Partially provided	3	



4.3. Active Fire-Protection			Not provided	0	
	4.2.4. General preventive measures	Implementation of general preventive measures within the archaeological site	Fully provided	5	0.08
			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	
	4.3.1. Portable means	Installation of portable fire extinguishers	Fully provided	5	0.01
			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	
4.3. Active Fire-Protection	4.3.2. Fixed Fire-fighting Systems	Fixed Water-Supply Firefighting Network with Fire Hose Cabinets	Fully provided	5	0.07
			Partially provided	3	
			Partially provided by the existence of a simple water-supply firefighting network or wheeled fire-extinguishers	2	
			Not provided	0	
		Fixed Water-Supply Firefighting Network with Water Cannons	Fully provided	5	0.04



			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	
	4.3.3. Maintenance and inspection of fire protection systems and means	Maintenance, inspection and control of installed fire protection systems and means	Fully provided	5	0.05
			Partially provided	3	
			Not provided	0	

Table (3): Grading table of existing fire-protection measures

5.1.1. Determination of an Effectiveness Indicator

To determine the effectiveness indicator of an archaeological site, the following procedure is followed:

Each individual fire-protection measure in Chapter 4 is examined and assessed, and each control element is assigned the following designation:

- “fully provided”, where all the relevant conditions laid down in Chapter 4 for the specific control element are met, or where there is no obligation to implement the preventive measures set out in sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 of Chapter 4;
- “partially provided” means that the conditions set out in Chapter 4 for that specific control element are not fully met;
- “not provided” means that none of the conditions set out in Chapter 4 for that specific control element are met, or that the control element is absent.

The selected rating for each control element is multiplied by the corresponding weighting factor and the resulting products are added together to obtain the overall effectiveness indicator determining the existing fire-protection level of the archaeological site.

The final outcome of the assessment is determined by comparing the existing effectiveness indicator of the archaeological site with the minimum effectiveness indicator (minEI) for each Overall Risk Level, as shown in Table (4).

Overall Risk Level	Minimum Effectiveness Indicator (minEI)
Low	60%
Medium	70%



High	80%
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Table (4): Determination of the Effectiveness Indicator per Overall Risk Level

Where the assessment result is lower than the Minimum Effectiveness Indicator (minEI) for the relevant Overall Risk Level, the additional fire-protection measures required to achieve the Minimum Effectiveness Indicator shall be determined when preparing the Technical Report on the Adaptation and Improvement of Fire-Protection Measures, in accordance with Chapter 6.2.

6. Implementation and Supervision Process

For the purposes of implementing this Regulation, supervisory procedures are established which include the collection, analysis and evaluation of data, information and records, the planning and conduct of on-site inspections, the provision of updates, information and guidance, and the monitoring of the compliance with the provisions of the Regulation.

6.1. Preparation of the Overall Risk Assessment Form and the Existing Fire-Protection Level Assessment Form

Upon the entry into force of this Regulation, the person responsible for the archaeological site shall assess the site's overall risk criteria in accordance with Chapter 3 and complete the archaeological site's Overall Risk Assessment Form (Annex B).

Reassessment of the overall risk, involving the preparation of a new Form, is required only where the criteria examined have changed, including, by way of example, in the following cases:

- a) following a fire incident within or in the immediate vicinity of the archaeological site
- b) changes to the layout, use, accessibility or functional organisation of the archaeological site that may affect visitor evacuation (pathways, entrances, exits) and visitor flow.

After assessing the overall risk, the person in charge of the archaeological site also carries out an assessment of the existing fire-protection level as set out in Chapter 4 by completing the Existing Fire-Protection Level Assessment Form (Annex C).

6.2. Drafting of a Technical Report on the Adaptation and Improvement of Fire-Protection Measures

1. A Technical Report on the Adaptation and Improvement of Fire-Protection Measures shall be prepared under the responsibility of the relevant



Ephorate of Antiquities, on the basis of the assessment of the existing fire-protection level, and shall include at least the following:

- General information about the archaeological site: spatial and topographical data, site area, and a description of buildings and facilities within the supervised area.
 - Reference to the evidence supporting the selection of classification criteria in relation to the site's overall risk and the fire-protection measures in place.
 - A floor plan depicting the essential elements of the archaeological site required to implement the Regulation, such as: ancient monuments and remains, buildings, routes, final exits, protection zones, etc., noting the locations and other elements of existing fire-protection systems.
 - Other supporting documentation, such as maintenance and operational certificates for fire-protection systems and equipment, photographic evidence of vegetation-management work, etc.
 - A description of the existing fire-protection measures and an indication of the additional measures, actions and works needed to adapt them to meet the requirements of the Regulation.
 - A time frame for completing the implementation of any required fire-protection measures and equipment in accordance with the deadlines set out in the "Transitional Provisions" chapter.
2. In the event that objective practical difficulties arise in implementing the general provisions regarding measures and means of safe evacuation, preventive and active fire-protection measures due to the specific characteristics and constraints of the archaeological site, the option is provided to use alternative methods, systems, structures and adaptations, provided that an equivalent level of fire safety is ensured for the intended purpose. Any alternative implementations and adaptations shall be described and justified in detail in the Technical Report, with appropriate documentation and relevant supporting material.
3. If the installation of fixed firefighting systems—a fixed water-supply firefighting network with fire hose cabinets and/or a fixed water-supply firefighting network with water cannons—a public-address system or a manual fire alarm system is proposed, an implementation study and tender documents shall be prepared in accordance with the applicable statutory framework, once the corresponding final design has been prepared and the Central Archaeological Council has issued its opinion on it.

6.3. Preparation of an Implementation and Adaptation Report

Under the responsibility of the competent Ephorate of Antiquities, an Implementation and Adaptation Report for fire protection measures shall be prepared, setting out all necessary actions taken or initiated by the Ephorate



to comply with the requirements of this Regulation in conjunction with those specified in the Technical Report, where such a Report is required.

6.4. Submission of Forms

Under the responsibility of the competent Ephorate of Antiquities, the following shall be submitted to the competent central directorate(s) of the Ministry of Culture, with a copy to the relevant Prefectural Fire Services Administration (DIPYN): (a) by 31 December 2026, the Overall Risk Assessment Form, the Existing Fire-Protection Level Assessment Form and the Technical Report on the Adaptation and Improvement of Fire-Protection Measures; and (b) by 30 April each year, the Implementation and Adaptation Report for fire protection measures.

The relevant central directorates of the Ministry of Culture, having collected and assessed the data submitted, shall take the necessary coordination measures to ensure effective implementation of the Regulation, address any problems identified, and compile the relevant statistical data. In addition, it sends the relevant Prefectural Fire Service Administrations a list of archaeological sites classified by overall risk category, so that the supervision procedure may be implemented in accordance with Chapter 6.5.

The archaeological site supervision file, comprising the Overall Risk Assessment Form, the Technical Report on the Adaptation and Improvement of Fire-Protection Measures, the Implementation and Adaptation Report for fire protection measures, the Existing Fire-Protection Level Assessment Form, and any accompanying documents and supporting material, must be retained in the records of the competent Ephorate of Antiquities as part of the archaeological site's fire-safety file.

6.5. Inspections in the Context of Supervision

Compliance with this Regulation shall be inspected on site by staff of the Preventive Fire Protection Office of the relevant Prefectural Fire Services Administration (DIPYN) or, at the discretion of the Ministry of Culture, by means of a joint on-site inspection conducted by representatives of the competent central directorate(s) of the Ministry of Culture and the relevant DIPYN.

The frequency of inspections is determined according to the Overall Risk Level, as shown in Table (5).

Overall Risk Level	Frequency of inspections
Low	No planned inspections take



	place
Medium	Every three (3) years
High	Every one (1) year

Table (5): Frequency of Inspections per Overall Risk Level of archaeological sites.

Specifically for the first year of implementation (2027), inspections will be carried out at all archaeological sites, regardless of their Overall Risk Level.

The inspectors determine whether the information included in the Overall Risk Assessment and the Existing Fire-Protection Level Assessment of the archaeological site reflects the actual situation and verify the implementation of the prescribed fire-protection measures, in accordance with the Technical Report on the Adaptation and Improvement of Fire-Protection Measures and the Implementation and Adaptation Report.

In cases of deviation from or non-compliance with all the measures and means of fire-protection provided for in this Regulation and the Technical Report, written recommendations are issued, detailing the deficiencies found and the corrective action plan, and a deadline is set for compliance. The above deadline may not exceed one year, taking into account the seriousness of the deficiencies and the estimated time for their correction, with the exception of the deadlines referred to in the transitional provisions.

Upon expiry of the specified deadline, a new on-site inspection shall be carried out and, if compliance has not been achieved by that date, the penalties provided for in Chapter 6.6 shall be imposed.

The above audit information is also forwarded to the relevant central directorate(s) of the Ministry of Culture for their information.

6.5.1. Procedure for Imposing a Fine - Lodging an Objection

If an on-site inspection reveals non-compliance with the requirements of the Regulation, the Fire Service imposes an administrative fine, depending on the Overall Risk Level, as set out in Table (6).

Overall Risk Level	Amount of the administrative fine (in EUR)
Low	1,000
Medium	2,000
High	5,000

Table (6): Administrative Fine per Overall Risk Level

In the event of a repeat offence within a year, the administrative fine for each



overall-risk category is doubled.

The Act Imposing a Fine shall be drawn up by the competent inspection body of the Fire Service. A copy shall be provided to the Head of the Ephorate of Antiquities, who may lodge an objection with the administration of the competent Prefectural Fire Service (DIPYN/DIPY) within an exclusive time limit of ten working days. The Director of the Authority shall examine the appeal in accordance with the law and on its merits, and shall decide whether to reject it or to annul, in whole or in part, the administrative fine imposed.

Once the aforementioned deadline has expired without action being taken, or once the objection has been rejected, the decision to impose the administrative fine is deemed final.

6.5.2. Notification and Collection of Fines

The fine imposed in accordance with the provisions of this Decision by the Fire Service is collected in accordance with the Public Revenue Collection Code, as follows:

- a) within fifteen (15) working days of the date of notification of the Act Imposing a Fine, by means of an electronic fee (e-Paravolo) issued by the General Secretariat for Information Systems for Public Administration (GSISPA), either directly via the website <https://www.gsis.gr/eparavolo> (Greek State or competent fine-imposing authority), through Citizen Service Centres (KEP), banks or the competent local tax offices. If an objection is lodged, the period within which the offender must pay the fine is suspended from the date the objection is submitted until notification of the decision on it.
- b) If the deadline for payment of the fine referred to in subparagraph (a) expires, the competent Fire Service shall, within ten (10) calendar days, send a list of the amounts due to the Independent Authority for Public Revenue (IAPR), in accordance with Article 2 of Law 4978/2022 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 190) and Article 58(1) of Law 5100/2024 (Government Gazette, Series I, No 49), for notification and collection of the administrative fine.
- c) Notified fines are collected as public revenue in Detailed Revenue Account (DRA) 1560989001 "Other Fines and Penalty Payments" of the General Accounting Office of the State.

7. Transitional provisions

1. For the current year (2026), it is recommended that all archaeological sites falling within the scope of this Regulation immediately implement at least the preventive measures provided for in Chapter 4.2 and prepare an Organised Evacuation Plan for evacuating people from archaeological sites in the event



of an imminent fire risk, as provided for in Chapter 4.1.5.1.

2. The active fire-protection provisions of mandatory application apply from the entry into force of this Regulation.
3. The preventive fire-protection provisions apply from the next fire season, i.e. from 1 May 2027.
4. Where the Technical Report on the Adaptation and Improvement of Fire-Protection Measures provides for the installation of a fixed water-supply firefighting network with fire hose cabinets and/or water cannons, a public-address system or a manual fire-alarm call-point system, a deadline of up to five (5) years is set for the completion of their installation.

8. Final Provisions

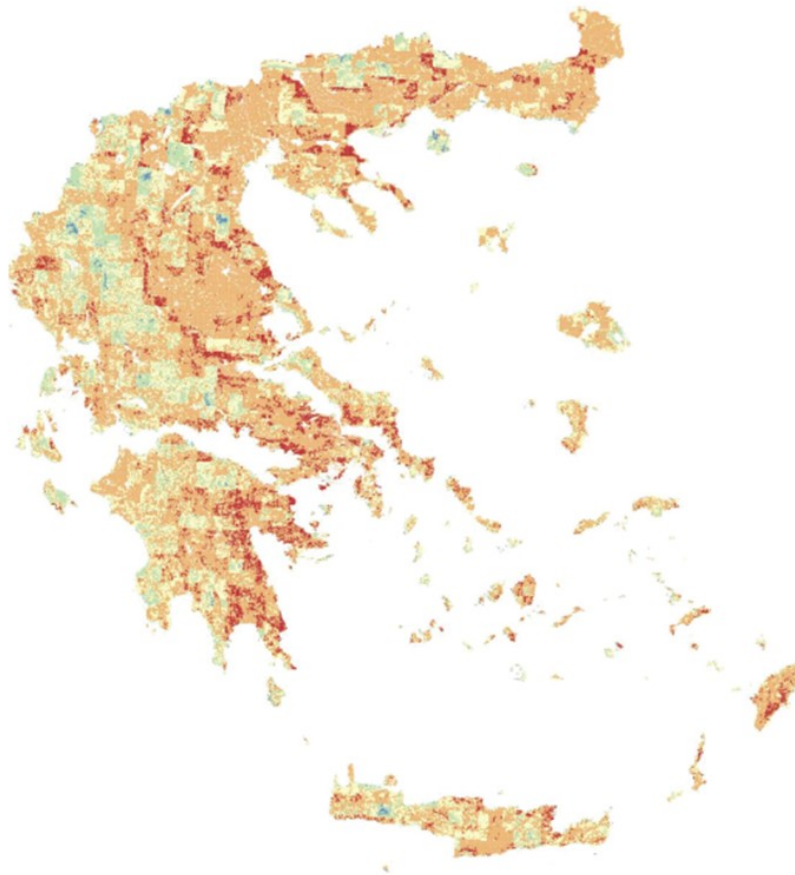
1. At archaeological sites hosting cultural events, the body responsible for organising the events provides the necessary staff and equipment to ensure the safety of those attending. The organiser shall also be responsible for the safe operation of the infrastructure and installations deployed for the events and shall, where necessary, have an evacuation plan for removing people from the event venue in the event of a fire. This plan shall be communicated to the competent department of the Ministry of Culture for incorporation into the broader Organised Evacuation Plan. The above is included in the terms and conditions governing the use of archaeological sites for cultural events.
2. The procedures for the implementation, control and supervision of the Regulation set out herein may also be carried out digitally via the Ministry of Culture's electronic platform.
3. It is the responsibility of the competent Ephorate of Antiquities to ensure the installation, maintenance and proper operation of fire-protection systems and equipment, as well as to take the necessary preventive fire-protection measures at archaeological sites.



Annexes

Annex A

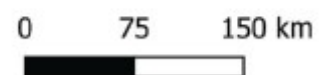
“Estimated Climate-Risk Map for Forest Fires” – Assessment methodology



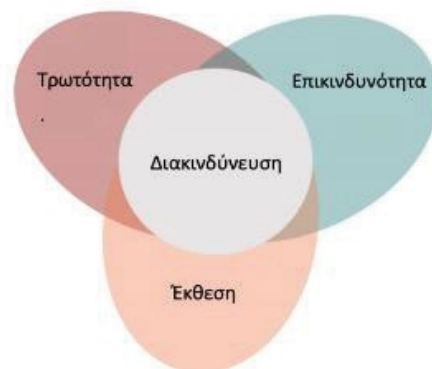
Risk



Note: Outlined polygons represent archaeological sites within



Climate risk is defined as the combination of the effects of a natural phenomenon and its probability of occurrence, as determined by the interaction of climate hazard, exposure and vulnerability (IPCC, 2022). The climate risk assessment (Figure 1) adopts the guiding principles of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2022) and the European Climate Risk Assessment Framework (EUCRA, 2024).



Vulnerability	Τρωτότητα
Hazard	Επικινδυνότητα
Risk	Διακινδύνευση
Exposure	Έκθεση

Figure 1. Climate risk assessment framework

The assessment of climate risk requires the calculation of climate hazard, which expresses the probability of occurrence and intensity of present and future climate phenomena; exposure, which concerns all people, infrastructure, activities and natural features located in areas where climate hazards occur; and vulnerability, which reflects the extent to which exposed systems are adversely affected should a climate hazard occur. The combination of the above factors leads to a comprehensive assessment of climate risk, both today and in the future.

Climate Risk Assessment Methodology for Forest Fires

To assess the climate risk of forest fires in Greece, data relating to climatic and non-climatic parameters are used: spatial data from climate simulations, land cover data, as well as geophysical and biophysical data. The analysis was carried out using a Geographic Information System.

In particular, the hazard of forest fires is assessed using the Composite Fire Weather Index (FWI) to describe the fire-meteorological conditions prevailing in Greece. The FWI is calculated on the basis of climate data, such as temperature, humidity, rainfall and wind speed, and expresses both the probability of occurrence and the intensity of fires. Data from regional climate simulations were used to assess hazard at national level and determine the number of days per year on which the index is associated with high or very high forest fire hazard. The regions of Greece were categorised into five classes, ranging from very low to very high hazard, taking into account the frequency of such days. Looking ahead, hazard was assessed for the periods 2026–2045 and 2046–2065 using an intermediate radiative-forcing scenario that projects a change of 4.5 W/m² in the radiative balance of the Earth–atmosphere system by 2100.¹

¹ These are the emissions, concentrations and warming potential projected under the SSP2-4.5 scenario,



A region's exposure to forest fires is categorised into five classes based on land-cover data from the CORINE Land Cover (CLC) product, which provides a pan-European inventory of land cover and land use across a total of 44 thematic categories (Corine, 2018). Accordingly, the vulnerability of the area was categorised into five classes, based on the fuel categorisation proposed by Aragoneses et al. (2023), who propose linking each fuel category to forest fuel models. The slope of the terrain was also taken into account, as indicated by high-resolution DEM data. In the vulnerability calculation, the influence of fuel was considered more important and accounted for 70% of the indicator, while slope accounted for 30%. The cartographic synthesis of these non-climatic factors provides a unified visual representation, incorporating the degree to which areas are exposed to external risks, as well as the vulnerability of the areas themselves to fires, based on their inherent characteristics. The composite exposure/vulnerability map, generated using GIS software classifies the country's regions into five levels (from very low to very high).

The combination of hazard and exposure/vulnerability indicators, using equal weights in the risk indicator, leads to five risk classes, highlighting high-priority areas for fire protection. Analysis of forest-fire risks reveals clear trends indicating an increasing risk in most parts of Greece. These changes are mainly related to the increase in hazard from the period 2026 – 2045 to the medium-term period 2046 – 2065. It should be noted that the map accompanying the Regulation does not take into account the risk to archaeological sites located within a built-up urban environment and not adjacent to forest land or similar areas (groves, parks, etc.).

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Annex B

“Overall Risk Assessment Form”

OVERALL RISK ASSESSMENT FORM FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE						
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE						
EPHORA OF ANTIQUITIES						
SURFACE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE UNDER ASSESSMENT						
FORM AUTHORS						
DATE OF COMPLETION OF FORM						
SIGNATURE OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE						

OVERALL RISK ASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE						
Criterion (1)	Assessment Element Select as appropriate (✓) (2)	Score (3)	Selected score (4)	Weighting factor (5)	Final Score (6) = (4) × (5)	
3.1.1 Topography	An archaeological site located outside a valley or gorge, or not in the vicinity of ridges or other elevations	1		0.10		
	An archaeological site located within a valley, gorge, or near a ridge and other elevations	5				
3.1.2 Estimated climate risk for forest fires	Very low	1		0.32		
	Low	2				
	Medium	3				
	High	4				
	Very High	5				
3.1.3 Infrastructure / Networks	Without overhead high- or medium-voltage lines	1		0.03		
	With overhead high- or medium-voltage lines	3				
	With high or medium voltage overhead cable networks and transformers	5				
	Fire hydrants at a distance of less than 500 metres	1		0.06		
	Fire hydrants within 2,500 metres	3				
	Without fire hydrants	5		0.05		
	With Early Fire-Detection System	1				
	Without Early Fire-Detection System	5				
3.1.4 Visitor numbers at the archaeological site	< 100 visitors per day	1		0.19		
	100–1,000 visitors per day	3				
	> 1,000 visitors per day	5				
3.1.5 Escape routes- Emergency exits	Maximum length of escape route less than 50 m.	1		0.04		
	Maximum escape-route length from 51 m to 100 m	3				
	Maximum escape-route length greater than 100 m	5				
	Number of final exits: > two (2)	1		0.04		
	Number of final exits: two (2)	3				
Number of final exits: one (1)	5					
3.1.6 Access by fire-fighting vehicles	Full/Increased access for fire-fighting vehicles within and around the archaeological site	1		0.09		
	Partial access for fire-fighting vehicles within and around the archaeological site	3				
	No/Limited access for firefighting vehicles within and around the archaeological site	5				
	Firefighting vehicles can reach the boundaries of the archaeological site from the existing road network via two (2) access roads of sufficient width and passability	1		0.08		
	Fire-fighting vehicles can access the site from the existing road network to the boundaries of the archaeological site via a single (1) access road of sufficient width and passability	3				
	Inadequate or narrow road network and limited or no access for firefighting vehicles	5				
FINAL SCORE:						
RISK LEVEL:						



Annex C

“Existing Fire-Protection Level Assessment Form”

EXISTING FIRE-PROTECTION LEVEL ASSESSMENT FORM	
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE	
EPHORATE OF ANTIQUITIES	
AREA OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE UNDER ASSESSMENT	
FORM AUTHORS	
DATE OF COMPLETION OF THE FORM	
OVERALL RISK LEVEL	
SIGNATURE OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE	

RATING OF FIRE PROTECTION MEASURES							
	Measure (1)	Control Element (2)	Assessment - select as appropriate (v) (3)	Score (4)	Selected Score (5)	Weighting factor (6)	Final Score (7) = (5) x (6)
4.1. Measures to Ensure the Safe Evacuation of the Public	4.1.1. Emergency lighting	Emergency lighting of escape routes and exit/final exits	Fully provided	5		0.02	
			Partially provided	3			
			Not provided	0			
	4.1.2. Safety signs	Marking of escape routes, exit/final exits and fire-fighting equipment	Fully provided	5		0.01	
			Partially provided	3			
			Not provided	0			
	4.1.3. Evacuation plans	Evacuation plans with corresponding signs and symbols	Fully provided	5		0.01	
			Partially provided	3			
			Not provided	0			
	4.1.4. Fire alarm and notification systems	Public-address system	Fully provided	5		0.02	
			Partially provided by the use of megaphones	3			
			Not provided	0			
		Manual fire-alarm call-point system	Fully provided	5		0.02	
			Partially provided	3			
			Not provided	0			
	4.1.5. Plans - Drills - Training	Organised Evacuation Plan for the public from archaeological sites due to imminent fire risk	Fully provided	5		0.04	
			Partially provided	3			
			Not provided	0			
Preparedness drills		Fully provided	5		0.06		
		Partially provided	3				
		Not provided	0				
Staff training		Fully provided	5		0.08		
		Partially provided	3				
		Not provided	0				
4.2. Preventive Fire-Protection Measures	4.2.1. Building-Protection Zones	Configuration of perimeter building-protection zones	Fully provided	5		0.16	
			Partially provided	3			
			Not provided	0			
	4.2.2. Fire protection of structural elements of the building envelope	Implementation of fire protection measures for the structural elements of the building envelope	Fully provided	5		0.07	
			Partially provided	3			
			Not provided	0			
	4.2.3. Vegetation management	Implementation of vegetation management measures within the archaeological site	Fully provided	5		0.27	
			Partially provided	3			
			Not provided	0			
	4.2.4. General preventive measures	Implementation of general preventive measures within the archaeological site	Fully provided	5		0.08	
			Partially provided	3			
			Not provided	0			
4.3. Active Fire-Protection	4.3.1. Portable means	Installation of portable fire extinguishers	Fully provided	5		0.01	
			Partially provided	3			
			Not provided	0			
	4.3.2. Fixed Fire-fighting Systems	Fixed Water-Supply Firefighting Network with Fire Hose Cabinets	Fully provided	5		0.07	
			Partially provided	3			
			Partially provided by the existence of a simple water-supply firefighting network or wheeled fire-extinguishers	2			
		Fixed Water-Supply Firefighting Network with Water Cannons	Not provided	0		0.04	
			Fully provided	5			
			Partially provided	3			
	4.3.3. Maintenance and inspection of fire protection systems and means	Maintenance, inspection and control of installed fire protection systems and means	Fully provided	5		0.05	
			Partially provided	3			
			Not provided	0			
FINAL SCORE (FS):							
EFFECTIVENESS INDICATOR (EI%) = ((FS) x 100) / 5:							
OVERALL RISK LEVEL:			⇒	MINIMUM EFFECTIVENESS INDICATOR (minEI):			
			ADDITIONAL MEASURES REQUIRED:				



This Decision shall be published in the Government Gazette.

Marousi, 18 June 2026

The Ministers

Culture

STYLIANI MENDONI

Climate Crisis and Civil Protection

EVANGELOS TOURNAS

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