

# JELLY-FISH WARNING

## DID YOU KNOW JELLYFISH ARE ANIMALS ?

They are gelatinous animals and can be found in the sea water column, at the surface or ashore. These animals can have different sizes, shapes and colors. It is normal to find them in the Azorean seas, coasts or beaches, especially in the Spring and Summer. Also known by the name “medusa”, they have tentacles which in contact with the skin can release a potentially stinging substance.



The Portuguese Man-of-War has the scientific name of *Physalia physalis* and floats at the surface of the sea, due to its blue-purple float, full of gas. Its tentacles can reach 30 m and its venom is very dangerous for marine life and humans.

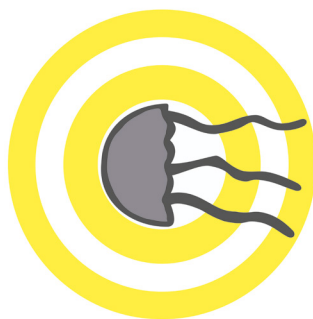


This jellyfish is very common in the Azores. Scientifically it is known as *Pelagia noctiluca* and lives in the water column. It has a gelatinous body usually pink and the umbrella can be up to 10 cm in diameter. The 8 tentacles can reach 2 m and have a very stinging venom. The bell also has stinging cells.

## AVOID CONTACT WITH JELLYFISH

**IN THE AZORES BATHING AREAS YOU CAN FIND THESE WARNING FLAGS:**

### JELLYFISH WARNING



Hoisted by the lifeguard when there are some sightings and/or a few complaints of stings.

### JELLYFISH DANGER



Hoisted by the lifeguard when there are plenty of sightings and/or several complaints bites. In this case sea bathing is not recommended.

### SYMPTOMS WHEN STUNG BY A JELLYFISH

When bitten, the person will feel a shock sensation throughout. After it, the main symptoms of a jellyfish burn are severe pain and burning sensation (heat/burning) on the body part affected and even irritation, redness, swelling and itching.

If you come into contact with jellyfish, you should leave the water without trying to remove the tentacles, and go immediately to the lifeguard.

### FIRST AID IN CASE OF JELLYFISH CONTACT

- Do not rub or scratch the affected area to avoid spreading the poison;
- Do not use fresh water, alcohol, ammonia or bandages;
- Wash carefully with sea water;
- Carefully remove the jellyfish tentacles using gloves, plastic forceps and a saline solution or sea water;
- In case of contact with a Portuguese Man-of-War please consult medical assistance as soon as possible.