

Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association (goFPA)

2016/2017 Fire Season preparation support document



Objective of this document

To inform members to start early with preparation for the 2016/17 Fire Season. The information and services are aimed to provide support to our landowners.

THE BASICS

- We are a community organisation and working together has proven we can make a difference.
- There are no “one fits all”, thus we advise our members to apply the recommendations/advice as are applicable to your circumstances and your FMU area.
- This diagram will assist us in this preparation phase.
 - **PLAN:** Identify the risk/threat and what you can do the mitigate, minimize or deal with it

- **DO:** identify the resources you have available (and shortcoming/gaps) you will need to deal/address with your risk/threat
- **CHECK:** that your plans are deliverable; your training and make your team/neighbours/FMU involved and aware of your plans
- **ACT:** when required, implement the plan and identify any changes required and implement them – review and revise your plans



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PLAN:
Learn from previous
Fire Seasons

- Review of the past Fire Seasons according the following guidelines:
 - Where had fire occurred in the past?
 - How much damage did they cause and suppression cost incurred.
 - What were the weather conditions, when did it occurred – are there any identifiable trends
 - Suppression responses
 - Lessons learnt

- If you have property/land that burned in recent history:

Now is the time to review your land and plan to how to use this burn to your benefit:


- use this burn to protect your property
- incorporate potential fire breaks
- avoid uncontrolled alien infestations, NEVER will it be this cost effective to keep your burned area clear
- Contact the goFPA team to assist with finding a qualified contractor to assist



For the *“old hands”* this is ideal opportunity to validate your high level of adherence and identify improvements.

For the landowners that are *“new to the game”* the checklist will assist you in identifying shortcoming and planning.

Find Rules here: <http://overbergfpa.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/goFPA-Rules-May16.pdf>



DO: FPA Rules checklist
We have created a checklist of our newly approved Rules that will assist you as member to “proof”/confirm your wildfire preventive actions and adherence to the National Veld, Forrest and Fire Act of 1998. The Overberg District Municipality will provide fire suppression services without cost* to landowners adhering to our rules. *certain limitations apply



Be an active member.

DO: Insurance check



We recommend that landowners meet with their Insurance Brokers now to check your fire and wildfire insurance options and that your insurance schedule is correct. If you are uncertain, enquire on the following:

- Public liability
 - Fire spread
 - Fire suppression
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ACT: Fuel load reduction

- **NOW** is the time to execute your **control burns!** If you require a burn permit (<http://www.overbergfpa.co.za/burn-permits/>). If you require assistance, including following-up on the status of your submitted permit, please contact us.
- The goFPA team can potentially provide assistance to our members by providing clearing teams. Please contact us via email: manager@overbergfpa.co.za for details of qualified teams in your area.
- **Renosterveld:** Please note we receive specialised advice on when and how to burn Renosterveld. http://overbergfpa.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Burning-Guidelines-for-Renosterveld_FPA.pdf



ACT: Plan and make FIRE BREAKS

Identification of your wildfire risks, property protection and FMU risk will inform the identification fire breaks to reduce/mitigate these identified risks. We request that you discuss fire breaks with neighbours and plan together – in the right place, cost effective and be able to implement. PLEASE document your agreed fire breaks and/or tracers. A Fire break agreement template is available on our website - <http://overbergfpa.co.za/farm-land-members/> - See Important documents).

Please contact our office if you want assistance with the preparation of fire breaks or require advice.



CHECK: You and your Fire Management Unit (FMU)

- **What is a FMU?**
Geographical grouped landowners that works together to prevent and fight wildfires. Refer to our website - <http://overbergfpa.co.za/fire-management-unit/> - for more information.
- **Know your FMU and plan together**
Action required: Have at least one (1), preferably two (2), FMU meetings before the 2016/2017 Fire season. The first meeting is very important to plan together regarding preparation and wildfire risk reduction efforts. We have prepared a typical agenda to guide the meeting.
- **Below the draft FMU Agenda:**

1. Confirmation of the role of the FMU
2. Confirm and or determine your FMU area
3. Identify FMU leaders and support leaders
4. Determine and agree on Communication methods:
 - a. WhatsApp; SMS; Other
 - b. Who will take responsibility
5. Determine and list available firefighting equipment in FMU, including location and contact details
6. Discussion of the High Risks
7. Discuss Access routes, gate keys, fire breaks & tracer
8. Decisions:
 - a. Preparation
 - i. What can still be burned before the season starts?
 - ii. Fire Breaks and clearing around infrastructure
 - iii. Medium and long term planning
 - b. Procedure in an event of a fire
9. Next meeting

GIVE US THE DATES/ARRANGE THE MEETINGS please.
The goFPA team will assist the FMU leaders to set-up the meeting, PLEASE make an effort to attend.