



**GREATER OVERBERG
FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

Fire Season
2022/23



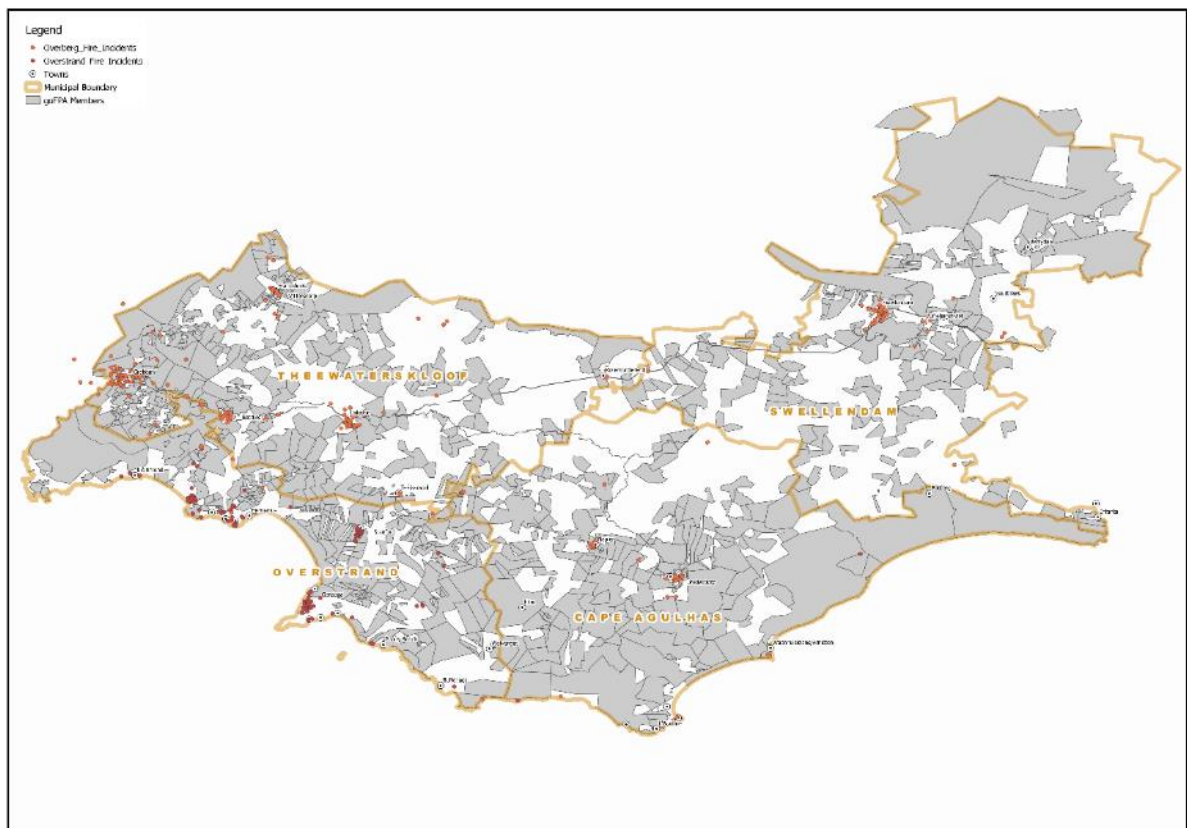
1. OVERBERG FIRE SERVICES

As reported by *FireWeb* for the period from 1 November 2022 to 30 April 2023.

Overall picture: ODM area of responsibility

Total fire incidents in the Overberg:

Cape Agulhas:	32
Swellendam:	74
Overstrand:	234
Theewaterskloof:	407





(Fire Services Report continued)

The Overstrand experienced 234 wildfires, as reported by *FireWeb* for the period from 1 November 2022 to 30 April 2023:

Overstrand Veld Fire Stats			
Veld Fires	130	Domestic Fires	14
Mountain Fires	4	False Alarm Good Intent	11
Road Shoulder Fires	4	Other	15
Traditional ceremony	4		
Rubble Fires	48		
Prescribed Burns	4		
TOTAL			234





FIRE SEASON 2022/23

The 2022/23 wildfire season in the Overberg region brought a welcome relief to residents and authorities due to higher-than-typical rainfall. This season stands out as one of the quietest in recent memory, with a marked decrease in the frequency and severity of wildfires. However, despite the overall tranquility, there were still significant challenges, most notably the Akkedisberg Fire near Stanford, which posed a formidable fight. This report provides an overview of the season, highlighting key events and the cooperation among landowners and stakeholders in managing fires.

Quietest season in years

The 2022/23 wildfire season in the Overberg region was characterised by above-average rainfall, contributing to the decreased occurrence of wildfires. This welcome deviation from the intense fire seasons experienced in previous years provided relief to both residents and authorities, minimising the destruction of natural resources and infrastructure.

The Akkedisberg fire

Although the season was relatively calm, the Akkedisberg fire near Stanford emerged as the largest and most challenging wildfire to contain. This fire spread rapidly, necessitating a coordinated and determined response from firefighting teams. Firefighters faced numerous difficulties, including strong winds and rugged terrain, making containment efforts incredibly demanding.

Landowner cooperation

A noteworthy aspect of the 2022/23 wildfire season was the exceptional level of cooperation demonstrated by landowners. Understanding the importance of preventing and mitigating wildfires, landowners collaborated closely with authorities, actively participating in fire-prevention measures and promptly reporting any fire incidents. This unified effort significantly contributed to the overall success in containing and preventing fires throughout the season.

Improved collaboration

In the regions between the City of Cape Town and Overberg areas, the Hansekop and Rockview fires were notable events that tested the collaborative efforts between stakeholders. However, this season showcased a marked improvement in coordination among the districts and involved parties. Firefighting teams, local authorities and residents worked together seamlessly, sharing resources, information and expertise, which played a vital role in effectively managing and extinguishing these fires.



Conclusion

The 2022/23 wildfire season in the Overberg region stands out as a period of respite and cooperation, thanks to higher-than-typical rainfall. While the Akkedisberg fire near Stanford presented significant challenges, the season, as a whole, was characterised by reduced fire incidents.

The exceptional level of cooperation demonstrated by landowners and the improved collaboration between districts and stakeholders in the Hansekop and Rockview fires highlights the importance of collective efforts in managing and mitigating the impact of wildfires.

It is crucial to build upon this season's successes by further enhancing preparedness, response capabilities and community engagement to ensure the Overberg region remains resilient in the face of future wildfire seasons.

