

#LCES



Lookouts

Ideally you need someone to be stationed as a lookout at each fire. This person should have experience of fires, how they move, and how to fight them, and must communicate clearly and concisely. The lookout warns those fighting the fire of potential threats early – and therefore must see the fire and the fire-fighters, AND be able to communicate with them. The lookout also needs to be in a safe spot. Sometimes more than one lookout is required.



Communication

There is a communication plan in place. In other words, the Incident Commander, fire-fighting teams and the landowner and his or her teams communicate clearly with each other. Orders are understood and followed, with the Incident Commander ultimately held responsible for the calls. Importantly, the call to retreat must be understood quickly, by all. Communication refers to using technology to reach each other. BUT it also highlights the importance of calmly conveying a message, even during times of high-stress.



Exit Routes

Do you have escape routes in mind? It's essential to always have more than one route available. Routes change all the time, as the fire moves. So alternative escape routes must be top of mind at all times. These should be roads that are fairly easily accessible – and should take you straight to the safety zone.



Safety Zones

Plan a safety zone at each fire. This is where you'll move to should the call come to retreat from an out-of-control fire, or to find refuge from danger. The area should be safe from the fire, normally in the already burned area (also known as "the black") and should be large enough. Safety zones could also change should the fire's behaviour change. Be aware, and communicate the location of the safety zone – especially if it changes during a fire.

WILDFIRE DEFENCE STRATEGY

#FIRESEASON

www.overbergfpa.co.za

