

WHAT IS FIRE PREVENTION?

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Lions River Fire Protection Association
By Landowners – For Landowners

Many fires on and threatening properties need not occur, however they will continue to ignite and degrade grasslands, forests and ecosystems as long as we as the community and stakeholders fail to focus on both the direct and underlying causes of wildfires.

Fire Prevention is subdivided into three main activities;

▪ Analysis & Awareness

Analysis is a strong insight into the aspects and perspectives of the fire issue and cause is an obvious requirement prior to heavy investment or efforts on fires and their use - Review previous fire incidents and to ensure close out of corrective actions which may have been identified.

Awareness is the empowerment of target communities (neighbours, local communities, contractors, staff, visitors) in order to reduce the frequency of undesirable ignitions - community on-farm engagement programmes make adequate provision for formalising interaction and addressing the issues – hold meetings with your staff and hold a community meeting regarding collective fire management.

▪ Preparation

1. Preparedness ensures that fires are not a surprise – all planning, people and practices are in place.
2. Preparation also aims to separate heat sources from fuels; reduce fuels; or shield fuels from heat sources.
3. An important aspect of preparedness is training and development of fire management and suppression personnel.
4. Preparation also includes the installation and maintenance of infrastructure such as access roads and tracks, firebreaks, fire detection towers and preparing land assets, infrastructure and homes, and having adequate fire equipment.
5. The ongoing monitoring of weather conditions, fuels and fuel loads and ignition sources to provide timely advice and warnings on possible fires, ensures that resources can be most effectively used.

▪ Compliance

An important aspect of fire prevention is the development of regulations and codes of practice on the prevention of unwanted ignitions. There must be compliance of local and national codes of practice and regulations aimed at preventing fires.

Fire Protection Associations

FPA's need to adopt a Constitution which determines the functionality of their logistical structure, determine a veld fire management strategy for their area of operation, assist, guide and train members in terms of fire prevention, fire suppression etc.

Legislation

The National Veld & Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998 regulates all veld & forest fires in South Africa. All landowners and landusers on rural land are expected to familiarize themselves with the contents of the Act to ensure it is fully understood in terms of obligations and the law. Your FPA can assist and guide you in this regard.

Fire Breaks

- Legislation
- FPA Rules & Regulations
- On farm Requirements
- Planning & Sketch Mapping
- Preparation Work

Types of Fire Breaks

- External
- Internal
- Strategic
- Buffer Zones
- Mandatory – Servitudes (Eskom)

Burning Fire Breaks

- Legislation – Readiness
- FPA
- Farm Requirements
- Fire Danger Index
- PPE

Detection

- How, when, who?
- LRFPA assistance

Infrastructure

- Water points
- Roads / Access
- Fences & Gates

Personnel

- Training
- Standby
- PPE

Fire Danger Index

- Know your FDI before you burn, obtain a permit

Pre-Fire Season

- Training
- Equipment Maintenance
- Neighbourhood Meetings