

## Hein Niemand

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**From:** Thinus Botha <fpo@ecufpa.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 06 June 2017 8:04 AM  
**To:** Pieter Rossouw - GSFPFA ; Hein Niemand; Marike Rossouw  
**Subject:** FW: Weather Warning: Extremely high fire danger conditions - Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State and Northern Cape Provinces

## Thinus Botha



### Fire Protection Officer

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**From:** Arai, Zaibu [mailto:ZaibuA@elsenburg.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 06 June 2017 7:54 AM  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients:  
**Subject:** Weather Warning: Extremely high fire danger conditions - Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Free State and Northern Cape Provinces

Good day

Kindly find the Weather Warning information as received from the Department Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. You are kindly requested to disseminate this information as widely as possible.

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Dear all,

Kindly receive the warning below and disseminate widely as stipulated in the NAC and EWC terms of reference.

In the light of this warning as produced by the South African Weather Service (SAWS) and other centers, the following advisory guidelines are suggested. It is emphasized that these advisories are broad guidelines and should be interpreted considering the local aspects of the region such as soil types, cultural preferences and farming systems. Depending on the particular region, the prioritization of the guidelines will differ. The basic strategy to follow would be to minimize and diversify risk. The province should further simplify, downscale and package the information according to their language preference and if possible use local radio stations and farmers' days in disseminating the information.

**Extremely high fire danger conditions are expected over the Western Cape, and Northern Cape, excluding the western coasts, and also over to the interior of the Eastern Cape and the western Free State.**

Warning (colour coded red), indicating “take action”. This level indicates that hazardous conditions are occurring or are about to occur within the next 1 to 24 hours.

***What to do when veldfire condition is forecast***

Prohibitions of fires in the open air during periods of high fire hazard, and the establishment of fire control committees

To control fires, an alarm system, fire fighting teams, and beaters must be organized in advance and plans prepared

***What to do during Veldfire:***

Livestock should be moved out of grazing land to unbarred land/ploughed field for safety.

Water is generally not available in sufficient quantities or at adequate pressure for the control of major fires; however, sand or other loose mineral soil material can be an effective method of control.

***Following are a number of concerns and recommendations:***

- **Provinces should always ensure that the firebreaks are in place. An owner of the land who is obliged to prepare and maintain a firebreak must ensure that, with due regard to the weather, climate, terrain and vegetation of the area, the following is taken care of in terms of installing the firebreaks (chapter 4 of National Veld and Forest Fire Act NO. 101 of 1998):**
  1. A firebreak has to be wide enough and long enough to have a reasonable chance of preventing a veld fire from spreading to or from neighboring land.
  2. A firebreak does not cause soil erosion and
  3. A firebreak is reasonably free of inflammable material capable of carrying a veld fire across it.
  4. Farming communities should establish fire protection associations to prevent and control veld fires as required by the National Veld and Forest Fire Act (Act No. 101 of 1998).
- **The Fire Brigade Services Act provides for the establishment, co-ordination and standardizations of fire brigade services. Local authorities, that is, municipalities, are empowered to establish and maintain a fire brigade service, intended to be employed for the following purposes:**
  - a) Preventing the outbreak or spread of a fire
  - b) Fighting or extinguishing a fire
  - c) The protection of life or property against a fire or other threatening danger.
  - d) The rescue of life or property from a fire or other danger
- Improved communication among members about, for example, fire hazard conditions. The outcome sought is to achieve better integration of community preparedness, prevention, suppression and recovery strategies as key elements of veld fire management.

**A comprehensive list of strategies can be found in the monthly NAC Advisory. It can be accessed from the following websites: [www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za) and [www.agis.agric.za](http://www.agis.agric.za) . For more information contact:-**

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agriculture,  
forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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We trust that you will find this information helpful and of importance.

With many thanks and kind regards  
ZAIBU

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Western Cape  
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