



**Cape Peninsula
FIRE PROTECTION
Association**

RULES
(Including Code of Conduct)

APPROVED
2004/07/30

**CAPE PENINSULA FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
RULES**

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CAPE PENINSULA FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION RULES

1. Membership

- 1.1 All members must undertake to abide by the rules and code of conduct (annexure A) of the CPFPA as stipulated in Chapter 2 section 4(6) of the National Veld & Forest Fire Act.
- 1.2 All members must be conversant with and abide by the constitution of the CPFPA as drafted in terms of the regulations under the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 101 of 1998, which set out the functions of the Association.
- 1.3 Any landowner applying for membership must complete the "Application for membership" form (annexure H) otherwise the application will not be accepted.
- 1.4 It is the responsibility of members to notify the Secretary of the Association in writing of any change of membership details according to the Section 8 of the Constitution, including change of ownership.
- 1.5 Members must pay their membership fee applicable to their property as set every year by the CPFPA by the 1st of July. (See annexure B - Financial Plan).
- 1.6 Members must give written notice of termination of membership.

2. General

- 2.1 All members must comply with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 101 of 1998 and the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 43 of 1983, in terms of alien vegetation clearing.
- 2.2 All members must be conversant with the overall Business Plan, including the Veldfire Management Strategy for the CPFPA and other Acts and by-laws as mentioned in the Business Plan.
- 2.3 Members must attend the annual general meeting to elect office bearers and decide on any amendments to the Business Plan and fee structure.

3. Specific hazard area protection

- 3.1 Members are responsible to isolate any hazard area that is present or likely to develop on their property to eliminate any danger it may create to adjoining property.
- 3.2 Where members are in doubt regarding the danger of a specific area they must contact the FPO for advice.

4. Housekeeping

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of every member to ensure that the buildings on their property are protected and made safe against the danger of fires. (Some remedies are to create breaks and clean areas around properties, plant a fireproof garden, clean gutters, sprinklers on thatched roofs, etc.)

5. Fire Management Plan/Hazard assessment

- 5.1 Members must submit an Integrated Veldfire Management (5 year) Plan for their property, to the FPO for approval, within 3 months of joining the Association. Also see section 9. This 5-year plan will include an annual plan of operation.
- 5.3 Members must carry out an annual fire hazard audit in conjunction with the Technical Committee during September/October and prepare an action plan where this affects their property.

6. Compliance with Fire Danger Rating System

- 6.1 Forecasts of the fire danger rating will be communicated to members on a daily basis and will apply from midnight at the start of the FDR.
- 6.2 Members must be conversant with the daily fire danger rating system and comply with the instructions pertaining to the danger ratings, e.g. fires in the open air,

standby levels, etc. Enforce and apply prescribed actions and restrictions strictly. See standard fire rating requirements (Annexure C)

Designated fireplaces

Must be a permanent constructed fireplace surrounded by ground that is clear of all combustible matter for a distance of at least 2 metres, or at a site surrounded by ground that is clear of all combustible matter for a distance of at least 2 metres. Fires may not be left unattended until entirely extinguished.

7. Firebreaks

7.1 All members are responsible for the creation of firebreaks (Annexure D) and must comply with the prescriptions of the firebreaks in the approved veldfire management plan for your property.

7.2 Firebreaks must be prepared and maintained on an annual basis as from September 2003 and to be completed by no later than the end of November as stipulated in the action plan after the fire audit has been completed as per section 5.2.

7.3 Members must comply with the national policy applicable to exemptions.(Annexure E).

7.4 Firebreaks may be prepared by any method except burning and hoeing.

8. Prescribed burning.

8.1 Members must comply with the prescribed burning program where this applies to their property and the program must be updated during February/March each year.

8.2 Members intending to conduct a prescribed block burn must obtain a Burning Permit from the Fire Protection Officer to conduct the burn at any time between March/April

8.3 Members must observe all conditions of their Burning Permit (Annexure F).

8.4 Stack burning may take place during June/August and all the above requirements as per prescribed burning must be met.

9. Minimum fire fighting requirements

9.1 All members must comply with Chapter 5 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act by having equipment, protective clothing and trained personnel as is reasonable for the extent of the member's property. (Annexure G)

9.2 Current members of the CPFPA with fire fighting capabilities will act as agents for the members who have complied with 9.1.

9.3 Before approval of the Integrated Veldfire Management Plan as stipulated in section 5.1, the Technical Committee shall carry out an evaluation of a member's property and will prescribe fire-fighting requirements as stipulated in the National Veld and Forest Fire Act.

9.4 All members must ensure that in their absence there is a responsible person present on or near the property who will assist in extinguishing the fire and take reasonable steps to alert the FPO and neighbouring landowners/their agents.

10. Training

10.1 Members/occupiers of land or their staff performing firefighting must be trained in a basic firefighting course by a component Training Institution or have had previous practical experience in veld fire fighting.

10.2 All trained persons must have the minimum safety equipment and protective clothing to be used during fire fighting.

10.3 The CPFPA will conduct fire training for new members and their staff free of charge.

Competence standards (for firefighters and related personnel)

10.3 The CPFPA have the following responsibilities with regards to training -

10.3.1 Schedule courses for persons in charge of fires or firefighters.

10.3.2 Schedule refresher training on a regular basis for trained persons.

10.3.3 Ensure that training is conducted on an acceptable level.

- 10.4 A member has the following responsibilities in regard to training -
- 10.4.1 Make persons available for scheduled courses.
 - 10.4.2 Carry the cost of refresher training,
Keep a register of all trained persons in their service. The register must include name, ID, type of course, training institution, and copy of certificate.

11. Reporting Fires

- 11.1 Members must report all fires immediately after being sighted to 107, the FPO and neighbours.
- 11.2 Members must fight the fire; offer assistance, workers, and equipment to control the fire as soon as possible.
- 11.3 Members must be aware of weather and other circumstances regarding the fire to prepare for adequate precautions and actions during a fire situation especially when the fire is spreading towards neighbours property.
- 11.4 The FPO will follow the action plan as per the Business Plan.

12. Operational response and management/Incident command

- 12.1 Members must adhere to the fire fighting command structure as per the Business Plan and be conversant with the chain of command and communication procedures for your area.
- 12.2 Members must be aware that the FPO will assume command upon arrival.
- 12.3 Members must verbally hand over the incident to the FPO and inform of any specific danger areas.

13. Fire access

- 13.1 Members must ensure that access routes are maintained for firefighters and their vehicles to use.
- 13.2 In the absence of any access, fences will be damaged to gain access to the fire.

14. Actions after fires

- 14.1 All fires must be reported to the Fire Protection Officer on the standard form with an accurate map of 1:10000 scale. The standard report form must be completed, copy attached. The FPO must send this to the CPNP office for digitizing. The FPO must keep statistics of all fires.
- 14.2 The standard mopping up rules to apply. The scene of the fire may not be left unattended. The perimeter must be patrolled and any smoldering material within 5m of the perimeter of the fire extinguished. Patrolling is especially necessary where underground fires may have occurred e.g. in dense litter or marshy ground.
- 14.3 Areas exposed by fire, which have the potential for erosion, must be identified for future action.
- 14.4 All firefighting equipment must be checked and serviced.
- 14.5 The FPO may conduct a debriefing session to evaluate the fire fighting action.

15. Statistics

- 15.1 Each member must complete a fire report for uncontrolled and prescribed fires or where assistance was rendered at a fire, to maintain an accurate record of all fires
- 15.2 The FPO must update the statistics and forward it to the Secretary for annual submission to the Minister.
- 15.3 Members must hand in the prescribed fire reports within 5 days after a fire has been brought under control.

16. Fire Debrief

- 16.1 The FPO will conduct a fire debrief when necessary to discuss the actions during the fire especially where the fire spread across properties.
- 16.2 Members should make every effort to attend post mortems of fires that they were involved in or were threatened by.

17. Mutual aid agreement

- 17.1 Where necessary members should draw up formal agreements with neighbours with regards to mutual assistance and procedures.
- 17.2 Each member must in an emergency offer assistance to their neighbours to reduce the possibility of fire spread and to reduce the damage to properties.
- 17.3 Each member should on request make available their trained staff and equipment in case of an emergency, to assist owners in the area of the CPFPA to extinguish fires.

18. Communications

Radio and telecommunication standards

- 18.1 Members must ensure that some form of communication is achieved with their staff on the fire scene.
- 18.2 Cell phone numbers must be given to the FPO so that the FPO can communicate with members.
- 18.3 Spare radios may be handed to members at the fire scene for the FPO to communicate with them during a fire situation

19. Invasive Alien Plant Clearing

- 19.1 The removal of invasive alien plants is of importance to the CPFPA in so far as
- the reduction of combustible fuel is concerned and
 - to increase the biodiversity of the fynbos.
- 19.2 It is very important that the clearing and burning is co-ordinated for the CPFPA as a whole and the following are prescriptions for this activity
- 19.3 Members must compile a map of the current status of invaded areas as well as areas cleared in the past within 3 months. Where an area has to be done in sections these blocks should be indicated.
- 19.4 Members must draw up an annual schedule of the compartments to be cleared, size, method of clearing, any special burning prescriptions and the number of follow up operations and it must be approved by the FPO.
- 19.5 Members must systematically remove invasive alien plants according to the Business Plan for the CPFPA using the methods prescribed for your property.
- 19.6 The following are the current methods:
- Fell, burn, follow-up twice.
 - Fell, stack, burn, follow-up twice.
 - Fell, remove large wood, burn, and follow-up.
 - Fell, chip
- 19.7 The use of biological control and herbicides can also be considered for the eradication of invading aliens.

20. Enforcement

- 20.1 The following will be the enforcement officers regarding provisions under the NV&FF Act, by-laws affecting fires, and the rules of the FPA as applied within the area of the FPA:
- The Fire Protection Officer
 - The Chief Fire Officer and members of the Fire Service.
 - Forest Officers of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
 - Members of the SAPS.

MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Motivation

- 1.1 Good corporate governance is being introduced throughout the world as a business imperative offering strategic success. Investors (of time and money) and institutions prefer to co operate with other stakeholders that uphold the key elements of corporate governance, namely *discipline, transparency, independence, accountability, responsibility, fairness and social responsibility*.
- 1.2 If we unpack the main objective of a Fire Protection Association which states that “Owners may form an association **for the purpose of predicting, preventing, managing and extinguishing veldfires**” and that “a fire protection association may be formed by owners **who wish to co-operate** for the purpose referred to above”, it becomes clear that if we wish to co-operate (not forced) and wish others to co-operate, we need a code of conduct that will promote the “wish to co-operate” among all landowners.
- 1.3 The conduct of the members of the Association impacts on the ability to deliver on our strategic objectives efficiently and effectively. A high standard of conduct is essential to the growth, development and sustainability of the Association.
- 1.4 A common code of conduct will guide and regulate the behaviour of parties engaged and is necessary to establish the standards of behaviour that participants may expect from each other and against which their behaviour can be measured.

2. Code of Conduct

- 2.1 This code of conduct represents an important step in the management of integrity and the creation of an environment of fairness and transparency within which the Association can operate.
- 2.2 In this context, the development of the Association will be promoted by members that foster the following principles that will set an example and illustrate good conduct against which we can measure ourselves and be measured.

3. Principles of Good Conduct

All members hereby undertake to:

- 3.1 Participation in good faith;
- 3.2 Show dedication towards the causes of the Association
- 3.3 Be open minded, transparent but considerate;
- 3.4 Pursue solutions after identifying and defining problems;
- 3.5 Utilize the correct forums first for resolving issues;
- 3.6 Endeavour that discussions revolve around issues and not personalities;
- 3.7 Recognise the sensitivity of certain issues;
- 3.8 Have clearly stated and enacted values;
- 3.9 Ensure that they perform efficiently, responsibly, accountably and with probity;
- 3.10 Recognise the legitimacy of interest of defined stakeholders;
- 3.11 Engage in long-term relationships;
- 3.12 Give due recognition to the respect for human rights;
- 3.13 Practice and encourage greater environmental and social responsibility;
- 3.14 Promote collaborative partnerships with communities;
- 3.15 Recognise need for co-operation and collaboration to ensure a vibrant and sustainable effort;
- 3.16 Guard against abuse of power by the stronger party's' in contractual relationships;\
- 3.17 Recognise the inherently dangerous nature of our environment and give priority to occupational health and the safety of all participants and the public;
- 3.18 Engage with and share best practice;
- 3.19 Discharge duties and obligations timeously and with integrity; and
- 3.20 Not maliciously or recklessly injure or attempt to injure the reputation of another party.

4. Adherence to the code of conduct

- 4.1 The proactive way is for all parties to commit to adhere to the code of conduct. The reactive measures will be in the realization that this code of conduct forms part of the Rules and that the Constitution (Section 11) makes provision for the sanctioning of a member.

FINANCIAL PLAN

1. Vision

There is such collaboration between public, private sectors and civil society that only controlled fires occur in the vegetation of the Cape Peninsula.

2. Mission

The CPFPA is a body of responsible citizens, both individual and institutional, collaborating within a structured framework in order to contribute to community development by eliminating loss of life and human injury as a result of veldfires and by progressively reducing the risk to property and the environment, while promoting the useful role of veldfires.

To protect the community and our environment, we will minimise the impact of fire by sourcing training of the highest standards, provide community education and continually improving prevention and operational capability.

3. Principles

- 3.1 There is a cost of establishing the CPFPA. (It is noted that the City of Cape Town, Cape Peninsula National Park and the organisation set up after the Jan 2000 fire, Santam Cape Argus Ukuvuka Operation Firestop, are bearing a significant proportion of the costs to establish the CPFPA.)
- 3.2 The Working on Fire program is also contributing in cash and kind towards the establishment and maintenance of the CPFPA.
- 3.3 All members should contribute to the costs of running the FPA.
- 3.4 The level of the membership fee should not discourage voluntary participation by private landowners. Particularly at the start of the CPFPA, costs of membership should not be a barrier **(The membership fees for the first year will therefore be on a different basis than what will be the norm thereafter and must not be seen as setting a precedent as the CPFPA will not be able to sustain its future activities on the current budget. This is especially so in terms of communication awareness, publicity and PR)**
- 3.5 To cover the administrative work to bring a new member into the FPA system a joining fee will be charged.
- 3.5 It is recognised that there are different cost components in the membership fee such as:
 - a) Fixed costs of on-going administration (overheads)
 - b) Variable costs for contingencies such as arranging special meetings, special communication around an event or fire incident; investigating fire incidents; extracting the lessons learned after a fire incident; litigation.
- 3.6 The different components should be appropriately reflected in structuring the membership fee.
- 3.7 Overhead or fixed costs are not dependent on the size of a property and thus is at a common rate for all members in certain categories.
- 3.8 The variable costs should be determined based on the size of the property and should also build in recognition of the fact the increased invading alien plant density leads to increasing fire risk.
- 3.9 The FPA membership cost structure aims to "incentivise" responsible behaviour as far as is possible. (It is noted that punitive measures are not likely to be effective in a voluntary organisation.)

4. MEMBERSHIP FEES (FIRST YEAR ONLY)

Private landowners

4.1 Landowners with holding <10ha

Joining Fee R250.00
 Fee per hectare R10.00

4.2 Landowners with holding >10ha

Joining Fee R500.00
 Fee per hectare R10.00 (to a maximum of R1000.00)

4.3 State/Institutional landowners

4.3.1	< 2 000 hectare	=	R10.00 p/hectare (max R15 000.00)
4.3.2	> 2 000 hectares but < 5 000 hectares	=	R 9.00 p/hectare (max R30 000.00)
4.3.3	> 5 000 hectares but < 10 000 hectares	=	R 7.00 p/hectare (max R50 000.00)
4.3.4	>10 000 hectares but < 20 000 hectares	=	R 4.00 p/hectare (max R70 000.00)
4.3.5	> 20 000 hectares and above	=	R 1.00 p/hectare (max R90 000.00)

The CPFPA will endeavour to obtain sponsorships from businesses and is grateful for the assistance from Ukuvuka and Working on Fire.

5. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

5.1 Income

Total income from institutions @ R10.00/R1.00 per hectare = R57 000
 Total income from private landowners estimated at = R14 000

Total income R71 000

5.2 Expenditure

<u>No.</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Total</u>
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Start up costs (non-recurring)

1	Business plan compilation	Completed
2	Computer equipment + printer	Donations
3	Veld fire management strategy	Completed

Proposed first year running costs **R54 000.00**

1	Accounting/audit fee	a.	5 000.00
3	Communication with members		5,000.00
4	Communication re fire rating		2,400.00
5	Contingency fund		8,000.00
6	Mapping		10,000.00
7	Office consumables		2,400.00
8	Photocopier		1,200.00
9	Publicity / PR		10,000.00
10	Printing & stationery		4,000.00
11	Telephone / fax / email		6,000.00

Proposed future annual running costs

	Proposed first year running costs		R54, 000.00
1	Equipment - repairs & maintenance		2,400.00
2	Reports ito the Act		2,400.00
3	Bookkeeping	3.	12 000.00

TOTAL COSTS (start-up + future annual)

4.

R70 800.00

Fire danger ratings

To meet the requirements of Chapter 3 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, Section 9(4)(c) and 9(4)(d).

INDICATIVE COLOUR	BLUE	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
DANGER RATING	Insignificant	Low	Moderate	High	High - extreme
FIRE PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS MEASURES	No precaution is needed	Fires including prescribed burns may be lit, used or maintained in the open air on the condition that persons making fires take reasonable precautions against the fires' spreading.	No fires may be allowed in the open air except those that are authorised by the Fire Protection Officer where a Fire Protection Association exists, or elsewhere, the Chief Fire Officer of the local fire service, or fires in designated fireplaces.	No fires may be allowed under any circumstances in the open air.	No fires may be allowed under any circumstances in the open air and Fire Protection Associations and municipal Disaster Management Centres must invoke contingency fire emergency and disaster management plans including extraordinary readiness and response plans. All operations likely to ignite fires halted. Householders placed on alert.
APPLICATION OF THE ACT			Above precautionary measure to be prescribed and made applicable nationally on days rated moderate.	Section 10(1)(b) applies: no person may light, use or maintain a fire in the open air.	Section 10(1)(b) applies: no person may light, use or maintain a fire in the open air.
RELATIONSHIP				The threat of	The threat of

INDICATIVE COLOUR	BLUE	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
WITH DISASTER MANAGEMENT				disastrous wildfires exists at municipal level under these conditions. Municipal Disaster Management Centres must invoke contingency plans and inform National and Provincial Disaster Management Centres. (Section 49 of the Disaster Management Bill).	disastrous wildfires at provincial level exists under these conditions. Municipal Disaster Management Centres must invoke contingency plans and inform National and Provincial Disaster Management Centres. (Section 49 of the Disaster Management Bill).
FIRE BEHAVIOUR	<p>Fires are not likely to ignite. If they do, they are likely to go out without suppression action. There is little flaming combustion.</p> <p>Flame lengths in grassland and plantation forest litter lower than 0.5 m and rates of forward spread less than 0.15 kilometres per hour.</p>	<p>Fires likely to ignite readily but spread slowly.</p> <p>Flame lengths in grassland and plantation forest litter lower than 1.0 m and rates of forward spread less than 0.3 kilometres per hour.</p>	<p>Fires ignite readily and spread rapidly, burning in the surface layers below trees.</p> <p>Flame lengths in grasslands and plantation forests between 1 and 2m, and rates of forward spread between 0.3 and 1.5 kilometres per hour.</p>	<p>Fires ignited readily and spread very rapidly, with local crowning and short-range spotting. Flame lengths between 2 and 5 m, and rates of forward spread between 1.5 and 2.0 kilometres per hour.</p>	<p>Conflagrations are likely in plantation forests, stands of alien invasive trees and shrubs, sugar cane plantations, and fynbos. Long range fire spotting is likely in these fuel types.</p> <p>Rates of forward spread of headfires can exceed 4.0 kilometres per hour and flame lengths will be in the order of 5 – 15 m or more.</p>
FIRE SUPPRESSION DIFFICULTY	<p>Direct attack feasible: one or a few field crew with basic firefighting tools easily suppresses any fire that may occur.</p>	<p>Direct attack feasible: fires safely approached on foot. Suppression is readily achieved by direct manual attack methods.</p>	<p>Direct attack constrained: fires not safe to approach on foot for more than very short periods. Best forms of control should combine water tankers</p>	<p>Direct attack not feasible: fires cannot be approached at all and backburning, combined with aerial support are the only effective means to</p>	<p>Any form of fire control is likely to be precluded until the weather changes. Backburning dangerous and best avoided.</p>

INDICATIVE COLOUR	BLUE	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
			and backburning from fire control lines.	combat fires. Equipment such as water tankers should concentrate efforts on the protection of houses.	

APPENDIX 1: DEFINITION OF TERMS

Act: the National Veld and Forest Fire Act no. 101 of 1998.

Backburn: a fire ignited along the inner edge of a control line to consume the fuel in the path of a wildfire.

Direct attack: any treatment of burning fuel, for example, by beating, wetting, smothering, or chemical quenching, or by physically separating the burning from the unburned fuel.

Fire behaviour: the manner in which a fire reacts to the variables of fuel, weather and topography.

Fire control line: a natural or constructed barrier used in fire suppression and prescribed burning to limit the spread of veldfire.

Fire danger The resultant of all factors that determine whether fires start, spread, and do damage and whether and to what extent they can be controlled.

Fire danger index A relative number denoting an evaluation of rate of spread, or suppression difficulty for specific combinations of fuel, fuel moisture and wind speed.

Fire prevention All activities concerned with minimising the incidence of wildfire, particularly that of human origin.

Fire Protection Association: an association registered in terms of Chapter 2 of the Act for the purposes of predicting, preventing, managing and extinguishing veldfires.

Fire Protection Officer: a person who performs the function of chief executive officer of a Fire Protection Association, appointed in terms of Section 5 of the Act.

Fire suppression: the activities connected with restricting the spread of wildfire following its detection and making it safe.

Flame length: the length of flames measured along the convective path from the ground surface.

Head fire: that portion of a fire edge with the greatest rate of forward spread.

Prescribed burning: the controlled application of fire under specified environmental conditions to a predetermined area and at the time, intensity and rate of spread required to attain planned management objectives.

Preparedness All activities undertaken in advance of wildfire occurrence to decrease wildfire area and severity and to ensure more effective fire suppression*.

Prescribed burning: the controlled application of fire under specified environmental conditions to a predetermined area and at the time, intensity and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives.

Prohibited period: the period of the year during which a permit is required to light, use or maintain fires in the open air.

Rate of spread: the rate of advance of the head of the fire (equivalent to rate of forward spread).

Readiness and response plan A plan outlining desirable levels of readiness of personnel, systems and equipment and their locations and availability for the detection and control of wildfire.

Veldfire: a veld, forest or mountain fire, where veld means the open countryside beyond the urban limit or homestead boundary.

Firebreak Guidelines

Annexure D

1. Legislative requirements

Firebreaks must be viewed as an integral part of the fire management strategy and not as a separate protection measure.

Every owner on whose land a veldfire may start or burn or from whose land it may spread must prepare and maintain a firebreak on his or her side of the boundary between his or her land and any adjoining land except where exempted.

Owners of adjoining land may agree to position a common firebreak away from the boundary.

An owner who is obliged to prepare and maintain a firebreak must ensure that, with due regard to weather, climate, terrain and vegetation of the area-

- It is wide and long enough to have a reasonable chance of preventing a veldfire from spreading to or from neighbouring land;
- It does not cause soil erosion; and
- It is reasonable free of flammable material capable of carrying a veldfire across it.

2. Purpose of Firebreaks

The purpose of a firebreak will determine what type of construction the firebreak should conform to. The purpose of firebreaks could be to:

- Prevent fire spread of controlled or uncontrolled fires
- Point where fire may be extinguished
- Point where back burns may be started
- Point of attack of fire
- Access point to a fire

It is difficult to document prescriptions for firebreaks. Each firebreak with its individual circumstances will determine what type and width will be applicable.

3. Factors influencing Fire break construction

The following factors must be taken into account with the construction of firebreaks.

Topography

- Slope of the ground
- Landscaping
- Elevation

Vegetation type

- Moisture content
- Size and shape of material
- Volume and area covered
- Fuel content.

Weather patterns

- Wind direction
- Temperature
- Rainfall

Conservancy aspects

- Erosions possibilities
- Scarce/endangered species

Spotting distance

Method of clearing

Cost of maintenance

Purpose of firebreak

Alternate position of firebreak

Width of firebreak

4. Firebreak requirements

Members are to maintain firebreaks on all property boundaries except where exempted.

4.1 Initial preparation and clearing of firebreaks

No permanent internal breaks

Only brush cut and raked breaks, no burnt breaks

All the material may be burnt, chipped or removed

It is preferred where possible not to redistribute material adjacent to cleared breaks

Use natural boundaries and roads and cultivated lands

Avoid wetlands and rare/endangered plant communities.

By agreement of adjoining landowners breaks may be moved from the common boundary to a more practical and effective position.

4.2 Position

The position of the firebreaks will be determined by the factors as mentioned in this document.

4.3 Width

The minimum width will depend on the fuel load, slope and urban hazard but should not be less than 10m.

4.4 Annual maintenance

Belts to be brush cut or raked annually. This can be reviewed according to the re-growth. Cut or raked material can be chipped, removed or burnt on site. It should preferably not be spread above the belt.

4.5 Temporary breaks

Temporary firebreaks may be prepared to isolate a fire hazard or for the purpose of prescribed burning.

EXEMPTION FOR FIREBREAKS IN TERMS OF SECTION 12 OF THE NATIONAL VELD AND FOREST FIRE ACT 101 OF 1998

1. Legal requirements

- 1.1 In terms of section 12(1) of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act. No 101 of 1998 landowners are obliged to establish firebreaks on the boundaries of their properties.
- 1.2 In terms of Section 15(1) of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act the Minister may allow certain exemptions for a landowner or group of landowners from the creation of boundary firebreaks where there is *good reason* to do so.
- 1.3 According to Section 15(2) this exemption may also be conditional.
- 1.4 Furthermore, in certain instances and pursuant to the provision of Section 12(7) of the National Veld and Forest Act owners may agree to the relocation of the firebreak.
- 1.5 The executive members of the FPA, Fire Protection Officer, Chief Fire Officer and Forest Officer within the FPA jurisdiction recommend that in terms of section 15(1) of the National Veld and Forest fire Act, landowners receive an exemption for the preparation of boundary firebreaks that are required in terms of section 12(1) on condition that:
 - 1.5.1 firebreaks are established in terms of the CSIR firebreak plan, as revised from time to time.
 - 1.5.2 the CSIR firebreaks are properly maintained.
 - 1.5.3 the members agree to waive liability should a fire arise and boundary firebreaks are not in place due to the presence of CSIR firebreaks

2. ALTERNATIVE MEASURE FOR MITIGATION AGAINST SPREAD OF WILD FIRE

- 2.1 The FPA and its partner organizations have commissioned the CSIR to prepare a plan for the optimum location of firebreaks within the area of the FPA. A copy of the CSIR report, which contains a plan for firebreaks, is attached hereto as Annexure 1.
- 2.2 The system of the firebreaks provided for in the CSIR firebreak plan is preferable to a system of boundary firebreaks as provided for in the National Veld and Fire Act as it seeks to mitigate the spread of wild fire by the following:
 - 2.3 the firebreaks proposed by the CSIR follow natural boundaries;
 - 2.4 the firebreak proposed forms a continuous break system.
 - 2.5 the firebreaks proposed by the CSIR take the landscape, national heritage and the management of the open areas into account;
 - 2.6 the firebreaks proposed by the CSIR seek to isolate the urban edge and protect those living in the urban areas from the fire prone open land.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CSIR FIREBREAK PLAN

3.1 The firebreaks that are contained in the CSIR firebreak plan do not always accord with the boundary firebreaks required in terms of the Veld and Forest Fire Act with the following results:

3.2 a firebreak prepared in terms of the CSIR plan could duplicate a boundary firebreak prepared.

3.3 the existence of both boundary and CSIR firebreaks will be aesthetically unappealing, costly to prepare and maintain and, in the light of the CSIR study, unnecessary.

4. GROUP APPLICATION

4.1 Rather than having a number of landowners making application individually for exemption from section 12(1), the FPA seeks that the exemption should be granted to the landowners as a group.

4.2 Attached hereto as Annexure 2 a list of the various cadastral entities that the FPA believes should be covered by such an exemption.

4.2 Attached hereto as Annexure 3 is a list of the landowners supporting this application for an exemption. The list indicates further the extent of land owned by each of these landowners as well as the percentage of the total fire prone area under that landowner's control.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF RISK OF NEIGHBOURING LANDOWNERS

5.1 Landowners supporting this application accept that the proposed firebreak system to be sufficient in terms of the Act and will not hold any other landowner supporting this application liable for the failure to install adequate firebreaks should a fire occur whilst the proposed CSIR firebreak system is in place and properly maintained.

5.2 This exemption will not be extended to landowners who have not received written consent from their neighbours to allow for the shifting of the boundary firebreak and or exclusion of the boundary firebreak and to put in its place for the CSIR firebreak.

6. PROPOSED EXEMPTION

6.1 The Minister is accordingly requested to grant the following exemption:

The owners of the properties listed in Annexure 2 are exempted from the provisions of section 12(1) of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, No 101 of 1998 on condition that firebreaks are established in terms of the CSIR firebreak plan attached as Annexure 1, as amended from time to time by the Fire Protection Officer for the area or, in the absence of such Fire Protection Officer, by the Chief Fire Officer, and that these firebreaks are properly maintained. In addition the exemption will only be extended to those landowners who have received written consent from their neighbours to put in place the CSIR firebreak instead of the boundary firebreaks.

Annexure G

Prescribed Minimum Fire Fighting requirements for landowners identified in terms of S 9.1 of the Rules

Minimum fire fighting requirements

1. Where members are required to provide fire-fighting resources as stipulated in section 9 of the rules, the following requirements need to be maintained.
2. Maintain fire-fighting equipment in good condition, inspect and test weekly during the fire season.
3. State organisations/institutions will provide a list of firefighting equipment to the CPFPA and maintain the firefighting equipment standard as per Chapter 4 of the Business Plan.
4. Minimum firefighting equipment for prescribed burns must comply with the conditions of each permit.

Minimum requirements for fire fighting equipment to be met by private members of the CPFPA.

Member category		Fire beate rs	15-litre rucksac k pumps	Drip torche s	Rak e hoe s	Firs t aid kit	Cell phone s	Mobil e radio sets	Trailer pump, minimu m 1000 litres	"Bakkie- sakkie" fast reaction units, 500- litre capacity
Land use	Land area, hectares									
Mixed	1-10	3	2	-	3	1	1	-	-	-
	11-100	5	4	-	5	1	1	-	-	-
	101-1000	10	5	-	10	1	1	-	1 or	1

Minimum requirements for fire fighting personnel to be met by private landowners of the CPFPA.

Member category		Fire fighters	Crew leader	Fire Boss
All land uses	Land area, hectares			
	1-10	2	1	-
	11-100	4	1	-
	101-1000	9	1	-

Minimum safety equipment and protective clothing

For any person involved in fire fighting:

- One 100% cotton overall
- A cotton T-shirt as under layer
- One pair leather boots
- Helmet with a heat shield visor or a pair of goggles.
- One pair of gloves.

Approved Equipment Definitions

1. Fire beaters

Description: Constructed of Conveyor belt 400mm wide x 400mm long and 7-12mm thick. The tool is attached onto a wooden or aluminium handle.

2. Knap Sack double action Fire fighting pump

Description: A Plastic container carried on a fire fighters back, which holds approximately 15-20l of water. The water is delivered through a double action hand operated pump.

Brands

Venfire pump
Bird pump
Mac pump

3. Rake Hoe

Description: Hoe manufactured of steel 27cm wide x 23cm high. The tool will have teeth with a minimum of 23cm long. The tool must be attached to a wooden or steel handle of approximately 2m.

4. Drip torch/Fire lighter

Description: A cylindrical steel or aluminium container with a 5l capacity. The Burning fluid is delivered through a pipe onto wick.

The use of a more traditional method for example a length of steel with a flammable material attached to the lower end will suffice.

Brands

Flash fire lighter
Mac fire lighter

The drip torches use a mixture of 1/3 petrol+2/3 diesel as a burning fluid.

5. Bakkie Sakkie

Description: A water tank manufactured from fibre glass or plastic measuring 300,500 or 700 litres. The tank will have a water pump driven by a petrol engine. The Pump will be an impeller or piston type pump. The unit will have a hose reel with a minimum of between 30m of rubber hose. The pump will have self-filling [suction] capability.

Brands

Mac bean
Ven fire
Turner Morris

CAPE PENINSULA FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

1 NAME _____

CAPACITY (e.g. Landowner) _____

ORGANISATION _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

TEL: _____ FAX: _____ E_MAIL _____

1. PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF MAIN PROPERTY _____

ERF NUMBER _____

2. ERF NUMBERS OF ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

Signature: _____ Date _____

NB: It will be incumbent on members to agree to abide by the Constitution and Rules (including code of conduct) of the CPFPA once these has been finalised and accepted.

Please forward this application form to A Morkel at: Fax: 021 797 6570 or Email: amorkel@nbict.nbi.ac.za and post original signed copy to: A Morkel Secretary/Treasurer CPFPA Private Bag X7 Claremont 7735, Cape Town.