

# Andorrans will be able to receive warnings about future emergencies this year

Pons explains that this year's projects prioritize preparation

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Avoiding at all costs the greatest possible damage to our environment and territory, as well as raising awareness and informing the population about how to act in the face of a risk or threat of catastrophe and knowing which areas are most sensitive to suffering its effects and consequences, are the tasks that the Department of Civil Protection will continue to promote this year and with the aim of achieving the implementation of an objective that the service has been thinking about for some time: creating a global S.O.S. alert system that warns of our future emergencies well in advance. An idea that was confirmed yesterday by the director of the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management, Cristian Pons, who also announced that a Volunteer Corps has been inaugurated in 2024 for this function.

Regarding the latter, the team led by Pons has made a reality last year, and within the deployment of the Qualified Law on Civil Protection, a specific service so that people and entities in the country who wish to do so can collaborate regularly and in a "totally altruistic and voluntary" way in the tasks of civil aid and support. It is thus a social reinforcement



The explanation of the Civil Protection action of the past 2024 conveyed yesterday by the director of the Department of this service, Cristian Pons.

## In 2024 a Volunteer Corps was inaugurated where risk prevention and reinforcement for action groups are instructed

unit in which its future members would be oriented, specifically, in "risk prevention, awareness-raising and transfer of relevant information to the population", as well as collaboration in solidarity and prevention actions, support and reinforcement for cooperation with action groups in the face of emergency situations or public catastrophes.

Returning to the first point, that of promoting an emergency management platform that, through a prior alert from the Meteorological Service, notifies the Fire Department and Civil Protection and, consequently, they can "send an S.O.S. signal massively

to all citizens", Pons detailed that this is what is contemplated in this year's project plan, although a date has not yet been set for its implementation. It is worth noting that this alert is what is known as the Public Warning System, and that countries such as Spain and France have had for years. Regarding the 2025 program, the director of the Civil Protection Area stated that the aim is to continue the work begun the previous year by which "the operation of the national emergency sectors has been analyzed and reviewed", as well as their correct management and operation. So that this year the civil protection service "will priori-

tize action, as well as understand and study in depth the risk of disaster and invest, consequently, in reducing it and increasing social preparedness”.

In this regard, a possible enabling of spaces to create “alternative places that offer more service coverage” was discussed. Pons explained that the most likely scenario is that no building will be built in 2025 because it has not been planned: «This year, budget limitations make the creation of a new space for 112 complicated, so we are moving more towards this alternative scenario to identify a space to house this service than the construction of a building,» added Pons. In this case, according to the director, the center must be located in the middle of the country, since «if a disaster ever happens, political authorities must be able to travel there easily,» as well as being well connected.

Finally, the head of the citizen assistance department highlighted two other outstanding points and dynamics to take into account: the first of them, that during 2024 Civil Protection has coordinated 68 preventive safety devices and has thus reaffirmed its commitment to awareness and training by instructing nearly 900 students in self-protection, with a total of about 3,000 students receiving some type of training around the basic training cour-

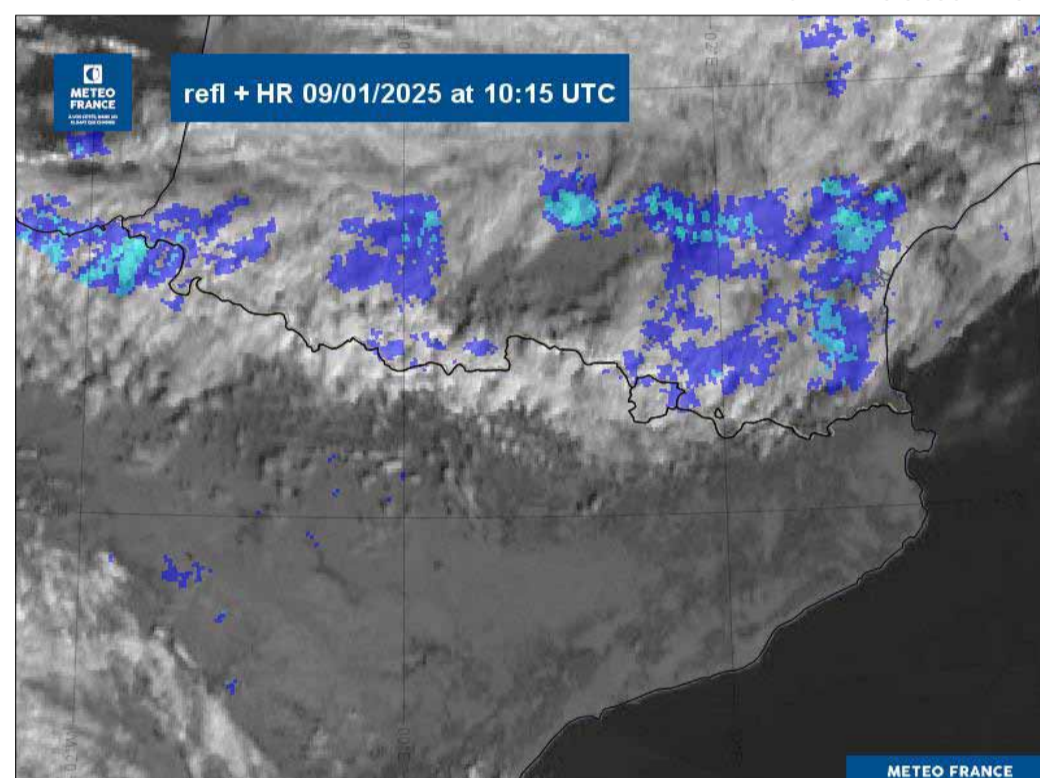
se in the field of civil protection. Otherwise, they have focused on spreading three awareness campaigns focused on mountain safety both in summer and winter, thus raising awareness among more than 440 students.

The second point, also very relevant, is that the body has observed this past year a significant increase in both yellow and orange warnings in the last four years, having gone from 70 registered in 2022 to reaching 89 last year. Broken down by color and importance, since 2022 the number of days with orange warnings has been increasing, since during the aforementioned period there were a total of 8, in 2023 there were 9 days, but in 2024 it has increased to 15. Figures that confirm «the evolution of extreme weather phenomena that can have an impact on the territory or on the population». It should be noted that most of the orange warnings were activated last year due to high temperatures in the summer, as well as strong winds and snowfall» he said.

«We see that there is a trend towards more warnings, with more days in orange warnings», said Pons. In addition, Civil Protection has also detected that over the years with forest protection campaigns «we saw that there were peak days that exceeded the maximum temperature limits», he said. ●

## A shift in the wind to the north yesterday and today brings more cloudiness, which will result in heavy rainfall

SERVEI METEOROLÒGIC D'ANDORRA



The arrival yesterday morning of the precipitation front that is hitting much of the Principality today.

►► The change in wind direction to the north experienced and moved yesterday brought clouds in that extreme and with it, some misty rain in some specific points of the territory. The high clouds took center stage yesterday, which generated some light rainfall that affected only the extreme north of the country until the evening. It is worth noting that this phenomenon left a light dusting of snow, which did not disturb the stability situation. Looking ahead to today, a very similar dynamic to that experienced this Thursday is expected, so that we will have a

morning dominated by sunlight, but with the presence of high and thin clouds that have already strengthened and established themselves in the country yesterday. During the afternoon, a worn-out front will increase the presence of this cloudiness until leaving, in the evening, a mostly covered and obscured sky. On the other hand, and after midnight, the front with a north wind will accentuate the instability and will generate, again, weak precipitation, but these being more generalized and abundant than those of yesterday.

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