

**POSTRETIEF
FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
DAFF Registration Number: 1141/01**



VELDFIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

for the

POST RETIEF FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

***In terms of Section 5(1) (a) of the National Veld and
Forest Fire Act, No 101 of 1998***

Background:

Post Retief Fire Protection Association (PRFPA) was established and registered, in terms of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act (Act 101 of 1998) in 2004. The area of the PRFPA falls within the Raymond Mhlaba local municipality and Amathole District Municipality. The area is approximately 75 000 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:

- ❖ Minimise the losses to life, livestock, property(buildings), infrastructure (fencing and pipelines) and grazing (veld).
- ❖ Ensuring 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.
- ❖ Participate in risk reduction strategies such as prescribed/block-burns and render the necessary assistance where needed and where reasonably able to.
- ❖ The provision of information and communication services through various platforms and methods to ensure that members and non-members alike receive regular updates about fires, weather, fire danger indices.

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT:

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

POST RETIEF FPA VELDFIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

1. **Compartmentalized management of the FPA area through Fire Management Units (FMU):**
 - Each FMU must appoint a leader who can liaise with the FPA.
 - Develop and determine needs for equipment, training and other resources per FMU and to schedule and allocate accordingly when the FPA can.

- Conduct regular information sessions with the respective FMU leaders and Fire Advisors to determine how to improve veldfire management objectives and support for members where practically feasible and possible.
- Encourage cooperation between members in the FMU's.

2. PRFPA will utilize strategic fire breaks as the Primary protection measures against fires:

- Develop fire management plans in high-risk areas with membership as a priority which includes the use of strategic firebreaks.
- Participate in pre-fire season readiness meetings and information sessions to review strategic fire break effectiveness and to highlight additional risks and risk mitigation measures.
- Advise on mutual firebreak agreements between landowners regarding strategic firebreak maintenance and schedules.
- Promote fuel load reduction and risk by promoting controlled burns where applicable (i.e. burn or get burnt!).

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

- Make available the FPA rules and regulations to all landowners in the FPA area by making use of various platforms, such as social media.
- Promote risk reduction strategies and possible cost-saving methods to landowners regarding clearing of invasive alien and reducing the spread of wildfires in identified areas.
- Render the necessary support function as FPA to members making use of a controlled burn as well as seasonal burning system.

4. The conditions of Section 12(4) of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act 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.

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

- The PRFPA will provide and communicate through its various platforms the fire prohibition period to its members ahead of the Fire Prohibition Period.

- PRFPA will make use of and encourage Smoke Reporting during the fire season and fire prohibition period.
- PRFPA may grant special permission for burning to be undertaken during the fire prohibition period as per the FPA Rules, Policies and Recommendations.

6. PRFPA will enforce and maintain a Burning Permit System:

- The FPA will issue permits according to the FPA Rules, Policies, and Recommendation
- The FPA will acknowledge that its jurisdiction is within various district and local municipalities, each having its own policies and by-laws.
- In each of these areas, the FPA will work closely with and endeavour to communicate information pertaining to authorisations to the necessary officials and stakeholders.
- Investigate and review available technologies of the implementation of a permitting system for the FPA.
- Work closely with agencies, such as the ECUFPA, to assist with regards to best practise industry technologies in terms of burn permit and block burn monitoring.

7. Promote awareness end 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 where relevant.

8. Ensure ongoing compliance of the FPA with the NVFFA:

- Strive towards meeting the organizational goals and targets set out for the FPA.
- Strive towards sharing and distributing weather information, fire danger index information to members as well as non-members using various information platforms.
- The FPA will share high forecasted FDI warnings to members and non-members, as well as the restriction that is imposed to burn on such forecasted days.
- Ensure that the FPA status remain legal appointment of the Fire Protection Officer.