

GREATER OVERBERG FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (goFPA)

2015 / 2016 FIRE SEASON ARRANGEMENTS AND INFO

Aim of this document

The goFPA Operational Team annual Fire Season's member information pack; a report back on important wild fire prevention achievements and helpful information. This document forms part of the FPA's function to assist its members to adhere to the requirements of the National Veld and Forrest Act 101 of 1998.

What is the purpose of the Greater Overberg FPA?

A FPA is an organisation formed by landowners to predict, prevent, manage and reduce the damaging effect of wildfires. The FPA helps you to fulfil your legal obligations by sharing information, organising landowners, training and pooling resources in a specific area. The FPA represent the member's needs and challenges at large stakeholders level to the benefit of its members.

One of the FPA's main objectives for this fire season is to improve the response to wild fires to limit or prevent losses and effective application of the limited resources.

When and how to report a fire – as soon as it is observed

Overberg District Municipal responsible area: ODM Control Room - 028 425 1690

Overstrand Local Municipal responsible area: Overstrand Control Room is – 028 312 2400. Please refer to map on the next page.

Summary of goFPA's successes and planning

The Section 2, pg. 11 explains the highlights of the goFPA operation team, FPO and members' successes and **how it can assist you**, as landowner and/or stakeholder, in your fire prevention planning and activities.

Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association

Fire Station, Long Street, Bredasdorp, 7280. Tel: +2728 425 1690

www.overbergfpa.co.za



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www.overbergfpa.co.za

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Overberg Fire & Rescue: 028 425 1690
Overstrand Fire & Rescue: 028 312 2400



Overberg District & Overstrand Fire & Rescue responsible area

Version: 3
Date: 2015/11/18
Created by: GO FPA
Scale: 1:550 000

Legend


- Greater Overberg FPA
- Overstrand Agreement Aug2015
- MUNICIPAL LOCAL 2011

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The Greater Overberg FPA takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the map content.

Section 1: Summary of important information

Terminology and definition	A description and how it is applied
<p>Reporting of a fire / Rapportering van 'n brand</p> <p>Landowner legal responsibility according to the NFFVA according to <i>Chapter 18: Fire Fighting (1) Actions to fight fires</i> requires you to take all reasonable steps to report a fire</p> <p>FPA recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To limit losses a quick response is required - The Insurance will check the official logs for the time the wildfire was reported - The “False alarm, good intent” principle will apply - See “Wild Fire Suppression Fees 2015/2016” below for details on billing 	<p>24hr manned Call Centre’s receiving and dispatching all emergency calls (focus on fires) in the Overberg District Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 028 425 1690 (Overberg District, excluding Overstrand Fire & Rescue responsible area – see map on page 2.) • 028 312 2400 (Overstrand Local Municipal area) <p>Please be as specific as possible, GPS coordinates can be send via SMS. Clear directions are important</p> <p>Call the goFPA Ops Team for assistance with getting hold of the Fire Brigade, other landowners, FMU leaders, the IC or to report problems:</p> <p>goFPA Manager – Louise Wessels: 0833270477</p>
<p>Readiness (minimum)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLEASE check and test your fire-fighting equipment • Share keys of access gates with your neighbours • Test your radios, including batteries (if applicable) • Let your neighbours know when you will not be on your land – forward the contact persons’ details to the goFPA. Please note on Red FDI days the landowner or responsible person has to be present. • Clear areas around your homestead and other important infrastructure • Check and document the water points on your land • Check your fire breaks
<p>Incident/Event</p> <p>In this context it refers to a fire (also known as a “wild fire” or “veld fire”)</p>	<p>A term used when formally reporting on a fire – to landowners from FPA, media and social media</p>

<p>Initial attack</p> <p>The actions taken by the first resources on arrival at a wildfire to protect lives and property, and prevent further spread of the fire.</p>	<p><u>IMPORTANT info for landowners</u></p> <p>In general the 1st hour of suppression is the critical and all available resources – Fire Brigade and Land owners –will “attack” in a coordinated effort under IC’s guidance.</p> <p>After this 1st hour the Fire Brigade, FMU leaders and Landowner will decide on best tactics next. Due to the limitation of resources for an extended attack, serious consideration will be given to leaving certain areas to “burn out” to stop at a safer point. These decisions can only be taken with the involvement of landowners</p>
<p>IC</p> <p>Incident Commander. The person in charge of the fire/incident</p>	<p>The landowner, FMU leader or Fire Brigade official first on the scene at a wild fire. If landowner the command will be handed to the Fire Brigade when they arrive at the wild fire.</p>
<p>ICS</p> <p>Incident Command System</p>	<p>Incident Command Systems is an emergency management tool that is used by all types and levels of emergency services at wildfire/incidents to ensure standardisation and efficiency. Refer Annexure 1 for more details</p>
<p>Fuel loads, biomass</p> <p>The amount of flammable material. Fuel can include everything from trees, underbrush, dry grassy fields, old fynbos and remainders of alien clearing efforts</p>	<p>Focus on removing fuel loads, having defendable fire breaks around it and report immediately to Fire Brigade in event of a wild fire in the area</p> <p>The Overberg District has areas with high fuel loads and dry biomass.</p>
<p>Suppression</p> <p>Putting out the fire, Actively fighting fire</p>	<p>Efforts at a wild fire will be coordinated by the FPA Team with the help of the FMU Leaders and landowner. The objectives are to make informed decisions, share data (high danger areas, fuel loads, infrastructure, water points. etc.) and apply the limited resources available. YOUR HELP is CRITICAL.</p>
<p>Flare-up</p> <p>Re-ignition of a wild fire or part of the fire line that has already been extinguished.</p>	<p>Flare-ups of extinguished fire lines were the biggest reason for extended attacks the 2014/2015 Fire Season.</p>

	<p>Landowners are responsible to guard extinguished (but not cold) fire lines for between 24h and 48h. Challenges are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fire Brigade staff might not be available due to commitments else where b. Fire Brigade staff can potentially be expensive and not available c. Own resources or a WoF team are a landowners best option. WoF availability, transport might be limited. And for landowners' account.
<p>WoF Teams</p> <p>Work on Fire team - An Extended Public Works Programme providing trained fire fighters and fire management services. 10 to 22 persons.</p> 	<p><u>Availability for this Fire Season</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less than 10 teams are available in the Overberg: Bredasdorp 1, Overstrand 1 and the remainder are CapeNature teams - Can be transported from their bases, but costly and requires time to arrange. Focus will be on using this resource for extended attacks and when in close proximity of a base. - Working hours limited and arranging overtime requires time and at a cost. <p>Currently there are uncertainty if Private landowners can hire a team (in cases of long fire lines and the when 48 hours guarding is required).</p>
<p>Aerial resources</p> <p>Provincial Disaster Management Centre sponsored resources to assist Fire Brigade and landowners with fire suppression efforts.</p> <p>MOU = memorandum of understanding.</p>	<p><u>Resource available for the 2015/2016 Fire Season</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Available from the 1st of December - 2 Spotters confirmed - A helicopter contracted, awaiting confirmation of helicopter specifications and arrival time - Additional airstrip at Swellendam with Bomber <p><u>Protocols</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landowner can hire aerial resources - A signed MOU is required. This requires printing and fax/scan/email facilities. We recommend that landowners pre-sign an MOU and send it to: manager@overbergfpa.co.za. We will submit it on your instruction. - Aerial resource availability is subject to the approval of the Chief Fire Office (CFO) – Reinard Geldenhuys (as they are not required by the Fire Brigade services). The goFPA Team will assist our landowners. <p>Please note: At time of printing this document no update nor official MOU was available. Thus, also not any cost structure, we have attached the latest version (Annexure 2) for practical purposes</p>
<p>Wild Fire Suppression Fees 2015/2016</p> <p>All Local and District Municipalities have to charge for services rendered – acceptable or not – landowners can expect to receive invoices from the Fire Brigades this season.</p>	<p><u>Overberg Fire & Rescue Services fee structure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On average R1 500 p/h. The hour will only start when the major machine/truck arrives on the scene. - Applications can be made for discount - FPA members, 1st hour, including aerial support, for free <p><u>Overstrand Fire & Rescue Services fee structure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - R500 p/h - No member free hour - Applications can be made for discount

<u>General important information and descriptions</u>	
<p>Fire Season</p> <p>A formally identified period in a year during which the fire danger is the highest and special rules and practices apply</p>	<p><u>2015/2016 Season</u></p> <p>6th November 2015 till 4th of April 2016</p>
<p>FMU Leader</p>	<p>Leadership chosen by members of that FMU. Represent members in their areas regarding FPA matters. Your area's list is attached</p>
<p>FMU</p> <p>Fire Management Unit consists of a localised area in which integrated fire management efforts between individual land owners can be most effectively co-ordinated.</p>	<p>Refer Annexure 3 for a detailed description of the aims and function of FMUs</p> <p>31+ FMUs have been formed. Included your area map and list of FMU members.</p> <p>Please contact us to set-up an FMU in your area</p>
<p>Greater Overberg FPA / goFPA</p> <p>District-wide Fire Protection Association in term of the NVFFA for the Overberg District area.</p>	<p><u>Contact details</u></p> <p>Member guidance and info on www.overbergfpa.co.za</p> <p>Contact numbers are 028 425 1690 x 216 and 083 327 0477</p> <p>Fire reports posted on Facebook: overbergfpa</p> <p>Or follow us on Twitter: overbergfpa</p>
<p>Member</p> <p>A register and paid-up landowner of the FPA</p>	<p>Please email or contact the goFPA Team if you are uncertain if you are a registered member.</p> <p>Benefits of being a member include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1st hour fire suppression service (excluding Overstrand) - Training - Assistance to adhere to the required legal obligations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated Fire management planning and support - Communication and coordination, including at wild fires and influencing stakeholders that have an impact on high wild fire risks in our District
<p>NVFFA of 1998</p> <p>National Veld and Forest Fire act 101 of 1998.</p>	<p>This Act governs FPAs and landowner responsibilities in terms of wild fire prevention. See Act here</p>
<p>FDI / Fire Danger Index</p> <p>An index created to measure the degree of danger of fire in an area. The index combines a record of dryness, based on rainfall and evaporation, with meteorological variables for wind speed, temperature and humidity.</p>	<p>Shown as colors of which Orange and Red is HIGH DANGER</p> <p>During Fire Season daily available on our Web site: www.overbergfpa.co.za/FDI</p> <p>Members will receive alerts on RED “days”</p> <p>Insurance requires the landowner or duly authorized person on your land on Orange and Red FDI days</p>
<p>AFIS</p> <p>Advanced Fire Information Systems. Satellite fire detection system. www.afis.co.za. App can be downloaded</p>	<p>A terminal with all available landowner data is in our office and the systems sends an alert to the goFPA Team and CFO when a fire or hot spot is detected. The terminal provides relevant wind and weather data for each fire. Heavy smoke or clouds hinders the detection function of the system</p>
<p>Burn Permit/Brand permit</p> <p>A permit that is required before any planned open burning/fire.</p>	<p>The burning of a bonfire, vegetation debris or other fire in an outdoor location where fuel burned is not contained in an incinerator or outdoor fireplace. Burn permits are obtained from the ODM (no charge) or Overstrand Local Authority (R250)</p> <p>Application for Permits are on our website –click here</p> <p>The goFPA Team helps our members obtaining permits – call our office or email us</p>

Landowner responsibilities: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

If we are better informed we will be better prepared!

Refer to [Annexure 4](#) for full set of legal obligations of a landowner

<p>a) Inform the Fire Brigade and all neighbours of a fire</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please Report immediately – the quicker the response the better our chances to limit losses, Insurance companies want to know you adhered to best practices<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Overberg District Municipal Area: 028 428 1690- Overstrand Local Municipal Area: 028 312 2400We have the commitment of the Fire Brigade to not charge for reports of “false alarm, good intent”2. Report to neighbours (yes, I know you know) via radios or phone If you cannot get hold of your neighbours, call the goFPA Team to assist <p>The goFPA helps with communication, directions, information and warning. If we have not contacted you, we do not know of the Fire and we cannot help. Please ask the Fire Brigade to inform us or call us on 028 425 1690 or 083 327 0477</p> <p>Please be as specific as possible, GPS coordinates can be send via SMS. Clear directions are important</p>
<p>b) Do everything in your power to stop the spread of a wildfire</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Preparing and maintaining firebreaks Some basic items to focus on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fire breaks around your house and other infrastructure- Fire breaks around your workers homes (3rd highest reported cause of run-away wild fires.- PLEASE document (email, letter, and agreement) any/all fire breaks on your land or shared with your neighbours. The approved Fire Break Agreement is available on our website and included.2. Trained staff – please contact the goFPA team after the fire season to arrange training

	<p>3. Ensuring that staff have the necessary equipment and protective clothing – avoidance of injuries are critical. See our website for guidance here.</p> <p>4. Flare-ups of extinguished fire lines were the biggest reason for extended events the 2014/2015 Fire Season. Landowners are responsible to guard extinguished (but not cold) fire lines for between 24h and 48h. Challenges are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fire Brigade staff might not be available due to commitments else where b. Fire Brigade staff can potentially be expensive and not available c. Own resources or a WoF team are a landowners best option. WoF availability, transport might be limited. And for landowners' account. <p>Please note the Provincial Fire Workgroup (all CFOs) will put WoF Teams on standby on weekends when an Orange or Red FDI is predicted.</p>
<p>2. Ensure that in his/her absence responsible persons are present on or near the land to fight fires</p>	<p>The responsible person must be able to make decisions on behalf of you, as landowner. A neighbour is a good option if you cannot be on your land</p>
<p>BBV/ FPA <i>Brand Beskermingsvereniging / FPA</i></p>	<p>An FPA is an organisation formed by landowners to predict, prevent, manage and help fight wildfires in an area in order to protect lives, livelihoods, property and the environment. The responsibilities of landowners and FPAs are outlined in The National Veld and Forest Fire Act, Act 101 of 1998.</p> <p>More info: http://www.firewisesa.org.za/resources/you-wildfires-and-thelaw.pdf</p>

Section 2: Successes and Planning

Highlights of the goFPA operation team, FPO and members' successes

<p>Institutional and important stakeholders joining and/or cooperating with goFPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sanral is now a member. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cooperation – all relevant landowners will be advised when grass cutting will take near their farms ○ PLEASE report all wild fires that start on road verges to the goFPA Team We aiming to obtain defendable data to influence the risk better - District Road Engineers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cooperation and help planning together in High Risk areas - Eskom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cooperation good and planning in High Risk areas ○ The goFPA Team help landowners report wild fires that start due to Eskom lines – PLEASE report to us. - Transnet Freight Rail is now a member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Good cooperation and sharing of data ○ Landowners are requested to submit all veld management issues to the goFPA Team. We have an agreement in place that will assist directly on behalf of Transnet (if required)
<p>Integrated Fire management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alien clearing and Fire Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fire management and alien clearing: We have to influence the funds spend and alien clearing efforts to influence good veld management and the reduction of our high fire risk. The goFPA team and the ABI (http://www.agulhasbiodiversity.co.za - Flowervalley Trust) will lead the team to help informed decision-making ○ The goFPA-team recommended members to take part in the next round of Department of Environmental Affairs Land User Incentive programme and gave input to the APO (Annual Plan of Operations) - Fire Break Agreements – Support and information shared to several members and areas.

<p>Extensive training provided (thank you to the GEF Fynbos Fire & ODM) and landowners who participated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial Attack :350 plus landowners and workers trained - ICS training to FMU leaders - Prescribed Burning courses - Planning of prescribed burns and Fire breaks <p style="color: red;">We are hoping to receive more funding. Please contact our office from mid-January 2016</p>
<p>Strengthening of our FMUs</p>	<p>We now have 31 FMUs organised. Please contact our office to assist setting up an FMU in your area.</p>
<p>Communication and Media exposure in terms of vigilance and wild fires in our region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keeping our members and the community informed - We are hoping for more funding opportunities
<p style="color: red;">Our Planning! Your inputs is important</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More Fire break agreements - External funding opportunity - More FMUs - New Rules - Better support to our members regarding fire-fighting equipment - Support with radio-communication structures for certain FMUs - Fee investigation 	

Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association

Fire Station, Long Street, Bredasdorp, 7280. Tel: +2728 425 1690

www.overbergfpa.co.za

Section 3: Greater Overberg FPA – Board

Name	Description	Cell phone	Telephone	Email
Reinard Geldenhuys	Fire Protection Officer	083 273 8234	028 425 1690	rgeldenhuys@odm.org.za
Louise Wessels	Manager	083 327 0477	028 425 1690	manager@overbergfpa.co.za
Henrietta Brock	Operational Support Officer	071 256 2668	028 425 1690	info@overbergfpa.co.za
Dr Paul Clüver	Chairperson	083 653 9119	021 844 0605	drcluver@cluver.com
Pieter Albertyn	Treasurer	082 932 5997	028 424 2126	albertynpieter@hotmail.com
Mavila Manganyi	DAFF	079 123 2086	021 944 1417	mavilam@daff.gov.za
Lester Smith	Overstrand – CFO	082 978 9493	028 312 2400	lestersmith@overstrand.gov.za
Peter Viljoen	CapeNature	082 740 7736		pviljoen@capenature.co.za
Deon Geldenhuys	CapeNature	082 496 3395	028 314 0062	dgoldenhuys@capenature.co.za
Danie Pretorius	Charity Beleggings – Koktyls	082 443 4880	028 572 1507	danie.koktyls@gmail.com
Jerome Lakey	Denel Overberg Test Range	076 641 2877	028 445 2119	jeromel@denelotr.co.za
Bulelwa Msengi	SANParks	083 756 8976	028 435 6078	bulelwa.msengi@sanparks.org
Roland January	SANParks	083 284 5995	028 514 2735	roland.january@sanparks.org
John Hauman	Babilonstoring FPA	083 287 6882	028 212 2342	diepgat@gmail.com
Chris Goatley	Babilonstoring FPA	082 386 7196	028 212 2555	cgoatley@mweb.co.za
John Albertyn	Bredasdorp Vlakte FPA	082 579 0523		ajbalbertyn@vodamail.co.za
Roger Bailey	Hagelkraal FPA	082 564 0546	028 388 0713	rbailey@flowervalley.co.za
Pietersarel de Bruyn	Overberg TWK FPA	082 338 5550		herbs.aplenty@gmail.com
Johan Viljoen	Overberg TWK FPA	082 499 5024		johanvi@twk.org.za
Guy Brooke-Sumner	Sondagskloof FPA	082 642 9388	028 314 0863	vredehoek@maxitec.co.za
Deon van Tonder	Swellendam FPA	082 842 3963	028 572 1718	gjvton@gmail.com
Nico de Kock	Swellendam FPA	082 853 8522	028 522 1711	nicodekock@elstelm.co.za
Gerhard van Deventer	Swellendam FPA	082 926 4466	028 512 3614	gvd@groenerfnis.co.za
Andries Erwee	TW-Groenland FPA	082 658 3663	021 849 8733	andries@monteith.co.za

Annexure 1: Incident Command Systems (ICS)

Command procedures

- Regardless of the size of the fire, certain basic management actions are required to establish rapid and efficient control, and minimize risk, damage and costs
- Set up appropriate command structures in collaboration with all partners

Incident Command Systems (ICS) is an emergency management tool that is used in South Africa by all types and levels of emergency services at incidents to ensure standardisation and efficiency. ICS is designed to ensure the best cooperation and communication between different organisations at any incident. To achieve this ICS integrates facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications operations within a common organisational structure. ***In other words making sure everyone and everything is being kept track of, all persons know their place and speak the same language.***

All incidents are managed by objectives as set by the Incident Commander (IC). On a fire these are the goals set between the IC and the landowner.

The only requirement of ICS is that each incident has an Incident Commander, a single person who has final authority on all decision-making. This works on a "first-on-scene" structure, where the first person at a wildfire is the IC until the fire has been extinguished or the IC transfers command to someone else. This is done to a more qualified person when they arrive on scene (especially when the incident grows larger), to a person of the same experience (when entering a new operational period), or to the best lower qualified person (when the incident grows smaller).

The person who arrives first at the fire is the Incident Commander until the fire is put out, or a more experienced person or the Fire Brigade arrives at the fire. Once the fire has been put out and the Fire Brigade and more experienced persons leave (to be available for other incidents), the landowner on whose land the fire was, will become the IC and monitor the area for a few days for flare ups.

Each time a full transfer of command takes place, a briefing needs to take place either orally, written or both.

The Incident Commander can delegate tasks to individuals or an Incident Command team. This team will grow in size with the increase in size and complexity of an incident

In conclusion, by supporting the training in Basic ICS for landowners and the FPA, we make sure that landowners understand their roles and responsibilities both as the first responders and as resources at fires, and that both groups work smoothly together - Fire Brigade and other firefighting teams and land owners. In the end this will result in better suppression of wildfires and reduce the economic, ecological and social impacts these cause.

Annexure 2: Aerial support MOU

MOU for Aerial Request for Assistance



Fire Suppression - Aircraft & Hand Crew

This request must be FAXED to the local Dispatch Centre or Provincial Coordinator's office to authorise the request for Assistance for FPA Members/NON FPA Members

Client/Company Name:.....	
Person's Responsible for payment	ID No:
Acting/Capacity	
Contact number	VAT No.
E-Mail Address & Fax No.	Land Owner:
Total Resources required:	
*Spotter	*Bomber
	*Chopper.....
*HSV.....	*WoF Ground Team.....
Fire Suppression required on (date)(time)..... (approx. hours).....	
FPA Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO	FPA Number:..... WoF CALL TAKE NO CT:.....

Operations on the abovementioned property or area.

- INDEMNITY:** I/We the undersigned hereby indemnifies and holds Working on Fire harmless against all claims, demands, fines, penalties, actions, proceedings, judgements, damages, losses, costs, expenses or other liabilities caused whether negligently or otherwise by the non-observance or non-compliance by the organisation of his/her duties and obligations under this agreement
- I/we confirm that all suppression operations shall be performed in the presence of the IC / landowner / lessee / nominated representative.
- It will be the responsibility of the IC / landowner / lessee / nominated representative to ensure that Working on Fire members are not exposed to unsafe working conditions and transport measures. Unsafe acts are prohibited as per the Veld & Forest Act 101 of 1998

COSTS: (Where applicable)

DESCRIPTION	RATES	SIGNATURE
Spotter aircraft per hour	R 3 126	
Bomber aircraft per hour	R12 554	
Bomber aircraft AT802	R20 005	
Medium Chopper per hour	R21 147	
HSV/BSV per km	R 18,00	
Chemicals per litre	R 60,00	
Crew p/person per hour (FPA member)	R 0,00	Only transport & Rations
Crew p/person per hour (non FPA member)	R 16,50	
Crew transport return trip from base (FPA member)	R 17,53	
Crew transport Return Trip from base p/km (non FPA member)	R 17,53	
Rations after 16h00 p/person p/24 hours	R 110,00	
Burning fuel per litre used	R 10,00	

NB: ALL WORKING ON FIRE COSTS ARE EXCLUDING OF VAT and SUBJECT TO MONTHLY RATE CHANGES PENDING ON FUEL PRICES

Signed Date: 20

Requester's Name

Name in full.....
WoF Authorisation with verbal consent of the responsible person

Date: 20..... Time.....

PLEASE FAX TO: () DISPATCH CENTER:.....

FPA GROUP OF COMPANIES FPA BUILDING CLUB STREET AIRFIELD 1300
P O BOX 15052 WEST ACRES NELSPRUIT 1211 COMP. REG. 2004/019441/07 VAT REG NO. 4200222925

Annexure 3: Fire Management Units (FMUs)

A Fire Management Unit of the Fire Protection Association-

- Consists of a localised area in which integrated fire management efforts between individual land owners can be most effectively co-ordinated.
- Gives strategic guidance to the Association on integrated fire management in the area covered by the Fire Management Unit.
- Is to hold bi-annual meetings for the purpose of pre-fire season planning and post-fire season feedback.
- May require that the Association ring-fences assets provided and funds raised by the fire management unit as being for the benefit of that Fire Management Unit.

Background and Understanding

Already established FMU boundaries, as was in place or identified by the former FPAs, will be the starting point. We will assist the identified areas to confirm, validate or change their boundaries by engaging with the FMU members, fire experts and local knowledge of the areas. The FPA's fire management plan maps will be used to assist in this process by providing a visual map of the area with the relevant fire history, fire management assets, access point, veld type and age, topographic features, etc.

As the FMU maturity level increases and as our Fire Management planning improves the roles and responsibilities of the FMU and FPA will change and grow.

The role of the FPA will be to:

- Coordinate the establishment of the FMUs,
- Take responsibility for the administration and the set-up of the coordination of activities involved.
- Align and engage with the Fire management experts
- Provide the required maps and mapping services.
- Assist with the costing and planning of the agreed fire management activities.
- Share important fire management information
- Assist with all queries

At the first meeting all stakeholders to agree on:

- FMU area and Leadership
- Minimum coordination efforts and information requirements (refer step 2)
- Roles and responsibilities agreed
- If possible, start the process of how to identify the fire risk and management requirements of the area

Deliverables:

- Leaders
- Well defined map of the area
- List of data to be collected and collection methodologies
- Roles and responsibilities documented
- Agreed process of how to identified fire management actions required

Annexure 4: The legal responsibilities of land owners

More information can be obtained from the FPA's website, NL. www.overbergfpa.co.za. Below is a short summary of the responsibilities of landowners to provide context to the content of the overall document.

What are landowners' legal duties as per National Veld and Forest Fire Act of 1998 regarding wildfire prevention?

- You may not start a wild fire.
- You may only start a fire, including cooking or braai fire, in a designated area.
- Every landowner must have equipment available to fight wildfires.
- Every landowner must have personnel available to fight wildfires.
- Every landowner must have a person on their property who keeps a lookout for fires.
- Every landowner must establish a system of firebreaks.
- A landowner may not burn firebreaks or carry out controlled burns when the Fire Danger Index is high.
- Land users must manage the fuel load on land under their control. They must remove invasive alien vegetation from the land.

What are the legal liabilities of landowners as per the NVFFA (Chapter 9 section 34)?

If a person brings civil proceedings and proves that:

- a) the or she suffered loss
- b) the loss was caused by a wildfire, and
- c) the wildfire started on or spread from land owned by the defendant, the defendant is presumed to have acted negligently in relation to the wildfire unless:
 - i. the defendant proves that he or she was not negligent, or
 - ii. the defendant is a member of a FPA in the area where the fire occurred, in which case the person bringing the claim must prove that he or she was negligent.