

A large, faint watermark of the MKFPA logo is visible in the background of the page, centered behind the title text.

**MIDLANDS KAROO FIRE PROTECTION
ASSOCIATION (MKFPA) VELDFIRE
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY as per NVFFA
1998, Section 5 (1) (a)**

Introduction

The Veldfire Management Strategy is listed in the NVFFA as one of the duties that an FPA must perform. The following is the extract from the NVFFA:

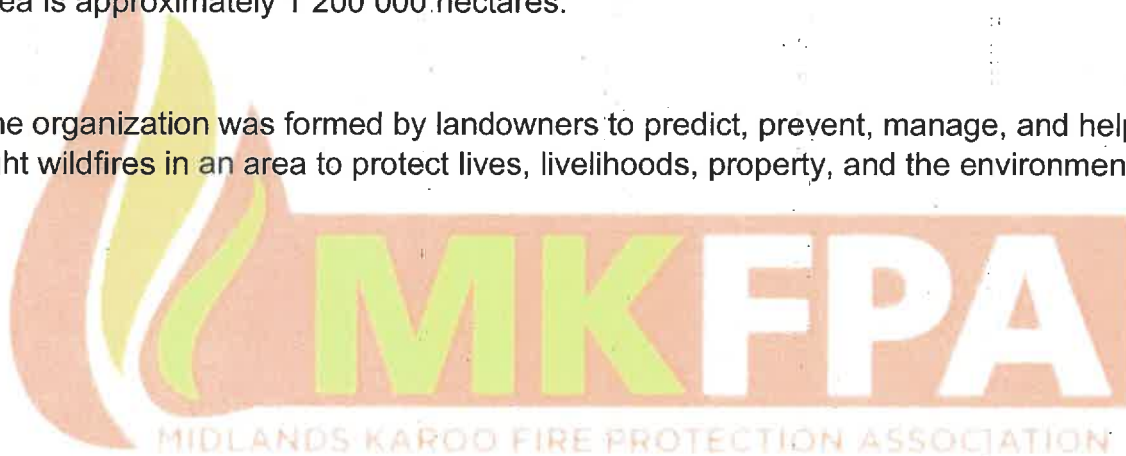
*"5. (1) A fire protection association must at least-
(a) develop and apply a veldfire management strategy for its area;"*

The purpose of this document is to give the MKFPA a legal basis for how its veldfire management will be strategically executed.

Background

Midlands Karoo Fire Protection Association (MKFPA) was established and registered, in terms of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act (Act 101 of 1998) in 2018. The area of the MKFPA falls in the Enoch Mgijima local municipality and Inxuba Yethemba local municipality within the Chris Hani District Municipality. The area is approximately 1 200 000 hectares.

The organization was formed by landowners to predict, prevent, manage, and help fight wildfires in an area to protect lives, livelihoods, property, and the environment.



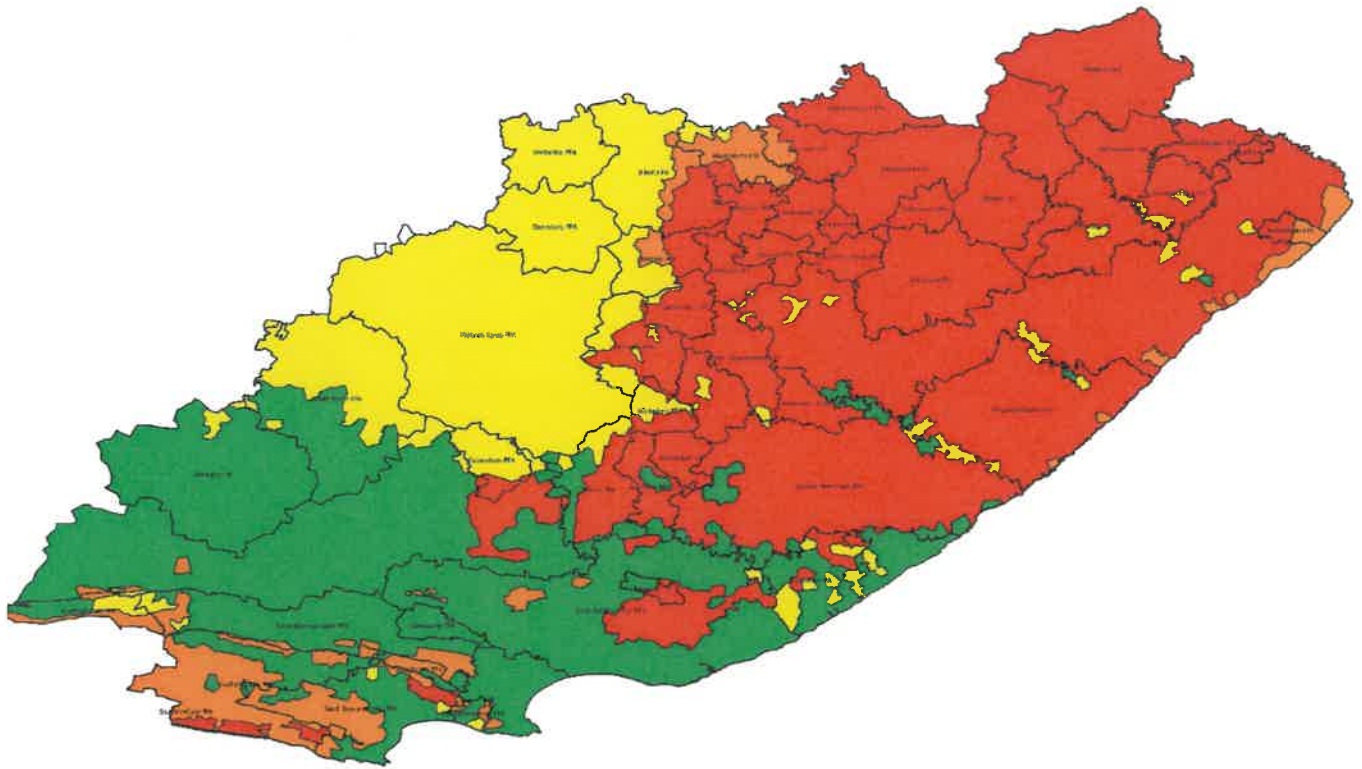


Objectives

- Minimize the losses to life, livestock, property (buildings), infrastructure (fencing and pipelines) and grazing (veld)
- Ensure readiness of all role – players in combatting fires(rapid response).
- Improve public awareness for fire management practices.
- Proper fire management practices and regimes in ecologically sensitive areas.

Fire risk assessment

- Fires in the FPA area are mostly caused by human error and lightning strikes.



Eastern Cape Veldfire Risk Classification map

- Red area - high fire risk zone
- Orange – high to medium fire risk zone
- Yellow – medium fire risk zone
- Green – low fire risk zone

Role players in the veldfire environment

Landowners/ Commercial farmers

State owner land:

- Mountain Zebra National Parks (Sanparks)
- Transnet
- Sanral

Communities and communal areas

Municipal fire services are situated:

- Middelburg
- Cradock

FPA veldfire management strategy

Compartmentalized management of the MKFPA area through fire management units (FMU)

- ✚ All areas will be managed through the FMU's
- ✚ Each FMU must appoint a leader who can liaise with the FPA
- ✚ Members of the FMU's are encouraged to work towards a coordinated response.

Ensuring that reasonable efforts are made to put agreements in place with neighbouring FPA's in the event of fire crossing boundaries –

- ✚ Include the agreed mechanisms for coordination in the agreement between the FPA and neighbouring FPA's
- ✚ Include a basic plan of communication in the event of a fire crossing FPA boundaries.

MKFPA will utilize strategic fire breaks as the primary protection measures against fires

- ✚ Develop fire management plans in high-risk areas with a high membership as a priority which includes the use of strategic firebreaks.
- ✚ Strategic firebreaks will be used as a point of attack and to pinch fires that have jumped across multiple fire breaks.
- ✚ Localized fire breaks plans may be used in areas with limited memberships.
- ✚ Make available to all landowners in the FPA area, guidelines for implementation of strategic breaks.
- ✚ Arrange pre- fire season meetings to review the strategic fire breaks in each area and add addendums to the fire management plans.
- ✚ Promote fuel load reduction and risk by promoting controlled burns where applicable (i.e burns or get burnt!)

The conditions of Section 12 (4) of the NVFFA will apply to all burning operations within the FPA management area

- ✚ This implies that all vegetation- related burns, e.g: camp burns, conservation burns, and high intensity burns will be managed under Section 12 (4).
- ✚ The FPA Rules, Policies and Recommendations will apply for burning operations undertaken within the FPA management area.

The FPA will implement a Fire Prohibition Period as and when required

- ✚ Provide and communicate dates for the fire prohibition period to all landowners ahead of the Fire Prohibition Period
- ✚ MKFPA will make use of and encourage Smoke Reporting during the fire season and fire prohibition period.
- ✚ MKFPA may grant special permission for burning to be undertaken during the fire prohibition period as per the FPA Rules, Policies and Recommendations

FPA will enforce and maintain a Burning Permit System

- ✚ FPA will issue permits according to the FPA Rules, Policies and Recommendations.
- ✚ The FPA will acknowledge that its jurisdiction is within various district, local and metropolitan municipalities, each having its own policies and by- laws
- ✚ IN each of these areas, the FPA will work closely with, and notify the relevant officials.
- ✚ The FPA permitting system will be cognizant of existing municipal permitting systems that may be in place within the boundaries of the FPA and will negotiate with the relevant authorities.
- ✚ Investigate and review available technologies of the implementation of a permitting system for the FPA.

Develop and implement tools for effective veldfire management and compliance with the FPA area

- ✚ Ensure access to FPA Policies, Rules and Recommendations for landowners within the registered area of the FPA.
- ✚ Work towards compliance with the FPA Policies, Rules and Recommendations for landowners within the registered area of the FPA

Ensure the ongoing compliance of the FPA with the NVFFA

- ✚ The FPA will measure itself against the Act and the regulations thereto, the FPA constitution, and the KPA's as per the FPA's Strategic Plan.
- ✚ The FPA will endeavor to distribute the weather forecast and predicted FDR warning to members and non – members during the fire season.
- ✚ The FPA will send out FDI warnings to members on days with a very high forecasted FDI.
- ✚ Ensure that the FPA will have a legally appointed FPO.

Promote awareness and enforcement of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998

- ✚ The FPA will explore and where possible, implement mutually beneficial partnerships focused on community areas.
- ✚ Engage landowners and advise them on the compliance with the NVFFA, 1998.
- ✚ Attend community meetings were relevant.

The FPA Rules, Policies, and Recommendations will be binding on all landowners in the FPA management area.

- ✚ Make available the FPA Rules, Policies, and Recommendations to all landowners in the FPA area.
- ✚ Enforce the FPA Rules, Policies, and Recommendations in the FPA management area while remaining cognizant of any applicable by-laws in the area.

- 🚒 The FPA Rules, Policies, and Recommendations will be binding on all landowners in the FPA management area as the *de facto* standard.
- 🚒 Promote conservation principles and policies for controlled burns in terms of seasonal and burning rotation

