

On 9 January 2025, <u>Ministerial Order no. 72/2025</u> was published establishing the possibility for the **Regional Civil Protection Service**, **IP-RAM** to charge for the costs associated with helicopter rescue missions.

This measure applies to hikers who venture onto walking routes not classified by the Institute of Forest and Nature Conservation, IP-RAM (IFCN) and/or onto routes considered passable but temporarily or permanently closed.

From this date forward, whenever it may be necessary to activate the air transport for rescue missions under these conditions, the costs shall be calculated as follows:

• Helicopter daily rate: €753.25

 Rescuer activation: €105 (may amount to €210 in more complex situations that require two rescuers)

• Flight time: €7.50 per minute

Residents of the Autonomous Region of Madeira are exempt from paying these fees. Notwithstanding this new measure, all rescue missions shall continue to be guaranteed whenever necessary.

To avoid unexpected costs and guarantee your safety, we recommend the exclusive use of routes classified by the IFCN. Before starting any walking route, check local authorities' warnings and follow the safety recommendations. This information is available at the IFCN website and at the 'ProcivMadeira' App.

This measure aims to discourage tourist activity on non-classified routes, which do not offer minimum safety conditions and present a greater accident/incident risk, as well as to raise awareness of the need to adopt preventive behaviour on classified routes.