Climate warming is likely to have a rapid and profound impact on fi re activity in several vegetation zones. Pausas (2004) analysed data from 350 meteorological stations in the eastern Iberian Peninsula covering a time period of 50 years (1950–2000) and fi re records for the same area. For the Mediterranean Europe, Pinol et al. (1998) have studied a climatic series of 50 years from a locality in southern Spain and two fi re hazard indices, and concluded that an effect of climate warming on wildfi re occur– rence is evident. He concluded that a clear pattern of increasing num– ber of fi res and size of area burned during the last century is observed, related to increasing mean annual as well as summer temperatures

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