

Eastern Cape Winter Fire Season

Veld Fire Readiness



Standard Operating Procedures below are for the winter fire season of the Eastern Cape (grassland area) and can be used as a guideline and BOP for all FPAs and landowners.
For weather forecasts / FDRs consult ECUFPA webpage at www.ecufpa.co.za
General grassland fire season 1 May - 31 October

	BLUE 0 – 20 SAFE	GREEN 21 – 45 MODERATE	YELLOW 45 – 60 DANGEROUS	ORANGE 61-74 VERY DANGEROUS	RED 76 – 100 EXTREMELY DANGEROUS
Fire Prevention & Preparedness Measure	No Precaution needed	Prescribed burns are permitted on condition that reasonable precaution is taken to prevent the spread of the fire. Permit conditions for the area must be adhered to.	Same as for “Green”, but additional precaution to be taken due to higher fire danger.	NO fires allowed in the open air, except in designated fireplaces and for veld management, through high intensity burns, when due permission has been granted.	NO fires are allowed under any circumstances in the open air. All operations likely to ignite fires must be halted. Landowners & stakeholders must invoke contingency fire emergency plans, including extraordinary readiness & response plans.
Disaster Management Responsibility & Readiness				The threat of disastrous wildfires exists at provincial level under these conditions. Municipal Disaster Management Centres must invoke contingency plans. Provincial & National Disaster Management Centres must be informed of potential disastrous fires. <i>(Section 49 of the Disaster Management Act of 2002)</i>	The threat of disastrous wildfires exists at provincial level under these conditions. Municipal Disaster Management Centres must invoke contingency plans. Provincial & National Disaster Management Centres must be informed of potential disastrous fires. <i>(Section 49 of the Disaster Management Act of 2002)</i>
Fire Behaviour	Fires are likely to burn slowly & with low intensity, but must still be controlled & monitored.	Fires likely to ignite but spread slowly. Flame length in grassland and plantation forest litter lower than 1 meter. Rate of forward spread less than 0.3 km/h.	Fires ignite readily and spread rapidly. Flame length between 1 and 2 meters. Rate of forward spread between 0.3 and 1.5 km/h.	Fires ignite readily and spread very rapidly, with local crowning and short-range spotting. Flame lengths between 2 and 5 meters. Rate of forward spread between 1.5 and 2.0 km/h.	Extreme fire behaviour. Long range fire spotting is likely. Flame lengths in excess of 5 meters. Rate of forward spread can exceed 4.0 km/h.
Fire Suppression	One crew with basic firefighting tools should easily be able to suppress any fire that may occur.	Direct Attack is feasible, and suppression should be readily achieved by direct manual attack methods.	Direct attack with hand crews only is constrained. Recommended methods of control should be a combination of tankers and adequate fire fighters. Aerial support is recommended. Burnouts may be used to combat fires if all mitigating steps are taken.	Indirect attack is recommended. Hand crews should take additional caution. Water tankers should concentrate efforts on containing the flanks and the head of the fire. Aerial support is strongly advised. Special precautions may be required to protect lives and property. Strategic burning may be used to combat fires if all mitigating steps are taken.	Any form of fire control is likely to be extremely difficult until the weather changes. Back burning is dangerous and best avoided. Attacking the fire from the back and along the flanks is possible, using a combination of all available resources.

PERSONNEL READINESS						
FPA						
ICS team standby	Management Unit			Available	All	All
Working on Fire – Fire fighters (Where applicable)	FPA			50%	All	All
FORESTRY						
Forester Standby	Management Unit	1	1	2	All	All
Forestry Contractors	Management Unit	1	1	2	All	All
Prototeams	Unit	Normal Work	Normal Work	Normal Work	Stand Down	Stand Down
Silviculture Teams	Unit	Normal Work	Normal Work	Normal Work	Work in low risk areas	Work in low risk areas
Harvesting Teams	Unit	Normal Work	Normal Work	Normal Work	Work – bakkie unit on site	STOP all harvesting
Readiness Stand down	Management Unit				Only with permission of General Manager	Only with permission of General Manager
LANDOWNERS						
Fire Wardens / Cell Leaders	FMU	Normal Work	Normal Work	1 with bakkie unit	1 with bakkie unit	2 with bakkie unit
FPA Members	FPA	Normal Work	Normal Work	Aware	Work – bakkie unit loaded	Full alert – bakkie unit full
Landowners	Farm	Normal Work	Normal Work	Aware	Alert – on standby	Full alert – on standby
General labour	Farm	Normal Work	Normal Work	Available	Available	Full alert – on standby
Meeting attendance	All	Attend	Attend	Notify applicable persons	Not Recommended	Not allowed
Security	All	Normal Patrols	Normal Patrols	Normal Patrols	Patrol High risk areas	Patrol High risk areas

EQUIPMENT & PPE READINESS						
Aircraft Readiness	ECUFPA		Home Standby	Home Standby	10 min Activation	5 min Activation
Bakkie Units	All		Ready	On Vehicle	On vehicle full – immediate reaction	On vehicle full & strategically placed
Strike Crafts	All	Not in Use	Not in Use	Normal workplace - full	Strategically placed -full	Strategically placed -full
Fire Tenders	All	Normal Workplace	Normal Workplace	Normal workplace - full	Strategically placed -full	Strategically placed -full
Bulldozer	Forestry & FPA	Normal Workplace	Normal Workplace	1-hour reaction time	Strategically placed -full	Strategically placed -full
Knap Sacks	All	Normal Workplace	Normal Workplace	Normal workplace - full	Strategically placed -full	Strategically placed -full
Personal Protective Clothing	All	Available	In Vehicle	In Vehicle	Dressed	Dressed
Municipal fire tenders	All	Normal Workplace - full	Normal Workplace - full	Normal Workplace - full	Strategically placed - full	Strategically placed - full
Bulk Water Supply Units	All				On Standby	On standby
High Volume Pumps	All			Available	On Vehicle	Strategically Placed
WoF Fire Tenders, Busses	WoF	Normal Workplace	Normal Workplace	Normal workplace	On Standby	On Standby
Equipment Trailers	All	Normal Workplace	Normal Workplace	Normal Workplace	Strategically Placed	Strategically Placed

FACILITY READINESS						
Airstrip	ECUFPA		On Standby	On Standby	Activate	Activate
IC Ops Room	FPA				Available	Available
Radios	All		Available	On Standby	On & Tested	On & Tested – additional battery

GENERAL ACTIVITY READINESS						
FDR Readings	All	10h00 & 14h00	10h00 & 14h00	10h00 & 14h00	Every hour	Every hour
Burning of Fire Breaks and Block Burning Operations	All	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
					Dependant on FPA rules, burning permits and fire prohibition period.	
Slash Burning Operations	All				Dependant on season and FPA rules.	
Pay weekends	All			Prototeam available	Proto team available	Proto team available
Timber Harvesting		Normal Work	Normal Work	Normal Work	Work with bakkie unit on site	STOP all harvesting
Grading / Slashing of roads		Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Fire wood collection		Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
External cooking & Warming fires	July - October	Owner Discretion	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Refuse Tips – burning	July - October	Only in Firepit	Only in Firepit	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Charcoal Kilns		Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Seal Kilns & spark arrestors	Seal Kilns & spark arrestors