EASTERN CAPE UMBRELLA
FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
(T) - 043 683 2659 : (E) - admin@ecufpa.co.za
(W) - www.ecufpa.co.za

441 SPRIGG STREET
PO BOX 973
STUTTERHEIM
Non-Profit Company Reg No: 2012/109394/08
Non-Profit Organisation: 190-777 NPO

Eastern Cape Umbrella FPA – *Fire Rapid Response Fund*
Policy and Governing Principles

The ECUFPA is a registered Non-Profit Company, Reg No: 2012/109394/08. This ***Fire Rapid Response Fund*** is created under its Non-Profit Organisation, REF: 190-777 NPO.

Background

During June 2017, major fires occurred in the areas of Knysna, Tsitsikamma, Longmore, Thornhill and Van Stadens during the same week. One of the major challenges encountered at this and other major fires in the past, was initial response and assistance. ECUFPA staff experience frustrations and challenges in responding to incidents, due to limited budget. The necessity in establishing an emergency trust fund to rapidly respond and assist in these situations was identified.

Fire Rapid Response Fund - Account

Funds received will be kept in a Trust Fund, overseen by ECUFPA's auditors, *Charteris & Barnes* (Close Corporation, Reg No 1988/013996/23).
Account Name: Eastern Cape Umbrella Fire Protection Association
First National Bank
Branch: Stutterheim
Branch Code: 210 421
7 Day Deposit Account No: 74 397 459 600

Contributions

Contributions to the ***Fire Rapid Response Fund*** will be done either directly by the donor or via ECUFPA. Special fundraisers will be launched with the objective of strengthening the ***Fire Rapid Response Fund***.

Goals and aims of the *Fire Rapid Response Fund*

The following is a broad list of goals and aims of the ***Fire Rapid Response Fund***:

- Initial size-up and assessment of the incident within the first 12 – 36 hours.
- Assistance with the mobilisation of ground resources.
- Establishment and assistance with implementing the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Assisting with initial attack to provide other agencies the time to put continued assistance measures in place.
- Short term assistance to affected individuals.

Guiding Factors in providing funding or assistance to incident

To ensure funds are utilised optimally, the following guiding principles must be adhered to:

- Only incidents threatening multiple landowners or people will be considered.
- The cooperation and involvement of the landowners and stakeholders is essential.
- Involvement of local FPA(s), local authority(ies) and fire service(s) is of importance.
- Lives or livelihoods must be at risk.

- Intervention must have a high chance of successfully mitigating the incident.
- Assistance is dependent on the availability of ***Fire Rapid Response Funds***.

Practical criteria in determining necessity for assistance

A scoring system considering the following criteria is to assist in the decision-making process:

- Current and forecasted FDI for incident area.
- Weather foregoing the incident, e.g. prevailing drought conditions.
- Vegetation density, age and curing.
- Topography of the area.
- Accessibility of the area.
- Threat to life and property.
- Possible economic effect of incident.
- Effectiveness of possible intervention and assistance – i.e. what difference will the assistance make?

Board approval process regarding the Fund

Withdrawal authorizations up to R 30 000:

- Two ECUFPA Board members are required for deciding on the assistance at a current fire for a maximum amount of R 30 000 from the ***Fire Rapid Response Fund***.
- Maximum of one executive board member may be involved in this authorization.
- If any other board member is opposed to this authorization, the decision must then be referred to the procedure below.

Other approvals and withdrawal authorizations above R 30 000:

- A minimum of four ECUFPA Board members are required for making any decisions concerning the ***Fire Rapid Response Fund***.
- At least three of the following four ECUFPA Board members must be involved in all decisions made:
    - Chairman
    - Vice-Chairman
    - Treasurer
    - FPA Manager
- Decisions may be made in a Board meeting, special meeting or teleconference (approval to be confirmed via e-mail).
- A unanimous decision by the Board members will be preferred, failing that a majority vote will rule.

Decision making process for the release of funds

The following process will be followed to release funds:

1. Incident identified, reported OR request for assistance is received from role-player.
2. Initial gathering of information.
3. Consider if the incident falls within the aims of the ***Fire Rapid Response Fund***.
4. Consideration of guiding principles and scoring system.
5. Decision to be made by ECUFPA Board members as per guidelines above.

Recovery of Funds Utilised

In accordance with the guiding principles and goals of the fund, as set out above, the general spirit of this fund is to try and enable faster response times to seriously developing incidents. Notwithstanding the normal fundraising efforts, the following cost-recovery principles will also be followed, namely:

- Where stakeholders may not be able to access required funds immediately and as such, assistance is rendered by utilizing funds from the ***Fire Rapid Response Fund***, the funds used shall be recovered from the respective stakeholders.
- Recovery of funds, whether partial or fully, shall be at the discretion of the Decision Making Board Committee.