



Eastern Cape

Umbrella Fire Protection Association

ICS Training 2015

(Incident Command System)

The preparedness for disastrous incidents is important in the management of these events. We have been privileged to host for the first time in the Eastern Cape an Incident Command System (ICS) training session.

This was done during the weeks of 9 – 13 and 16 – 20th November 2015 at St Francis Links.

Furthermore we were privileged to have two of our facilitators from the USA Forest services and New York Fire Department respectively. Both of them have extensive experience in ICS and worked on incidents like 9/11 and hurricane Katrina. Fifty participants from throughout the Eastern Cape attended. This included staff from disaster management, the metro, municipalities, forestry, fire protection associations and other government departments.

This is a major event and step in the preparation of handling any potential disastrous incidents.

Thinus Botha



ICS – Incident Command System

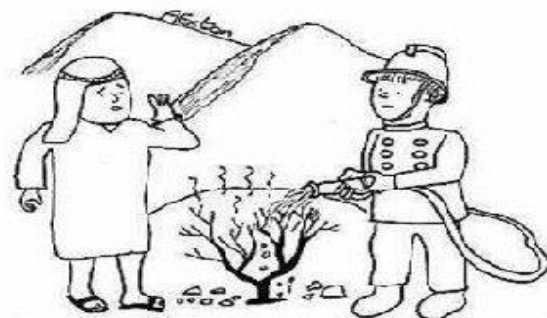
The Incident Command System (ICS) is an all-hazard incident management system that is currently in use in the USA, CANADA and AUSTRALIA.

Here in South Africa, ICS is used quite extensively in numerous provinces, like Western Cape and North West. In the Eastern Cape, the ECUFPA is the leading organisation to employ and promote ICS.

With the recent ICS training (which was sponsored by the GEF Fynbos Fire Project) and was held at the St Francis Links, it is our vision to expand the ICS knowledge and capability in the Eastern Cape Province and to try and achieve a common incident management system between all the different stakeholders.

The next step in our vision, is to be able to build sufficient ICS capable people, so that numerous ICS Incident Management Teams are available and able to efficiently and safely, manage all kinds of incidents, with all working together in a co-operative and supportive way.

Hein Niemand



After receiving the commandments Moses was alarmed to see the Fire Prevention Officer

Burning Fire Belts

Please contact your local FPA to report all Burning Operations.

You can also hire the WoF teams from your FPA for Burning Operations, Weeding, Slashing etc

"From a forester's point of view, the local forestry industry has enjoyed a very good fire season for 2015. This has been supported by the much needed winter rainfall received in July and further supported by a smooth transition between the seasons. The number of call-outs certainly declined as compared to the 2014 fire season and with minimal damage to the surrounding plantations. Although the fire season has officially come to an end for the region, there's always a risk that exists especially in the plantations due to the high fuel loads caused by harvesting, pruning operations and eucalyptus planted areas. As foresters and land owners, we must look ahead and start putting plans in place for the coming fire season."

Abongile Pama

DID YOU KNOW?

When is a firebreak necessary?

Landowners are required to prepare firebreaks on their side of the boundary where there is a reasonable risk of veldfire ([section 12\(1\)](#)) of NVFFA. How do we know what a reasonable risk is? The courts use the "reasonable person test":

- if a reasonable person in the position of the landowner would foresee that by not preparing a firebreak, a veldfire could start or spread across his or her land, causing harm to someone else,
- and therefore would prepare one,
- then the landowner should also prepare one. The Act does not specify requirements for firebreaks because the specific requirements for an effective firebreak vary from place to place.

ECUFPA OFFICE STAFF

Meet the ECUFPA office staff

Candice Samuel - Admin
Hein Niemand - Planning Officer
Sarita Botha - Accountant
Thinus Botha - Manager



PG BISON'S 2015 FIRE SEASON Ugie Crisis saw Protests and Destruction

PG Bison management was accused of not creating jobs and not investing in Ugie as part of the Company's corporate social responsibility investment. This apparently led to the protests that left destruction in its wake and saw the arson of precious plantation areas.

Operations at PG Bison particle board plant have been hampered by violent protests as youths demanded jobs. Protesters have closed roads and damaged Company vehicles and other assets. Some 11 protesters have been arrested but got bail days after.

Although protesters accused PG Bison of hiring people from outside the Province, CEO Gerhard Victor said the firm had already created 409 direct jobs at the particle board plant alone, and a further 2400 indirect job opportunities. The Company made a significant social investment. (Daily Dispatch 25 August 2015)

The protests in Ugie through August 2015, despite the reason why, allowed NECF to strategize and reflect on the Company's level of readiness to respond in situations like this. We know that Langeni forest went through similar protests with devastating consequences.

As protesters often focus on assets which they perceive will force the employer to give in to demands, the choice of assets targeted often left forestry plantations with irreversible damages. This damage will have a detrimental impact on job sustainability in future years as the timber requirements will not be available for customer requirements due to sustainability issues.

Forestry companies must ensure that all avenues are open with regard to firefighting capacity. During the Ugie fires PG Bison got help from WoF, Joe Gqabi DM and from internal departments. Events like these expose weaknesses and emphasize strengths. It is always important for forestry companies to have a plan in place to overcome protests and accommodate additional resources.

Protests will come part of our political landscape as labour unions challenge Government and employers for perceived better wages and working conditions. Forestry companies and farmers alike must ensure that adequate contingency plans are in place for eventualities like this. Above all, maintain good labour relations with your workers as this will mitigate the impact protests can have on any business.

Dawid Malan

Fire Danger Rating System

Low	Fires will not spread beyond heat of camp fire or brush fire.
Moderate	Fires will start from open flame, camp or brush fire. Spreads slowly.
High	Fires will start from a lighted match and spread rapidly in dry grass, slower with moisture. Will continue to spread until extinguished.
Very High	Fires will start readily from match or glowing embers, and spreads rapidly as it increases in size. May crown young conifers.
Extreme	Fires start readily from sparks or cigarette butts, spread and crown rapidly. Spot fires common. All burn fiercely and may blow up unless controlled promptly.

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