



## **FIRE SEASON: 2017/18**

### **Land users: What you need to know**

#### **goFPA's preparation:**

- Safety standard and refresher courses completed with fire-fighters and landowners.
- Extensive engagement with landowners during the winter planning and high-risk [strategy sessions](#).

#### **HIGH RISKS for land users:**

- Ignitions due to fires round your Workers homes – clear fire breaks
- Ignitions due to contractors preparing food – forbid cooking fires or provide a safe alternative
- Fire suppression equipment and staff accessible during the festive season – planning, planning, planning

To all our members we refer to our [previous Fire Season information letters](#) as it contains other important information.

## **WHAT TO DO IF A FIRE STARTS ON YOUR PROPERTY:**

1. Phone the Fire & Rescue Services.  
**Overberg:** 028 425 1690  
**Overstrand:** 028 312 2400

**Accurate and complete information is critical, especially the location of the fire.**

- 2: Phone your neighbours
3. Phone your FMU leadership
4. Phone the goFPA: **063 690 7899**

## At the fire:

- Ensure you and your teams put on [Personal Protective Equipment](#) as soon as it is convenient to do so.
- Report to the [Incident Commander](#) at the fire.

## The Division Commanders of each area in the Overberg District:

- Bredasdorp to Baardskeersbos: Mario Arends
- Swellendam: Adel Supra Virtue
- Grabouw: Malcolm Abrahams
- Villiersdorp: Peter Jambo
- Caledon, Greyton and Genadendal: Chris Pieterse
- Overstrand: Angelo Aplon and Marlu Rust

Two officers are on duty at all times, and two will be present at a large wildfire. It doesn't matter whether you're in the Overstrand area, or the rest of the Overberg, the team closest to a fire will respond to the fire, even across the municipal boundaries.

## Resources:

Resources have already been deployed across the Overberg, with 9 additional vehicles available this fire season.

## The ground crews/teams you can rely on during a fire:

- Working on Fire teams are on standby.
- Provincial Fire-fighting teams from [NCC](#) are prepared.

## Early detection:

- Our [AFIS](#) satellite system notifies us of fires (size, intensity & cloud cover dependent).
- Combined with our database of farms we can respond quickly to inform land users and response.
- A [spotter plane](#) will fly air patrols during fire season on high-risk days.

## Aerial fire-fighting:

- A spotter plane is based at Bredasdorp from 1 December to the end of April 2018.
- A helicopter is available, with access to additional choppers from Stellenbosch.

## Aerial support - What you can do now:

- Complete the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) confirming you wish to make use of aerial support during a wildfire (the form will be available in the coming days, and must be sent back to the goFPA).
- Show the form to your insurer, to ensure you are covered.

### **Aerial support – During a fire:**

- The Incident Commander will firstly decide whether it is necessary to activate aerial support.
- OR: If the landowner requests aerial support.
- The Fire Chief or next in charge must sign off on whether aerial support is necessary.
- The first hour is vital: we will throw everything at the fire in hour 1 – including aerial support if it's viable and available.

### **Aerial support – The costs for landowners:**

- The Incident Commander, at his discretion, will deploy aerial resources for initial attack.
- If the fire is not yet under control after initial attack, and the land user and the Incident Commander decide to continue aerial support, the cost is for the land user.
- The cost of aerial support has not been finalized yet, but early indications are the goFPA members will receive a discounted rate.

### **Fire Suppression Costs for goFPA members:**

#### **In the Overberg (excluding the Overstrand):**

Veld fire suppression – no cost

Guarding – R2 000/hour (Please refer to “Mop-up standards” below)

If Fire Service has to return to the same fire – full cost

A controlled burn lost due to negligence – full cost

#### **Overstrand:**

Veld fire suppression – R617/hour (Vehicles cost)

### **Mop-up requirements:**

Once a fire is out, we hand the fire over to you for mop-up. If you can't undertake mop-up, we will at the discretion of the Incident Commander deploy units to guard the fire, at full cost to the landowner. You must meet Provincial requirements – which depends on the vegetation type that has burnt. Refer to the table below:

<b>Fuel Type</b>	<b>Width of Hand Control Line (swept /cleared or hosed down area)</b>	<b>Width of scratch line to mineral soil</b>
Grass	3 metres	1 metres
Fynbos 2-6 years	3 metres	1 metres
Fynbos older than 6 years	10 metres	2 metres
Plantation and dense alien vegetation	20 metres	3 metres
Slash and cleared aliens	20 metres	3 metres

## High-risk areas in the Overberg:

- Bredasdorp Napier mountain range
- Sandy's Glen Salmonsdam
- Suiderstrand Agulhas
- Grabouw deforested areas
- Barrydale Mountains (East)
- Cape Nature Hotspots in the following areas: Kaaimansgat/HighNoon, Villiersdorp, FranschoekPass, SirLowry'sPass, Botrivier, Hangklip, Stanford, Uilkraal/PearlyBeach, BBT East, Salmonsdam, Ganskraal, Greyton, Marloth, Potberg, Waenhuiskrans, DeMond
- Overstrand: Pringle Bay, Betty's Bay, Fisherhaven-Hermanus, Stanford/Gansbaai (details available on request)

### Response plan for high-risk areas:

- If a fire is reported here, we'll launch an automatic overkill – with aerial support, fire units and fire teams.
- We'll employ static lookouts and air patrols on red days.
- We'll manage fires using strategic firebreaks.

### Compliance

- We refer our members to check their legal compliance by reviewing the [goFPA Rules & Checklist](#)
- **Personal safety clothes and fire-fighting equipment suppliers (PPE and suppliers)** can be found on our website.
- A reachable & responsible person should be available, at all times, in case of a wildfire on your land or threatening your land.

Where you can access reliable and accurate information on fires:

Our Facebook page: [@goFPA](#)

Twitter: [@OverbergFPA](#)

Instagram: [@OverbergFPA](#)

Overstrand Municipality Facebook page: [@overstrandmunicipality](#)

The Incident Commander at the fire.

Check our website for general information:

[www.overbergfpa.co.za](http://www.overbergfpa.co.za)



Beware of trusting other sources, and please verify information before you send it out on WhatsApp to your connections and groups.

*Thank you for your help to date. We're hoping for a manageable fire season, working closely with you as our primary partners.*

Regards,

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**Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association**

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