

# BLUE BERET

The Magazine of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

June 2016



## New SRSG

Spehar arrives  
in Cyprus

## Summer fire

safety tips

PLUS

UNFICYP's Dragon Boat stars  
Honouring fallen peacekeepers

# BLUE BERET

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Published bi-monthly by the Public Information Office of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

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# Editorial

It's another scorching Cyprus summer, with plenty of activity both within the Mission and across the island. We bade a fond farewell to SRSG Lisa Buttenheim, who served as Head of Mission for six years, and welcomed SRSG Elizabeth Spehar as the new Special Representative, Head of Mission and Deputy Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus. We offer a warm welcome to SRSG Spehar as she embarks on her duties on this beautiful island.

This summer we will also bid farewell to our Force Commander, Major General Kristin Lund, who has led UNFICYP with diligence and dedication for the past two years. Major General Lund is the first ever female UN Force Commander, and the successful execution of her duties is proof that we need more women at all levels of UN peacekeeping. We thank the General for her professionalism, courtesy and leadership, and wish her even bigger and brighter achievements in the future.

Talks between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders continue, with both leaders recently reiterating their commitment to the peace process and to a unified, federal Cyprus. In June, they stepped up the pace of the talks, agreeing to meet twice weekly in an intensified phase aimed at potentially reaching a solution within 2016. The UN's Good Offices, under SASG Espen Barth Eide and DSASG Spehar, continues to facilitate the process during an increasingly busy period, while UNFICYP is providing logistical support and security for the talks.

Our Civil Affairs Section took advantage of the excellent weather in May and June to support a number of bicomunal events, including the second annual Pyla Festival, the second annual Pyla Football Tournament, a bicomunal art exhibition and the Technical Committee on Education's inaugural event, which

brought 100 children from across the island and was attended by both Mr. Akinci and Mr. Anastasiades and their spouses. All these events serve to bring communities together and build mutual respect and genuine connections between the island's people.

The Slovak Republic marked its 15th anniversary in UNFICYP on 22 June, having sent its first troops to the Mission in 1998, just five years after the country's establishment. Without the continued support of UN Member States, our Mission and others in the UN would find it vastly more challenging to execute their mandates; we thank our police and troop contributing countries for their continued devotion to the cause of peace in Cyprus and the ideals of the United Nations.

Be sure to read the fire safety information in this edition of the Blue Beret; we have already seen a massive blaze in the Troodos Mountains this June, which led to the tragic loss of the lives of two heroic firefighters. As the summer continues to heat up, it will be important to know what to do to mitigate our personal and collective fire risks.

You can also read about UNFICYP's Pest Control team, who won a prize for their excellent work in Sector Four, as well as Procurement's own Panayiota Panayiotou, whose photo, "Melissa & Muffin", won third place out of more than 300 in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations' International Day of Peacekeepers Photo Contest.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Blue Beret. We welcome content from all components of the Mission, so if you have a story to tell about life and work in UNFICYP, please contact PIO so we can bring your words to life!



# SRSG Spehar arrives at mission headquarters

Six summers after her arrival as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Cyprus and Head of Mission as well as Deputy Special Adviser to the Secretary-General (DSASG) on Cyprus, Ms. Lisa Buttenheim wound up her successful tenure and headed to New York to take up her new assignment as Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) in charge of Field Support.

In a press statement announcing the appointment of a new SRSG in Cyprus, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon praised SRSG Buttenheim's dedication and exemplary leadership of UNFICYP over the past six years. "During her tenure, significant progress has been achieved in the negotiations towards a comprehensive settlement," he added.

SRSG Buttenheim's last few weeks were a whirlwind of activity as she bade farewell to the island's authorities, civil society, the diplomatic community and the UN family. She will be fondly remembered by all who had the pleasure to work with her. Her professional leadership, unwavering diplomacy even in the toughest of situations and her warm character will be missed by the Mission. On 13 June 2016, Ms. Elizabeth

Spehar arrived on the island to take up her new role as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus and Head of Mission as well as Deputy Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus. In a busy week in which her feet barely touched the ground, SRSG Spehar met UN personnel, both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders, attended a meeting with the First Ladies and participated in her first leaders' meeting as DSASG.

SRSG Spehar is no stranger to Cyprus, having served as interim Special representative and Head of Mission for several months in 2008. She has extensive political experience in several senior positions with the Department of Political Affairs since 2007. Prior to joining the United Nations, Ms. Spehar was a senior official with the Organization of American States for more than 12 years, working to promote democracy and develop that Organization's dialogue and conflict-resolution instruments.

We wish both ASG Buttenheim and SRSG Spehar all the very best and offer our support as they take up their new challenges.





# Children inspire leaders at inaugural Technical Committee on Education event

The bicomunal Technical Committee on Education held its first ever event on 2 June 2016, bringing together 100 11-12 year olds from across Cyprus to interact with each other at the Home for Cooperation and Ledra Palace Hotel in the buffer zone. The island's two leaders, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades and Mr. Mustafa Akıncı participated in the event, visiting the children's workshops and joining them for a spirited "tug of peace".

The activity aimed to help participants get to know each other better in order to promote mutual understanding and respect through games and artistic activities. It is expected that this event will set an example for future initiatives between students and teachers from both communities. The children engaged in art and crafts, music, sports, theatre and traditional Cypriot

games, activities designed and facilitated by educators with relevant experience. The event was also supported by the teachers' trade unions from both sides, POED and KTOS.

Speaking at the closing of the event, the two leaders – who were accompanied by their spouses – reiterated their support for the important work of the Technical Committee on Education in building a culture of peace on the island.

"Our country is a shared one, we must give you the opportunity through peace to co-create. This burden falls on my shoulders and Mustafa's for us to succeed," said Mr. Anastasiades.

"Nicos Anastasiades and I may sometimes have our differences, but what we want is to leave you with a country in peace," Mr. Akıncı told the children. "We do not want you to live what our generation lived through."



# International Day of Peacekeepers

## UNFICYP pays tribute to fallen colleagues

On Monday, 30th May 2016, in commemoration of the International Day of Peacekeepers, UNFICYP personnel gathered in front of the globe monument at the Blue Beret Camp to honour the memory of UN peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the cause of peace. During its 52 years, UNFICYP has recorded 186 fatalities in total, with 171 of these being military personnel.

This year, UNFICYP was joined for the event by representatives from the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot political parties who meet regularly under the auspices of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic; they laid wreaths at the globe monument to pay their respects.

As the Head of Mission, Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, noted in her speech, their visit was a significant moment for UNFICYP.

“Your presence is all the more significant against the backdrop of the leader-led peace negotiations that have intensified during the past year. We look forward to that time when a comprehensive and means that blue berets are no longer needed on this beautiful island.”

She also paid tribute to Force Commander Maj. Gen. Kristen Lund and UNFICYP Senior Police Adviser Colonel Andrii Sachavo, who so ably lead the men and women under their command, highlighting that their professionalism and dedication could be an example to us all.

Maj. Gen. Lund read out the UN Secretary-General's message for the International Day of Peacekeepers.

“Fifteen years ago, the UN had fewer than 40,000 military and police personnel. Today, more than 105,000 uniformed personnel from 124 troop- and police-contributing countries serve under the blue flag, along with 18,000 international and national civilian staff and UN Volunteers,” the message reads in part. “They manifest the best attributes of global solidarity, courageously serving in dangerous environments to provide security to some of the world's most vulnerable.”

In 2015, the list of fallen UN peacekeepers numbered 129 from 50 countries, hailing from the ranks of the military, police, international civil servants, UN Volunteers and national staff.

“On this International Day of UN Peacekeepers, we honour our heroes – the more than one million men and women who have served under the UN flag with pride, distinction and courage since the first deployment in 1948,” the Secretary-General's message continued. “And we pay our highest tribute to the more than 3,400 peacekeepers who have lost their lives while in service during that period. We are forever in their debt. And we pledge today to realize the full potential of United Nations peacekeeping to usher in a better future.”

# Bicommunal festival lights up Pyla

The main square in the Cypriot village of Pyla came alive for the 2nd Bicommunal Festival held on Saturday 4 June 2016. From 10:00 am till the wee hours of the morning, Pyla residents enjoyed musical performances of modern and traditional Cypriot songs and dances by about 20 different groups, as well as some 65 stands selling a variety of food, clothing and traditional items.

The Turkish Cypriot Mukhtar of Pyla, Mr. Enver Nedjet, and the Greek Cypriot Mukhtar of Pyla, Mr. Simos Mitides, who organized the event with the support of UNFICYP, invited people

to celebrate and respect the common heritage of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots, as well as their differences.

An estimated 3,500 people in total, including families with small children, visited the festival, which took place in a warm and jovial atmosphere and lasted until about 01:00 am on Sunday morning without incident. Many attendees stayed in the square socialising long after the programme officially ended.

Many of those who attended the event praised the Mukhtars for their organisation and called for more events that bring the two communities together.



# Force Commander's Inspections

During the month of May, UNFICYP Force Commander Maj. Gen. Kristin Lund and her inspection team visited all three Sectors and the HQ support elements as a part of her last troop inspection before she departs the mission and the island later this summer. After operational briefings, Maj. Gen. Lund inspected the Sectors' areas of responsibility within the buffer zone. It was a good opportunity for the Force Commander to observe the readiness of respective Sectors to fulfil their military duties during a number of simulated scenarios. Following the inspections, she found that after the recent troop rotation, UNFICYP's Sectors are fully operational and ready to fulfil their mandate.



# UNFICYP marks World Environment Day

## Illegal hunting of birds addressed

Marking World Environment Day, which this year focuses on the illegal trade of wildlife, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) calls on us all to “Go Wild for Life” and take action to help safeguard species under threat for future generations.

In line with UNEP’s call, UNFICYP’s Environmental Committee invited local NGO BirdLife Cyprus to deliver an informative lecture on illegal hunting and trade of migratory and resident bird species in Cyprus. As custodians of the buffer zone, and with full awareness of its uniqueness in the entire island’s already diminishing ecosystem, UNFICYP’s civilian, military and police personnel took great interest in this event.

Touching on the extent of the problem, SRS G Spehar highlighted everyone’s “responsibility to reduce the demand for wildlife products” in Cyprus and in the rest of world; she also underlined the importance of safeguarding nature for a sustainable future.

Speaking at the lecture, BirdLife Cyprus officials said every year, 150 million birds migrate through Cyprus in autumn and 100 million during the summer; a total of 400 different species use the Cyprus corridor. BirdLife Cyprus has identified 34 important habitat areas for birds on the island both for migratory birds and endemic species. However, illegal hunting through trapping with mist nets and lime sticks has caused severe damage to bird species generally, as these are non-selective trapping methods.

Partnering with UNPOL in identifying illegal hunting sites in the buffer zone, BirdLife Cyprus officials emphasized that Cyprus is among the top five countries in the Mediterranean Review of Illegal Killing of Birds report and number one in per capita killings, even though both national and EU legislation prohibits

trade and/or possession of trapped birds either in restaurants or homes.

A BirdLife Official stated that “there needs to be political will for the implementation of a ‘zero-tolerance’ approach; participation of all relevant stakeholders in a joint, coordinated and targeted strategy for the elimination of illegal hunting and an increase in awareness of the ecological impacts of trapping.”

For further details on birds of Cyprus; illegal bird trapping and bird watching in Cyprus, and for your kind donations and contributions:

[www.birdlifecyprus.org](http://www.birdlifecyprus.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/BirdLifeCyprus>

<https://twitter.com/birdlifecyprus>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/BirdLifeCyprus?feature=watch>

### **For further reading:**

Birds of Cyprus by Jane Stylianou (BirdLife Cyprus)  
Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation  
ISBN: 978-9963-42-873-1  
Language: English supported with photographs

Kıbrıs’ın Kuşları (Birds of Cyprus) by Niyazi Türkseven (TC Biologists’ Association)  
Khora Books Publication  
ISBN: 978- 9963- 74- 480 -0  
Language: Turkish supported with photographs and illustrations



# Junior officers exchange programme offers UNFICYP troops new experiences

Between 30 May and 3 June 2016, junior officers from across all Sectors of UNFICYP took part in an exchange programme with the aim of enabling them to experience the working life of colleagues from other nations and various parts of the mission. This exchange programme has in the past been well received, and this year proved no exception, with participants gaining valuable new experiences and a deeper understanding of the overall tasks of the mission.

The programme saw 1st Lt Zoltán Attila Virág (Sector 4, Hungary) and Capt Matt Ankers (Sector 2, UK) visit Sector 1, while 1st Lt Bojan Janicijevic (Sector 4, Serbia) and 1st Lt Maximiliano Galante (Sector 1, Argentina) went to Sector 2. 1st Lt Guim Pablo

Vera Aroz (Sector 1, Argentina) and a 1st Lt Tom Doyle (Sector 2, UK) went to Sector 4. All participants were briefed about the area of responsibility (AOR) of each Sector, the differences between the Sectors and received a familiarization tour of the buffer zone. An important part of the exchange programme was the welfare activities, including a visit to the old city in Famagusta in Sector 4, a Green Line tour in Sector 2 and a football tournament, which enabled the troops to get to know each other better and build friendships. The exchange programme was a great opportunity for the officers to gain new experience from multinational environments within UNFICYP.

**Below are some of their experiences:**



**Capt Matt Ankers, Sector 2 to Sector 1**

Vast, mountainous and rich with wildlife, Sector 1 includes unique areas of historic and political significance, flat and fertile terrain with a hive of agricultural activity, hilltop observation posts with spectacular views and maritime security areas along the buffer zone's coast. During a very enjoyable and incredibly interesting week I was hosted generously by soldiers and officers from Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Brazil. I learned a great deal about how they operate, added lots of new words to my Spanish vocabulary and drank a whole lot of maté. A great experience all-around and one that I will never forget.



**1st Lt Bojan Janicijevic, Sector 4 to Sector 2**

During the five-day exchange programme, I learned a lot about this part of Cyprus, Sector 2. We explored and experienced the Green Line familiarization visit; patrolled the buffer zone by car, on foot and by mountain bike; we helped with Op Clean and explored the City of Nicosia, its history and conflict, all very important aspects of military experience, culture and history. For me as a professional this has been a fantastic and a great benefit for my career. It was an experience I will never forget with my newly made friends of the multi-cap badge, multinational, Regular and Reserve Sector 2 neighbours.



**1st Lt Maximiliano Galante, Sector 1 to sector 2**

That kind of experience is a good opportunity to increase your operational capacity across the whole buffer zone, and then when an eventual incident requires a prompt and proper reaction you are better prepared to come up with one. Actually, I see this programme as a very efficient operational development. I would like to say thanks to UNFICYP for giving me this opportunity, and to all of you in Sector 2, I really I felt at home all week – all of you are amazing, I made a lot of new friends, and I hope we will work together soon!



**Lt TJ Doyle, Sector 2 to Sector 4**

I had the opportunity to speak with the soldiers and officers of each platoon and learn not only about their individual experiences of the UN mission in Cyprus but I was also privileged enough to learn about their home countries, their armed forces and, most importantly, their cuisine. The exchange programme was a valuable opportunity to draw comparisons between the different AORs, discuss patrolling and planning methods and pass different practices across the Sector boundaries. The week was finalized by a reconnaissance flight, delivered by UN Flight, of the whole AOR in which its sheer scale could fully be appreciated as well as the outstanding work conducted by the UN personnel within Sector 4.

# Troops sharpen their military skills in summer competition

After weeks of preparation, the excitement was palpable on the morning of 7 June 2016 as teams of UNFICYP troops readied for the annual summer edition of the Military Skills Competition. A favourite of the troops, the contest began with an endurance run flagged off with the traditional horn by Force Commander Maj. Gen. Kristin Lund, who was overseeing her last Military Skills Competition before her departure later this summer.

Two teams from each Sector and two additional HQ teams from the Mobile Force Reserve (MFR) and the Force Military Police Unit (FMPU) competed in nine disciplines that tested the military skills essential for work in the mission. The first three disciplines – the endurance run, UN knowledge and the assault course – were done by teams together; the teams then rotated between

the next four disciplines: cross-country driving, range, incident reaction, command task and map reading and opposition forces recognition. At the end of the gruelling challenges all the teams “cooled down” during an aquatic assault course in the UN pool.

The Force Commander presented the Military Skills Competition challenge trophy to the winning Sector 4 team, which was followed, in a surprising but deserving twist, by the MFR team in second place and a Sector 2 team in third place. The contest was a close one, with the teams that placed between third and fifth gaining an equal number of points and the final placement only being decided after the assault course.

A hearty thanks to the Training Cell and all the contestants for a well-organised and exciting event!



## Sector 4 troops shine at Dragon Boat Race

As part of activities to honour fallen colleagues on the International Day of UN peacekeepers on the 29 May 2016, members of UNFICYP Sector 4, led by team captain Sfc. Dušan Štaffen, participated in a Dragon Boat Race at the Germasogeia Dam near Limassol. 17 teams – including five professional club teams - with a total of 260 paddlers joined the race.

Members of Sector 4's two teams participated in both the standard dragon boat and small dragon boat races. Each team won its first run and qualified for the final, while a number of other teams had to qualify in the next four runs. Professional paddlers had their own competition and did not compete with amateurs; however, in the final, Sector 4 members won not only the amateur part of the competition in both the small and standard boat race, but the in standard dragon boat race also recorded a time of 51:45, three seconds better than the best time of the professional club winners, who reached the finish line in 54:54. UNFICYP's small dragon boat team won the competition with an even bigger difference, with a more than eight-second lead over the other amateur teams.

At the end of the competition, the other teams showed their respect for members of Sector 4 gave the winners the nickname, “7 tonnes of muscles“. Congratulations to our Sector 4 troops – a credit to UNFICYP, their home countries and the men and women they honoured by participating in this race.



# UNFICYP photo wins accolades in International Day of Peacekeepers contest



As part of activities to mark the annual International Day of Peacekeepers on 29 May 2016, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations ran a photo contest for peacekeepers around the world, using the theme “why my mission matters to those it serves” as inspiration. At the end of the contest, a photo by UNFICYP’s own Panayiota ‘Toulla’ Panayiotou in procurement claimed third place out of more than 300 photos submitted, becoming one of the first photos displayed on the new UN Peacekeeping Instagram account.

Toulla’s photo, ‘Melissa and Muffin Play Happily’, features a young girl and a puppy running across the tarmac at the Old Nicosia Airport at sunset. Her caption read:

“One part of the UN community that sometimes goes unnoticed is the furry ones. At the UN mission in Cyprus, people are locally well known and greatly appreciated for their activities in rescuing pets. Within the UN protected area is a dog shelter that provides much needed temporary shelter and care for many unwanted dogs and puppies. Almost 200,000 dogs are abandoned per year

in Cyprus and unfortunately spend time in overcrowded pounds before being euthanized.

Fortunately there are lucky ones, such as Muffin. Muffin was one of seven puppies that were abandoned in a box in the buffer zone. Muffin and her siblings were all adopted by UN employees.” Speaking after the contest, Toulla said: “I feel very happy that my photo came third out of more than 300 entries in the UN Peacekeeping photo contest. I am confident that it would have gotten a better place if all photos were equally exposed.”

“I would like to thank all of those who voted for my photo and took the time to ask their friends and family to do so.”

She added: “I hope the message of my photo got through to some people at least; the problem with the stray dogs and cats is huge but if people adopt, foster and support the shelters in any way, they can then we can give these animals a fair chance.”

We congratulate Toulla on her accomplishment and wish her well with her passion for photography and animals.

## Sector 4 rewards pest control team for excellent service

When Arif Memduh and George Peraskeva, UNFICYP’s Pest Control Team, got a call in June from Camp General Stefanik, they thought it was to get rid of pests. Instead, Sector Four awarded the pair a plaque each in appreciation of their work to eliminate pests in the Sector.

Since 1995, George has worked across the buffer zone, getting rid of insects, snakes and weeds in UN accommodation and office buildings; Arif joined the team three years ago. The two work closely with UNFICYP’s Force Hygiene Officer Aniko Simon, the Force Medical Officer, Lt. Col. Dr. Gabor Gion, and the Engineering Section to ensure a regular schedule of fumigation and pest control, as well as deal with ad hoc calls about infestations.

“We are thankful to Sector Four for this award, which energises us and gives us motivation to work better,” said Arif.

We congratulate George and Arif and Sector Four for this great example of professional cooperation and camaraderie.





# UNFICYP teams participate in 'Mountain 2 Sea' bike race

On Saturday 14 May 2016, three UNFICYP teams competed in the thrilling Mountain 2 Sea mountain bike race, cycling from the top of Troodos' Mount Olympus and finishing at Tunnel Beach in Episkopi, a distance of 60km. They joined more than a hundred riders comprising 38 teams from Cypriot communities and the British Forces in Cyprus.

The course was varied, with a wide range of terrain from gravel tracks to roads to technical downhill sections. Despite the name of the race, much of the course was actually an uphill slog with only brief descents!

Team 1, which included Maj N. Foot-Tapping, Lt. J Bate and SSgt. M Asher, and Team 2 – Maj M. Holgate, WO2 M. Beeley and WO2 L. Batey – were a mix of HQ and Sector 2 soldiers. Team 3, the aptly named 'Ledra Palace', consisted of only Sector

2 personnel: Capt A. Bramson, SSgt N. Adams and Cpl S. Hoppgood. All the mission's teams are keen mountain bikers with varying degrees of ability and experience.

The race was nail-biting and not without its challenges, with one of the members of Team 3 experiencing two flat tyres 600m short of the finish line! Not wanting to waste time changing inner tubes, he heroically carried his bike the final distance over the finish line to join the other teams.

For all the participants, it was a tough but enjoyable challenge, with the heat and the uphill sections proving the most difficult elements of the race. The first team across the line was a Cypriot team from the Dream Bikes shop in Limassol. Despite all the inconveniences, UNFICYP's teams all managed to complete the race in great time, and they deserve our congratulations.



# UNFICYP Fire Safety Management

By Fire Fighter Nadeem Paul Qadir

During the course of 2015, UNFICYP's Security Section/Fire Unit received 230 fire emergency calls requiring a response within and around the UN buffer zone, with 193 of these fires directly affecting UN personnel and property. These statistics reinforce the importance of fire safety and serve as a reminder of the fire risk (medium/high) and dangers to UN personnel operating within the Mission area and throughout Cyprus.

UNFICYP approaches fire safety and prevention in various ways that include but are not limited to: prevention inspections; risk assessments; management; checking/testing/maintenance of fire equipment; fire training (fire drills/exercises) and the distribution of general fire safety related information. A total of 230 UN personnel received fire training at different levels in 2015.

To increase the Mission's firefighting and rescue capacity and ability, the Security Section/Fire Unit has trained two teams of "Fire Pickets" within the Mission known as the "Mobile Force Reserve Fire Picket" – stationed within UNPA/Old Nicosia Airport – and the "Sector-2 Fire Picket" stationed within Ledra Palace Hotel. Security Section-Fire Unit conduct fire safety and firefighting training for all UNPOL and UN Flight personnel along with designated Fire Building Wardens/Fire Officers/Fire NOCs from other locations and Sectors in line with their fire related responsibilities and duties.



## SUMMER FIRES SAFETY

### BASIC PRECAUTIONS AGAINST BUFFER ZONE/GRASS/FOREST FIRES

One of the most frightening alarm calls you could experience is a fire alarm, especially when you are deep in the arms of Morpheus dreaming of the joys of the Cyprus sun and sea. The best way to ensure that you only hear the words "fire, fire, fire!" during a drill or exercise is PREVENTION. By exercising our fire prevention practices below, you can help prevent a fire from starting, which all fires during this period have the potential of rapidly spreading and getting out of control.

- DON'T** throw away lit cigarettes and matches
- DON'T** smoke in office and accommodation buildings – use only designated smoking areas
- DON'T** use plastic bins in your smoking areas (even if you have ash trays located there)
- DON'T** throw away materials such as empty bottles or broken mirrors
- DON'T** park your car near any grass or shrubbery (a hot engine could start a fire)
- DON'T** leave your vehicle engine running (it could overheat and cause a fire)
- DON'T** have BARBECUES (BBQs) anywhere other than designated areas
- DON'T** leave BBQs unattended; when finished, use water or sand/soil to put out the fire
- DON'T** do any confidential material burning (contact the UNFICYP Security Section/Fire Unit, Ext-4453/4 UNPA)
- DON'T** use water if a fire takes place where electricity poles are involved in the fire (use fire beaters/green branches and wait for Fire Brigade)
- DON'T** start your patrol without having at least four (4) fire beaters in a patrol vehicle (also check your dry powder fire extinguisher and medical kits within your vehicle)
- DON'T risk your life to fight a fire** - your life and safety come first. Unless it is safe to enter an area with all safety measures, wait for a fire brigade.
- DON'T** fight buffer zone grass or forest fires alone; always attack the fire in groups
- DON'T** fight buffer zone grass fires up or down wind, always from a cross wind direction
- DON'T** forget that when responding to fire emergencies within the buffer zone, some areas have mines present
- DON'T** spread grass fires or forest fires. Wash your boots and shoes after you leave an area where fire was present
- DON'T forget the key contacts in case of a fire: UNFICYP Fire/Emergency Telephone No. 22-61-4777 Call Signs 9- INDIA / 9-X-RAY / 9-ZOLO, CHANNEL 14 UNPA. Emergency number (South)-112 and Emergency number (North)-112/199**

# Tips for household bushfire protection:

“Home sweet Home” - it is an investment of one’s lifetime savings, emotional dreams and aspirations to realise their ideal home. Please follow these tips to prevent household bushfires:

- DO** check your home insurance is up-to-date and make sure that bush/grass and all types of fire damages claims are covered
- DO** make sure that all your family members know the fire emergency numbers: Fire Brigade (South) 112/199, Fire Brigade (North) 112/199 and UNFICYP 22-61-4777
- DO** clear any debris from within a 15-metre radius of the house
- DO** ensure your house address is clearly visible for easy identification in an emergency
- DON'T** throw cigarette butts on the ground or out of a vehicle. Dispose of them correctly and make sure they are completely extinguished
- DON'T** burn trash, leaves or brush, especially during summer - it is against EU/local law
- DON'T** park your vehicles on dry grass or shrubs. Exhaust systems on vehicles can reach temperatures of more than 1000 degrees; it only takes about 500 degrees to start a grass fire in the summer.
- DO** emphasise to your children the dangers of playing with fire. Children who have no idea how quickly flames can grow and spread start many grass fires.
- DO** maintain a 10-foot area free of brush and shrubbery around grills and propane tanks when you barbecue at home. You should never leave a lit grill unattended
- DO** cut back tree branches overhanging around the house
- DO** clean the gutters of leaves on a regular basis
- DO** keep all grass and creepers cut short
- DO** empty your rubbish bin on a regular basis and keep the bin area clear from any combustibles
- DO** invest in a good hose long enough to cover your house area
- DO** buy a 1 x 2 kg CO2 fire extinguisher for an electric fire within the house; 1 x fire blanket for kitchen fires; 1 x 9 litres water fire extinguisher for any small bush fire and 1 x 9 litres/kg foam/dry powder fire extinguisher for your garage/car park
- DO** invest in a water pump to connect a hose if you have a swimming pool
- DO** invest in a sprinkler system (not less than 7 twin nozzle 20mm impact sprinklers through a 5.5 HP to 6.5 HP pump) around the house in addition to having sprinklers on the roof if you live in an area with bush fire hazards
- DO** conduct regular fire drills with your family - make it a fun activity

The Security Section/Fire Unit conducts fire courses all year around. Please contact the Fire Unit for inquiries related to the types of fire training available and scheduling. There is always room for improvement, new lessons learned or new techniques, so we encourage you to take any available opportunity to attend. The Security Section/Fire Unit can be contacted through telephone number 22-61-4453/4.





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