

NORTHWEST UMBRELLA FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

What every landowner should know



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Article 1: FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATIONS – what is a FPA?

A Fire Protection Association (commonly known as a FPA) is a legislated entity in terms of the National Veld & Forest Fire Act 101, 1998 (NVFFA) and are responsible for the coordination and implementation of Integrated Fire Management (IFM) strategies within its area of operation, incorporating landowner's / land users into its membership.

To date, there has been good progress with the registration of FPA's within Northwest, and the appointment of full-time Fire Protection Officers (FPO's), remains a major hurdle within the FPA environment. Most FPA's do not employ dedicated staff and are largely dependent on volunteers and well-resourced members to support their ongoing functioning and sustainability. While the NVFFA does not intend that FPA's are formed where the costs of the Association are greater than the benefits derived by its members, it is important that ALL landowners, inclusive of local and district government, participate in the structure of a FPA to ensure the key duties, responsibilities, and objectives of the FPA can be achieved for the benefit of the broader community. The funds raised through membership fees will assist in coordinating the effective implementation of integrated fire management principles, in turn ensure the overall fire safety within the FPA area of operation.

FPA's are generally established within municipal boundaries, to collect and collate data which will assist to predict, prevent and manage wildfire risks in the defined area of operation. As noted, funding of FPA's is primarily sourced from membership subscriptions and staffed by a volunteer Executive Committee and a volunteer Fire Protection Officer –in some instances FPA's are in a position to employ a full-time FPO which makes a credible difference to the day-to-day operations of the FPA. Hence it is of utmost important to subscribe as a member to your local FPA.

FPA's facilitate the implementation of Integrated Fire Management principles through the prediction, prevention and suppression of wildfires by pooling resources.

FPA's are focused on the achievement of the following objectives:

- To inform and train the community on the risks of fire, to ensure **fire prevention and planning** is used to mitigate fire
- To ensure **planning and resources** are in place to proactively ensure communities within the FPA area of operation are appropriately protected in the context of rural fire reduction, readiness, response and recovery.
- To ensure **fire suppression** is coordinated and effective.
- To ensure minimum equipment and personnel standards are met or exceeded
- To ensure landowners are educated about **forest and rural fire prevention**.
- To implement a **personnel fire fighter training** program for the benefit of all members.
- Provide quality **maps** to volunteer's / fire wardens to assist them in their work.
- To facilitate a **radio network** covering its area of operation
- Establish **relationships and management systems with sister agencies** (such as Provincial government departments, commercial forestry and local government fire services) to provide good working relationships and to ensure appropriate levels of **hazard reduction** are achieved.
- **Manage and co-ordinate all veld & forest fire suppression operations** in its area of operation
- To develop joint **Development Control** arrangements with local Municipalities

FPA's can and have formed, **Provincial Umbrella Fire Protection Association's (UFPA's)** which ideally operate within the Provincial boundaries, and which are aligned to the Provincial Disaster Management Centre. The formation of UFPA's has hugely benefited local FPA's, through shared resources and services approach to integrated fire management.

Article 2: WHAT IS A PROVINCIAL UMBRELLA FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (UFPA)?

The key operational focus of the UFPA is to ensure a coordinated approach to fire risk and integrated fire management practices in respect of aerial and ground operations throughout a Province, in turn ensuring local or regional FPA's achieve common standards with regard to overall aerial and ground operations, awareness, training, fire prevention, fire suppression and fire control. The UFPA's work closely with provincial and local government structures, as well as other fire related service providers and stakeholders to ensure achievement of best practice and effective utilization of all wildfires related resources available.

Duties that may be performed by an UFPA may include:

- strategic policy and planning for the common area administered by several FPAs, e.g., for
 - prescribed burning,
 - common standards,
 - common rules,
 - joint fire preparedness and response plans, and
 - the protection of common assets
- liaison and co-ordination with the provincial and local disaster management center's
- communicating fire danger ratings to FPA's and other stakeholders
- weather data collection for improvements to the predictions from the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) and collection and dissemination of other relevant data and information
- providing input data for fire danger ratings on behalf of its FPA's, such a veld curing information
- communication to FPA's and the public regarding veldfire management in the area
- supply of fire incident command specialists, for support and co-ordination between FPAs and other firefighting agencies in escalating fire conditions
- management and maintenance of aerial support services
- co-ordination functions, (e.g., co-ordination of equipment and other resources between individual FPA's)
- providing equipment, personnel, and training standards, where the fires services have not provided these
- helping new FPA's to establish in the area covered by the umbrella organization, in cases where FPA's are still needed

Contact the NWUFPA to make further enquiries.

Article 3: NORTH WEST UMBRELLA FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

As NWUFPA, in conjunction with other Fire Protection Associations, grew, it became recognized in terms of the National Veld & Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998 as the provincial Umbrella Fire Protection Association to facilitate local / regional FPA participation in the management of fire and related risks within Northwest.

NWUFPA, together with all Northwest registered FPA'S, and other fire agencies strive to serve and safeguard the public and protect the property and resources of rural Northwest. NWUFPA is the voice of veld & forest fire protection in Northwest - for the benefit of the broader community

Vision: NWUFPA aims, through excellence in education and representation, to promote the protection of life, assets, and the environment from veld & forest fire, inclusive of other related emergencies.

Mission: To promote an efficient fire management system that supports the activities of fire protection associations (and their respective members) in the execution of their duties as set out in section 5 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act and is consistent with the provisions of this Act, the Disaster Management Act, and other relevant legislation. Our purpose is to work cooperatively with all government departments, corporate and community organizations for the continuous improvement in veld and forest fire standards, legislation, education, products and services.

Article 4: NWUFPA: Fire Danger Index (FDI) rating system

During fire season one will often here the terminology “FDI” or in other words the Fire Danger Index. This rating system assists FPA’s and informs landowners of the potential dangers associated with the lighting of fires for controlled burns, fire breaks burning etc. and is summarized as follows.

Fire Alert Stages	BLUE	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
Fire Danger Index	0 - 20	21 - 45	45 - 60	61 - 75	76 - 100
Fire Behaviour	SAFE	MODERATE	DANGEROUS	VERY DANGEROUS	EXTREMELY DANGEROUS
Flame Lengths (m)	0 - 1	1 - 1.2	1.2 - 1.8	1.8 - 2.4	2.4 +
Fire Control Guide Contact LRFA or Fire Hawk to attain the latest information regarding fire danger rating application	Low fire hazard Controlled burning operations can normally be executed with a reasonable degree of safety	Although controlled burning operations can be done without creating a fire hazard, care must be taken when burning on exposed, dry slopes. Keep a constant watch for unexpected wind speed and direction changes	Controlled burning is not recommended when the FDI exceeds 45. Aircraft should be called in at the early stages of a fire.	NO CONTROLLED BURNING OF ANY NATURE should take place. Careful note should be taken of any sign of smoke anywhere - especially on the up-wind side of any plantation. Any fire that occurs should be attacked with the maximum force at hand, including all available aircraft at the time.	ABSOLUTELY NO BURNING - All personnel and equipment should be removed from field. Fire teams, labour and equipment are to be placed on full stand-by. At the first sign of smoke, every possible measure should be taken in order to bring fire under control in the shortest possible time. All available aircraft are to be called without delay.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHEN IT IS SAFE TO BURN FIRE BREAKS OR BLOCK BURNS?

Article 5: INTEGRATED FIRE MANAGEMENT – WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Integrated fire management covers three key areas:

1. Wildfire Prevention – fuel load reduction / alien vegetation control / rehabilitation
2. Wildfire Protection – education & awareness, FPA partnerships
3. Wildfire Suppression – fire suppression activities, extended mop up

Wildfire Prevention: Fire prevention includes all activities and operations aimed at preventing unwanted fires from occurring and to eliminate or reduce the risks and hazards associated with fire. The three main activities of fire prevention are:

- Education & Awareness
- Preparedness in terms of the law, and
- Compliance with the law.

A few important fire prevention activities, which your FPA will undertake:

- Wildfire awareness campaigns
- Fire weather monitoring
- Wildfire prevention training
- Causes of wildfire and their origin - investigations
- General fire educations and awareness interventions, and
- The compliance of national statistics to assist in developing strategies.

Wildfire Protection: Fire protection includes all activities that are aimed at the protection of life, property and assets from the impacts of unwanted wildfires. Education, campaigns, communication & awareness are the key components of integrated fire management. Fire protection activities include the following:

- The development of policies and strategies
- Implementation of SOP's
- Entering into agreements
- Gathering of data
- The development of communication networks
- Determining training needs and establishing training schedules
- Prescribed burning and fuel load reduction operations

Wildfire Suppression and Response: Being sufficiently prepared and ensuring an appropriate response to veld and forest fires when they occur are key factors in effective and efficient fire management. It is essential to have plans and resources in place prior to fires occurring. Responsible authorities need to have a range of options available, know which fires to suppress and which to allow to burn, mechanisms for monitoring fire danger and identifying fires which require action, and clear responsibilities and coordination mechanisms – this is where your FPA plays a key role. Fire suppression includes operations and tactics aimed at containing, controlling and extinguishing fire. It revolves around the management of the firefighting resources and the implementation of predetermined standard operating procedures, which guide decision-making and the actual operations on the ground. Efficient fire suppression is primarily geared towards a rapid response or an aggressive initial attack strategy, as it is known. The fundamental principle of “throwing” the maximum amount of firefighting resources at a fire before it increases in size greatly reduces the complexity and the costs associated with a large fire that escape initial attack.

DO YOU IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED FIRE MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES ON YOUR PROPERTY

Article 6: NWUFPA – Our Objectives in terms of integrated fire management principles

The NW Fire Protection Association is focused on the achievement of the following objectives, for the benefit of its members and the broader community:

Fire Prevention
Helping new FPAs to establish in the area covered by the umbrella organization, in cases where FPAs are still needed
Appointment of FPO
To ensure landowners are educated about forest and rural fire prevention.
Communication to landowners & the public regarding veldfire management, landowners are educated about forest and rural fire prevention – fuel load reduction, necessity of fire breaks.
Liaison & Coordination with PDMC / NDMC
Exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated to it by the Minister.
Communicating FDR
Ensure minimum equipment and personnel standards are met or exceeded while not compromising operational efficiency or effectiveness
Assistance to members of FPAs where court cases arise, such as providing expert witness, and statistical and weather information
Providing equipment, personnel and training standards , where the fires services have not provided these
Fire Protection
Strategic policy & planning , develop a veldfire management strategy, including the contributions to local disaster management plans
Coordination functions, co-ordination of equipment and other resources between individual FPAs, through such measures as mutual assistance agreements and the standard operating procedures they contain
Facilitating Mutual Aid Agreements
To ensure planning and resources are in place to proactively ensure communities within the area of operation are appropriately protected in the context of rural fire reduction, readiness, response and recovery.
Identify the ecological conditions that affect the fire danger, ecosystems, alien plant control
Weather data collection for NFDRS improvements
Provide input data for FDR – veld curing information etc
To implement a radio network to effectively combat emergencies and for the protection for our volunteers / members and the general community.
Provide management services, training, capacity building and support for communities in their efforts to manage and control veldfires;
Training , where training is not provided by an industry
Furnish any information requested by the Minister in order to prepare or maintain the fire danger rating system
Management and maintenance of aerial support services
Fire Suppression
Manage and co-ordinate all fire suppression operations , fire suppression is coordinated and effective.
Aerial support services
Supply of fire incident command specialists / support and coordination between FPAs and other fire fighting agencies

HELP US PREVENT VELD AND FOREST FIRES - DO NOT START FIRES YOU CANNOT STOP

Article 7: THE LAW RELATING TO VELD & FOREST FIRES

- **Every landowner** on whose land a veldfire may start or burn or from whose land it may spread must (as a result of refuse pits, angle grinders, welding torches, kids playing with matches, fire breaks, block burning) – ANY FIRE —
 - have such equipment, protective clothing and trained personnel for extinguishing fires as are—
 - prescribed; or
 - in the absence of prescribed requirements, reasonably required in the circumstances.
 - ensure that in his or her absence responsible persons are present on or near his or her land who, in the event of fire, will—
 - extinguish the fire or assist in doing so; and
 - take all reasonable steps to alert the owners of adjoining land and the relevant fire protection association, if any.
- A landowner may appoint an agent to do all that he or she is required to do in terms of fire break burning.
- A landowner who has reason to believe that a fire on his or her land or the land of an adjoining owner may endanger life, property, or the environment, must immediately—
 - take all reasonable steps to notify—
 - the fire protection officer; and
 - the owners of adjoining land; and
 - do everything in his or her power to stop the spread of the fire.
- Any person who has reason to believe that a fire on any land may endanger life, property or the environment, may, together with any other person under his or her control, enter that land or land to which the fire can spread in order to prevent that fire from spreading or to extinguish it.
- The fire protection officer generally will take control of fires which cannot be managed by the landowner.
- PFPA has negotiated discounts for its members from various suppliers about firefighting equipment, safety clothing etc.

**ARE YOU READY TO FIGHT FIRES THAT MAY SPREAD FROM YOUR PROPERTY?
JOIN YOUR LOCAL FPA TODAY**

Article 8: AN OVERVIEW - OFFENCES & PENALTIES

In terms of the Act the following offences and penalties are applicable.

Presumption of negligence (NON-MEMBERS)

1. If a person who brings civil proceedings proves that he or she suffered loss from a veldfire which—
 - a. the defendant caused; or
 - b. started on or spread from land owned by the defendant, the defendant is presumed to have been negligent in relation to the veldfire until the contrary is proved, unless the defendant is a member of a fire protection association in the area where the fire occurred.
2. The presumption in 1 above does not exempt the plaintiff from the onus of proving that any act or omission by the defendant was wrongful.

Offences: First Category -

1. Any person who lights, uses, or maintains a fire in the open air when a fire warning has been issued
2. Any owner, occupier, or person in control of land on which a fire occurs who fails to take reasonable steps to extinguish the fire or to confine it to that land or to prevent it from causing damage to property on adjoining land, Is guilty of a first category offence.

Penalty: A person who is guilty of a first category offence may be sentenced on a first conviction for that offence to a fine or imprisonment for a period of up to two years, or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

Offences: Second Category

1. Any person who, in the open air—
 - a) leaves unattended a fire which he or she lit.
 - b) lights, uses or maintains a fire, which spreads and causes injury or damage.
 - c) throws, puts down or drops a burning match or other burning material and, by doing so, makes a fire which spreads and causes injury or damage.
 - d) lights, uses or maintains a fire in a road reserve—
2. Any person who—
 - a) fails to prepare a firebreak in terms of the Act.
 - b) fails to give notice of intention to burn a firebreak in terms of the Act.
 - c) burns a firebreak when a fire protection association has objected in terms of the Act.
 - d) fails to inform adjoining landowners and the fire protection association of their intention to burn fire breaks or block burns.
3. Any person who—
 - a) fails to meet the standards of readiness for firefighting.
 - b) fails to notify the correct persons.
 - c) refuses to assist a fire protection officer or a forest officer; or
 - d) hinders or obstructs any person or any fire protection officer or any forest officer, is guilty of a second category offence

Penalty: A person who is guilty of a second category offence may be sentenced on a first conviction for that offence to a fine or imprisonment for a period of up to one year, or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

DO NOT BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN NEGLIGENT

Article 9: Understanding fire management when burning fire breaks and managing fires

Fire management involves fire protection and using fire for land management purposes such as stubble burning, weed control or the management of native / indigenous vegetation. Fire behavior is how fire spreads and burns given differences in fuel, weather, and topography (shape of the land). This section provides general information that may be useful when considering and planning fire management.

Fire spread: Fire spreads in three main ways:

- direct flame contact,
- heat transfer - Heat is transferred through hot air currents and as radiant heat.
- from embers - Embers can be carried forward by wind and air currents. These start new spot fires well ahead of the main fire front (spotting)

Drought conditions: When planning fire management, consider the impact of drought and dry conditions. While grass paddocks tend to be heavily grazed in these situations, fire management still needs to be undertaken as fire can still travel across paddocks with very short grass.

Fire behavior: Fire behavior is influenced by three main factors. These are fuel, weather and topography. How hot a fire burns and how quickly it spreads depend on the size, quantity, type, arrangement and moisture content of the fuel being burnt.

- **Fuel load & Fuel size:** The fuel load is the quantity of fuel per unit area. It is commonly expressed as tons per hectare. Reducing fuel loads can help to protect assets from fire and make fires easier to suppress. Fine fuels, such as leaves, twigs, grass and bark, dry out rapidly and burn quickly. Consequently, minimize the quantities of fine fuels near key assets to minimize the risk of radiant heat and direct flame contact. Heavier fuels like branches and logs can also provide fuel for fires, however, they are slower to ignite than fine fuels and give off heat more slowly.
- **Weather:** Weather is a major factor in the ignition and spread of fire. Preparing for common weather patterns, as well as unusual weather events, will assist landowners to minimize fire risk.
 - **Temperature and humidity:** Temperature and humidity impact on fire fuels, especially fine fuels. The higher the air temperature and the lower the humidity the more easily fuel will burn.
 - **Wind speed:** Wind influences fire behavior significantly.
 - **Wind direction:** In the PFPA area of operation hot dry winds often come from the west and northwest and are often followed by a easterly and south-easterly wind changes. In this situation the side of the fire can quickly become a much larger fire front (head of the fire).
- **Topography:** The shape of the land needs to be considered when planning fire management. Fire travels faster upslope than down-slope because when it is moving upslope the flames are closer to the unburnt fuel. This preheats the fuels, making them easier to ignite. The rate of fire spread upslope approximately doubles for every 10 degrees of slope.

Topography can also influence how the wind behaves. As wind passes over an object, such as a hill or windbreak, the wind can tumble, creating turbulence. Wind turbulence produces erratic winds, causing unpredictable fire behavior.

Valleys and gullies can channel and strengthen winds, increasing the rate of spread of a fire and its intensity. Be aware of local wind conditions. New landowners should ask neighbors and previous owners about local winds when planning fire management on their property.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRE MANAGEMENT JOIN YOUR FPA TODAY

Article 10: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY - KNOWING FIRE RELATED HEALTH HAZARDS

It is vitally important that you are aware of, and know how to avoid, illnesses and problems that may result from vigorous firefighting activity and exposure to smoke, dust and heat.

If you have a medical condition (e.g., asthma, diabetes, heart disease or epilepsy) that may be aggravated by the type of work undertaken on the fire ground, you should seek medical advice to ensure you are able to carry out such work.

Smoke and Dust Hazards: Smoke and dust are ever-present irritants to your eyes and lungs at fires. Prolonged exposure to heavy smoke can be hazardous. In addition to restricting visibility, heavy smoke contains carbon monoxide (CO) which is a poisonous gas.

Fatigue: The conditions and work you undertake at an incident can be physically stressful and demanding. Fatigue is a key factor affecting your performance at an incident. Exposure to radiant heat and smoke for a lengthy period may increase your level of physical stress and the likelihood of fatigue.

Dehydration: The body's cooling system involves perspiring. Dehydration will occur if fluids and electrolytes lost through perspiration are not replaced. On days of total fire ban and extreme fire danger, you should increase your hydration in case you get called out. Water and an electrolyte replacement drink should be consumed regularly. You should always drink more than you need to prevent dehydration.

Heat-related Illness: In addition to the health hazards we have just discussed, fire fighters also face the risk of heat related illness such as (in order of severity from lowest to highest):

- heat cramps:
- heat stress.
- heat exhaustion; and
- heat stroke.

Heat cramps - These are common muscular cramps that may occur in the heat, during or after exercise, especially when an unfit person has worked hard and perspired a lot. The onset of heat cramps is caused by failure to maintain adequate intake of fluid and appropriate rest and cool down periods.

Heat stress - You are suffering heat stress when your body's cooling systems (perspiration and circulation) are being stressed but are not yet overwhelmed by the heat load. The body cools itself by perspiring and directing additional blood flow to the skin so that this blood can be cooled as the perspiration evaporates.

Heat exhaustion - As its name implies, this condition develops as a result of becoming exhausted from working in the heat. If the body is heat stressed for too long without adequate fluid intake, dehydration develops. This upsets the body's chemistry, leading to weakness as well as reducing its capacity to continue perspiring.

Heat stroke - Heat stroke is the least common and most severe heat-related illness. It occurs when the body's cooling systems are overwhelmed, and the body's temperature rises to dangerous levels at which time the body starts to "cook" internally. In cases of severe heat stroke, this is irreversible, and death will rapidly follow.

BE FIRE SAFE - JOIN YOUR FPA TODAY

Article 11: NWUFPA - TEN GOLDEN RULES TO ADHERE TO

1. Make effective fire breaks on your property borders.

This protects your property and prevents a fire spreading to neighboring properties.

2. Warn neighbors if you plan to burn firebreaks.

Use a written notice to inform neighbors of your intentions.

3. Plan your fire-breaks program with your neighbors.

Get your neighbor's approval of your plan of action. Should neighbors find it impossible to come an agreement, provision is made that the local magistrate may act as arbiter. His ruling will then be binding by both landowners.

4. Insist on your neighbors' presence when firebreaks on boundary belts are being made.

This will ensure that all parties take responsibility for any eventualities. Should a fire occur on a property, and it is suspect of posing a threat to man, animal or property, any person may enter property and apply necessary reasonable measures to prevent the fire from spreading, or to extinguish the fire. These measures may even include setting fire to crops, firebreaks etc.

5. Ensure that weather conditions are acceptable for burning firebreaks.

You could consider burning fires at night when weather conditions are usually favorable for burning. Check the Fire Danger Rating and regulations for your region.

6. Burn firebreaks early.

Burning restrictions are enforced in certain regions – ensure that you're aware of these.

7. Don't light fires in the open air if you cannot control it.

Ensure that you have enough help and equipment to cope with all eventualities. Lighting a fire within a road reserve, except in fireplace built for that purpose, is also prohibited in terms of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act No 101 of 1998.

8. You are responsible for doing all you can to prevent a fire from spreading to neighboring properties.

If a fire spread it can cause extensive damage and the landowner from where the originates, can be held liable for damages.

9. Don't leave a fire unguarded / unattended before it is properly extinguished.

Unexpected winds can re-flame cinders.

10. According to the National Veld and Forest Fire Act No 101 of 1998, carelessness with fires is considered a criminal offence.

Article 12: Fire Fighting - Acronym WATCHOUT

WATCHOUT is an acronym used to remind fire fighters of potential dangers to their safety and to give advice on safe work practices. Understanding the meaning of the acronym will help you perform a more comprehensive risk assessment.

Weather dominates fire behavior, so keep informed.

Actions must be based on current and expected fire behavior.

Try out at least two safe escape routes.

Communicate with your FPO, your crew and adjoining crews.

Hazards beware of variations in fuels and steep slopes.

Observe changes in wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity and cloud.

Understand your instructions, make sure that you are understood.

Think clearly, be alert and act decisively before your situation becomes critical.

Managing the Fire: The safety and success of fire suppression hinges on the command, control and communications systems that are set up to control the incident.

Communications: Communications are vital to the successful outcome of fire suppression or any other incident. A communications plan is developed to provide communications for the whole of the incident, as determined by its size and complexity.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRE FIGHTING SKILLS

Article 13: **Acronym LACES**

The acronym “**LACES**” was developed with the goal to provide a simple way to help firefighters remember some key elements to survival.

LACES stand for “**Lookouts**”, “**Awareness**”, “**Communications**”, “**Escape Routes**” and “**Safety Zones**”.

L = Lookout

The Lookout is the eyes of the firefighter, especially of the Crew Boss, Fire Controller or Section Fire Boss. Lookouts should be in a position from where they can see the fire line, the fire staff and the crews working the fire. The lookout should be able to recognize and anticipate situations and must report changes immediately.

A = Awareness

All firefighters, including the lookouts, should be aware of the **action plan**. Everyone involved should also be aware of the fire weather, fire behavior, the activities around them, the terrain, etc.

C = Communications

The fire officer, crew leaders and lookouts should at all times be able to communicate. This may be by direct radio contact, or through a lookout or other relay point. **Ensure good communications at all times.**

E = Escape Routes

Have at least two planned routes of escape. If your primary route is cut off, know what you are going to do. Every person on the fire line must know the plan.

S = Safety Zones

Safety zones are places (**known to every person on the fire line**) of refuge, places you can be assured of your safety. Their size is dictated by the fuel, terrain, weather conditions and worst-case fire behavior.

Article 14: Are you and / or have you been compliant in terms of the National Veld & Forest Fire Act 101, 1998?

Fire Season Preparation:	Yes	No
1. Have you completed all fire break burning in accordance with FPA rules & regulations, and more specifically around the boundaries of your rural / farm property		
2. Did you burn / clear (bare earth) your fire breaks?		
3. Have all persons involved with the burning of fire breaks and prescribed burning received certified training?		
4. Have you as an employer provided personal protective clothing to all person involved with fire fighting and / or prescribed burning?		
5. Do you believe you have reasonable equipment on your property to suppress and / or try to stop the spread of fire?		
6. Do you meet the fire fighting recommended equipment standards as set out by your local FPA?		
7. Did you phone your local FPA to obtain permission to burn on any particular day?		
8. Did you know the Fire Danger Index on the day you undertook burning operations?		
9. Did you notify your neighbours that you were burning on any particular day?		
10. Did you make arrangements with your neighbours to burn fire breaks jointly on the common boundary?		

A NO answer to any of the above questions could mean you are non-compliant in terms of the law.

HAVE YOU COMPLIED WITH THE LAW

